



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF
ARUNDEL & BRIGHTON
EDUCATION SERVICE

Prophecy and Promise

EYFS

Prophecy and Promise

EYFS
Branch 2



EYFS Branch 2 – Prophecy and Promise

These resources are designed to respond to the Religious Education Directory for EYFS, branch 2 – Prophecy and Promise. The resource is designed to be used in conjunction with the RED EYFS document, which gives detail on content and delivery.

The resource has been structured into 6 blocks, each based around one objective. This will allow schools some freedom with how long they choose to spend on each objective.



Hear -The first section for each unit is the 'Hear' section. This section of the resource should not be changed, as the scripture should be the starting point and foundation of the learning. An age appropriate version of the scripture can be found at the end of the document. The scripture for this branch is based on: Luke 1:26-31,38; Luke 2:4-7 and Luke 2:8-20 .



Believe – This section details the Catholic belief and teaching related to this scripture and suggested ways to share this with the children.



Live- This section has a range of activities that you could use to help the children to respond to the scripture and belief to enable them to better understand it and how they can live it out. This section of the resource has a range of activities that you may choose – some are suited to adult led whole class or group delivery and some to continuous provision. You **do not need** to cover all the activities, there are a range of suggested activities and the children should have access to a range of learning opportunities across the whole topic. The amount of time and number of opportunities offered to children for RE – in both adult led activities and continuous provision - should be equal to that of literacy and mathematics.



Celebrate – This section suggests ways in which the children can express their wonder and awe and learn to pray, praise and celebrate their faith.

Vocabulary – the key words for the children to learn, use and understand in this topic are:-

Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Angel, Baby, Stable, Manger, Bethlehem, Promise, Shepherd, Journey, Advent, Waiting, Joy, Saviour, King, Christmas.

Objective 1:

*I know that
Mary was
chosen by God
to be Jesus'
mother.*

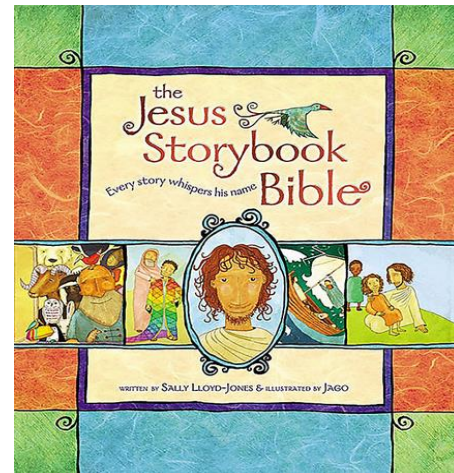


Hear –

- Mary was going to have a baby. His name will be Jesus. Luke 1:26-31,38.

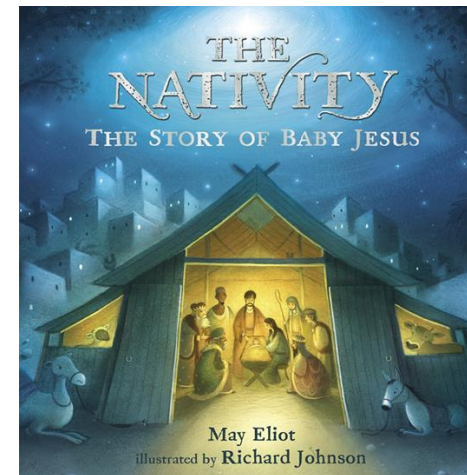
Read, Share and explore the Scripture of Luke 1:26-31,38 - Using age appropriate versions of the Annunciation story. Share Mary's joy at being chosen and her willingness to do what God asked of her.

Suggested texts –

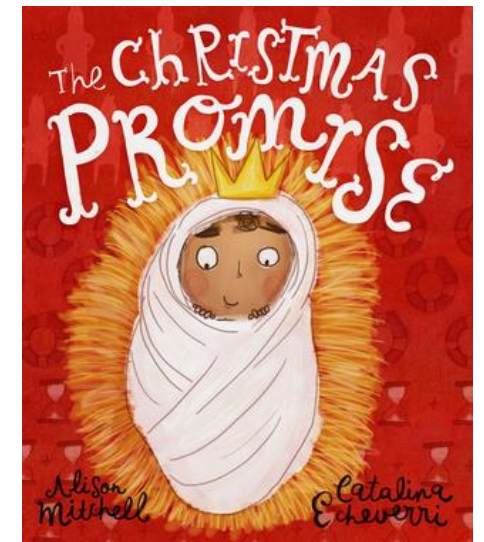


The Jesus Story Book Bible
Chapter 22- 'He's Here'

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2y2Flqsv_8



<https://www.eden.co.uk/christian-books/christmas-and-easter-books/childrens-christmas-and-advent-books/age-4-to-7-christmas-and-advent-books/the-nativity/>



<https://youtu.be/934o1-QvUTg>

Objective 1:

*I know that
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Believe –

- Mary was chosen by God to give birth to his son

As you share different versions of the Annunciation story, explore with the children the idea that God chose Mary because of her **Grace** and **goodness**. Explore the idea that God **invited** her to be the mother of Jesus and she said 'Yes' to what God asked of her – even though she didn't know what it might involve for her. She trusted and loved God so much that she didn't worry – she knew He would look after her.

Before you read the scripture to the children, you could begin by sharing with the children a special invitation to them from God – you could have a special scroll or a fancy envelope. Invite the children to open it and share with children a special invitation that God has given to them too – to know and love His son Jesus – beginning with hearing all about the story of His birth. You could write a joint reply to God – giving your 'Yes' to getting to know Jesus.



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Live Ideas to help the children explore and respond to the scripture:-
recognise, talk about, label, name, match, sort, retell, sequence,
recall.

- Invite the children to think about how God used the Angel Gabriel to take His message to Mary and Joseph. Make craft angel wings with each child making a feather with a special message for Mary on it. Display them in a way that a child can stand in front and have a picture taken with 'wings' behind. You could also make individual wings and invite children in role-play taking the message to Mary.



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recall.

- Invite the children to think about how God used the Angel Gabriel to take His message to Mary and Joseph. Teach children that God has also given each of them a special Guardian Angel. This Angel is with them always and is given to them as a special gift from God to look after them and guide and guard them their whole lives. Invite the children to make and decorate their own individual guardian angel to remind them of the Angel that God has given them – clay, card, paint, feathers – give children choices of how they want to represent their angel.



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recall.

- Remind the children of the way that Mary said 'Yes' straight away to God's plan. Mary was kind and gentle and loved God and wanted to do whatever He said. Tell the children that this was a very important moment for us and that lots of artists have painted what they think that this moment might have looked like. Show the children some of the different images of the Annunciation. Look at what is the same and what is different. Invite the children to create their own pictures of Mary and the Angel.



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recall.

- Invite the children to think about the story of the Annunciation and to explore the retelling of the story in different ways. Offer the children the opportunities through small world, role-play corner, tough trays to explore this part of the story and retell it. Give children access to images, key vocabulary and books to inspire and inform their play.



Objective 1:
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Celebrate – Mary said Yes to God and He wants us to say Yes too.

When the Angel asked Mary to be the mother of Jesus, she said Yes to God's plan. God loves us and wants us to say yes to Him too. Yes to finding out all about Him. Yes to spending time with Him. Yes to loving Him. Mary said 'Here I am Lord' when God called her. Let's try to learn from Mary how to say 'Here I am Lord' to God today.

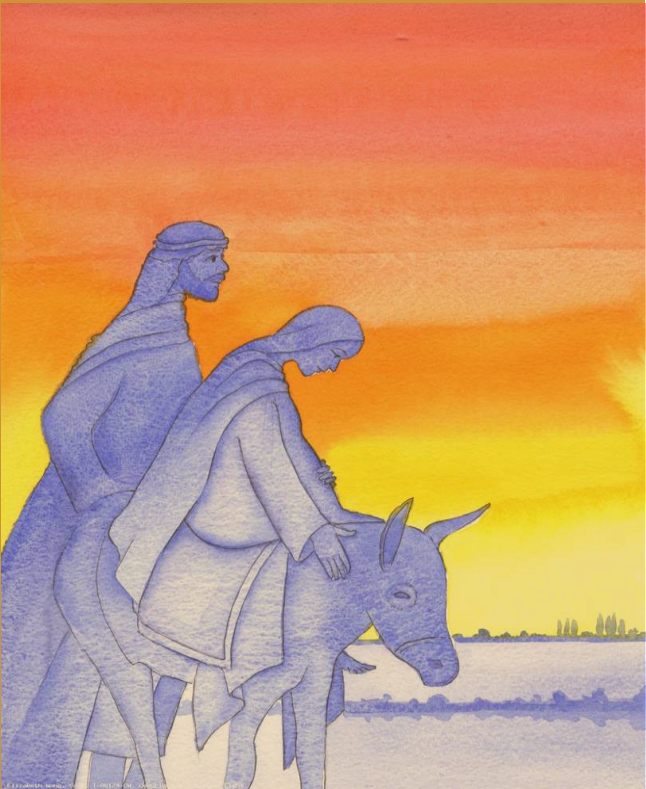
Sit in a circle and look at an image of the Annunciation to remind the children of the story. Remind them of Mary's words. Light an electric candle to represent Jesus being with us. Pass around the light and invite children to say 'Lord, here am I' and invite them to say their name. Remind them that God made them and knows them by name and loves them.

Listen to and join in with the song 'Here am I' by Catholic Songs for kids

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yEWYw8gqvvg>



Objective 2: *Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem*

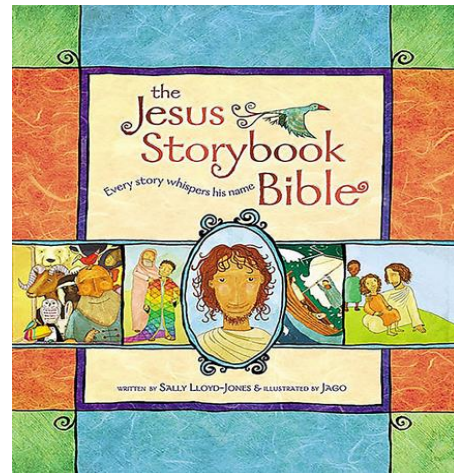


Hear –

Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem

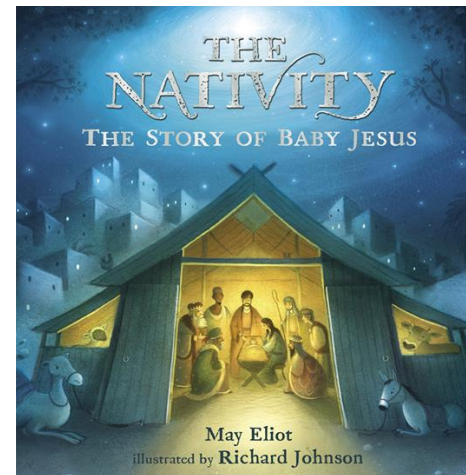
Read, Share and explore the Scripture of Luke 2: 4-7 – Using age appropriate versions of the story. Share again the fact that Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem when Mary was expecting the baby.

