Christmas Resources for Minsters, Youth & Children’s leaders

Here are some resources to help you during the festive period. Please share with those in your Churches who may benefit from some inspiration and ideas as they plan activities.

Happy Christmas

Collated from various online resources by IMYC
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PIN THE NOSE ON RUDOLPH
5 mins
Yes, it’s essentially ‘pin the tail on the donkey’, but where would you possibly find a donkey in the Christmas story?
Pick an eager young person to play ‘Rudolph’ and another to play the ‘pinner’. Give the pinner a red pom-pom with double-sided tape attached and encourage them to stick it as close as possible to ‘Rudolph’s’ nose while blindfolded. Rudolph has ten seconds of movement time during which he or she must continuously make reindeer noises (nope, we’ve no idea what they are either) before staying silent and still while the pinner gets 20 seconds to find Rudolph and attach the nose. Award points for skill and accuracy. Repeat with different pairs.
Christmas present equivalent: Minimal effort required – the gift-card.

SCROOGE MC-SLEIGH
10 mins
Ever so slightly similar to ‘Lifeboats’, but with Scrooge instead of sharks and sleighs instead of lifeboats. Place large pieces of paper / mats / rugs (ratio of 1:4 rugs to players) on the floor, and explain that these represent ‘sleighs’ that will keep them safe from the evil grasp of Ebenezer Scrooge. The players should move around, avoiding the sleighs until ‘Scrooge’ (a nominated player who retains the role for the whole game) calls out ‘Sleigh-ride’ and a number. On hearing this, players jump upon a sleigh with the appropriate number of other players. So if Scrooge calls out ‘sleigh-ride five’, players must get onto a sleigh with four other people. Anyone caught by Scrooge is out. Continue until all are caught, then swap Scrooges.
Christmas present equivalent: Simple and straightforward – a pair of socks.

CARROT EATING COMPETITION
10 mins
One of the most peculiar Christmas traditions involves leaving snacks for Father Christmas and his reindeer. Although I suspect that the natural food choice of reindeers is not actually carrots, it certainly makes for a fun game.
Prepare a pile of carrots – enough for one for each player – and divide your group into two even teams. Place the carrots on two plates at one end of the room and line each team up opposite a plate. Explain that they are teams of reindeer, and that they need to eat their carrots before they can go anywhere. One at a time, each team member needs to make their way to the plate of carrots, travelling on all fours just like a reindeer. Without using their hands (again like a reindeer), they need to eat a carrot before returning to their team and letting the next team member go. The winning team is the first to consume all their carrots and gather as a team in a reindeer-pulling-a-sleigh formation. More extravagant groups might want to play this game as Father Christmases, eating mince pies rather than carrots.
Christmas present equivalent: All you need to do is wash carrots – a chocolate selection pack.

MAGI-MIND
The old board game Mastermind is the inspiration behind this final game, given a biblical twist by the connection of the Magi.
Divide your group into teams of four and play them off against each other in pairs of teams. One team in each pair represents the Magi, who are giving gifts to the baby Jesus: gold, frankincense, myrrh or socks (one gift per wise person). The other team represents the new family who are going to play everyone’s favourite game / incredible family ritual: guess what the present is.
The Magi team secretly chooses a combination of the four gifts (gifts can be repeated) and names which wise man they came from. Was it Balthazar, Gaspar, Melchior or our bonus fourth gift-giver – Doris? The other team has to work out who gives which gift by suggesting a combination of gifts eg Balthazar – Socks, Gaspar – Gold, Melchior – Socks, Doris – Myrrh.
The wise men then give feedback on this to the family team through the medium of stars and camels. For every right gift allocated to the right giver, one of the magi team becomes a star and stands in a star shape. For every correct gift put with the wrong giver, one of the team becomes a camel (best impressions please). At the end of each round the family team receives a potential combination of stars and camels. By using their brains and taking more guesses, the family team has to see how many turns it takes to correctly guess the correct gifts / giver combinations. Once they get it right, swap over and see how many turns the other team takes to solve the game. You can make this game more active by dressing up the ‘Magi team’, or having actual representations of the gifts.
Christmas present equivalent: Thought, mental effort and brain power required - a board game for all the family.
Children’s crafts

The lost sheep
Craft Ideas

Lost and found pictures

**You will need:** white paper or card, white crayons or white wax candles, and water colours or watered-down paint

This is a helpful way to explore the story’s theme of lost and found. The wax design is uncovered or ‘found’ when it is painted over.

Encourage the children to use white crayons or candles to draw designs on the paper or card. The designs could be simple patterns or something very personal to them, reflecting parts of their personalities. The designs will be very hard to see as white is being drawn onto white and this emphasises the ‘lost’ theme of the story. Children can now paint over the wax and, as they do, the white design will be revealed. It’s very effective if children swap papers before the painting stage because then they are able to ‘find’ someone else’s designs.

Special people: shaving foam marbling

**You will need:** a shallow tray or plate, shaving foam, paint, cocktail sticks, lolly sticks and people shapes cut from coloured card

This can be a bit messy but helps children explore the theme of uniqueness and importance to God. Each finished picture will be entirely different and personal. Let children choose a colour of card that most reflects them (eg their favourite colour from the selection) and cut a person shape from it to represent themselves.

Spread shaving foam across the bottom of the tray or plate, making sure there is enough to completely match the size of the card person they have cut out. Drop small drops of paint into the shaving foam and use a cocktail stick to make swirling patterns. Again children can choose the colours they like best. Press the person shape down on top of the paint swirls and carefully lift it off. Use a lolly stick to scrape away the shaving foam and paint, and see the unique artwork revealed underneath!

Celebration bunting

**You will need:** paper or card cut into large triangles, string or ribbon, pens, sequins, stickers, coloured paper and glue

We often put up bunting when we are celebrating. This craft gives children the freedom to express the joy and celebration of finding the lost sheep and to explore ideas about how God might celebrate ‘finding’ each of them.

Give each child a triangle and ask them to use the assorted collage materials to decorate it to reflect the celebration of joy in heaven when the lost sheep is found. They might want to include elements of the story, things to do with their own personalities or to respond in an entirely different and unique way! When the children have finished, string the bunting together by either stapling the triangles to ribbon or by punching holes in the tops of triangles and threading string through them. Allow time for children to share and talk about their triangles and to relate them to the story if they want to.

