

The 12 Days of Christmas
#2: My True Love and The Partridge
Exodus 34: 6,7; I Peter 3:18; John 3:16

Overall objective: to learn about God while singing a silly, fun Christmas song

Objective: To share how God's love and justice came together in Jesus' death.

Step 1: Introduction

We're having fun with a song called "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Some people say that it was written to teach about the Christian faith. Other people say, no, it was just a child's memory-game song. Well, we are going to use it as a memory-game for the Bible.

Step 2: Review

Last week we learned about the 12 days of Christmas. What are the 12 days of Christmas? (between Jesus' birth and when the wise men arrived to worship. It is church tradition. The Bible does not say when the wise men arrived.)

Step 3: Sing

So let's sing our song. (sing the whole thing through the 6th day)

Step 4: Who's Who/ Bible

I. God

Now, if this song was written to teach about the Christian faith, who is "my true love"? Any ideas? (let them think.) "My true love" is God. The Bible teaches that "God is love."

Let's look at the Bible. Let's read Exodus 34: 6, 7. Exodus is the second book in the Bible. Genesis is first, then Exodus.

What does it say about God? (read, then list things on the board)

God is "abounding in lovingkindness" (NASB. Use the phrase in OH Bibles. Circle on the board.) But He also "will not leave the guilty unpunished." (Use your two fists to illustrate this central truth about God) He is loving (punch out one fist) but He is also just (punch out the other fist). He loves people with His whole heart (first fist again) but He must punish wrong (second fist). He is loving (fist 1) and He is just (fist 2).

2. Jesus

In our song, what is the gift on the first day? (give time.) A partridge in a pear tree. What a strange gift!

What is a “partridge”? (time) A kind of bird. (practice saying if appropos)

What is a pear? In Japanese, a pear is *nashi*.

What could this mean? Any ideas?

Well, some people say that the partridge is Jesus. The partridge will give her life to protect her baby birds. The Bible teaches that Jesus gave His life to win heaven for all who believe.

Let’s look in the Bible again. Let’s read 1 Peter 3:18. 1 Peter is in the New Testament, almost at the end of the Bible.

What does this say about Jesus? (read)

What did Jesus do? (died for sins)

What are sins? The wrong things we do. Or the good things we don’t do.

Why did Jesus die for sins? (to bring us to God)

Step 5: Tie it together

Let’s tie this together with another Bible verse. We will see how God is really our “true love.” Let’s read John 3:16. It is in the New Testament. It is the fourth book of the New Testament.

What did God do? (read. God gave His son to die for the world)

Who is God’s only Son? (Jesus)

Remember that God is loving (fist 1) and just (fist 2). The Bible says God must punish sin. If God punished us for our sin no one would have eternal life. But God punished *Jesus* for us. Jesus, like a partridge, gave His life so that anyone who believes can have eternal life. When we believe in Jesus, we are included in His death, and we can come to God. God paid a terrible price to make it possible for us to come. He is our real, true love!

Step 6: Any questions or comments?