Suggested texts –

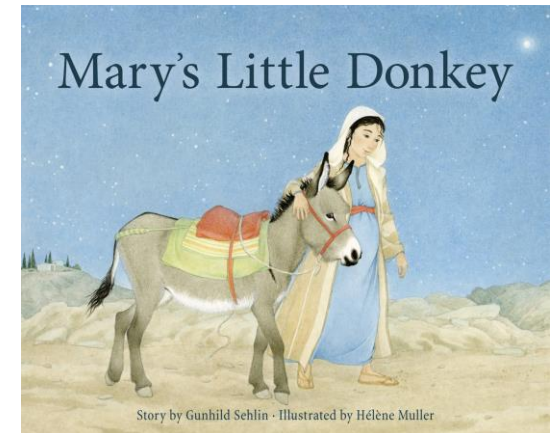


The Jesus Story Book Bible
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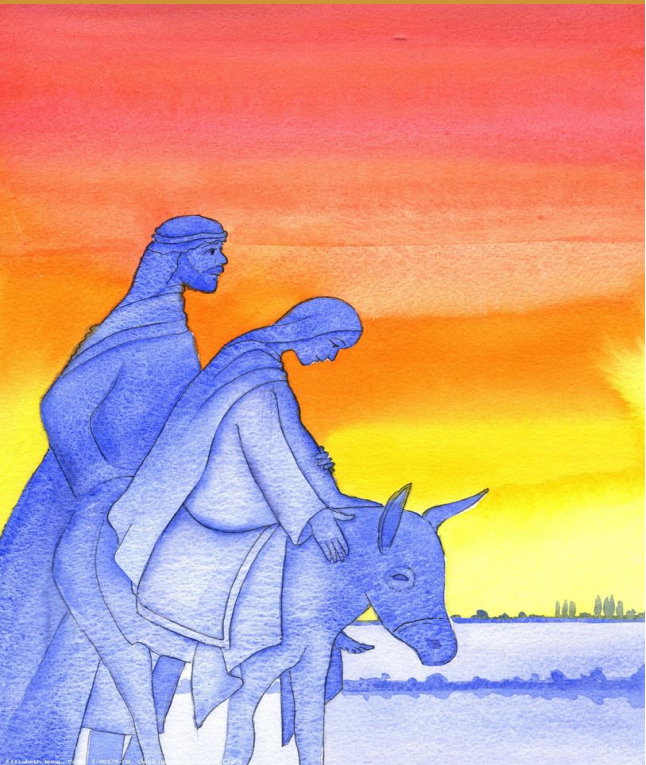
<https://www.eden.co.uk/christian-books/christmas-and-easter-books/childrens-christmas-and-advent-books/age-4-to-7-christmas-and-advent-books/the-nativity/>



<https://youtu.be/T9SD9Ee2rI>

Objective 2

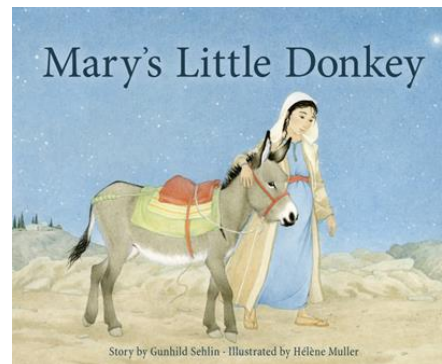
Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem.



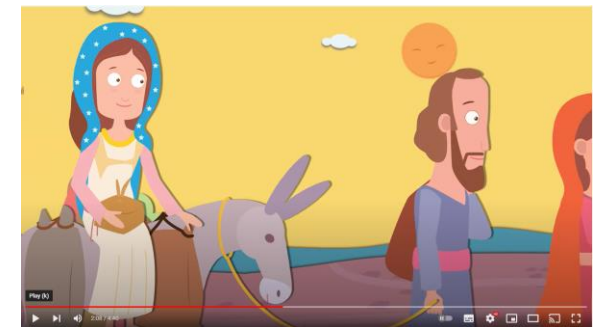
Believe –

- When it was nearly time for Mary to have her baby, she had to travel, with Joseph, to a town called Bethlehem to add their names to a register.
- Bethlehem was a long way from Nazareth.
- Mary and Joseph did not have lots of money and they had to travel the long and difficult journey by foot- maybe with a donkey.
- The journey would have taken many days and nights. It would have been a difficult time for Mary because she was nearly ready to have her baby.
- Mary and Joseph would have prayed and trusted God to look after them on this journey.
- Bethlehem was not a very large or important town but God chose it to be the birth place of His son because He wanted His son to be for everyone – especially the poor and unimportant people.
- When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, there was no-where for them to stay because lots of people had come to Bethlehem to register too.
- God chose a simple stable for the place where His son would be born.
- Mary and Joseph had to trust in God that this was His plan.

*Read in daily excerpts

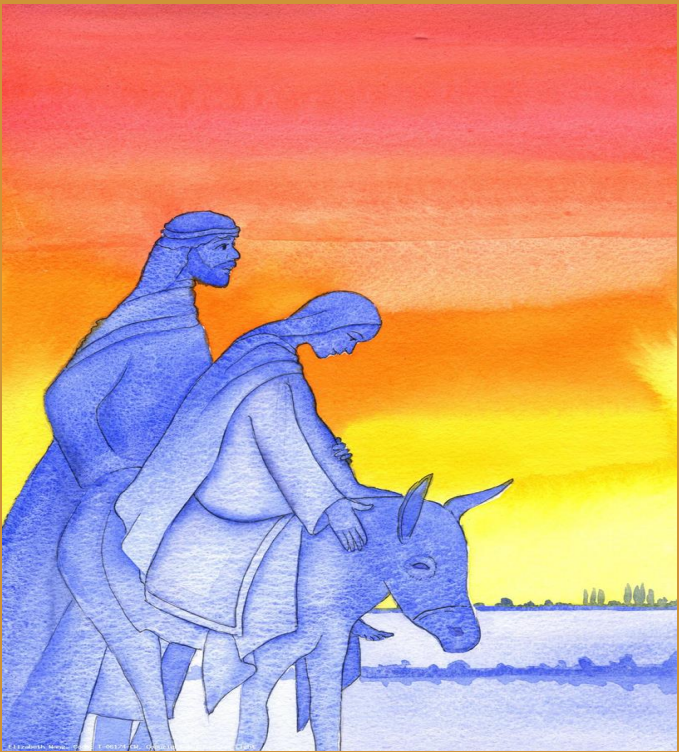


<https://youtu.be/T9SD9Ee2rII>



<https://youtu.be/BjqfQfOhD34>

Objective 2: *Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem*

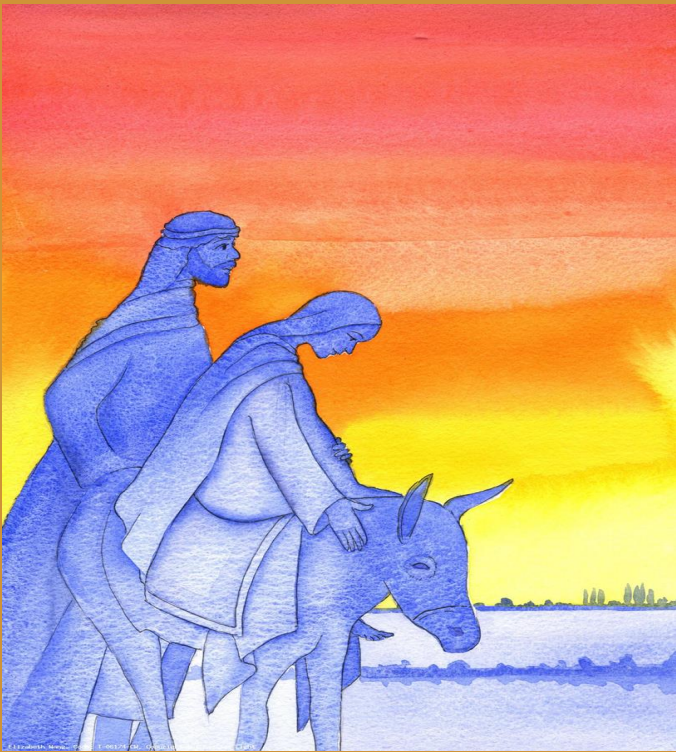


Live Ideas to help the children explore and respond to the scripture:- recognise, talk about, label, name, match, sort, retell, sequence, recall.

- Explore the idea that Mary and Joseph would have had to prepare for this journey. One of the ways that they might have prepared was to look at a map for the journey. Look at some examples of old maps and think about what information might have been on the maps. Names of towns, roads, rivers, woodlands, mountains, hills etc. Invite the children to make their own maps for the journey. Give them lots of choices of different ways that they could make their maps. Large rolls of paper, smaller folded paper, drawing symbols, cutting and sticking symbols, 3D maps with buildings etc added with blocks or small world etc. Encourage children to use the key vocabulary of Bethlehem, Stable, Mary, Joseph.



Objective 2: *Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem*



Live Ideas to help the children explore and respond to the scripture:- recognise, talk about, label, name, match, sort, retell, sequence, recall.

- Invite the children to re-create the journey of Mary and Joseph using their gross-motor skills by building the road from Nazareth to Bethlehem – along with buildings, rivers, trees, animals, camps etc that they may have seen along the way. Use the outside area and a choice of loose parts, large construction etc to build the road. Invite children to create road signs and place names – using chalks etc.