Under-5s | Sensory sand searching

**You will need:** flour, oil (baby oil or vegetable oil), a large container and loom bands of various colours (20-30 is a good number)

This is an easy-to-make sensory activity that actively involves younger children in the theme of ‘lost and found’. Mix the flour and oil, with eight cups of flour to one cup of oil. Mix until the two have fully combined. The mixture will resemble shortbread mix, which looks like flour but will clump together if you press it. Sort out your loom bands so that there are a variety of colours but make one the target colour. Mix all of the loom bands into the ‘sand’ and challenge the children to find them, especially the single target colour loom band, which the children have to find. Use this as a springboard to talking about the joy of finding the single lost sheep.
Ready-To-Use Craft Ideas

Christmas Crafts

It’s that time of year again when we will inevitably find ourselves trying to cram lots more activities into lives that are already very full. The children we work with will be doing loads of Christmas stuff at school and may well be ‘Christmassed out’, especially when it comes to craft. Is there a way we can help youngsters (and ourselves) to focus a bit differently on Christmas – perhaps more on what the Christmas gift of Jesus asks of them this Christmas? Here are three activities, none of which require much preparation.

Gift card

YOU WILL NEED:
Sheets of A4 card, strips of bright paper, squares cut from coloured card, thin ribbon, glue sticks, sticky tape, felt tips and scissors

Fold the A4 card in half. Ask the children to write ‘Happy Christmas’ at the top. Alternatively, if your group is very young, print the words on a computer and cut out enough strips for each child to stick one on. Cut a strip of bright paper, or ideally wrapping paper, about 4cm by 15cm long. Glue along one long side and both short sides but leave the other long side unglued. Stick the paper onto the card about two-thirds of the way down, with the unglued side at the top. This is the pocket for the gift. To make the gift, cut a square from coloured card (old Christmas cards work, but make sure the reverse side is blank). Invite the children to write ‘Jesus’ on the back of the square. Stick two pieces of ribbon across the front of the square in a cross shape. Make a small loop of ribbon and tape it to the reverse so that it can be hung on a Christmas tree. (The pesky ribbons that are sewn into many items of clothing to stop them falling off the hanger are ideal.) Pop the gift into the pocket. The children may like to decorate their cards as well.

Follow that star!

YOU WILL NEED:
Sheets of A4 card, a template of a wise man and of a child to colour in (available at childrenswork.co.uk), scissors, crayons or felt tips, sticky tape, strips of card about 1cm wide and sparkly pipe cleaners (optional)

These sliding figures aim to remind the children that, like the wise men, Jesus wants us to follow him.

With your card in the ‘landscape’ position, draw a line along the length of the card, about 4cm from the top, and leaving a margin of about 3cm at either end. Draw another line the same length about 6cm below. Cut along these lines but don’t cut right to the edge of the card (younger children will need some help with this). Colour in the figures or, if you have time, use brightly patterned cloth to make a robe for the wise man, or decorate his robe with sequins. Fold two strips of card so that there is a flap to tape to the back of each figure (see the photograph at childrenswork.co.uk). Slide the longer part of the strip through the bottom slit in the card. Your figures will be able to slide back and forth. Twist a pipe cleaner into a star shape, leaving a small part of the pipe cleaner sticking out at the back. Poke this through the top slit in the card, so that you can move the star back and forth. For a simplified version of this craft, just cut one slit and draw a star onto the top of the card.

Thank you

YOU WILL NEED:
Craft sticks, scissors, PVA glue and glue spreaders or brushes, items for decorating such as pompoms, sequins or foam shapes, and ribbon or thread for hanging. You will also need newspaper to protect your table and wipes for the sticky hands!

This decoration helps us to remember to thank God for Jesus. It could be hung on the Christmas tree, on a door handle or on a window.

Stick the craft sticks together as shown in the picture at childrenswork.co.uk to form the letters T and Y for ‘Thank You’. The shorter arm of the Y is a stick cut in half (this is best done by an adult). Use PVA glue to do this as glue sticks don’t work very well. Put a stick along the bottom to strengthen the decoration. The decoration will need a couple of minutes to set but will become very stable. Put a thread or ribbon on the end once it’s stable before decorating the letters.

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Advent and Nativity crafts

Advent stars

You will need: lolly sticks, loom bands, looms (or peg / fingers depending on how your children like to link loom bands)

The theme of waiting for Jesus is an important part of Advent. This is a great craft to help children reflect on patience as it takes time and care to complete! Make the lolly sticks into a star shape, securing the star’s points with a loom band (as shown in the picture), and then make lengths of loom bands for each stick of the star. I used about 12 bands in each length, so you’ll need quite a few for a group of children. Use the first and last band of each length to join it onto the stick. As they create, encourage children to think about the journey of the wise men. Joining the loom bands takes time and patience, like the wise men’s journey, but what lay at the end was amazing. Encourage children to choose colours which reflect the joy of the wise men’s end destination. As always, give children the chance to share any insights which occur to them while creating.

Story stamps

You will need: jar lids, craft foam sheets, scissors, glue, paint, paper

This is another way to help children to reflect on the Nativity story. Cover the top of a jar lid with craft foam to make a base for a stamp. After discussing the story, ask children to choose an event or character that appeals to them most. Children can then use the craft foam to make a picture of what they have chosen, cutting out shapes and sticking them to the lid’s foam base. When the children have finished, let them cover the stamp with paint and press it onto paper. Leave time for the children to share their creations and to discuss their thoughts. Can anyone else guess what other people’s stamps show? Why did they choose that character or part of the story? Children can then use the stamps on coloured paper to make gift wrap or on card to make Christmas cards.

Christmas card jigsaws

You will need: old Christmas cards showing scenes from the Nativity story, scissors

After talking about the Nativity story, ask children to choose a card from the collection and get them to cut it into eight to ten pieces that they should jumble up. Children can then spend time reassembling the picture like a jigsaw puzzle, perhaps swapping with someone else. This sounds incredibly simple and easy, but actually opens up amazing reflections from children about the Nativity story. What does the card show? Is anything missing? Why do you like this card? Would you have used these colours? How would you have drawn this part of the story? As with the previous craft, this piecing together takes time and patience for the full picture to be revealed and children can become quite engrossed!

Celebration play dough (for 0-5s)

You will need: play dough, birthday cake candles, cupcake cases, pipe cleaners, sequins

This is a very simple, very open-ended craft that will help younger children to engage with the themes of joy, celebration and specialness surrounding Jesus’ birth. Tell the story and then talk to the children about celebrations they have experienced, and how they felt. Let them use the play dough and extras to create cakes and other things that symbolise ‘celebration’ and ‘specialness’ to them. Depending on the age of the children, you may need to remind them that their ‘cakes’ aren’t edible! While they are creating, talk to them about what they are making and be prepared to get some really surprising insights!

