



DIWALI

By the Worship Council
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What is Diwali?

- Diwali is a very important holiday in India.
- It is a Hindu 'festival of lights' which celebrates the New Year.
- The word Diwali means 'row of lighted lamps'.





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Celebrating Diwali

- The festival usually honours Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth.
- Lamps are lit to help Lakshmi find her way into people's homes.



Lakshmi



They also celebrate a Diwali legend, the story of the return of Rama and Sita to Rama's kingdom after fourteen years of exile.

*Please listen to
the story of Rama
and Sita.....*

www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRpNNF4fB4

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Celebrating Diwali

- The festival is a time for:
- spring cleaning
- Decorating the home with lots of lights
- Wearing new clothes
- Exchanging gifts
- Preparing festival meals
- Putting on huge fireworks displays



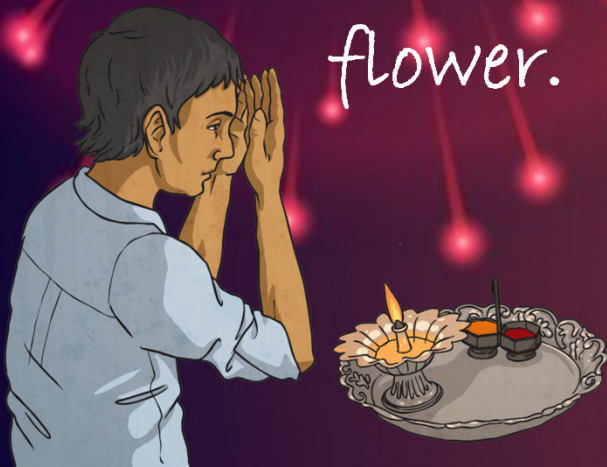
Hindu family praying



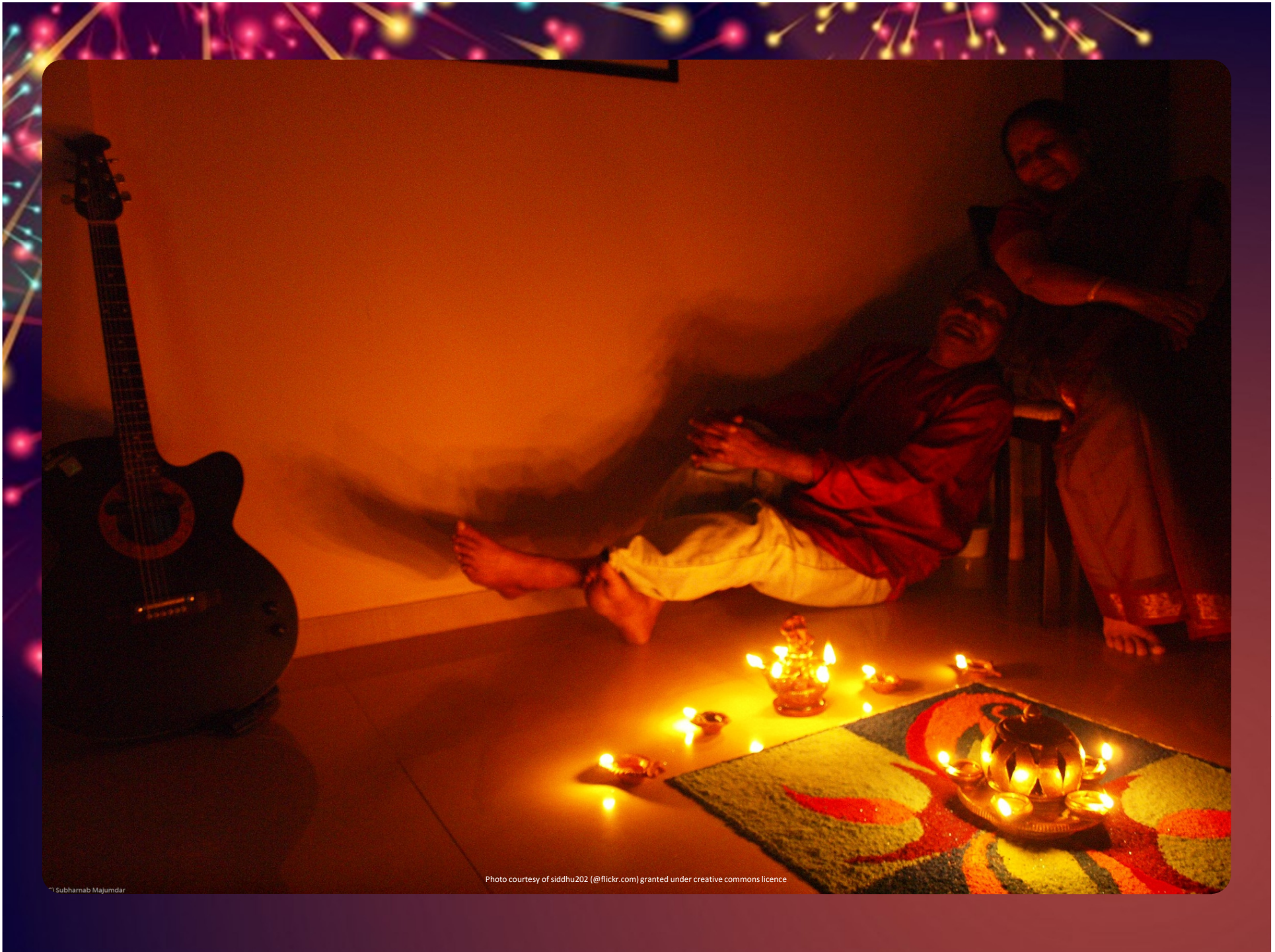
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Celebrating Dīwali

- In India, Hindus leave the windows and doors of their houses open so that Lakshmi can come in.
- Rangoli are drawn on the floors of the house. These are patterns and the most popular subject is the lotus flower.



Lotus flower



Subharnab Majumdar

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The Meaning of Diwali

- The festival celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance.
- The legends that go with the festival differ depending on where you are:



The Meaning of Diwali

- In northern India, Diwali celebrates Rama and Sita's return from exile.
- In Nepal, Diwali commemorates the victory of Lord Krishna over the demon king Narakaasura.
- In Bengal, it is associated with the goddess Kali.



How can this link with Christianity and our School Values?

- We see Jesus Christ as the light in our lives and He shines brighter when we have times of darkness.



- The Bible echo's that good will conquer evil and to love will overshadow hatred.

We are ALL reminded to follow our Golden Rule.....

Christianity: In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets. (Jesus, Matthew 7:12)



Hinduism: This is the sum of duty: do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you. (Mahabharata 5:1517)



Sikhism: I am a stranger to no one; and no one is a stranger to me. Indeed, I am a friend to all. (Guru Granth Sahib, p. 1299)



Our prayer

Lord,

We praise and thank you God our Father for this day,
the day in which we rejoice with our Hindu brothers
and sisters.

Strengthen our relationship with them.

You have lit up the universe with the sun, the moon
and the stars and you have brightened our lives with
the greatest of lights-Jesus Christ.

Grant that each of us become bearers of Jesus and
through us may Jesus be known to our non-Christian
brothers and sisters.

This we ask you through Jesus your Son.

Amen.

*Thank you for joining us
in our Worship this
morning.*



*Where there is
darkness, light will
always guide you.*