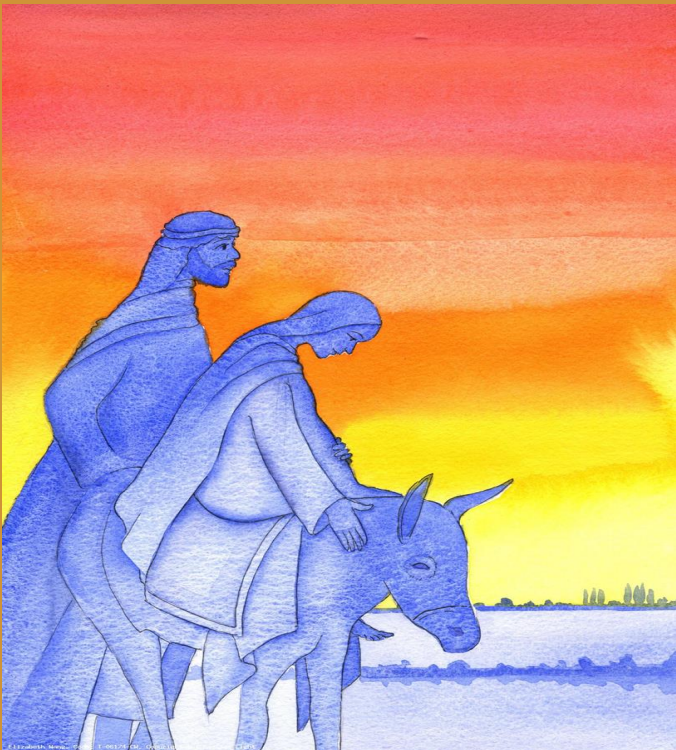


Objective 2: *Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem*

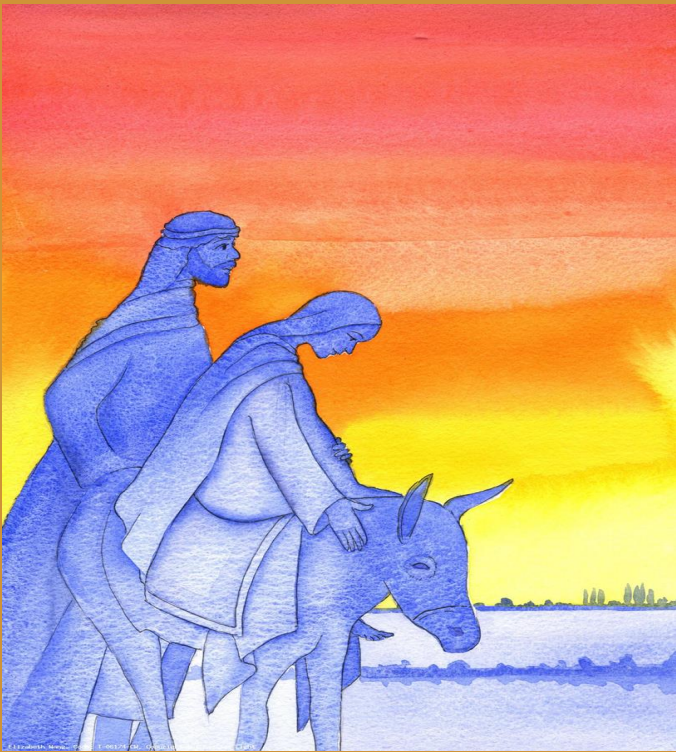


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- Invite the children to think about caring and preparing the donkey for the journey. Explore what donkeys eat and how to take care of them. Invite the children to explore caring for a donkey – small world, puppet, costume or stuffed toy – and build stables and practice grooming and feeding the donkey. Invite a donkey sanctuary volunteer to come and talk about their work or watch a video of them. Invite the children to create some instructions for how to care for their donkey.



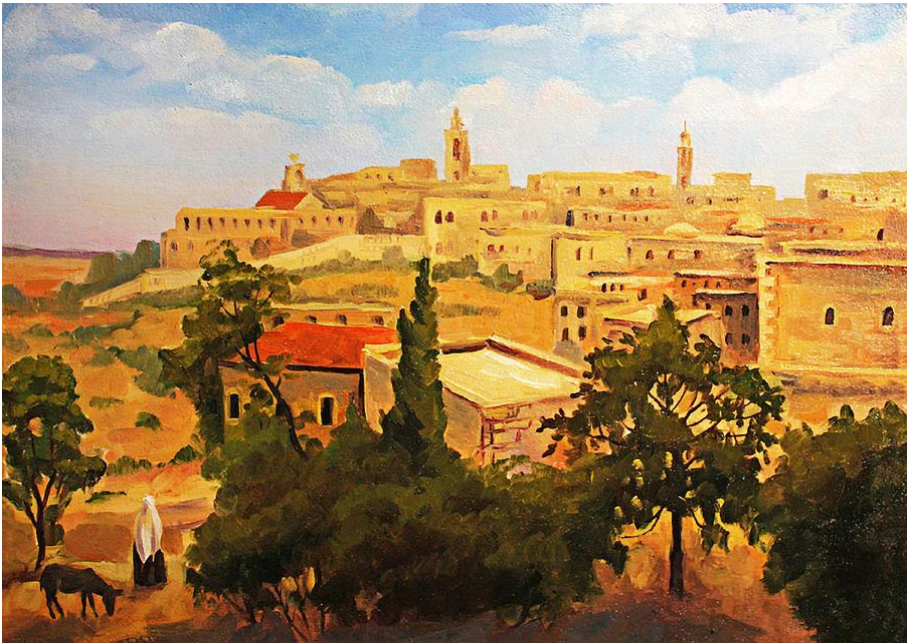
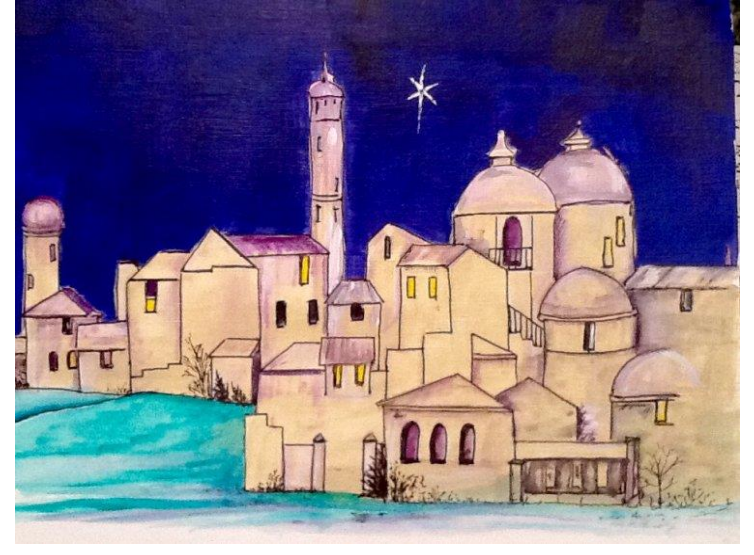
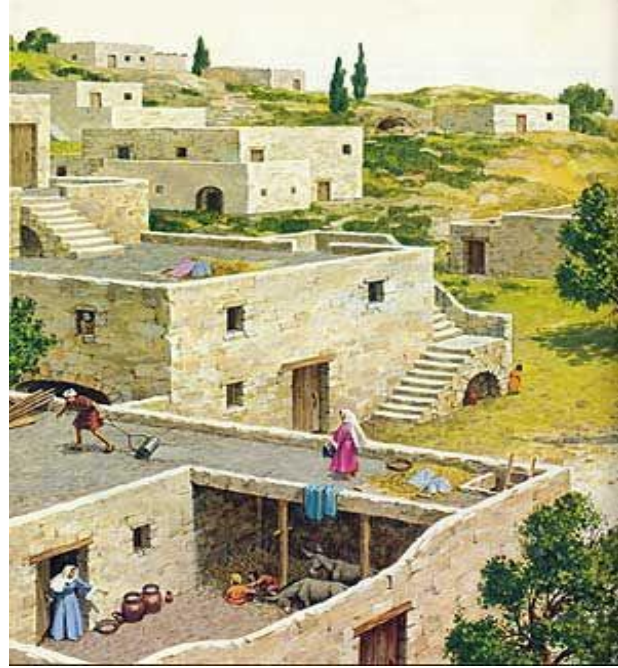
Objective 2: *Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem*



Live Ideas to help the children explore and respond to the scripture:- recognise, talk about, label, name, match, sort, retell, sequence, recall.

- Listen to the hymn 'O Little town of Bethlehem and look at some paintings of Bethlehem by different artists. Invite the children to consider how this little ordinary town became a very well known and important place for Christians. Invite the children to create their own Bethlehem by painting or drawing one of the buildings to join together to make the town. They could draw, paint, collage or make models of the houses.





Objective 2: *Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem.*



Celebrate – Mary said Yes to God and He wants us to say Yes too.

Invite the children to sit in a circle and display some images of Bethlehem and Mary and Joseph travelling. Reflect upon all the challenges and difficulties that Mary and Joseph may have encountered on the journey. Think about how important prayer and trust in God's help must have been to them both. Invite some suggestions of what they may have prayed for on the journey.

Ask the children to think about things that they find difficult sometimes. Pass around a small figures or images of Mary and Joseph and invite the children to 'bring to God' something that they find difficult – Adults may need to model this first. When they receive the figure they can say – 'Lord please help me with.....' e.g making friends, my writing, my numbers etc

Listen and join in with the hymn 'Little Donkey'. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3wu9GFwI0I>



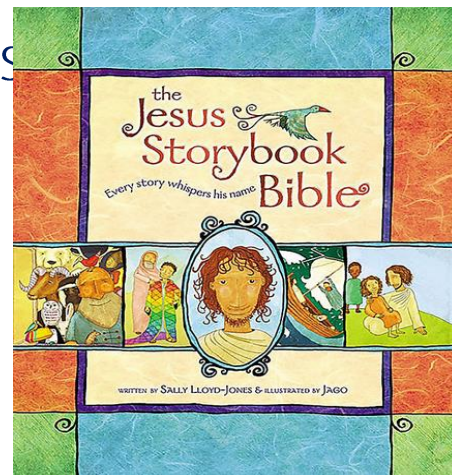
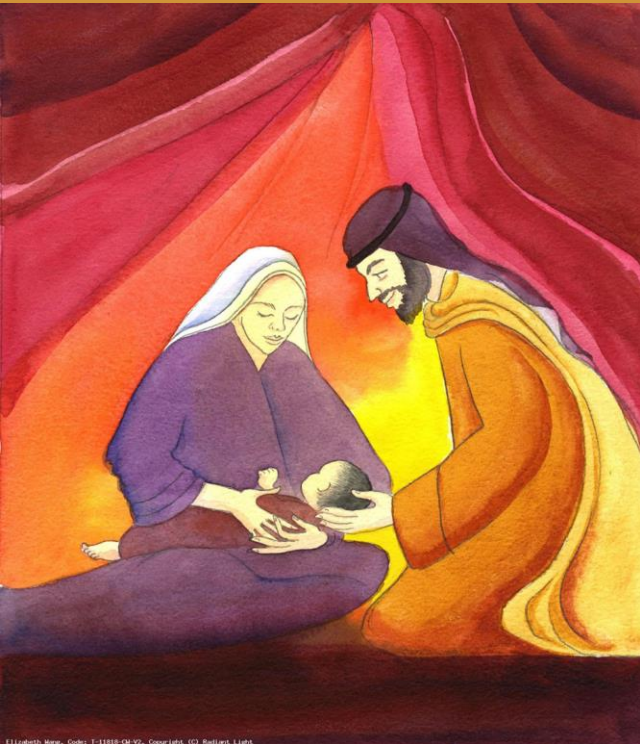
Objective 3: *Jesus was born in a Stable and laid in a manger.*