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What Does the Bible Say about the Wise Men?

Mark each statement yes (true) or no (false). Then check your answers on the back of the page.

The wise men followed a star to find Jesus. yes no
There were three wise men. yes no
The wise men brought three gifts to Jesus. yes no
The wise men saw Baby Jesus in the manger. yes no
The wise men worshipped Jesus. yes no

Help the wise men find their way to Jesus.

[Diagram of a maze with characters at the start and an arrow pointing towards the end]
What Does the Bible Say about the Wise Men?

The wise men followed a star to find Jesus. Yes. They said, “We saw his star when it came up in the east.” Matthew 2:2

There were three wise men. No. The Bible says “some men” came. Matthew 2:2

The wise men brought three gifts to Jesus. Yes. They brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Matthew 2:11

The wise men saw Baby Jesus in the manger. No. The wise men came a long way, and it took a long time. Jesus was probably 1 or 2 years old when the wise men came.

The wise men worshipped Jesus. Yes. They knelt down and worshipped him. Matthew 2:11

Gifts at Christmas

God gave

Jesus

Draw a gift someone has given you.

The wise men gave

gold, frankincense, and myrrh

Draw a gift you can give someone else.
Shepherds
A Christmas activity worksheet from ministry-to-children.com

The Angels Visit the Shepherds

The said:
““This very day your Savior was born – Christ the Lord!”
Luke 2:11

The said:
“Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened.”
Luke 2:15

They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger.
Luke 2:16

Here is a game to help you remember the story of the shepherds.
• Color the cards and cut them apart.
• Put the cards face down on the table in rows.
• Turn over two at a time and try to find the matching cards.
Shepherds in the Bible

Across
1. Psalm 23 says “The ______ is my shepherd.”
4. _______ the prophet was a shepherd.
5. Jesus said, “I am the ________ shepherd.”

Down
2. King _______ was a shepherd before he was king.
3. Shepherds were the first visitors when Jesus was _____.

Word List
AMOS
BORN
DAVID
GOOD
LORD

The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen.
Luke 2:20

How do you praise God?
G I N S  P Y A R  Y O B E  L E L T
_______   _______   _______   _______
Jesus is Born
A Christmas activity worksheet from ministry-to-children.com

Connect the dots to see who was born in Bethlehem.

Finish the story with the words at the right.

M __ __ __ and J __ __ __ __ __ traveled to B __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __.
M __ __ __ had a baby and named him J __ __ __ __. He was God’s Son.
She placed J __ __ __ __ in a m __ __ __ __ __, which was a place for animals to eat.
He was wrapped in s __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ clothes, which were strips of cloth.
Why Did Jesus Come?

Unscramble the words to complete the Bible verse and learn why God sent Jesus.

The ____________ sent his ______ to be the _____________ of the ________.

A E H T R F

O N S

R A S O I V

D R O W L

1 John 4:14

God showed his love for us by sending Jesus. How can you show God’s love to other people? Put a check mark by each thing you will do.

tell a friend about Jesus

obey your parents

send a card
give a present
Here is a story for you to read.

Mary was a young woman who loved God. The angel visited. said to , ”You will have a . You will name the Jesus.”

All about Angels

Find these words in the puzzle.

Angels come from HEAVEN to bring a MESSAGE from GOD.

CHERUBIM, SERAPHIM, and ARCHANGELS are kinds of angels.

GABRIEL and MICHAEL are two angels who are mentioned in the Bible.
What did Gabriel say to Mary? Use the code to find out.

Luke 1:31

Gabriel came to Mary to bring a message from God. Circle each place where you can share God’s message.

home  church  school

I will share God’s message with __________________________.
All-age service: Christmas
A service plan exploring the gift of Christmas given to each of us

PRAYER / WORSHIP ACTIVITY

OPTION 1
10 mins
Before the session, gather together photographs of babies, toddlers, young children, teenagers and adults (from young adults up to senior citizens) from magazines or catalogues. Mix them up and place them around your meeting space. Ask everyone to wander around them, studying the pictures. Encourage them to talk to each other about the different people shown and what they imagine their lives to be like. Do any pictures remind them of people they know or perhaps themselves? Ask everyone to choose a picture and to take it back to their seat. Lead prayers of thanks for people of different ages within your church or community and allow a moment of quiet for private prayer for anyone in need.

OPTION 2
15 mins
Along the top of a long roll of old wallpaper or lining paper, write ‘Christmas Memories’. Provide crayons and felt-tip pens, and invite everyone (in silence) to write or draw pictures of their happiest or funniest Christmas memories. Afterwards, see whether the various memories have anything in common? Do they say anything about the importance of relationships over material possessions? If it's a present, what do we do with a present? What simple gifts can we give that cannot be wrapped (for example, our company, our help, a hug, making up a game)? Say a prayer of thanks that God's gift to us, his son Jesus, was born in humble surroundings and came to be a friend to each one of us.

STORY
10 mins
You are going to create five freeze-frames or stills from the nativity story: the angel Gabriel greeting Mary; Mary and Joseph with baby Jesus lying in the manger; the angel appearing to the shepherds; the three wise men travelling; and Simeon and Anna at the temple watching the holy family approach. These stills can be quickly practised in advance with helpers. Use pictures on Christmas cards or famous paintings on the Internet for inspiration. You will need a baby doll and a box for the manger, and you may wish to add a few extra items to indicate who the characters are. These stills might be staged around your meeting space or separately at the front. Alternatively, project pictures of these scenes on to a screen.

Before the service, think how people of different ages and in different circumstances may be feeling about Christmas this year (for example, excited, daunted, stressed, lonely, impatient). How might the feelings of each of the nativity characters reflect these? If possible, give everyone at the service a gift tag and pen.

