

The Circle of the Church Year - amended UK version

(Different church traditions may need to amend the language to suit their custom)

Movements.

The Circle of the church year material is usually kept right behind the story teller, so why walk around the room? Reaching back and pulling it off the shelf isn't dramatic enough to catch the children's attention and help them remember where to find the story. Instead get up and walk around the room until you come back to where the circle sits on the shelf.

Sit down and lay out the underlay in front of you. Place the materials to the side of you. As you do, pick up the golden cord and enclose it in gently in your hand so that you can pull it out through a space between two fingers. Keep eye contact with the group as you hide the cord in your hand and begin the story.

Until now, the golden cord has been hidden. Now show a small end of the cord extending between your fingers, and you suddenly notice it

Pull the cord slowly as you speak. Pull it all the way out from your fingers slowly as you talk until it drops to the floor.

The end of the cord drops.

Pick up the cord and look at it.

Watch where I go to get this lesson.

**It's not where the sacred stories are.
It's not where the parable are.
Ah here it is. This is the lesson about the Circle of the Church Year.**

Time, time, time. There all kinds of time. There is a time to get up in the morning. There is a time to go to bed. There is a time to go to school and a time to come home. There is time to work and a time to play. But what is time?

Some people say that time is a line, but I wonder what time would look like? Ah, wait a minute. What is this?

Time. Time in a line. This is time in a line. Look at this. Here is the beginning. It is the newest part. It is just being born. It is brand new. Now look

Look it is getting older. The part that was new is now getting old. I wonder how long time goes. Does it go on forever? Could there ever be an ending

It ended. Look at the ending.

The Circle of the Church Year - amended UK version

(Different church traditions may need to amend the language to suit their custom)

Hold the two ends and look at them

The beginning that was so new at the beginning is now old. The ending is the new part now.

Tie the two ends together. Then put the circle with wooden blocks on the underlay and place the golden circle around the wooden materials

Do you know what the church did? They tied the ending that was like a beginning and the beginning that was like an ending together, so we would always know that for every ending there is a beginning and for every beginning there is an ending.

Leave the golden cord on the material and begin to remove the blocks. Begin with the three great times - White Christmas and Easter blocks and the red Pentecost block - drop the Pentecost as it's hot. Remember to speak of the Great Times, as Christmas is not always on a Sunday

Here are the three great times. This is Christmas. This is Easter. This is – ouch! That's hot! This is Pentecost

Sit back for a moment and look at the blocks for the three great times.

People can walk right though these mysteries each year and not even know what's there. We need time to get ready to come close to these mysteries.

Place the four purple Advent blocks in a line leading up to the Christmas block. Similarly place the six purple Lent blocks leading up to Easter.

Here are the times for getting ready. The time for getting ready to come close to the mystery of Christmas is called Advent. The time for getting ready to come close to the mystery of Easter is called Lent.

Touch the four blocks of Advent-

There are four Sundays to get ready for Christmas

Then the six Lent blocks

And six to get ready for Easter

The Circle of the Church Year - amended UK version

(Different church traditions may need to amend the language to suit their custom)

Take out the rest of the white Christmas blocks and place them in a line after the Christmas block.

Look Christmas is so mysterious it can't be kept in one day, so it overflows into a whole season.

Take out the rest of the white Easter blocks and arrange them in a line leading up to the red Pentecost block

And Easter is the same. It is such a great mystery that it spills over in six Sundays and again makes a whole season

Touch Pentecost again and play the HOT game.

And the season of Easter helps us get ready for the great mystery of Pentecost. Which is - ouch! Still hot!

Begin to remove the Green blocks ... you can do this in groups. Don't rush but you do want to get the blocks out before the children lose interest.

Here are all the great green growing Sundays of the year.

**Now let's see if we can build the Circle of the Church Year again!!!!!!
Watch carefully, because the church tells time by colours as well as clocks.**

Place the three great times back into the circle

Here are the three great times.

Put the blocks in their approximate final spaces but slide them around a little to show that these places are not fixed.

Ouch this one is STILL hot !

Place the four purple Advent blocks in front of the white Christmas block. Touch each block as you count 1 - 4

The time for getting ready for the great mystery of Christmas is called Advent. It is one, two, three, four weeks long. The Church year begins with the beginning of Advent.