Hear

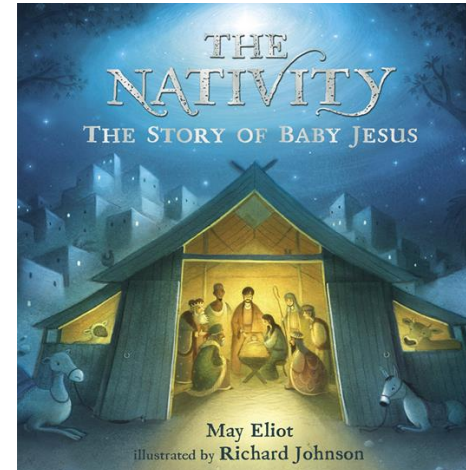
Read, Share and explore the Scripture of Luke 2:4-7 - Using age appropriate versions of the Nativity story.

Explore and discuss with the children that God chose a humble stable for the birthplace of His son. Explain that Mary had to use a manger for Jesus to sleep in. Think about what this teaches us about what God is like and what this teaches us about what God thinks is important and what is not important.

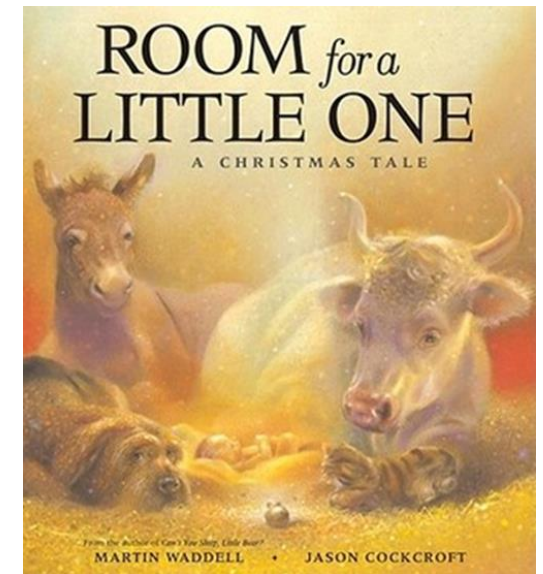


The Jesus Story Book Bible
Chapter 22- 'He's Here'

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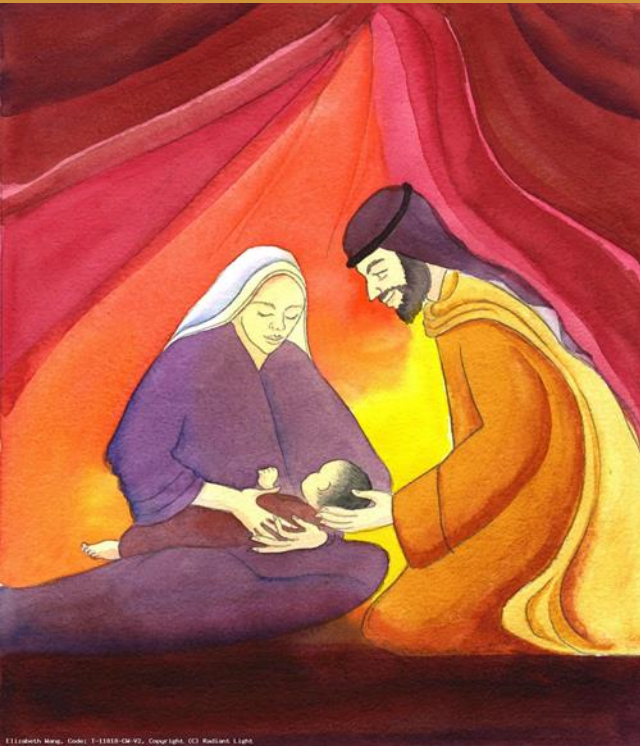
<https://www.eden.co.uk/christian-books/christmas-and-easter-books/childrens-christmas-and-advent-books/age-4-to-7-christmas-and-advent-books/the-nativity/>



<https://youtu.be/LgdJyrs1vE8>

Objective 3

Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger.



Believe –

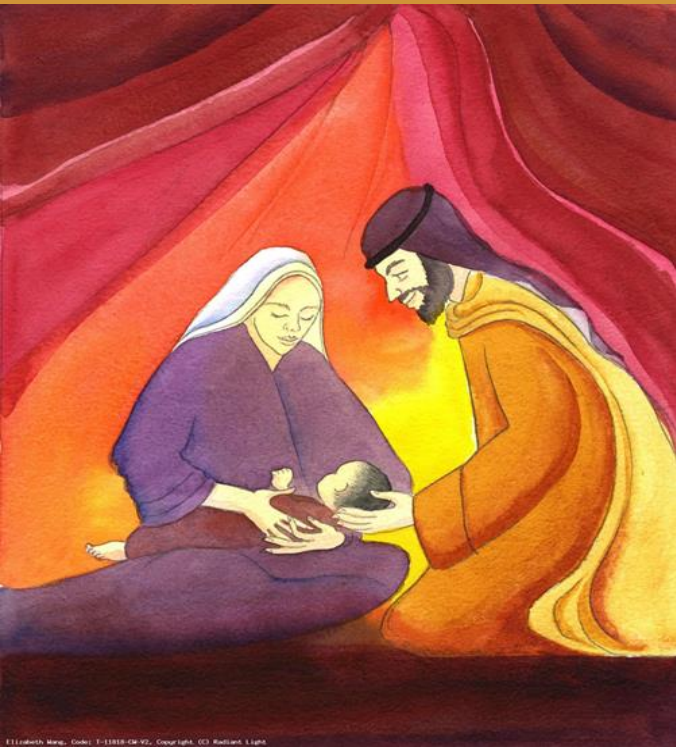
Jesus was born in a stable and Mary wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger. God could have chosen for His son to be born anywhere – the greatest palace – but He didn't. He chose a simple and humble stable. Jesus was the son of God, the saviour of mankind, the King of Kings but God wanted Him to be a king of all people – not a rich and powerful King that people would be afraid to approach. God wants us all to be able to come to baby Jesus in the manger and know that He came for all of us.

Look at a model or image of Jesus in the manger. Invite the children to think about what sort of King He will grow up to be. Record some of their ideas and write them on paper around the manger.



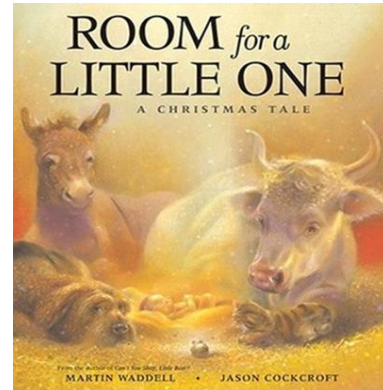
Objective 3:

*Jesus was born
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Live Ideas to help the children explore and respond to the scripture:- recognise, talk about, label, name, match, sort, retell, sequence, recall.

- Share the story 'Room for a little one' by Martin Waddell. Invite the children to think about the actions of the animals and how they were very kind and shared their home with each other and with Mary, Joseph and Jesus. Invite the children to think about what it means to be kind. Tell the children that one of the ways that we can prepare for the birth of Jesus at Christmas is to be extra kind to others.
- Tell the children that the 'Kindly ox' has come to visit them in their classroom to look at all the kind things that they do for each other. Invite children to write to the Ox or to draw him pictures of the kind acts they spot in their class.