Then tell the story:
I wonder how everyone is feeling about Christmas this year. Perhaps that depends upon how many times we have experienced it! Who has experienced it fewer than ten times? Who has experienced it a lot more? Some people say that Christmas is a time for children. Do you think that is true? (Ask everyone to write one word on the gift tag that expresses how they are feeling about the approaching festivities. It will probably be the first word they think of. Allow a moment or two for this.) Although the first Christmas took place more than 2,000 years ago, each of the characters involved experienced the same emotions we do today. Perhaps some of those emotions will speak to us as we approach Christmas. Let's start with Mary.
THE ANGEL GREETING MARY:
Mary lived in Nazareth and was probably about 14 years old. The angel’s message begins with the words, ‘Don’t be afraid, Mary.’ (It is a personal greeting.) But he then goes on to ask her to be the mother of Jesus! How might she have felt about that? Mary asks a practical question. ‘How can this happen?’ The angel reassures her that nothing is impossible for God. On hearing this answer, Mary accepts her role humbly and willingly before joyfully praising God for the part she has been chosen to play. You could ask for suggestions as to how Mary in the still/ freeze frame could change her position to display joy. What about Joseph?

MARY AND JOSEPH WITH JESUS IN THE MANGER:
Here he is watching over Mary and her new baby. An angel also visited Joseph and told him to not to be afraid, but to marry Mary. How must he have felt to be asked to take care of, not just someone else’s son, but God’s own Son? No words of Joseph are reported in the Bible. He just seems to get on quietly with the right thing. Perhaps his actions speak louder than words. What does he do to support Mary and to protect his new family? (He believes in Mary, takes care of her on the 70-mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem for the census, he finds shelter for them in crowded Bethlehem, he protects his family from King Herod by taking them to Egypt and then, after Herod’s death, back to Nazareth. Over the years, he brings Jesus up as if he were his own son.) Can anyone suggest how Joseph might change his position in the still/ freeze frame to reflect his caring role (for example, by putting his arm around Mary)? Meanwhile, out in the fields…

THE ANGEL APPEARING TO THE SHEPHERDS:
Here are the tough, hardworking shepherds sitting around the fire, eating their bread and cheese. Perhaps they are telling each other stories to keep themselves awake so that they can keep an eye out for any wild animals that might attack their sheep. They lead a lonely life, in the fields on the edges of the town. Up on the hill, a few lights shine in the town of Bethlehem. Stars twinkle in the inky blue sky. It’s a night like any other. Or is it? Suddenly, the angel appears to them. How do these tough men feel? Terrified! Once again, the angel says: ‘Do not be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day your Saviour was born – Christ the Lord!’ The shepherds left their work and hurried to the manger. They understand the significance of this tiny baby and come away singing praises to God. How could the shepherds in the still/ freeze frame change their positions to show their thankfulness? Sometime later…

MARY (CARRYING BABY JESUS), JOSEPH, SIMEON AND ANNA:
Jesus was probably about six weeks old when Mary and Joseph took him to the temple in Jerusalem. We don’t know how old Simeon was, but Anna was 84 years old and a widow. Simeon has been waiting to see the promised Messiah, perhaps like some of us who are longing for Christmas to arrive! God has told Simeon to go to the temple this day. What does he do? He takes the baby in his arms with much joy and thanksgiving. (Ask Simeon in the still/ freeze frame to take the baby into his arms.) God makes sure that Anna is also in the temple at exactly the right moment. She too thanks God and tells everyone about her exciting encounter with the baby.
THE WISE MEN:
Here are three learned men, probably from Arabia, Mesopotamia or Persia. They are scientists who study the positions of the stars and who have wondered at a particularly bright star shining in the eastern sky. They have heard tales of a king who would be sent by God and they decide that the star heralds the birth of this promised king. They set off with real purpose on a journey of discovery. This involves them asking other people questions. ‘Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews?’ They persevere in following the star all the way to Bethlehem, coming closer and closer to Jesus, until the star stops over a house where they find him with his mother. What do they do when they find the one they are looking for? (Ask the wise men in the still/ freeze frame to kneel and offer their gifts.)

REFLECTIVE RESPONSE TO THE STORY
OPTION 5 mins
Since the gift of Christmas is for each one of us, invite everyone to write their own names on the gift tags. Encourage them to think whose story in the stills they liked the most and why.

OPTION 5 mins
Say the following prayer, allowing a pause between each line for thinking:
Thank you, God, for Mary. Help us to have a willing attitude this Christmas. Thank you for Joseph. Help us to serve others with kind and thoughtful actions. Thank you for the shepherds. May the true meaning of Christmas fill our hearts with joy.
Thank you for the wise men. Bring alive our sense of wonder.
Thank you for the gift of Christmas to each one of us here. May we welcome Jesus into our lives with open arms, just as Simeon did. Amen.

GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
10 mins
Divide into mixed-age groups and ask the group these questions
- Who do you think feels afraid in this story? How do they overcome this?
- Who is the Christmas gift? How can a person be a gift?
- Why do you think Jesus was born in such a simple place?
- What is Christmas really all about?

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Unexpected Visits: Sunday School Nativity

This drama has been written so that lots of children could be involved and there would be minimal line learning. There are two main characters (Gabriel and Michael) who act as narrators and it might be best to get two older teens/adults to perform those roles.

Gabriel comes on, with lots of yawning and takes a seat, he begins to have a nap. Michael enters.

Michael: (shouting as he comes onstage) Gabriel? Gabriel? (Sees Gabriel asleep and goes over and stands beside him) Aww...look at him, fast asleep; doesn’t he look so angelic? Although being an angel, he is angelic all the time, but right now he looks particularly angelic. Just look at him, all peac-

Gabriel wakes up and is startled to have Michael looking at him. He screams and falls off his seat

Gabriel: Aaaargh...why were you watching me sleep? Nearly scared the wings off me!

Michael: Sorry! I was just popping down to hear how your visits to Earth went?

Gabriel: Not too bad, although there was quite a bit of screaming down there as well. But thanks to you creeping up on me, I think I now understand why people scream when an angel appears.

Michael: What happened?

Gabriel: Well, it all started when I went to visit Mary.

Mary comes onstage. Michael steps to the side and watches

Gabriel: Mary!

Mary: AAAAAAAAH! Who are you?

Gabriel: Don’t worry; I’m here with good news. God has chosen you to give birth to the Son of God.

Mary: That is brilliant. I hope what you have said comes true.

Mary goes offstage. Michael comes on

Michael: She didn’t take it too badly. You know, once the screaming stopped.
Gabriel: Things did get a bit more tricky though. You see Mary was engaged to a man called Joseph, and when he found out Mary was pregnant, with a child that wasn’t his, Joseph wasn’t too happy.

Joseph comes on and says to audience

Joseph: I’m not too happy

Michael: What did you do?

