



MUST KNOW BIBLE STORIES

stories worth exploring

The Christmas Story

Early Level - Story Script

The Script

Do consider telling the Christmas story yourself. For younger children, it can be good to encourage everyone to join in with appropriate actions. For P1 children, you may wish to choose a few children to be the characters and get them to do a little simple acting. Or try a combination! Work with what you think is best for your class.

If you are choosing characters, their suggested actions are in bold. If everyone is doing the actions, these are in blue.

The Christmas Story

One day, Mary **(invite someone up beside you to be Mary and give them a shawl to drape around their head)** was busy in her house, when she had a very special visitor. Mary was surprised **(can everyone make a surprised face)** and the Bible tells us she was also a little scared **(scared face)** because this was not a normal visitor. This was an angel. **(Invite someone to come up and be the angel and allow them to put on angel wings or a tinsel halo).** The angel told Mary that she was going to have a special baby. The baby's name was to be Jesus and he was God's very own son.

Mary praised God **(Mary dances or holds hands up)** or **(everyone holds hands up to praise God)** that she had such a special task. She was just an ordinary girl, but God had chosen her to be the mother of his own son. Wow! **(The angel can sit down.)**

Mary and Joseph **(invite someone to be Joseph)** busied themselves getting things ready for the baby, but just when it was nearly time for Mary's baby to be born, they had to take a long journey to Bethlehem, so that they and all the other people in Joseph's tribe could be counted.

The journey was long **(Mary and Joseph could walk on the spot)** **(sigh)** and Mary found it very uncomfortable **(groan, aah)**. And, worse, when they eventually got there, Bethlehem was so busy that there was nowhere for Mary and Joseph to stay. The only place was a stable with the cows **(moo)** and the sheep **(baa)** and donkeys **(hee-haw)**.

And so it was there in the stable, in the middle of a dark night, Jesus, God's son was born **(everyone pretend to rock baby)**. Give Mary a baby doll to cradle. Mary wrapped him up cosily in strips of cloth and put him in the cows feeding trough, **(provide a simple trough)** - it's called a manger - to sleep.

If you are telling the story with a group of children gathered around you, at this point in the story, you could move to the other side of them and get the children to turn around. Or continue the story another day.

Our story isn't finished yet. The baby Jesus had some visitors.

Near Bethlehem, shepherds were watching their sheep (everyone Baa). (You could also choose a couple of shepherds and give them a crook or a tea-towel headdress). Suddenly, an angel came and gave them a message. (Invite your angel back up) 'Good News,' the angel said, (everyone put thumbs up). God's baby son has been born (hooray!) He's in Bethlehem lying in a manger and you need to go and see him right now! The shepherds were frightened (frightened faces) but then an amazing thing happened! Suddenly, the whole sky lit up with lots and lots of angels all singing to God and then just as suddenly, they disappeared. (The angel can sit down again.) The shepherds ran down the hill to Bethlehem (could get the two shepherds you have chosen to run around the circle or if outside, to a tree and back).

They found the stable where Jesus was, and went in to see him. They were so amazed (amazed faces) to see God's son, that they told everyone they met about the baby Jesus (shepherds go around pretending to speak to the rest of the class). It had been just like the angel had said.

If you are telling the story with a group of children gathered around you, at this point in the story, you could move again to another side of the group and get the children to turn around. Or continue the story another day.

But the story isn't finished yet, there were more visitors to come!

After Jesus was born, far away, a very special star appeared in the sky (everyone move fingers like twinkling stars). Some very clever and important men saw the star and knew that it meant that God's son had been born. (Invite a few children to be wise men and give them a crown or turban to wear.) The wise men travelled a very, very long way across the desert to find the new baby (mime riding on camels). (Wise men could travel around the circle or across the grass, back to Mary and Joseph). They followed the star until it seemed to stop right over the place where Mary and Joseph and Jesus were. They were very happy (happy faces). They went in and bowed down in front of the new baby Jesus, God's special son. (Wise men bow down). And they gave him special presents (everyone hold out their arms as if giving presents).

Suggested Books to use to tell the Christmas Story

Younger Children (e.g ante-preschool children)

Jesus' Christmas Party	Nicholas Allan	ISBN 978-1-84941-526-2
The Play-Along Bible	Bob Hartman	ISBN 978-0-7459-7830-7
Welcome the Baby Jesus	Margaret Barfield	ISBN 9781859996119

Pre-school children /P1's (or above picture books if more suitable for your class)

The Big Bible Storybook	Scripture Union	ISBN 978-0-281-08112-7
The Beginners Bible	Kelly Pulley	ISBN 978-1781283479
The Lion First Bible	Pat Alexander	ISBN 978-0-7459-6103-3
Jesus Storybook Bible	Sally Lloyd-Jones	ISBN 978-0-310-70825-4

Videos

The Jesus Storybook Bible is also available as DVDs, read by David Suchet. This is available from Amazon or other retailers.

There are three super Christmas video clips that can be downloaded free here:
<https://www.max7.org/en/resource/christmasstoryAll>

or why not try these lovely ones from you tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkEypzmHwCI> (Mary and Joseph)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3656G6tWul> (Jesus is born)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJIC57EvYFo> (The shepherds visit Jesus)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zk1LhnqROCM> (The wise men visit Jesus)