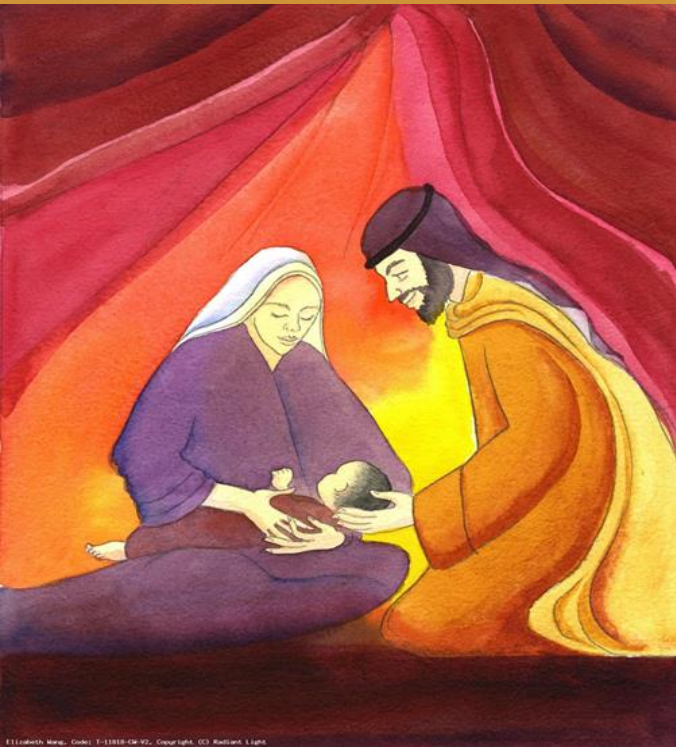


<https://youtu.be/LgdJyrs1vE8>



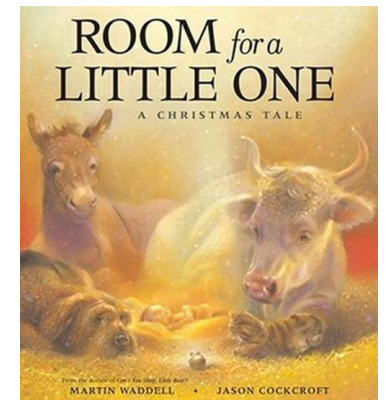
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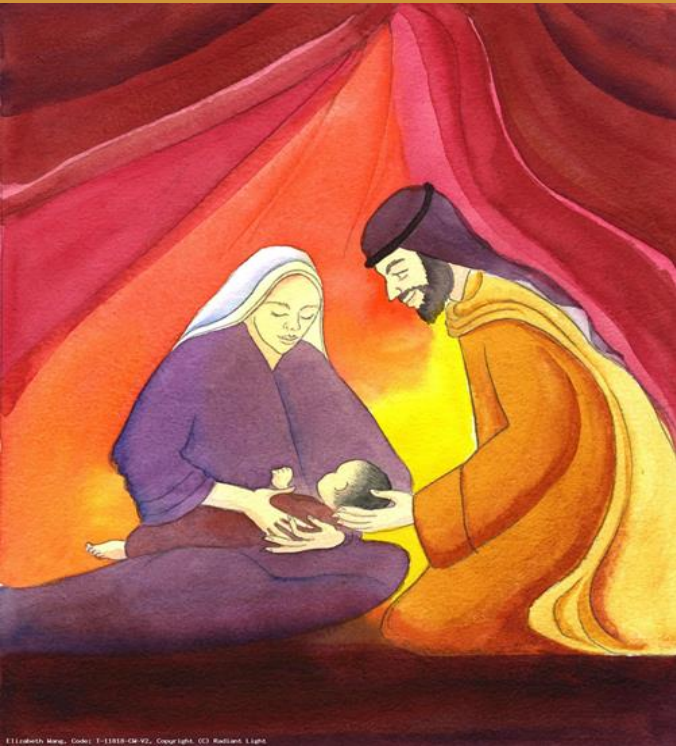
- Share the story 'Room for a little one' by Martin Waddell. Invite the children to think about all the kind things that the animals did to share the stable. Invite the children to think about the kind words that they said to each other. Role-play being the different animals and being kind to each other. Ask the children to imagine that another animal came to the stable. What would the animals say to this new animal? Take turns to invite different animals into the stable – thinking about how all are welcome to see Jesus in the manger.
- Invite the children to use small world, role play and zig-zag books to explore retelling the story and inviting the animals in to share the stable and to see baby Jesus.



<https://youtu.be/LgdJyrs1vE8>

Objective 3:

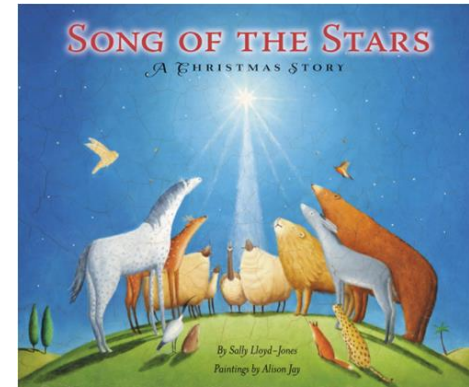
*Jesus was born
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Live Ideas to help the children explore and respond to the scripture:-
recognise, talk about, label, name, match, sort, retell, sequence,
recall.

- Share the story 'Song of the Stars' by Sally Lloyd Jones. Invite the children to think about all the different names that the animals gave to Jesus.

- The Mighty King
- The Prince of Peace
- The Bright and Morning Star
- The Good Shepherd
- A light to light up the whole world



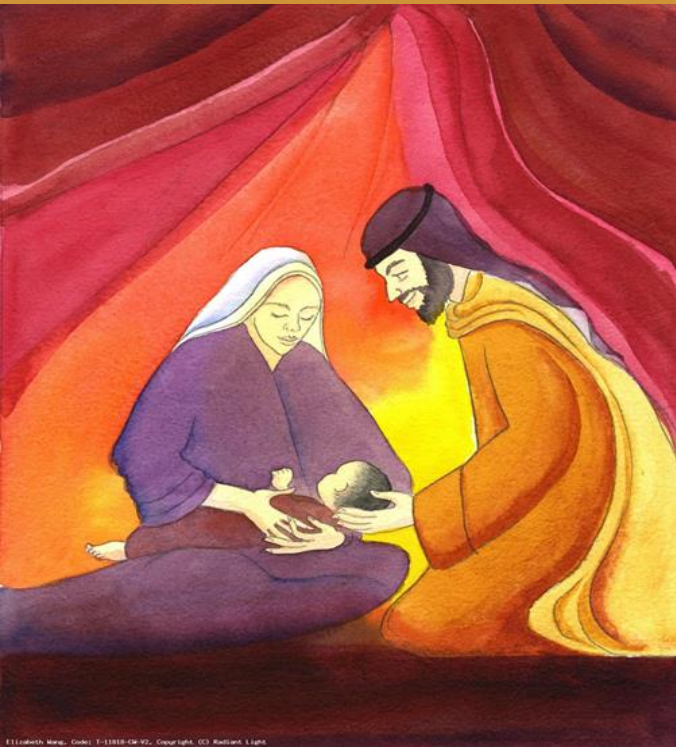
<https://youtu.be/h0AfRLh1nEU>

Invite them to think about each name and what it might tell us about what Jesus is like?

Make name labels for Jesus to put next to His manger. Invite the children to draw symbols for each name e.g. crowns, stars, sheep, candles etc.

Objective 3:

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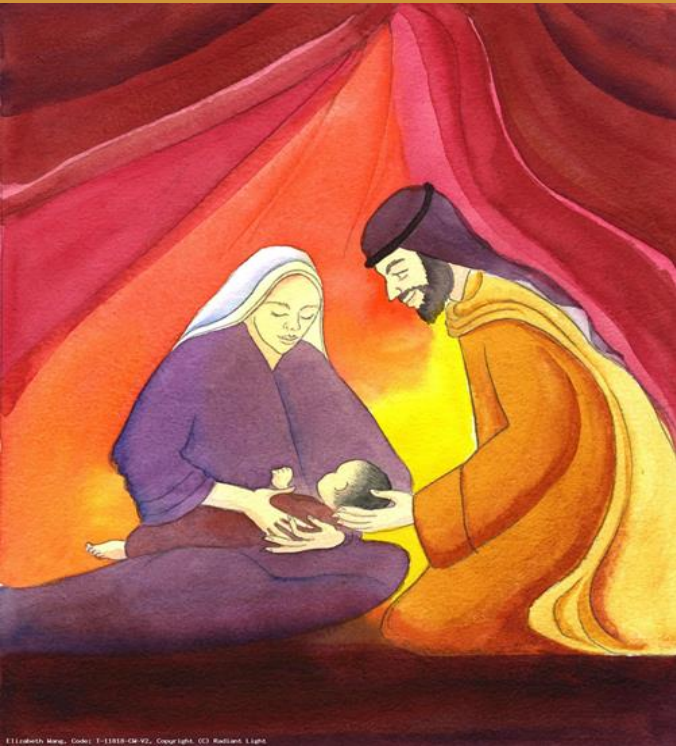
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recall.

- Invite the children to think about what a stable and a manger would have been like to stay in.
- Explore building different stables as shelters for Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus. Offer the children different building materials to build their shelters.
- Build them through different construction materials – both inside and outside – exploring different scales e.g. a shelter for small world or for themselves.



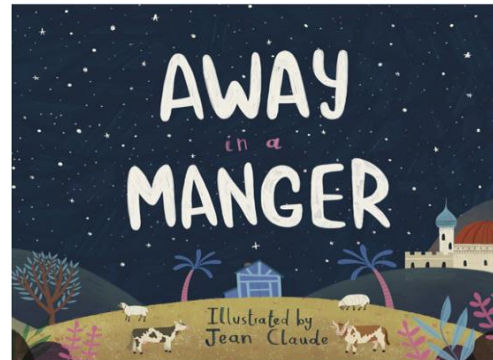
Objective 3:

Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger



Celebrate – Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger – and He is still close to us today.

- Invite the children to celebrate the story of Jesus birth through learning the song 'Away in a Manger'.
- Invite the children to think about the words and their meaning. Think about the words that invite Jesus to 'Stay close by me'. Explain to children that, although the Jesus was born in a stable many, many years ago and that He has now gone back to live with His father in Heaven, we know that He is also still very close to us and that when we pray together to Him, He is very near to us - we just can't see Him.
- Share the idea that we sometimes light a candle when we pray to remind us that Jesus is near to us. Invite the children to light and hold an electric candle and be still and quiet with Jesus. Knowing that He is with us, very close. Loving us.



<https://youtu.be/md24Llfh5No>



Objective 4: *The Shepherds visited Jesus in the Stable.*

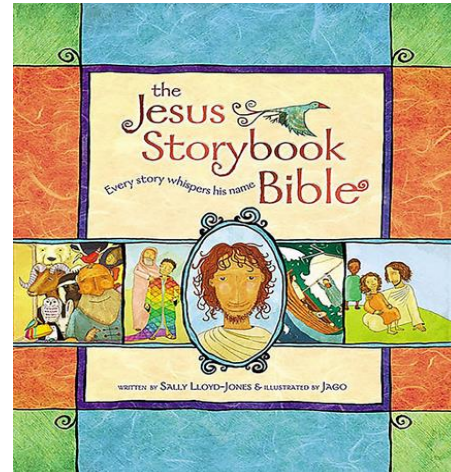


Hear

Read, Share and explore the Scripture of Luke 2:8-20 - Using age appropriate versions of the Nativity story.

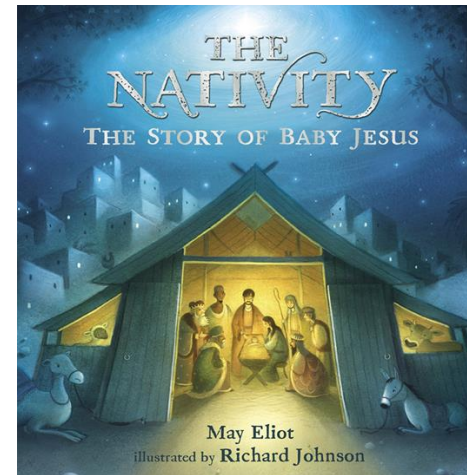
Explore and discuss the idea that God wanted His people to know about the birth of His son but He didn't choose rich or important people to tell first. He chose humble shepherds because Jesus had come for everyone - especially those who were poor or not important to the world.

Suggested texts -



The Jesus Story Book Bible Chapter 23- The light of the whole world"

<https://youtu.be/4fqMhLApCmA?list=PLvEb8AA7B8Jc3BTNukBzaA71YyfiJTZ>



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<https://youtu.be/TJIC57EvYFo>

Objective 4

Shepherds visited Jesus in the stable.