Gabriel: Well, when Joseph was asleep (Joseph pretends to be asleep) God sent me to speak to him in a dream and I said (whispers) ‘Joseph, don’t worry about Mary, she is carrying a special baby. Marry her and call the baby boy Jesus.’

Gabriel steps back. Joe wakes up

Joseph: I think I had better go and marry Mary!

Joseph leaves

Michael: You handled that well. Guess you could say it went like a dream.

Gabriel: You could say that, but let’s not. Anyway, things got a bit more complicated; you see Mary and Joseph had to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be counted for the census. It was a long journey but luckily Mary was able to ride on a donkey.

Joseph, Mary and donkey walk across the stage looking tired

Gabriel: But eventually, they got to Bethlehem.

Michael: That’s good, I’m sure they were looking forward to having a chance to stick their feet up for a bit.

Gabriel: Well it wasn’t as easy as that, there was no room anywhere. All the rooms were full for the census. They knocked on the door of lots of inns but had no luck

Mary and Joseph walk along the stage, pretending to knock. Innkeepers come to the door and shake their heads. This is an opportunity to use a few of the children if you have a few who don’t want speaking parts.

Gabriel: Luckily, one innkeeper took pity on them!

Innkeeper: I’m afraid I have no room but I do have a stable where you can stay. There are some animals there but it is dry and warm.

Mary and Joseph sit down, animals come on

Gabriel: Later that night Jesus was born

Michael: What an exciting moment. I’m sure God had you running off to tell all the important people like the kings and queens and other royal people, that his son had entered the world.

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Gabriel: You would think that, wouldn’t you? But when has God ever done what we expected? No, he sent me off to meet a group who definitely couldn’t be called Kings!

Shepherds enter. Mary and Joe go off

Michael: They look a bit grubby don’t they? And (takes a sniff) they’re quite smelly

Gabriel: You’re right, but they were the first people God wanted to know all about Jesus being born, so I went and spoke to them. Obviously they screamed

Shepherds: AAAAAAAAAAH

Gabriel: But I told them not to worry. I had good news, a messiah had been born in Bethlehem and they were to go and visit the baby; they would find him wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger. Then some of my angel friends joined me and we sang to them.

If you can find a good song, it would be good for the angels to sing it at this point, if not just get them to pretend to sing

Gabriel: We sounded fantastic and as soon as we were done the Shepherds ran off to find Jesus

Shepherds run to the back of the hall. Whilst they are at the back, Mary and Joe come on with Jesus and sit stage left. Shepherds find them and stand beside them

Michael: Were they the only people to visit Jesus?

Gabriel: No, you see God had placed a star that moved across the sky and there were three Wise Men from the East who realised that this star meant that an important ruler had been born, so they followed it

Star walks on and the wise men follow it.

Gabriel: The star brought them to Jerusalem where they met King Herod

Herod comes on

Gabriel: They told Herod they had come to his palace looking for a baby who was going to be a King. Herod was very angry when he heard this news

Herod: I’m very angry

Gabriel: He was worried that someone would steal his throne. But he had a plan

Herod: When you find the baby come and tell me so I can go and bring gifts to him

Gabriel: Herod, had no intention of bringing gifts to Jesus, he just wanted him found so he could stop him from getting his throne. The wise men journeyed on to Bethlehem where the star stopped and they found Jesus! Then they give him their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Wise men follow star, present gifts to Jesus and then stand the other side of Mary and Joseph.
**Michael:** No wonder you’re tired, you’ve had a busy couple of days!

**Gabriel:** Well I still wasn’t finished. You see God didn’t want Herod catching Jesus, so he sent me to tell the Wise Men to go home a different way and not visit Herod

*Gabriel taps a Wise man’s shoulder and points them a different way. They go off that way.*

**Gabriel:** Then I had to tell Joseph to take his family and flee to Egypt so that Herod wouldn’t be able to catch Jesus

*Mary and Joseph leave. Michael and Gabriel are left alone on stage*

**Michael:** That is quite some story isn’t it! You’re wings must be worn out!

**Gabriel:** It was worth it though, it was such a privilege to get to deliver God’s messages to people and it’s just so exciting to think that the next stage of God’s plan to save the world has begun! Now, if you don’t mind, I’m going to go and get a bit of shut eye.

*Gabriel leaves. Michael looks at the audience*

**Michael:** You know, sometimes I don’t understand why God goes to so much trouble to try and get humans to understand that He loves them; but the fact that he was willing to send his Son to earth in order to try and help them understand, must mean that he really, really cares about them. Just something to think about, eh?

*Michael leaves*
Ready-To-Use Assembly Plan

Christmas

Aim:
To help children understand the importance and meaning of Christmas to Christians

Bible Base:
LUKE 2:1-21

For:
KEY STAGE 2

Equipment:
Large gift-wrapped box containing a small toy sheep, some hay and a rich-looking piece of cloth, paper and pencils (optional), prize (optional), Christmas music and the means to play it (optional).

Opening activity
Show your large present and ask the children what they think is inside it. Get some suggestions, then invite a couple of volunteers to help you open the present at the front. When you open the present display some disappointment with what’s inside – just hay, a sheep and a scarf? Put the present aside, apoloise for such a poor present and say you’ve got an exciting quiz instead.

Quiz
If practical, divide the children into groups (perhaps with a member of the school staff or of your team per group – if you’re going to ask school staff, you must check with them before the assembly). Give each small group of children a piece of paper and a pencil. Alternatively, divide the room into two, and ask the two halves to compete against each other.

Explain that you’re going to have a Christmas ‘true or false’ quiz to see how much they know about the Christmas story from the Bible. If the children are in small groups, encourage them to write their answers down on the piece of paper. If you’re playing in two halves, ask each half a question in turn. (T = true, F = false.)

Questions
1. Mary was told she was going to have a baby by an angel called Gabriel. (T)
2. Mary was engaged to marry a man called Joseph. (T)
3. Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem because there was no room in Nazareth. (F)
4. Mary travelled to Bethlehem on a donkey. (F = donkey isn’t mentioned in the Bible.)
5. Jesus was born in a stable. (F = stable isn’t mentioned in the Bible.)
6. Shepherds were the first people to hear about Jesus’ birth. (T)
7. Three kings from the East visited Jesus and his parents. (F = they weren’t called kings and we don’t know how many there were.)
8. The men from the East brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. (T)
9. The men from the East told King Herod where to find Jesus. (F = he asked them to, but an angel warned them not to go back to Herod.)
10. Joseph took the family to Egypt to get away from King Herod. (T)

If you’re playing in halves, give the answers out as you go, and keep score between the two sides. If you’re playing in groups, swap papers and mark the answers at the end. Give out a prize to the winning side.

