



Christmas at Home

A guide for sharing the
Christmas story with children.

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PREPARE FOR FUN!

Skim this guide beforehand and prepare your snacks. We recommend milk and marshmallows, but any snack will work!

This is just a guide. You're telling the story of Jesus to children, not adults, so adjust your expectations and enjoy the gift of Christmas together! Encourage your kids to shout their answers when you ask!

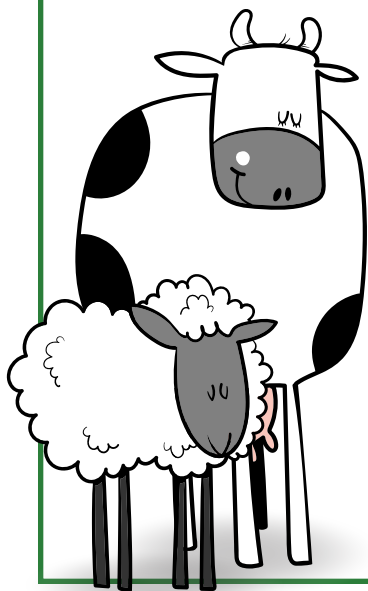
THE STORY OF JESUS' BIRTH

Dad, Mom, Grandma or Grandpa (Leader): Merry Christmas to you all!

Children: Merry Christmas!

Leader: This is the story of how God came to live with us. On the earth, with people like us, a baby was born...

The following is adapted from "He's Here" in The Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd Jones.



Mary and Joseph had to take a trip to Bethlehem, the town of King David. But when they reached the little town, they found every room was full. Every bed was taken.

"Go away!" the innkeepers told them. "There isn't any place for you." Where would they stay? Soon Mary's baby would come. They couldn't find anywhere except a stable in a home. So they stayed where the cows, the donkeys and the horses lived.

Help the children understand the setting of Jesus' birth

Leader: Since Jesus is a king, where should He be born? What does a king's bed look like?

What other animals might have lived in the stable? What do you think it smelled like in the stable? What sounds do you think you would hear in the stable? Do you think baby Jesus would have had any milk in the stable? Would you like some milk?

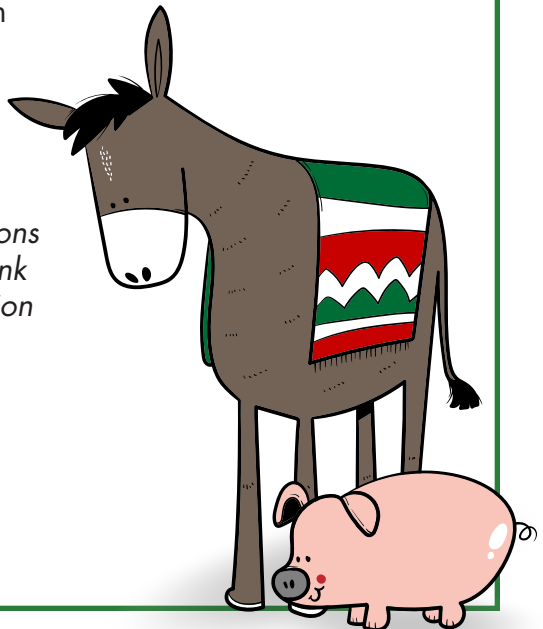
Give the milk to your kids as you continue with the story.

And there in the stable, among the chickens, the donkeys and the cows, in the quiet of the night, God gave the world His wonderful gift. The baby who would change the world was born — His baby Son.

Mary and Joseph wrapped Him up to keep Him warm. They used the animals' feeding trough as His cradle and made a soft bed out of straw. They gazed in wonder at God's Great Gift, wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger.

Mary and Joseph named Him Jesus, "Emmanuel," which means "God has come to live with us." Because, of course, He had.

Ask a few of these questions to get your children to think about God sending His Son Jesus to earth.



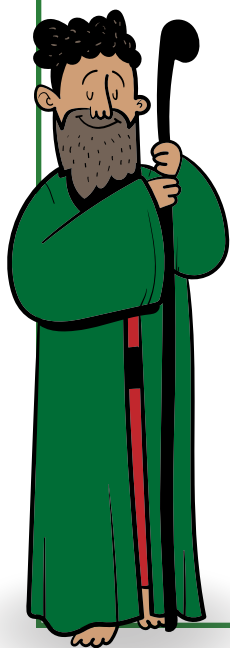
Leader: Jesus was God's Son! What did His bed look like? The story suggested that Jesus was cold. What else did Jesus feel? Do you think He got hungry? What do you think He would have eaten? Do you think Jesus would have liked marshmallows (or insert your snack here)? Would you like some (insert your snack here)?

