



MUST KNOW BIBLE STORIES

stories worth exploring

Christmas

Introduction



Introduction

This topic is part of a suite of classroom resources developed by Ten Must Know Bible Stories. It is available as a First and Second Level resource.

These resources are designed to support learning across the curriculum and demonstrate how RME can be embedded within learning and will support the values and ethos of the school. This fits with the 4 capacities and the 4 contexts of learning.

The Birth of Jesus Learning Resource could be used:

- Linked to the festival of **Christmas**.
- To explore **the theme of 'trust'**.
- **Outdoors** or indoors.
- As a stand alone topic you can **link to other areas of the curriculum**.



Note to Head Teachers:

This topic delivers key parts of the RME curriculum, and supports Literacy, Science, Health & Wellbeing and Outdoor Learning. In helping children to explore the theme of trust, it also supports the wider school culture, ethos and values. It can further help the school support families and develop wider community links, e.g. with charities and faith groups.



Note to Teachers:

The Christmas story for Christians focuses on the coming of God to earth, as a baby. Born to a poor, newly married couple, the story reveals to us who Christians believe Jesus is. The story is full of different characters, surprising events and twists in the plot.

Although this story can be common knowledge to some, it is being less and less told today and is an essential element to the basis of the Christian faith. Children will enjoy exploring the characters and events in the story.

- **Outdoor Learning:** Exploring the story outside is fun. Even in the snow!
- Explore the theme of trust. Who trusts who in the story? Who do we trust? Why do we trust them? Who should we not trust?
- As Mary, Joseph and the new born baby escape to Egypt they become refugees.

You may wish to extend the learning to consider refugees and our response to them.

The sections of the Bible on which this topic is based are:

- Luke 2:26-38 (Mary is visited by Gabriel)
- Luke 2:1-7 (Jesus is born)
- Matthew 1:18-24 (Joseph accepts Jesus as his son)
- Luke 2:8-18 (The shepherds)
- Matthew 2:1-12 (The wise men)



Note to School Chaplains or School Workers:

You can work in partnership with teachers in your school to help deliver this material. Some of the resources can also be adapted to create really lively Time for Reflection school assemblies for Christmas.



How to use the Material for this Story

As with all other Ten Must Know Bible Stories, you need to start with Session 1: Hear and explore the Story. You can then 'pick and mix' from the sessions that follow. Each session can stand by itself or can be combined with other sessions depending on the age of your children and the length of your lesson.

First level

Session 1: Hear and Explore the Story – Outdoors.

Session 2: Hear and Explore the Story – Indoors.

Session 3: Who is Jesus?

Second level

Session 1: Hear and Explore the Story.

Session 2: Going Deeper.

Session 3: Trust in the Christmas Story.

Additionally you can access

The Birth of Jesus: PowerPoint and images

Additional Resources for the Birth of Jesus learning resource.

Each session supports learning across the curriculum for example Literacy, Expressive arts, Health & Well-being and Social studies.

The sessions are designed to be extended with learning across the curricular areas. This will increase the depth and richness of the children's learning, ensuring they know the story and have been allowed to explore the many aspects of it. Some ideas are provided below but we're sure you'll have more of your own.



Extending the Learning across the Curriculum

Expressive Arts

- Enjoy creating some artwork linked to the story.
- Create sound effects for the story.
- Use old/traditional children's Bibles with graphics and compare them with the Scottish Bible Society images. Which do children prefer and why?
- Look at Christmas cards – which ones have pictures that relate to this Bible story?

Mathematics

- Discover more about a census. When and how are they carried out now? Could they design and carry out a census of their class or school?

Sciences

- Discover more about astronomy.

Social Studies

- How do Christians celebrate Christmas today? Invite a Christian child or adult to tell you what their Christmas traditions are. Look at nativity sets or Christingles or advent wreaths.
- Find out how Christmas is celebrated in other parts of the world.
- Mary and Joseph became refugees. Can they imagine what that was like? Learn about refugees today. How could we help them? Can they imagine what they would pack if they had to leave their home quickly? Can they write a story as if they suddenly had to leave their home and take refuge in another country?
- Herod ordered all the baby boys to be killed. Think about this. Link this learning to other genocides in history.

Languages

- Pretend to be one of the characters and write a postcard home.

- Pretend to be one of the characters and write a diary.

Health and Well-being

- Create a trail of stars. What will they use to make their stars? What will they have at the end of their trail?