Story
Explain that many of the things we think we know about the Christmas story are not there in the Bible. There is no donkey, no stable and no kings. Retell the Bible story as it is told in Luke and Matthew in your own words, or use this short script, using the three props from your disappointing present. You could also get some children to act out the story as you tell it:

In a small town called Nazareth, there lived a girl called Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph. One day, she had a very special visitor – an angel! The angel told her that she was going to have a child, and that the child was the Son of God! Mary was scared, but she knew she was part of God’s plan. Joseph was sad. He thought he would have to break off his engagement to Mary. But he had a special visitor too! In a dream, an angel told him to marry Mary and call the child Jesus, which means ‘God saves’.

To find the rest of this script visit → childrenswork.co.uk

Explain that the lack of some of the details we know and love from the Christmas story aren’t there in the Bible, which might make the actual story seem less exciting, a bit like the present. But for Christians, this is one of the most exciting stories ever!

Jesus’ name means ‘God saves’. The people living in Israel were waiting for someone who was going to save them, and Christians believe that Jesus was – and is – that special saviour! For Christians, this is more important than donkeys and stables and kings – Jesus was born to save everyone from the things that they do wrong.

Prayer
If appropriate, finish the assembly with a short, simple prayer. Thank God for sending Jesus to save. Ask him to help us remember the simple story of Christmas as we celebrate with our family and friends over the next few weeks. As the children leave, play some Christmas music and wish as many children as you can a happy Christmas!

Alex Taylor is an experienced children’s worker and trainer, and Childrenswork magazine’s staff writer.
Primary School Assembly

Putting Christ back in Christmas
Christmas is fast approaching and a Christmas assembly is a great opportunity to tell children about the amazing events that surrounded Jesus' birth. However, children will take part in so many Christmas activities, plays and parties that there is a danger of them all running into each other. What can you do that will make your assembly stand out from the all the other events?

Tell the story of the Bible
This first suggestion might seem like stating the obvious, but with every nativity play featuring an octopus, a robot or Lord Alan Sugar, sticking with what's actually in the Bible will make your assembly immediately different. In fact, you could go even further: so many traditions have grown up around the Christmas story that are never mentioned by Matthew or Luke. Leaving out the donkey, the innkeeper and, dare I say it, the stable will give you a chance to tell the good news of the incarnation in a fresh and surprising way.

Be creative with your surroundings
You might not be able to do much in terms of setting the scene with props, set or lighting. The likelihood is that you will only gain access to the space where you're doing the assembly a few minutes before you start. Any props or scenery you use have to be instantly created or brought with you (and a lifesize angel can be a bit of a hindrance on a crowded bus).

Instead, think about the layout of the room you're in. There is a lot of travelling in the Christmas story; is there any way you can actually travel around, or even out of and back into the room? Even something as simple as this will be memorable for children, who will be used to assemblies (however exciting and interactive they may be) being led exclusively from the front. Indeed, you could do more than that and present different parts of your assembly from different parts of the room (meaning that the children have to turn around to see you).

Props and scenery are still a possibility. If you arrive in a car, you can of course bring a lot of stuff with you, but bear in mind that you'll still need time to set everything up and take it all down again as the room might be needed straight after your assembly. However, there are simple and effective solutions: throw a piece of coloured cloth over a table or a couple of chairs and it immediately becomes a house or the temple. Use lining paper to create a backdrop, which you could unroll and ask some volunteers to hold up behind you. All it requires is a little imagination!

Be creative with the children
Even if you can't use any props or scenery, there is one resource in the room that you can use: the children! If the school is happy for you to do so, move the children around to create the different areas of the story. Sitting some children in a square can become Mary's house when she is visited by the angel or Herod's palace when he is visited by the wise men. Alternatively, you can create a pathway through the children to symbolise the shepherds' path down the hillside.

Be reflective
The children will be shown the Christmas story many times in one form or another, but they are likely to experience all these retellings passively, with someone presenting the story to them (and maybe telling them what it means to Christians). However, they are unlikely to be asked to think about the events of the story, to imagine themselves inside it and to reflect on how the characters might have felt or why they acted the way they did. They probably won't be asked what they would have done in that situation.

Ask the children to imagine they are one of the characters and decide what they would have been thinking or feeling. Encourage the children to imagine that they are there in the story themselves. What are they thinking? What might happen next? Provide space for immediate reactions and longer reflection.

What happened next...
Don't leave the story with the wise men or the escape to Egypt. Make sure you link this Jesus with the Jesus you may have already told the children about: the one who does miracles, teaches, tells parables and forgives. Don't let Jesus be put away when all the decorations come down. If you have any suggestions of what has gone well for you in Christmas assemblies, let us know via Facebook and Twitter.

facebook.com/Childrenswork@Childrenswork
Meeting aim: To explore part of the Christmas story and investigate what it can teach us about discovering and appreciating Jesus.
Preparation: Prepare your initial surprise – see below. Do some reading about the three ‘Risky living’ characters. Practise the two puzzles until you are confident with the answers.

THE BIG SURPRISE - 15 mins
Begin this session with a surprise. Depending on your group, this could be an unexpected treat or a sudden shock. One old routine is to switch off the lights suddenly, and simultaneously fire a starting pistol!
As people recover from their surprise, explain that you are starting a series on Christmas, examining what it must have felt like to be some of the characters involved in the Christmas story. Say that tonight’s focus is on Jesus’ mum and dad.
Ask what else could have happened tonight that would have surprised the group. Give them a list of possible surprises (eg the roof falls in, the youth leader is arrested by armed police, the meeting is stormed by terrorists) and ask them to grade these possibilities from zero (not very surprising) to five (cataclysmic).
Then ask: how would you grade the surprise Mary and Joseph felt when they found out Mary (probably aged 14) was pregnant? (Joseph was probably 18-20.) Ask boys to write down three words describing how they’d have felt if they were Joseph and the girls if they were Mary. Then ask them to read Matthew 1:18-25 (Joseph) and Luke 1:30-38 (Mary) and choose three words to describe the couple’s actual response.
The Christmas story starts with a big surprise and a major challenge to two young people. Can they trust God through all this? This series will show us that it’s when we believe that God knows best, and in faith do what he asks, that we make massive discoveries and enable God to use us powerfully. We will look at three big surprises that Joseph and Mary had to survive...