This is an excellent spot to give your kids a snack to help them get through the last part of the story.

*The following is adapted from "The Light of the Whole World" from **The Jesus Storybook Bible**.*

God was a new Daddy. He couldn't keep the Good News to Himself. He'd been waiting years for this moment, and now He wanted to tell everyone.

So, He pulled out all the stops. Do you know before Mary was even pregnant, God sent an angel to tell her she'd have a baby? He had also put a unique, exceptionally bright star in the sky that night, and now He was going to send an angel choir to tell the world that His Son was born!



Where would you send an angel choir? A big concert hall? Maybe a castle? God sent His angel choir to a little hillside outside the little town called Bethlehem in the middle of the night. He sent angels to sing for a raggedy bunch of shepherds watching their sheep.

So imagine you're a shepherd minding your sheep outside in wide-open fields. It's dark because there are no street lights. But there is a unique, exceptionally bright star in the sky that night. The shepherds are warming themselves by a campfire when suddenly the sheep scattered, startled by something. The trees rustled. What was that sound? Was it wings?

Leader: They turned around, and standing in front of them was a colossal angel surrounded by light, glowing in the middle of the darkness. "Don't be afraid of me!" the shiny angel said. "I'm not going to hurt you. I came to tell you the best news ever that's for everyone, everywhere. Today, in King David's town, in Bethlehem, God's Son has been born! You can go and see Him. He's sleeping in a manger." These shepherds were the very first people to hear the Good News about God's Son.

Then the angel choir started singing and dancing saying, "Glory to God!" What a sight! Then they vanished. The shepherds put out their fire and raced into Bethlehem as fast as possible until they got to the stable. There they saw a baby sleeping in His mother's arms.

This baby would be like that bright star shining in the sky that night. A light to light up the whole world, chasing away darkness, and helping people see.

Ask these questions and encourage shouting back!

Leader: What would you have done if you saw a bright light out of nowhere in your room? What did the shepherds feel? What about the sheep? What would you have done if you saw an angel choir in the middle of the night?

This section can be fun for kids to have a part to play. Explain to them what to say and have them shout when you point to them.

Leader: Now that baby, the one that the choir of angels told the shepherds about, grew up into a boy and then into a man. What's His name? (Jesus). Jesus became a great teacher. Anytime He spoke, people were amazed at what He taught! He even healed people with His words and with his hands. Deaf people could hear, blind people could see, and people who couldn't walk got up and danced! But not



everyone loved Jesus. He was so good it made people who were proud, selfish and stubborn look bad. Rather than learn from Jesus, they decided to try to turn everyone against Him. Eventually, they crucified Him. But because He's God's Son, He came back to life. Because of Jesus, we're loved and accepted, no matter what. Is that some amazing news?

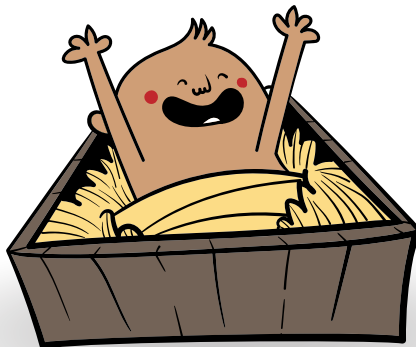
Kids and Leader: Shout "Amazing"!

Leader: But this world still needs healing just like Jesus brought. One day He promised that the world would not have tears, not have pain, and no one would die. Jesus will make that happen! Do you believe it?

Kids and Leader: Shout, "We believe it."

Leader: That is why we celebrate Christmas. It's a reminder that Jesus, God's Son, came and lived on earth, and even though He died, He came back and told us He'd bring us a perfect world one day. Until then, we'll pray to Him often because He's our friend, and we get to be His helpers doing everything He tells us until He returns. Can you do that with Jesus' help?

Kids and Leader: "With Jesus' help we can."





*Merry
Christmas*



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