Believe –

The people of God had waited a long time for God to send them a saviour. God wanted them to know that His son had been born. God sent His angels to give the message to simple shepherds to be the very first people to know about the birth of Jesus. Shepherds were very poor and simple people and they were often looked down upon by others. God wanted to show that Jesus had come to earth for all of us and that God thinks that we are all important. The Shepherds hurried to visit Jesus in the stable and praised God for giving us His son. The shepherds also had a very important job, given to them by the angels, to tell everyone they met about the birth of the new King.

- Watch the '*saddleback kids*' story of Christmas - 'Jesus and the Shepherds'. Ask the children to think about how the shepherds might have felt after everything that happened that night. Take it in turns to wear a shepherd headdress and say how you felt after meeting Jesus and the angels. Collect some feelings vocabulary – e.g. excited, afraid, important, happy...



<https://youtu.be/TJIC57EvYFo>

Objective 4: *The Shepherds visited Jesus in the stable.*



Live Ideas to help the children explore and respond to the scripture:-
recognise, talk about, label, name, match, sort, retell, sequence,
recall.

Remind the children that God gave the shepherds a very important job to do – to tell others the Good News about Jesus. We also have to carry on that job today too – telling others that Jesus loves them.

Invite children to **tell** others the story of the birth of Jesus in different ways. Encourage children to develop their language skills by retelling the story. Use different games and prompts to help them to remember the key vocabulary and key events – story stones, sequencing cards, matching games, 'talking telephones', finger puppets, small world etc.



Objective 4: *The Shepherds visited Jesus in the stable.*



Live Ideas to help the children explore and respond to the scripture:- recognise, talk about, label, name, match, sort, retell, sequence, recall.

Discuss with the children how hard the shepherds would have worked to look after their sheep. The sheep were very important to them and they had to be with them all the time to keep them safe. A good shepherd always stayed awake to make sure his sheep were safe at night and always looked for any sheep that were lost. People sometimes call Jesus the *Good Shepherd* because He is always looking after us and never leaves us. Invite the children to make a sheep to look after like a shepherd. They could use finger paints, wrapping wool around a template, painting a stone, sticking cotton wool etc. Encourage them to keep it with them all the time – for a whole day – can they keep it safe?



Objective 4:

The Shepherds visited Jesus in the stable.



Live Ideas to help the children explore and respond to the scripture:- recognise, talk about, label, name, match, sort, retell, sequence, recall.

Remind the children that God wanted His people to know that Jesus had been born. As well as sending His angels to the shepherds, He also created a beautiful and bright new star to shine over the place where Jesus lay, to guide others to Him.

Invite the children to explore making beautiful stars. Explore mark making by imprinting with different objects into clay, or creating patterns on card with white or coloured paint. You could string your stars together to decorate your crib scene or nativity play. Explore large mark making by using pavement chalks outside to create a large star together.



Objective 4:

The Shepherds visited Jesus in the stable.



Celebrate – The shepherds visited Jesus and told everyone the good news.

- God sent His angels to bring the message of great joy to the shepherds. The angels praised God by singing Hosannahs.
- We can praise God too, for sending His son to us to save us all.
- We can praise God with our singing too.

Look at some images of the angels singing praises to God. Invite the children to name something that they can praise God for – e.g. friends, family, playtime, pets, holidays etc. Play a repeating memory game starting with the phrase God I praise you for..... Each time you add the next person's thing and see how far you can go around the groups remembering what they praised God for and adding the next person's. You could add an action for each thing to help memory.

- Listen to the Hymn 'Sing Hosannah' and invite the children to join in. Add actions for each verse. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COMnjxVQYdw>





Objective 5: *Advent is a time to get ready for Christmas.*



Hear

Share some stories about waiting. Tell the children about a time that you had to wait a long time for something you wanted. Invite them to do the same. How does it feel to wait for something you want very much? Tell the children that waiting can be a good thing. It helps us to get ready. Think about the waiting for a baby to be born – it can help us to prepare everything that we need for a new baby. God knows that the right time for things to happen. He knew when it was the right time for Jesus to be born into the world. However God's people had been waiting a long, long time for Him to come. Share the story of the Littlest Watchman (possibly across two instalments) and discuss how it felt for the little watchman when he had to wait.

Suggested texts –



<https://youtu.be/h8AxV-OXbMo>

Objective 5: *Advent is a time to get ready for Christmas.*



Believe

Introduce the idea of Advent to the children. Tell them that it is a special time that we use to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Advent begins 4 Sundays before Christmas day. Each week we try to do special things to get our hearts and our homes ready for the celebration of the birth of Jesus on Christmas day. There are lots of ways that we can get our hearts and our homes ready. One of them is to set up a special Christmas Nativity scene called a crib. Look at a crib together. Christians have cribs in their homes and churches in Advent and pray before them to help get their hearts ready for Jesus. They try to pray for their families and all the people in the world who may need some extra help to have a happy Christmas. Set up a crib scene together in the classroom along with a special way for children to say a prayer before it for someone.



Objective 5: *Advent is a time to get ready for Christmas.*



Live

Invite children to think about the way that Mary and Joseph had to wait and get ready for Jesus' birth too. Remind them of how they had to go on a long journey to Bethlehem before Jesus was born. Invite them to make an Advent spiral to help them to wait for Christmas and to prepare like Mary and Joseph did. Invite the children to make a spiral from air-drying clay or salt dough or modelling clay. Along the spiral, make indents with a finger – or the base of a candle. The idea is that each day they move an object from the first indent, one space along towards the centre at Christmas. They could move a candle, a marble or a small figure or Mary and the donkey. The idea is that as they move the object each day, they say a pray for someone new – helping to prepare their hearts for Jesus.



<http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2014/11/advent-journey-play-dough-mat.html>

Objective 5:

Advent is a time to get ready for Christmas.



Live

Show the children an Advent Wreath. Discuss how it can help us to get ready to celebrate Christmas. Each Sunday of Advent we light a new candle at Mass and try to think about how we can grow in hope, peace joy and love ready for Christmas. Share the meaning of the evergreen leaves and the shape of a circle – to represent God’s never ending love for us. Invite the children to make their own wreath or to join together to make a class wreath by threading real or card leaves onto a piece of string. Tie the string in a circle when it is full.



Objective 5: *Advent is a time to get ready for Christmas.*



Live

Show the children a Holy Advent calendar. Tell them that on each day of Advent, we open another door to look at an image or read a Bible passage to help us to think about the story of Jesus' birth and get ready for Christmas. Invite the children to make their own class advent calendar to help the class to prepare for Christmas. You could think about a fun way of making a special Advent calendar that the children can add to each day. The children could draw pictures of different parts of the nativity story and add it to a washing line in a special way – e.g. special envelopes, bags, boxes etc – numbered with the day of advent. Children could also add names of people that they want to pray for each day or someone that they did a kind thing for that day.

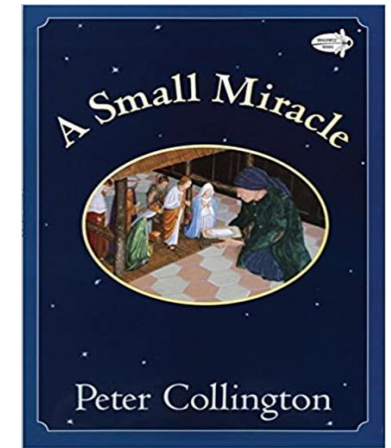


Objective 5: *Advent is a time to get ready for Christmas.*



Live

Show the children a nativity crib set and explain again how they are used in homes and churches during advent to help families and parishes to remember the story of how Jesus was born. Allow the children access to a children's crib set and encourage children to explore the Christmas story with the figures, using role play with the characters. Share a story about a crib set e.g. '*A small Miracle*' by Peter Collington or '*Mortimer's Christmas*' manger by Karma Wilson.



<https://vimeo.com/ondemand/asmallmiracle>



<https://youtu.be/zVaVtfkW4IA>

Objective 5: *Advent is a time to get ready for Christmas.*



Celebrate -

- Light the first candle on the Advent wreath together and explain to the children that the light represents the light that Jesus would bring into a world of darkness. In the first week of Advent, we think about the hope that Jesus brought to His people. Talk about what hope means. Show the children a 'little bag of hopes' with symbols inside of all the things that you hope for, for them – e.g. health – (a plaster or stethoscope), friendship (a photo of best friends, a friendship bracelet), happiness (something that makes you happy – pets, cup of tea, chocolate etc, love – (pictures of people you love), laughter (something that makes you laugh).
- Pass around an electric candle and ask the children to finish the sentence 'This Advent I hope for..' model this first by suggesting things that we hope for others.
- Explain that everything that gives us hope is a gift from God.
- Explain that we are called to bring Jesus' light and hope to others in Advent. Listen to and join in song 'This Little light of Mine' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NsbRlg-ebWg>



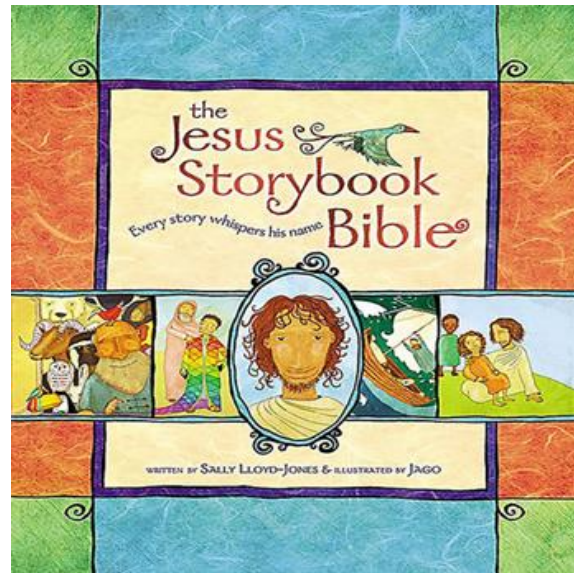
Objective 6.

Jesus came for the whole world.