SECOND BIG SURPRISE - 10 mins
Read Luke 2:1-5. After they had recovered from the shock of impending parenthood, along came surprise number two: Mary and Joseph would have to travel to Bethlehem just before the birth (80 miles – get somebody to work out the equivalent distance using Google Maps on their phone). Wasn’t that a bit risky for such an important birth? (For the difficulties of the trip, see premieryouthwork.com/links.) Was God still in charge?
Ask your young people to solve the old ‘Fox, sheep, cabbage’ puzzle or, if that’s too familiar, the more difficult ‘Missionaries and cannibals’ (both available at premieryouthwork.com/links). Point out that solving it depends on one move that seems stupid: sending the sheep back when you’ve already taken it across and sending back a missionary and a cannibal when they’ve already reached the other bank. It looks as if you’re going backwards – but sometimes, the seemingly nonsensical move can be the solution of the puzzle.
That’s also true with God’s actions. We can’t always see why he does things, especially when he isn’t telling us directly, but it all makes sense and brings results. Read Micah 5:2-4, where the Messiah is prophesied seven centuries earlier. Why did Joseph and Mary have to be in Bethlehem?
KEY POINT 1
Joseph and Mary were really just kids, but God singled them out for this awesome responsibility because they knew how to trust him – whether he guided them directly through messages or indirectly through
THIRD BIG SURPRISE - 10 mins

After Jesus’ birth and the visit of the shepherds and angels, there was another surprise. Read Matthew 2:13-15 and, in groups, discuss:

• Why was this an unwelcome shock? (Clue: what had just happened earlier in the chapter? The new baby had just been worshipped by wise men – it looked as if success was on the way – but now the king wanted to kill him.)
• How did Joseph have to show faith and trust yet again? (By going immediately, trusting God’s warning and waiting in Egypt for an unspecified time.)
• Was God still in control of the situation? (Yes: again prophecy was being fulfilled, although Mary and Joseph probably didn’t realise it then.)

Share results and summarise. Joseph and Mary might have thought they were through the worst of it, but the shocks weren’t over.

KEY POINT 2

When you’re trusting God, you need to be prepared for the unexpected. There may be one more challenge than you’re expecting!

RISKY LIVING - 15 mins

Looking back, it’s clear that God’s plan wouldn’t have worked out without Mary and Joseph and their willingness to trust that he knew best. In small groups, look at these case studies (one each). How did these people demonstrate the same pattern of risky trust in their lives? What was their big challenge, how did they meet it, and what did God do as a result?

Gladys Aylward was a poorly educated London housemaid when God called her to China. Turned down by mission agencies, she spent all her savings on a ticket across Russia, then ran an inn and sheltered orphans. When the Japanese invaded they set a price on her head. Undaunted, she led 100 children over the hills to safety; a 12-day trek. More information at premieryouthwork.com/links.

• William Carey was a Northamptonshire cobbler who decided God wanted him in India. Despite daunting obstacles and great personal misfortunes, he got there and stuck at the job for 41 years. He translated the Bible into the six main languages of India, battled social abuses, worked to bring prosperity to Indians and founded a renowned school. More information at premieryouthwork.com/links.

• Andrew van der Bijl was an ex-soldier who knew about risk-taking. So, as a young Christian in 1955, he started smuggling Bibles into communist countries, had many hair-raising adventures and saw many people come to faith. Worldwide organisation Open Doors now continues his work. More information at premieryouthwork.com/links.

WRAP UP - 5 mins

Ask the young people to sum up all they’ve learned from the three surprises in Joseph and Mary’s story. How far would they be prepared to trust God? Finish by praying for faith to make their lives count by trusting him more.
**Preparation:** Hang up posters, each quoting a Bible verse, at different points around the room (the verses are listed below, under ‘The other thing about shepherds’). Make sets of cards bearing the questions from that activity (see below); one set for each small group. Provide a large sheet of paper and some marker pens.

**ACCEPTING UNEXPECTED INVITATIONS - 15 mins**
Ask the group to imagine this situation:
You are sitting in the park after a hard afternoon’s shopping. You’re dressed in trainers and a t-shirt, your shopping bags are at your feet. You’re tired. Suddenly, a smartly dressed man approaches you and says he’s an equerry to the Queen, who is passing through your town and has expressed a desire to meet an ordinary person. Her limousine is just 500 yards away, the champagne is on ice, and you must come instantly. There is no time to change or freshen up – this is your one opportunity. You must leave your shopping and go.

**Discuss:** What would you do? Which young people would go and which wouldn’t? What would your reasons be? What is the strangest invitation you have ever received? This session investigates the strangest Christmas invitation in the Bible story: the one that went via the angel to the shepherds. Read Luke 2:8-16. Why was this a strange invitation?

**FIRST REASON: THE SHEPHERDS WERE DISREPUTABLE - 10 mins**
Say: At the time of the first Christmas, shepherds were not popular. They had no civil rights. They couldn’t be witnesses in court cases. It was illegal to buy wool and milk from shepherds, since they were probably stolen goods. Shepherds were officially classified as ‘sinners’, excluded from the temple and synagogue. So for the birth to be announced to shepherds was pretty unlikely.

In small groups, work out a list of those who would be equally unlikely in our world: Syrian refugees? Transgendered people? Compare results and write all suggestions up on a large sheet of paper. Ask: what was God saying by sending the birth announcement and invitation to a group as lowly as this?

**KEY POINT 1**
By inviting the shepherds to see the baby, God was making it clear that this new king was for everyone, not just the respectable people.

**SECOND REASON: THE SHEPHERDS HAD NEVER SEEN ANGELS BEFORE - 10 mins**
What did they say in verse 15? What might they have said? In groups, think of some responses that might have changed the whole story. (E.g. ‘It was probably just an optical illusion caused by exposure to sheep poo.’ ‘If we run off and leave the sheep here they’ll probably stray all over the place.’ ‘It might be a trick to fool us into looking stupid. Kings aren’t born in mangers.’ ‘This is too scary, I don’t want to even think about it’. Give a small prize to the group that comes up with the best reason for not going to Bethlehem.

