



Advent Family Worship

Exploring the Christmas
story with your family

How it works

We're going to explore the Christmas story together through advent. We'll read some true stories from the Bible, focussing on one character each time.

You might want to look at one story each week of advent, or you could do them all in the Christmas holidays. It's up to you! Even if you don't do all of them, you can still have fun exploring the Bible together.

Each session has some ideas about how to tell the story, a short passage from the Bible, some chat questions, a game and a craft.

In the chat time there are suggested age groups for each question, but you know your family best. It's up to you who answers what.

If you make the tree decoration, you could take it to the Christmas tree at church and hang it up there. or you can hang it on your own tree.

Your church's address and opening times are:



Mary



Tell the Story

To help us with today's Bible story we need a few props:

Son - choose a teddy or a doll to be baby Jesus. When we read the word "son" in the story, get someone in your family to cuddle baby Jesus.

Throne - choose a chair to be a royal throne. When we read the word "throne" get someone in your family to sit on the throne, and everyone else can bow to them.

Kingdom - Find something to be a crown (a hat, a cushion, an upside down bowl). When we read the word "kingdom", get someone in your family to put on the crown, and bow down to them.

Read the Bible

Luke Chapter 1 v30-33



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. He will be great, and people will call him the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the **throne** of King David, his ancestor. He will rule over the people of Jacob forever. His **kingdom** will never end."

Chat

Pre-schoolers - What was Mary's son going to be called?

Age 4-7 - What would this baby be like? What did the angel say he would do?

Age 8+ - How do you think Mary felt about having this baby?

Everyone - How do you feel about Jesus being our king? (you could all make a face to show how you feel)

Play

Play a game of Simon Says. Take it in turns to be "Simon".

The angel said Jesus will be a king who is in charge of everything forever.

Chat - Do you think it's a good thing that Jesus is in charge?

Pray

Father God, thank you for sending Jesus to be the best King ever!
Amen

Make

Today's tree decoration is a crown



- You will need:
- A toilet roll tube
 - A pencil
 - Scissors
 - A hole punch
 - A piece of string
 - Pens, pencils, paints or stickers
1. Use a pencil to draw some spikes for your crown
 2. Cut along the lines with a pair of scissors (grown ups should help younger children)
 3. Use a hole punch to make a hole in one of the spikes
 4. Decorate your crown
 5. Put a string through the hole so you can hang it on the tree.

Elizabeth and baby John



Tell the Story

To help us act out today's bible story: Everybody get a cushion and put it under your top to pretend you're going to have a baby. When you read about the baby inside Elizabeth jumping, wiggle your cushion around, like it's jumping!

Read the Bible - Luke Chapter 1 v39-45

Mary got up and went quickly to a town in the mountains of Judea. She went to Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the unborn baby inside Elizabeth **jumped**. Then Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She cried out in a loud voice,

"God has blessed you more than any other woman. And God has blessed the baby which you will give birth to. You are the mother of my Lord, and you have come to me! Why has something so good happened to me? When I heard your voice, the baby inside me **jumped** with joy. You are blessed because you believed what the Lord said to you would really happen."



Chat

Pre-schoolers - What did the baby in Elizabeth's tummy do?

Age 4-7 - Why did the baby jump? Who was he excited to meet?

Age 8+ - Why do you think Elizabeth's baby was so excited about Jesus?

Everyone - Do you think Jesus coming to earth is exciting? Why?

Play

Star Jump Challenge!

Set a timer for 30 seconds and see how many star jumps you can do.

Chat - Have you ever been so excited to see someone that you jumped up and down?

Make



Today's tree decoration is an excited emoji

You will need:

- Coloured paper
- Something round
- A pencil
- Scissors
- Paint
- A hole punch
- Ribbon or string

1. Put your round object on your coloured paper and draw round it
2. Cut out your circle (grown ups should help younger children)
3. Use a holepunch to make a hole at the top of the circle.
4. Use your finger to make paint dots to be eyes and a smile
5. Put a string through the hole so you can hang it on the tree.

