



A Sunday School spreads Christmas joy

Colleen Moore December 15, 2013

Last December our Sunday School decorated a tree for our Christmas Sing. The tree was in the corner of our Sunday School, and we made ornaments for all the church members, Sunday School students, and regular participants by following these steps:

1. We made a list of everyone at church, and next to each name, we put a duty or quality we associated with that individual. For example, we put "music" next to the church soloist and organist as well as "harmony." All the Sunday School students participated in making this list together.

2. The older students used Concord Online or the book concordances to look up quotations from the Bible and Mary Baker Eddy's writings to match the duties and qualities listed. For example, we selected "Stand porter at the door of thought..." (*Science and Health*, p. 392) for our usher. We then printed out these quotations from Concord, including the source of the citation. We also printed out various citations for the younger students so they could select the quotations they liked best.

3. We purchased foam ornaments in the shape of angels and stars from a craft store and printed out photos of church members and friends. The students taped the photos to construction paper and then glued them onto the ornaments. (If you glue the photos directly, the colored ink bleeds which makes for some messy pictures!) We glued the quotations onto the back or below the photo and used ribbon or pipe cleaners to hang the ornaments from the tree. We also made a few extra ornaments with Christmas themed Bible verses for guests.



We cut some foam sheets to make garlands similar to paper chains. There was a chain with each of the seven synonyms for God (as described in *Science and Health*) written on links of the chain and a books of the New Testament chain. For the top of the tree, we made a star with seven points, an idea that we had discussed from *Christ and Christmas* by Eddy. To make the star, we used yellow poster board and some ribbon streamers as rays. The tree was also decorated with a few ornaments shared from home if they had a Bible theme, such as angels, stars, and Bible animals.

You may wonder if decorating a Christmas tree was the best use of our precious Sunday School time, but making ornaments was a fun way for our Sunday School students to learn something about the adults in our church. This activity also provided that "teaching moment" to discuss the benevolence of Christmas-giving as students were asked to make ornaments, not just for their own family, but for church-goers whom they did not know.

After our Christmas Sing, everyone took their ornaments home. We mailed ornaments to anyone who wasn't present, making a sweet Christmas card from our Sunday School. Our young Sunday School students were happy to give the individualized ornaments that they had made to everyone at church, and all the adults were delighted to receive their own unique blessings from our Sunday School.

1. **chinomso obioma mathew** - 12/18/2013

Hi my friends happy christmas my people i love everone thank u

2. **kendra from Paradise** - 12/18/2013

What a wonderful focused activity, full of love and connection with others! I would have loved to have witnessed the joy that took place. This was a great way to give a hug to everyone in your church and make them know they are family.

3. **Babs** - 12/18/2013

Wish this had come to us about a month earlier! Maybe try it next year.

4. **name** - 12/18/2013

wow!

5. **Sue Wills** - 12/19/2013

Our branch will hold its Wednesday testimony service this Christmas and then go caroling in the local neighborhood afterwards. We're getting to know our neighbors more, having invited them to our Thanksgiving service last month. A number of them came too!

6. **Jessie** - 12/19/2013

What a wonderful idea. Love reflected in love.

7. **TOBIAS A. WEISSMAN** - 12/19/2013

What a unique way of teaching children the true meaning of Christmas and the interesting way of introducing and respect for children to have toward their adult Church Members.

8. **Harmony** - 12/20/2013

What a beautiful idea! When I was in Sunday School (many, many years ago) a Christmas tree or an activity like this would not have been allowed. We used to visual aids, no crafts, etc. It's good to see the fresh new thoughts being brought into Sunday School. I'm sure all of the church members loved this tree!

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