**THIRD REASON: THE SHEPHERDS WERE BUSY DOING THEIR JOB - 10 mins**
There must have been hundreds of people nearby who were doing nothing that night so why pick men who were on duty? Ask: can you see any possible clues in verses 15-20? (E.g. the shepherds trusted the angel’s message, were prepared to leave everything to find the king, were willing to tell everybody the news, helped Mary to understand what her son was all about (v19), got really excited and thankful about God’s initiative.) When you’ve discussed some of these points, summarise: the shepherds were unlikely people, but God knew they’d do the job perfectly.
THIRD REASON: THE SHEPHERDS WERE BUSY DOING THEIR JOB - 10 mins
There must have been hundreds of people nearby who were doing nothing that night so why pick men who were on duty? Ask: can you see any possible clues in verses 15-20? (E.g. the shepherds trusted the angel’s message, were prepared to leave everything to find the king, were willing to tell everybody the news, helped Mary to understand what her son was all about (v19), got really excited and thankful about God’s initiative.) When you’ve discussed some of these points, summarise: the shepherds were unlikely people, but God knew they’d do the job perfectly.

THE OTHER THING ABOUT SHEPHERDS - 10 mins
Say: There was another reason for including shepherds in the big moment. In groups, play a six question time-test game. Give each group a card with the first question to solve, telling them the answer is on one of the Bible verse posters around the walls of the room. Once they have the answer, they come back and tell you, and are given the second card – and so on until they complete the whole thing. The first team to supply the final answer wins.

The questions on the cards are:
• What did Jacob say God had been for him? (Answer: a shepherd. Genesis 48:15.)
• What did David think about God? (Answer: the Lord is my shepherd. Psalm 23:1.)
• How did Isaiah say God treated his people? (Answer: he tends his flock like a shepherd. Isaiah 40:11.)
• Which of Jesus’ royal ancestors started as a Bethlehem shepherd? (Answer: King David. 1 Samuel 16:1, 11, 13.)
• What does Micah predict about a great leader who would come from Bethlehem? (Answer: he will shepherd his flock. Micah 5:4.)
• How did Jesus describe himself? (Answer: the good shepherd. John 10:11.)

Afterwards, review the answers and summarise: God’s ideal leader isn’t a dictator, tyrant or despot, but the shepherd of his people. So when the king arrived on earth, God neatly underlined it by involving Bethlehem shepherds from the outset.

KEY POINT 2
Throughout the Old Testament, God shepherds his people; Jesus’ ancestor King David was a shepherd; and God’s coming king was destined to be a shepherd too.

WRAP UP - 10 mins
What happened to the shepherds afterwards? Would they ever have seen Jesus again? Probably not given that the average lifespan of a shepherd was between 25 and 40 years, and Jesus didn’t begin teaching and healing until 30 years later. But their excitement and the story they spread (v 17-18) had an important part to play in preparing people for the work Jesus was to do three decades into the future.

Ask the young people to think about these questions in a moment of silence:
• Am I ever tempted to think that some kinds of people just aren’t of any interest to God? (Hang up the paper with your combined list of unlikely people groups once again.)
• Am I ever tempted to think that God wouldn’t ever choose me for anything important?
• Am I prepared to trust God as the shepherds did, and get excited about the good news as they did?
• Am I happy to be a small part of something much, much bigger, without being the centre of attention all the time?

Close by praying about these things.
Paul writes to Timothy:

Pray for those in authority

1 Tim 2:1 (MSG)

"The first thing I want you to do is pray. Pray every way you know how, for everyone you know. Pray especially for rulers and their governments, that their governance may promote peace, so we may live in safety, quiet contemplation. This is the way our Saviour God wants us to live."

Create a gallery below of people who 'rule' or have authority in different ways. Draw, doodle or cut out pictures and paste:

- Prime Minister
- Most followed on Twitter
- Leadership of your school or workplace
- Church leaders
- World's richest person
- Local councillor
- Local MP

Now:

Pray for those people, in every way you know how!
IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD

CREATION  THE FALL  RIGHTOUS ABEL & CAIN  RIGHTOUS NOAH & THE ARK  JOB THE LONGS SUFFERING 2100 BC  THE TOWER OF BABEL  GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM 2065 BC  HAGAR & ISHMAEL  SARAH & ISAAC

ISAAC & REBEKAH  ESAU & JACOB  JACOB'S 12 SONS  JOSEPH SOLD INTO SLAVERY  JOSEPH'S ELEVATION  ISRAEL & SONS GO TO EGYPT 1875 BC  ISRAELITES IN SLAVERY  MOSES  BURNING BUSH  MOSES, PHARAOH & THE 10 PLAGUES 1446 BC

CROSSING THE RED SEA  MANNA FROM HEAVEN WATER FROM A ROCK IN THE WILDERNESS 10 COMMANDMENTS & THE GOLD CALF  BRONZE SERPENT  THE ARK OF THE COVENANT  JOSHUA & THE 12 SPIES  RAHA & JERICHO  THE PROMISED LAND  FALSE GODS

THE JUDGES LEAD THE PEOPLE 1300-1100 BC  RUTH 1140 BC  HANNAH 1100 BC  PROPHET SAMUEL THE LAST JUDGE  KING SAUL  SAMUEL ANOINTS DAVID 1024 BC  KING DAVID  WISE KING SOLOMON 967 BC  BAD KINGS

KING AHAB & JEZEBEL 874 BC  PROPHET ELIJAH 863-851 BC  PROPHET ELSHA  PROPHET JOASH 635 BC  PROPHET JONAH 760 BC

PROPHET HOSEA  PROPHET MICAIA  PROPHET JOEL  ISRAEL EXILED  KING HEZEKIAH OF JUDAH 716 BC  PROPHET ISAIAH

BOY KING JOSIAH 640 BC  PROPHET JEREMIAH  PROPHET EZKIEL  JERUSALEM FALLS TO BABYLON 586 BC  DANIEL IN CAPTIVITY 582 BC  THE THREE HOLY YOUTHS IN THE FIERY FURNACE 588 BC  DANIEL & THE LIONS 539 BC  PROPHET ZECHARIAH

QUEEN ESTHER 478 BC  EZRA GOES BACK TO JERUSALEM 457 BC  NEHEMIAH HELPS REBUILD 444 BC  MALACHI 430 BC

PRIEST ZACHARIAH 6 BC  ANNUNCIATION TO MARY  MARY VISITS ELIZABETH  RIGHTEOUS JOSEPH  JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM  NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST 5 BC  ANGELS BRING GOOD NEWS TO SHEPHERDS  MAGI FOLLOW THE STAR  FLIGHT INTO EGYPT  SLAUGHTER OF THE INNOCENTS 4 BC

AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US

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