

Teaching Plan - Christmas - it's all about Jesus

Aim - To highlight what Christmas is really all about.



Welcome

Sing: We are here together



Game/Activity

Guess the baby. Arrange in advance for some people to bring in photos of themselves as babies - how many can you guess? All babies are special, but we are going to hear about a very special baby today.



Drama

The Christmas Story (*this can be done as an "acted out" drama but can be very effective using a nativity set - give everyone a piece in advance and as the story is told people bring their item forward. It is important that everyone can see the scene clearly if using a nativity set - need to sit/stand in a circle around it*)

An angel come and spoke to Mary and told her she was going to have a baby and she should call him Jesus.

Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem - it was a long way and Mary got tired easily - she was going to have the baby soon. There were no cars or trains or aeroplanes - they had to walk - sometimes Mary would ride on a donkey.

When they got to Bethlehem it was very busy - all the hotels were full so they did not know what to do. A kind man said they could sleep in his stable where the animals lived - there were no beds, but

it was warm and dry, and they could lie down on the straw.

That night the baby Jesus was born. Mary and Joseph wrapped him in warm clothes. They did not have a cot or a pram for baby Jesus, so they used one of the animals feeding troughs instead.

Near Bethlehem some men were out in the fields looking after the sheep - it was dark then the whole sky lit up and angels came. One angel said "don't be frightened. Jesus has been born and you can go and see him in the stable". The men hurried off to go and have a look at this baby.

The shepherds were very happy when they saw baby Jesus - they knew he was a very special baby.

A long way away 3 very clever and important men looked up into the sky and saw a star - they knew that it meant a new baby king had been born.

They went to Bethlehem, riding on camels - it took a long time, but they got there and went into the stable and saw the baby Jesus - that made them happy.

The 3 wise men brought great presents for Jesus - gold, frankincense and myrrh. Mary and Joseph thanked them for the presents.

Everyone who saw the baby Jesus felt happy - when we think about Jesus and get to know Him, we can be happy because we know he loves us so much. Jesus is God's best ever present to all of us.



O come let us adore Him (Chorus of o come all you faithful) through a few times - first time quiet then build up the sound.

Question: Why do we give presents at Christmas? (From people's answers you will be able to judge level of understanding)



Bible Readings: Luke 2: 6-20, Mathew 2:11, John 3:16



Talk

Take time to talk about all the lovely things about Christmas - all the fun and celebrations but then bring it back to the basic Christmas story. What would it have been like to be born in a stable? What do you think the shepherds felt like when they saw the angels? The wise men brought lovely gifts - what would you give to Jesus? Talk briefly about John 3:16 - God's best ever present to us, Jesus to be our friend - he loves us and shows us the best way to live our lives.



Possible Craft

Have cut-out cardboard hearts ready to decorate - explain that the very best present that we can give Jesus this Christmas is our heart (explain what that means). Get people to decorate them and put their name on with help where needed.



Possible Song

What can I give him, poor as I am
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb
If I were a wise man, I would do my part
Yet what can I give him, give my heart.



Prayer

Encourage everyone to say/sign a few words of thanks to God for something about Christmas. Leader to end by thanking God for all those things and especially for Jesus.



Possible Songs

Come on and celebrate
Come and join the celebration
Away in a manger

Lots of Christmas songs to choose from but remember to explain difficult words - they are not as easy as you think!!