Pray

Father God, please help us to be excited about Jesus. Amen

The Shepherds



Tell the Story

To help us act out today's bible story:

Sheep - collect some toy animals (they don't have to be sheep) and put them around the room. When we read about the sheep, everyone go and collect one.

Angel - find something shiny and choose someone to be the angel. When we read "angel" or "shining" get that person to wear or wave the shiny thing.

When we read "**joy**" or "**good news**" everyone do a big thumbs up, or pretend you're having a party.

Read the Bible - Luke Chapter 2v8-12

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, "Don't 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 feeding box."





Pre-schoolers -Who came and spoke to the shepherds?
Age 4-7 - Do you think shepherds would normally be the first people to hear important news?
Age 8+ - Why do you think God wanted the shepherds to know Jesus had been born?
Everyone - The angel said Jesus was a “saviour” - someone who saves people. Do you think that’s good news?

Play

Find the sheep

Choose one person to be the seeker. Everybody else hides while the seeker counts to 10. The people hiding can “baa” to help the seeker find them.

Chat: How do you think the shepherds felt when they saw the angel?

Make

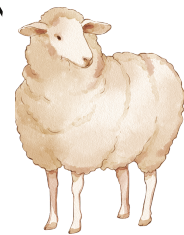


Today’s tree decoration is a sheep

- You will need:
- A paper plate or a paper circle
 - Black paper
 - Glue
 - Cotton wool
 - A pencil
 - Scissors
 - A hole punch
 - Ribbon or string
1. Use the hole punch to make a hole at the top of the circle or plate.
 2. Put a string through the hole so you can hang it on the tree.
 3. Cover your paper plate with glue, and then stick on the cotton wool. Leave a space to stick on the head.
 4. On your black paper, draw a circle to be the sheep’s head and cut it out (grown ups should help younger children).
 5. Stick it in the space you left on your paper plate.

Pray

Lord Jesus, thank you for coming to save people.
Amen



Simeon



Tell the Story

To help us act out today's bible story we need some props:

People - something to represent the characters in our story, like lego people, toys or pens.

Box - to be the Temple. When we read about someone going to the temple, put them in the box.

Baby - a doll or teddy to be baby Jesus. When we read the word "baby" get someone to hold the baby in their arms.

Read the Bible - Luke Chapter 2v27-32

The Spirit led Simeon to the **Temple**. Mary and Joseph brought the **baby** Jesus to the **Temple** to do what the law said they must do. Then Simeon took the **baby** in his arms and thanked God:

"Now, Lord, you can let me, your servant, die in peace as you said. I have seen your Salvation with my own eyes. You prepared him before all people. He is a light for the non-Jewish people to see. He will bring honour to your people, the Israelites."

This is Simeon. he loved God and was waiting for God to save his people.





Pre-schoolers -Who met baby Jesus?

Age 4-7 - How did Simeon feel when he met Jesus?

Age 8+ - What did Simeon say about Jesus?

Everyone - Meeting Jesus was so important to Simeon, it was the one thing he wanted to do in his life.

How do you feel about knowing Jesus?

How could we get to know Jesus better?

Play

Shadow Game

Hold up a sheet or pillow case and shine a light or torch behind it. One person goes behind the sheet and holds up different objects in front of the light. everyone else guess what the object is from the shadow.

Chat: Simeon said Jesus is like a light. What do you think he meant?

Make



Today's tree decoration is a candle

You will need:

- An empty toilet roll
- Glue
- Coloured paper
- A pencil
- Scissors
- A hole punch
- Ribbon or string
- Pens or paint to decorate

1. Use a pencil to draw a flame shape on your coloured paper.
2. Cut it out (grown ups should help younger kids)
3. Stick the flame to the top of the toilet roll.
4. Decorate your toilet roll however you like!
5. Use the hole punch to make a hole at the top of the toilet roll.
6. Put a string through the hole so you can hang it on the tree.

Pray

Father God, thank you for sending Jesus to be a light for us.
Amen