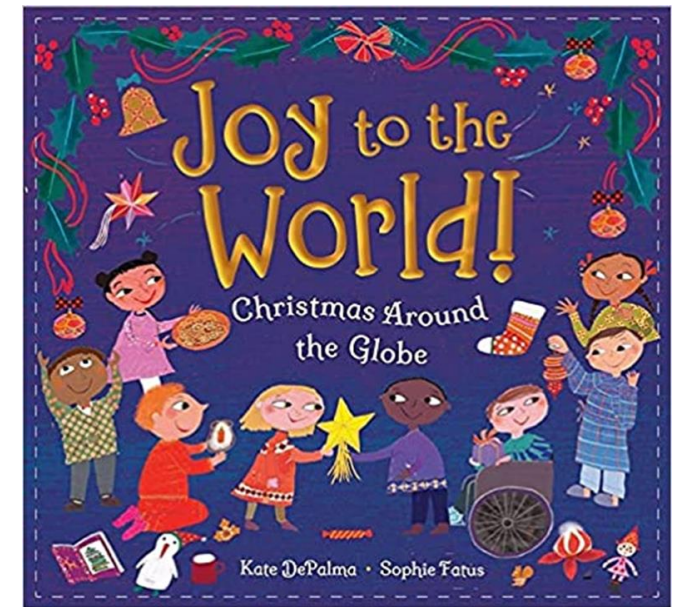
Listen again to the Scripture of Luke 2:8-20 - Using age appropriate versions of the Nativity story. Tell the children again that Jesus came for everyone in the whole world and Christians around the world celebrate His birth in different ways. Share some examples of different traditions from different countries. Share the book 'Joy to the World' Christmas around the Globe' by Kate DePalma. Discuss the idea that Jesus came for everyone and that people all over the world celebrate Christmas and they do this in lots of different ways.

Suggested texts -



The Jesus Story Book Bible Chapter 23- The light of the whole world"

https://youtu.be/4fqMhLApCmA?list=PLvEb8AA7B8J_c3BTNbukBzaA71Yy_fjTZ



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=by0Hmqp_otw

Objective 6.

*Jesus came for
the whole
world.*



Believe

Explain to the children that when God sent His son, Jesus, to earth to be born as a baby in Bethlehem, He was sending Him for everyone. Jesus came to earth to bring His light for the whole world. Jesus wanted everyone to know about His love for them and Christians today celebrate Christmas and tell everyone about Jesus and how much he loves everyone in the world.

One of the ways that the Christians tell the world about Jesus is to celebrate His birth. All over the world people celebrate this joyful event in different ways. Even though the way that they may celebrate might be different, they all believe the same thing – that Jesus came to earth for everyone and He loves us all. In advent we try to teach others about Jesus' love by being joyful and being kind to each other. Invite the children to look at a map of the world and look at where some of their families come from or places they have visited. Invite them to share any special things that they do with their families to celebrate Christmas. Encourage them to bring in some examples or invite family members in to talk about their family traditions.



Objective 6.

*Jesus came for
the whole
world.*



Live

Tell the children about the tradition in the Philippines of Simbang Gabi. For nine days before Christmas, Catholics come to Mass early in the morning for nine days in a row. They decorate the churches and streets with lights and make special lanterns called *parol* to light up the paths to the church. They decorate the *parol* lanterns and they are often shaped like stars to represent the star that lit the way for the wise men to find Jesus.

Give the children opportunity to decorate a star shape with different types of reflective materials – to reflect the light.



Objective 6.

*Jesus came for
the whole
world.*



Live

Tell the children about the tradition in India of making *Kuswar* treats to celebrate Christmas. Tell the children that they are an important way for Goan Indians to celebrate Christmas and they are made for friends and family and to share. Invite the children to look at pictures of some of the Kaswar foods and to notice some of the patterns.

Invite the children to make their own decorative and beautiful treats from marzipan (check for allergies) or from salt dough or modelling clay. Role play serving them to friends.



Objective 6.

*Jesus came for
the whole
world.*



Live

Tell the children about the tradition in Serbia of scattering straw on the floor, often underneath the dinner table, to remind us of the straw in the manger that Jesus slept on. It reminds us of the kind of King that Jesus is – a king who is humble and for everyone. Gifts and treats are often hidden in the straw for the children to search through and find. The adults also sometimes make a sound like a chicken when the children search – to remind us that we should follow Jesus like chicks follow the sound of the mother hen.

Invite the children to find hidden words or objects related to the nativity story in some shredded paper straw. Introduce them to the American tradition of adding paper straw to Jesus' empty manger in advent. Each piece of straw represents a person who they have prayed for to baby Jesus – so that when Jesus arrives his manger is full of straw and prayers.



Objective 6.

*Jesus came for
the whole
world.*

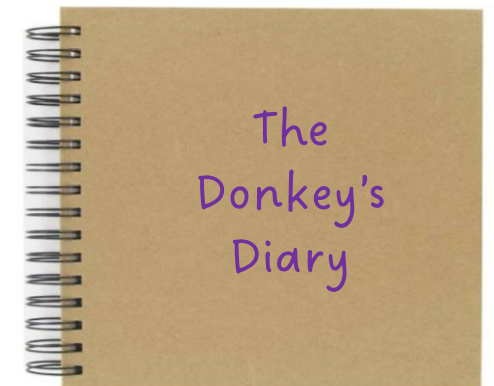
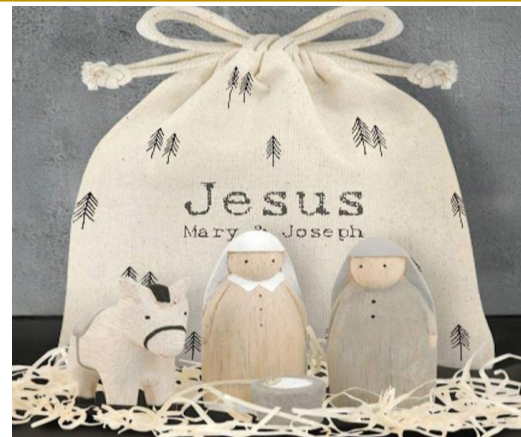


Live

Tell the children about the tradition of the travelling nativity – an idea that originated in Mexico – known as Posada – but is popular in many countries in throughout the world. It commemorates the journey made by Mary and Joseph on the way to Bethlehem and how they may have relied on the hospitality of others.

The idea is that crib figures are passed between different families in a parish or school community and that these families then set up the figures in their home for the night and pray together before the crib and then pass on the crib to the next family. This is sometimes accompanied by a prayer journal that the families add to on their turn – so that the families can all pray for each other too.

Set up your own travelling crib by passing crib figures or a special donkey figure between families in your class during lent. Add a scrap book for children to add their prayers for their families or pictures.



Objective 6: *Jesus came for the whole world.*



Celebrate -

- Light the second candle on the Advent wreath together and explain to the children that the light represents the light that Jesus would bring into a world of darkness. In the second week of Advent, we think about the peace that Jesus brought to His people. Talk about what peace means. Show the children a 'little bag of peace' with symbols inside of all the things that bring you peace – a walk in the woods (pinecones), a good night's sleep (teddy bear), listening to your favourite music (headphones) etc.
- Pass around an electric candle and ask the children to finish the sentence 'This Advent I feel peace when..' model this first by suggesting things that are peaceful.
- Explain that everything that gives us peace is a gift from God.
- Explain that we are called to bring Jesus' light and peace to others in Advent. Listen to and join in song 'This Little light of Mine' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NsbRIg-ebWg>

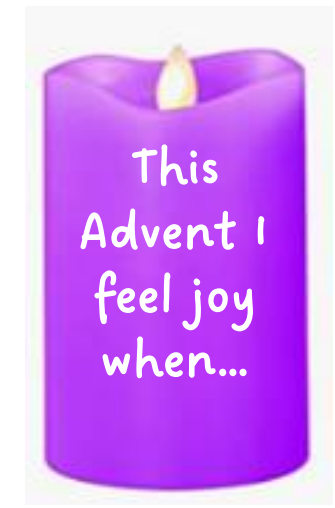


Objective 6: *Jesus came for the whole world.*



Celebrate -

- Light the third candle on the Advent wreath together and explain to the children that the light represents the light that Jesus would bring into a world of darkness. In the third week of Advent, we think about the joy that Jesus brought to His people. Talk about what joy means. Show the children a 'little bag of joy' with symbols inside of all the things that bring you joy – hobbies (sport accessories, paint brush,), holidays (passport, photos), teaching! etc.
- Pass around an electric candle and ask the children to finish the sentence 'This Advent I feel joy when..' model this first by suggesting things that are joyful.
- Explain that everything that gives us joy is a gift from God.
- Explain that we are called to bring Jesus' light and peace to others in Advent. Listen to and join in song 'This Little light of Mine' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NsbRIg-ebWg>



Ways of Knowing

I wonder...



Ways of Knowing –



Ways of Knowing in Early Years

Throughout the topic there will be lots of opportunities for the children to demonstrate their learning.



What will I see and hear to help me understand?

They will begin to share what they have seen and heard about the story of Jesus' birth through the activities and discussion e.g. they might include some of the detail of the scripture story in their play



How will I discover more?

They will begin to share how they are beginning to think and feel about this through their play, conversations and questions – e.g. through their play and conversations they might ask wondering questions about how God came to earth and how He came to save us.



What can I do now?

They will begin to show how what they have learned has influenced them through beginning to act in different ways –e.g. wondering how they can get ready for Jesus' birth in advent.

Ways of Knowing

I wonder...

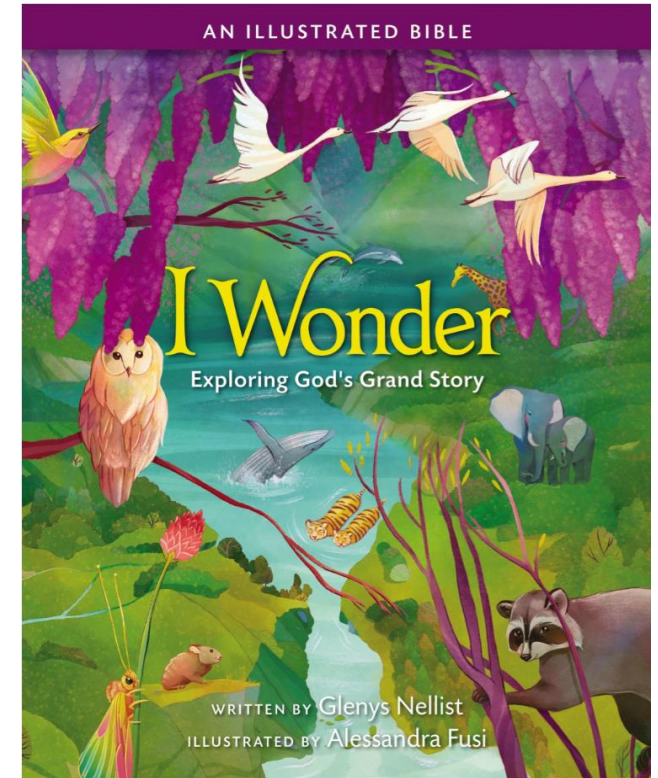


Ways of Knowing –

Ways of Knowing in Early Years

To help children to generate wondering questions about the birth of Jesus and how God became man, we can model wondering questions.