Sometimes the colour for getting ready for Christmas is purple. That's a serious colour, the colour of kings. Sometimes the colour is blue, because it's one of the colours of Mother Mary. Without Mary we wouldn't have the baby Jesus.

The Circle of the Church Year - amended UK version

(Different church traditions may need to amend the language to suit their custom)

Place the rest of the white Christmas blocks into the circle next to the Christmas block touching each in turn

The colour for the mystery of Christmas is usually white or gold, the colour of celebration. Here we tell the great mystery of how God became a tiny baby. That is so mysterious that we have so many stories - stories of shepherds, of angels, the visit of the magi and many more.

*Place the six purple Lent blocks
In turn as you count 1 – 6*

The time for getting ready for Easter is usually purple. That's a serious colour, the colour of kings. Something is going to happen to Jesus, the King, but he was not the kind of king that people thought was coming. He was a different kind of king.

Place the six white Easter season blocks after the Easter block touching each in turn

Look there are one, two three, four, five, six weeks for getting ready for Easter. It must be a really big mystery!

The colour of Easter is white or gold, again the colour of celebration. Easter is such a great mystery that you can't keep it in one Sunday it keeps on going for one, two, three, four, five, six weeks.

Put your two hands over the circle like a blessing. Raise them together about 12"

During that time people met Jesus in a new way. He had died on the cross, and that was very sad. But they kept meeting him in a very different way. Somehow Jesus was still with them as he is still with us. Then something wonderful happened.

The Apostles went outside of Jerusalem with Jesus in this new way.

There they saw him go up....

...And a few days later the holy Spirit came down.

The Church was born.

The Apostles glowed with the power of the Holy Spirit. Their tongues were like fire when they spoke.

They were more alive than they had ever been before.

That's why Pentecost is red like fire.

Move one hand back down and touch the Pentecost block

The Circle of the Church Year - amended UK version

(Different church traditions may need to amend the language to suit their custom)

Begin to put the green blocks into the circle several at a time. First place 2/3 between Christmas and Lent

Next place the remaining green blocks between Pentecost and Advent. Take your time and let the children's year unfold in their imaginations as you replace these Sunday by Sunday.

(You may want to adapt the wording slightly to reflect the actual events that your children experience.)

These can be shown by the clock hands, that can be moved to the appropriate festival

Touch each of the blocks in turn

First we will put in the great green growing Sundays between Christmas and Easter. It changes each year so we will put these in for now.

**Here are the rest of the great green growing Sundays.
The summer comes and the days are getting longer. You can play outside later.**

.....

School finishes and some people go on holiday. Some places have holiday play-schemes.

It's time for days out and a time to play with friends.

Then the holidays end and it's time to get ready to go back to school. You need new clothes and books. School begins and you often have a new teacher. Then the days start getting shorter. School goes on and you start to get used to the new teacher and all the new things.

Now the days are really short. It starts to get dark early. It looks as if the light is just about to go out. Right at that time when the light seems to be coming to an end we reach Advent. The year ends, and then it begins again. It is time to get ready for the mystery of Christmas.

**Here are the three great times:
Christmas, Easter and Pentecost**

Here are the times for getting ready for Advent: that's four weeks...

and Lent: that's six weeks.

You can't keep Christmas and Easter in one Sunday so they spill over into other Sundays afterwards.

Here's Pentecost and IT'S STILL HOT!!!!

Here are the great green growing Sundays of the year.

The Circle of the Church Year - amended UK version
(Different church traditions may need to amend the language to suit their custom)

Move your hand around the circle

It is all here. Everything we need. For every beginning there is an ending, and for every ending there is a beginning. It goes on and on for ever and ever.

Sit back and enjoy the whole circle of colours. Now it's time to enjoy the wondering

WONDERING

I wonder which one of these colours you like best?

I wonder how the colours make you feel?

I wonder which colour is the most important?

These wondering questions are intended to be used as preparation for a visit to a church or to the vestry with its mysterious cupboards and drawers containing the altar frontals and vestments.

I wonder if you have seen these colours in church?

Some of the colours in church change and some do not.
I wonder where the ones that change are?

I wonder if you have ever come close to these colours in church?

I wonder what happens in church when you see these colours?

I wonder who changes the colours?

I wonder where the colours go when you do not see them?

I wonder why the Church tells time using colours?