



Picture News



Bible Link: Deuteronomy 3:18 **Biblical value:** Kindness

Key idea The Gift of Kindness

Pupil involvement: *Loneliness is a difficult subject and some children may be feeling particularly lonely at this time of year. It would be worth prompting staff so that they are prepared. I've got a picture that I want to show you. It's a special one for this time of year. Before I ask my usual questions, we will just take a minute to look at it - you might see something that I've missed.*

Pupil talk: What clues are there to tell us this is set at Christmas? Why do you think the animal is sitting on top of the lamp? What is the little girl trying to do? There is distance between both of them - why and how can they close that gap?

Think: The picture is split by the two characters; there is the animal who is as far from everyone else as it can be – he appears stuck on the top of the lamp but is he or is he just reluctant to come down? Then there is the little girl. She's wearing angel wings which is a clue from the artist. She might be coming from a fancy dress party or the wings might be more symbolic; she might be a little angel trying to help. There is an impression that the animal is lonely. Loneliness is difficult. There are many good reasons why people become lonely and there are just as many reasons why people might struggle to stop being lonely. It takes gifts of kindness (sometimes over and over again) to help that person feel secure, to know that people care. Loneliness is a feature within the bible. Jesus took himself away to be alone for 40 days, Paul found himself alone in jail and Joseph and Mary risked being cast out alone because she was pregnant with the Messiah. But one thing was constant; they could never be truly lonely because they had faith that the Lord was with them. It is His promise; you will never be truly alone.

Invitational Prayer: Loving Father, there is so much to love about Christmas, the gifts, the food, being with family and friends – it is a time for great joy. But for many people it is a time that is lonely or where they feel particularly alone. Father, we ask that you help us to reach out to people, that you help us to give the most precious gift of all – the gift of kindness. We ask, Lord, that you help us to have the simple kindness that the little girl shows. Most of all, we ask that they feel your love and know that they are not alone. Amen.

Key Stage 1 class discussion: Kindness is a gift that is easily shared. Can you think of a time when someone was kind to you? How did it make you feel? How do you think you would feel if you shared a gift of kindness to somebody?

Key Stage 2 class discussion: Why do you think some people are lonely? Maybe you know someone who is lonely – if you can't help them, is there an adult you trust who can? Maybe you could ask them to pass on the gift of kindness?

Worship song: In the bleak midwinter



God



Creation



Fall



People of God



Incarnation



Gospel



Salvation



Kingdom of God