The book 'I Wonder – Exploring God's Grand Story' by Glenys Nellist is an illustrated children's bible that has the nativity story with some wondering questions to help the children explore and think about the birth of Christ and develop a sense of awe and wonder about this incredible event.



<https://youtu.be/HYKBT9Zxg2k>

Ways of Knowing

I wonder...



Ways of Knowing –



What will I see and hear to help me understand?

They will begin to share what they have seen and heard about the nativity story and how Jesus was born e.g. they might include some of the detail of the scripture story in their play.

Some ideas for questions to use with children to find out more about what they have seen and heard in the topic.

- I wonder what Mary was doing when the Angel came?
- I wonder what an Angel looks like?
- I wonder how far it is to Bethlehem?
- I wonder what it is like to ride a donkey?
- I wonder what a stable smells like?
- I wonder if there are still shepherds today?
- I wonder who the shepherds told?
- I wonder if the shepherds were afraid?
- I wonder if baby Jesus slept well in the manger?

Ways of Knowing

I wonder...



Ways of Knowing –



How will I discover more?

They will begin to share how they are beginning to think and feel about this through their play, conversations and questions – e.g. through their play and conversations they might ask wondering questions about what it felt like to be part of the nativity story or how they feel about it when they think about it today.

Some ideas for questions to use with children to find out how they might want to discover more.

- I wonder if I would feel scared if an angel came?
- I wonder how it might have felt to see the baby Jesus in the stable?
- I wonder what it might have felt like to sleep in a stable?
- I wonder how I would feel if I had to travel a long way from home?
- I wonder how it feels to be loved by Jesus?
- I wonder how it feels to wait a long time for something?
- I wonder how it will feel on Christmas day to remember Jesus birth?

Ways of Knowing

I wonder...



Ways of Knowing –



What can I do now?

They will begin to show how what they have learned has influenced them through beginning to act in different ways –e.g. wondering how they can get ready for Jesus in advent.

Some ideas for questions to use with children to find out if they have been influenced by the scripture to act.

- I wonder if this story makes you want to do something special in advent?
- I wonder if you have any questions about Jesus' birth?
- I wonder what it means to bring Jesus' light to others?
- I wonder how we could do this?
- I wonder if we can get our classroom ready in advent?
- I wonder if you could make an advent calendar?
- I wonder if there are ways that you get ready for Christmas in your homes?
- What do you wonder about Jesus?



Luke Chapter 1 – Verse 26-32

God chooses Mary to be the mother of Jesus.

During Elizabeth's sixth month of pregnancy, God sent the Angel Gabriel to a virgin who lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David. Her name was Mary.

The angel came to her and said, "Greetings! The Lord has blessed you and is with you."

But Mary was very confused by what the angel said. Mary wondered, "What does this mean?"

The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary, because God is pleased with you. Listen! You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus."

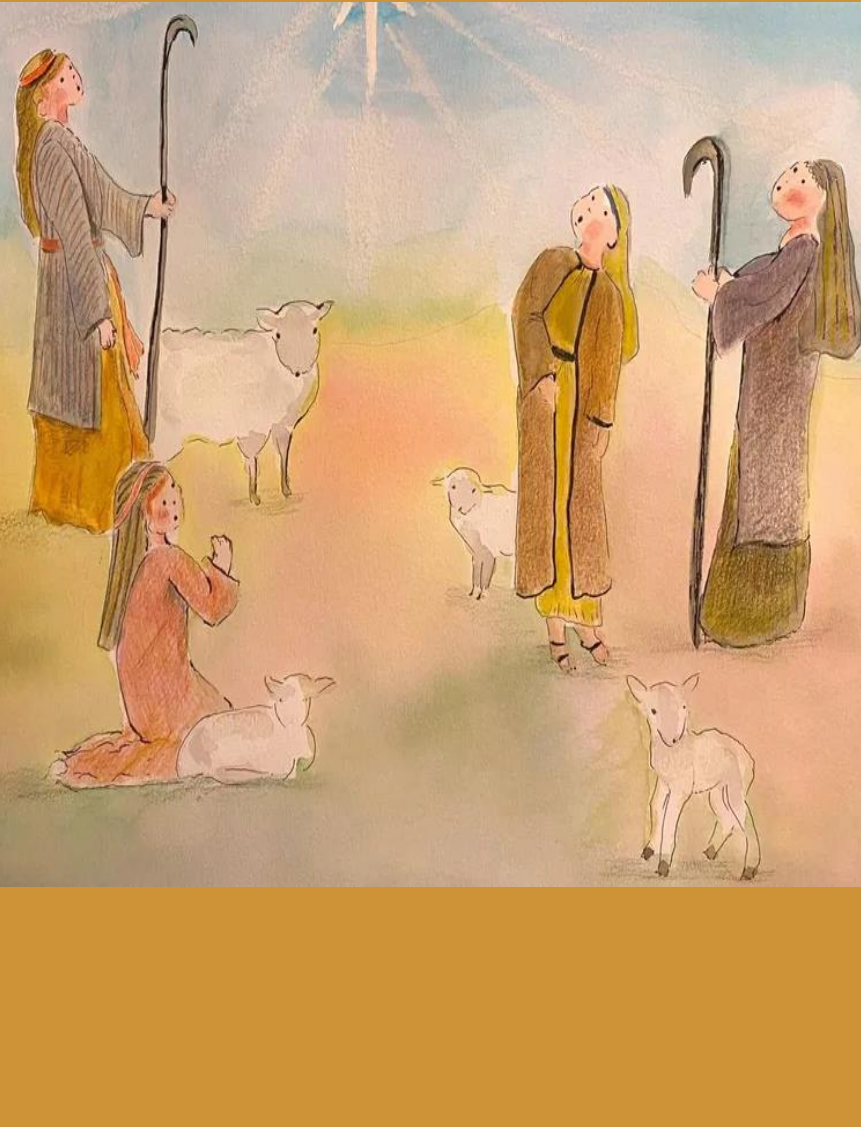


Luke Chapter 2, Verses 4-7

Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem and Jesus is born.

So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. This town was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David. Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. She gave birth to her first son. There were no rooms left in the inn. So she wrapped the baby with cloths and laid him in the manger - a box where animals are fed.

Luke Chapter 2, Verses 8-20
The Shepherds hear about the birth of Jesus.



That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep. An angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them, and suddenly they became very frightened. The angel said to them,

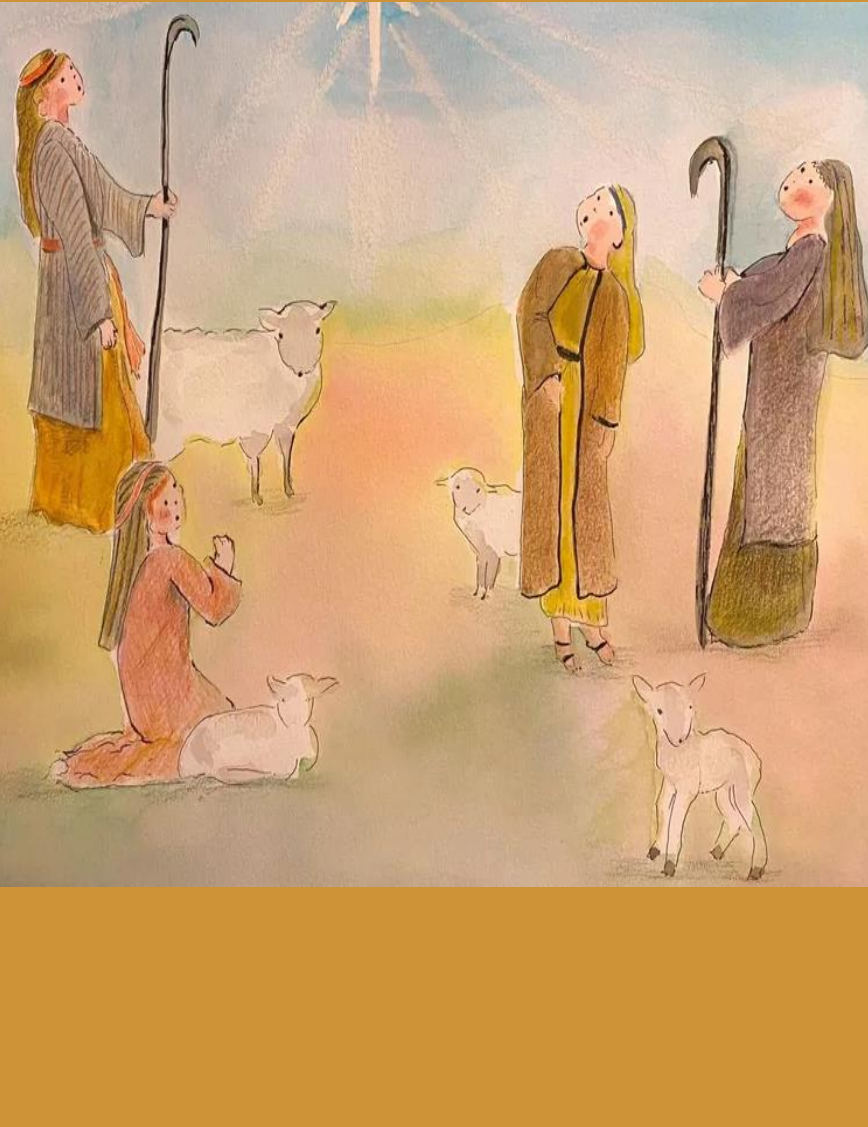
“Do not be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Saviour was born in David’s town. He is Christ, the Lord. This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel. All the angels were praising God, saying:

“Give glory to God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace to the people who please God.”

Luke Chapter 2, Verses 8-20

The Shepherds hear about the birth of Jesus – continued...



Then the angels left the shepherds and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened. We will see this thing the Lord told us about."

So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph. And the shepherds saw the baby lying in a manger. Then they told what the angels had said about this child. Everyone was amazed when they heard what the shepherds said to them. Mary hid these things in her heart; she continued to think about them. Then the shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything that they had seen and heard. It was just as the angel had told them.