



MUST KNOW BIBLE STORIES

stories worth exploring

The Christmas Story

Early Level - Christmas Games

Christmas Games

Baby, Baby, Jesus

This is like duck, duck, goose, but instead they say Baby, Baby, Jesus

First Shepherd to the Manger

The shepherds ran down the hillside to see the baby Jesus. Can we be shepherds and run to the end of the hall (grass, wherever). Which shepherd can be first to see Jesus?

This time, can we skip to the end of the hall/grass.

Hop, jump etc.

Musical corners

4 corners using angels, wise men, shepherds, innkeeper.

Children dance around. When the music stops, they run to a corner. Someone chooses a corner – all the children at that corner are out.

Christmas Story Port and Starboard

For pre-school children 4 options are probably enough, but depending on the age of your children, you could add in as many as you think they can manage!

Nazareth – run to one wall

Bethlehem - run to other wall

Shepherds - on all fours going 'baaaa'

Baby Jesus – cradle baby in arms

Star – make a star shape (legs and arms apart)

Stable - make a roof above your head.

Angels - lie on the floor and move arms and legs up and down to make a snow angel

Manger - lie on your back with arms and legs in the air

Wise men – In twos, piggy back (riding on a camel!) or point to a star in the sky if easier!

The Christmas Story with (or without!) a Parachute (suggested P1's and up)

Go around the circle, naming everyone Mary, Joseph, Bethlehem, Angel. Make sure everyone knows who they are!

Tell the story. When Mary is mentioned, all the 'Marys' run straight across under the parachute to another space. When Bethlehem is mentioned, all the 'Bethlehems' run straight across under the parachute to another space, etc.

When Jesus is mentioned, everyone runs under the parachute (adults hold on!)

This game can also be played without a parachute. Everyone is in a circle and when 'Mary' is mentioned, all the Marys run around the outside of the circle back to their place.

Story

About two thousand years ago, in the town of Nazareth, there lived a young woman named **Mary**. She was engaged to be married to **Joseph**, a carpenter. One day an **angel** appeared to her and told her she had been chosen to have a special baby. The baby would be God's son and she must call him **Jesus**.

Soon after the **angel's** visit, **Mary** and **Joseph** were married. **Mary** was due to have her baby when they were told they had to go on a long journey to **Bethlehem** where **Joseph** came from. **Bethlehem** was crowded with other people who needed to pay their taxes. **Mary** was very tired and needed a place to stay. But at each inn where **Joseph** asked, the story was the same. There was no room for them. Eventually, one kind innkeeper said he had a stable where he kept his animals. They were welcome to stay there.

And so it was that a few hours later, **Mary** gave birth to her son in that stable. She wrapped **Jesus** in strips of cloth and laid Him in a manger full of hay.

At the same time, on a hillside overlooking **Bethlehem**, some shepherds were watching over their sheep. A bright light appeared in the sky. They were very afraid. It was an **angel** sent by God. The **angel** told them not to be afraid, because he had some good news. He said the Son of God had been born and they would find Him in **Bethlehem**.

The shepherds wanted to go and see the baby. When they arrived at the stable in **Bethlehem**, they were filled with joy at seeing **Jesus** lying in the manger. They knelt down and worshipped Him. They told **Mary** and **Joseph** how the **angel** had appeared in the sky and told them that **Jesus** was to be the Saviour of the world.

Far away in the East, Wise Men saw a new star shining high in the sky. These men studied the stars and they knew this was a very special star. It meant that a great ruler had been born.

The Wise Men set off to find the baby. The star guided them to the stable in **Bethlehem**. Here they knelt down and worshipped **Jesus**. They gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The Wise Men went back to their own country. Soon after **Joseph** had a dream. In his dream, an **angel** told him to take **Mary** and **Jesus** to Egypt because King Herod had ordered **Jesus** to be killed. They left **Bethlehem** right away and **Jesus** was safe.

Obstacle Course (The journey to Bethlehem)

Make an obstacle course and have a relay race between teams. Talk about how tricky the journey to Bethlehem was for Mary and Joseph. It was a long way, Mary had a very big tummy because her baby was nearly ready to be born, they didn't have a car or an aeroplane. They probably walked all the way there.