



The story

This is a Christingle. A man called Johannes, who was a Church Minister in Germany, invented it 250 years ago. Johannes wanted to find the very simplest way to explain the meaning of Christmas. He came up with this. We're still doing it today because it is brilliant. When we understand Christmas, we can celebrate even more, because it is the best news.

Every part of it, reminds us of one part of Christmas. You need to watch me now so that you can understand what Christmas is all about and also so that you can make your own Christingle afterwards. You will then take it home with you and you can explain Christmas to others in your family.

There are 5 parts

Firstly, there is the Orange- this is the world

God made the world and everything in it. Because he made it, he is King over it. He rules over every bit of the earth. Our wonderful world is God's.

Secondly, there are the sticks and the sweets- these are the good things in the world

These four sticks are the 4 seasons. Each season is full of good things.
God made the world so good. Crammed full of good things.

So each of the sweets is just one good thing that God has given us. Now God has given us hundreds of good things, you might like to think of good things God has given you as you put on the sweets.



He has given me:

	Autumn	Winter	Spring	Summer
Sweet 1	Beautiful leaves turning Golden	Warm houses to live in	New life animals of every type	Sun shining
Sweet 2	Fireworks	Food that gives us the energy we need	Flowers of every colour	Fun and laughter
Sweet 3	Brothers and sisters	Healthy bodies to enjoy	Mums and Dads who love us	Friends to play with

In the beginning God made the world perfect. There wasn't a single thing in it that was wrong or bad. Just right. He filled it with good things. All of these good things are given to us to enjoy.

It's just endless, isn't it, all the good things we have. You think what good things the sweets will remind you of.

Thirdly, there is the candle

Now the candle isn't lit, it's not shining a light into the world. Although the world is full of good things, it is people who spoil it. We're not as bad as we could be. We're not awful. But we're not how God first made us to be. In the way we treat others, in the way we think and speak about others, in the way we treat God. We don't let him rule over us.

When the candle isn't lit, it's dark. We don't like darkness. Without having God ruling us, without being friends with him isn't good, it's not the best way for things to be. It's like living in darkness.



Fourthly, there is the light of the world

Jesus is the light of the world.

John 1: 4 says, "In him was life and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness."

Jesus shows us what God is like. Jesus never got anything wrong, he never did anything bad, he was just perfect. He brings light into the world. He shows us how we should live.

At Christmas, it's when we remember Jesus coming into the world. Jesus was actually born 2000 years ago in Bethlehem. He is the light of the world.

Fifthly, there is the red ribbon

Jesus didn't just live a good life so that we could learn how to. Jesus was the only human ever to have lived as a true friend of God, the only person who could be allowed to live with God forever. When he died, he was dying in our place.

This ribbon is the same colour as blood to show that Jesus died instead of us.

We can now be friends of God
Living in His wonderful world, with all the good things
Living in the light by trusting Jesus

This is the absolutely fantastic news of Christmas- it honestly doesn't get any better. That's why we should be smiling at Christmas. Because of this great news that Jesus has come to be born.