



Talk 4

A Baby Will Be Born (Luke 1:26-38)



Big Idea

God's promised, forever king would enter the world as an ordinary baby.



Faith in Kids looks like

Children who are thankful for God's great gift of Jesus, the promised forever king.

You will need: Large cardboard box wrapped in shiny/fancy Christmas wrapping paper and bows, smaller cardboard box wrapped in brown paper (containing a crown and a large gift tag with 'A Gift From God' written on one side and 'To Everyone' written on the other side), tinsel (tied so it can be worn on your head), tea towel, picture of a baby, Blu Tack, large sheet of paper/flipchart pad (set up so it is ready to write on during the talk), thick marker pen.

Powerpoint slides: 2 talk points and Luke 1:31-33 text.

Helpers needed: A leader with some acting skills to give a dramatic reading of the passage.

Space for notes

Christmas is in X number of sleeps. Who is getting excited about getting gifts on Christmas morning?

I've got two very different looking gifts (**show 2 boxes**).

This one looks very fancy with its shiny paper and special bows (**hold up gift**).

Space for notes

But this gift looks very ordinary - it's in brown paper and doesn't look very special (**hold up gift**). Which would you be more excited about getting on Christmas morning? (**Take answers**.)

Today's story is about a gift that looked ordinary - there was nothing special about its appearance. But it was actually extraordinary. We're going to find out what the gift is, who sent it and why it's the best gift ever.

1. Jesus would be the promised, forever king

(Slide of talk point)

Mary and Joseph are well known now because of the Christmas nativity story. But all those years ago, hardly anyone knew who they were. Mary was an ordinary girl from a small town in the middle of nowhere in Israel. She was engaged to marry Joseph, a carpenter. Joseph had a famous relative - King David, one of God's greatest kings. But there had been many, many, many years between them, so Joseph was also pretty ordinary. But one day, something surprising happened to Mary - she was visited by an angel.

(Leader reads and acts out the passage. Wear the tinsel and tea towel as headwear to differentiate between the angel and 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.



Space for notes

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.” (Luke 1:28-33)

The visit from the angel was a surprise but his message was even more surprising. Mary was going to have a baby (**stick baby picture to the large sheet of paper/flipchart**). And not just any baby. The angel told her some very important things about who the baby would be.

(Slide of Luke 1:31-33)

Look at the text on the slide and tell me what the angel said about the baby. **(Take answers and write them on the large sheet of paper/flipchart. Refer back to what is written on the sheet as you carry on speaking.)**

Jesus would be born as an ordinary baby to ordinary parents. He wouldn't be born wearing a crown or living in a fancy palace. He would look ordinary - like this gift (**start unwrapping the gift**) - but Jesus would be extraordinary because he would be God's promised, forever king (**take the crown out of the box**).

The Bible says that God promised he would send a king who would be greater than King David. He'd be greater because he's the 'Son of the Most High' - that means he's God's own Son - so he's powerful but also a good ruler. Some rulers are bad. They're greedy and power hungry and treat their people badly. Because he knows what it's like

Space for notes

to look ordinary, be poor, be disliked, mocked and hurt, Jesus treats people better than anyone else ever has or ever will. He's kind, gentle and loves his people so much he even died for them. No other ruler will ever come close to how amazing Jesus is. He is also a forever king - he will never die and no other ruler will ever take his place.

2. Jesus is a gift from God

(Slide of talk point)

The angel told Mary some surprising news that day so she was a bit confused about how this would happen. She wasn't married or pregnant so how was she going to have a baby?

(Leader reads and acts out the passage. Wear the tinsel and tea towel as headwear to differentiate between the angel and Mary.)

'The angel said to Mary, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you. The baby will be holy. He will be called the Son of God. Now listen! Elizabeth, your relative, is very old. But she is also pregnant with a son. Everyone thought she could not have a baby, but she has been pregnant for six months. God can do everything!" Mary said, "I am the servant girl of the Lord. Let this happen to me as you say!" Then the angel went away.' (Luke 1:35-38)



Space for notes

The angel explained that the baby would be from God. It would be a miracle. The angel had already said that Jesus would be God's Son. By his power, God would put that baby inside Mary. And if God says something is going to happen, it does. The angel told Mary about Elizabeth - an old relative who couldn't have children. But, she was also pregnant and was going to have a baby. God can do anything. Mary was going to have a baby and he would be a gift from God (**take 'A Gift From God' gift tag out of the box**).

That first Christmas, Mary got her special gift from God. She had a baby boy who was going to be God's promised, forever king (**hold up the crown**).

But baby Jesus wasn't just a gift for her and Joseph (**hold up the 'A Gift From God' gift tag**). Jesus is a gift from God to all of us (**turn the gift tag around to show 'To Everyone'**).

I don't think any of you will be unwrapping a Jesus shaped gift on Christmas morning. But he is the greatest gift we'll ever get. Don't be fooled into believing that Jesus is a dud gift. Most of the exciting things you unwrap at Christmas will start to get boring or eventually break. But Jesus is a gift that will never break, run out of batteries or get boring. He is the most exciting person we can know. The more we get to know him, the more we will be amazed at who he is and what he has done for us so we can be saved and in God's family forever.

Jesus came into the world as an ordinary baby but he is extraordinary. He is the promised, forever king and God's gift to us (**hold up the crown and gift tag**).

Space for notes

Don't ignore the gift of Jesus because other things look more exciting (**point to fancy gift**).

Don't reject the gift of Jesus because you think you don't need him. Accept God's gift, trust Jesus as your king and thank God for giving you the greatest gift ever!

Pray to close.

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'All for the glory of God alone' (1 Corinthians 10:31)



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Discussion Time

Talk 4: A Baby Will Be Born
(Luke 1:26-38)



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Children who are thankful for God's great gift of Jesus, the promised forever king.



Did you spot it?

1. What do you remember about Mary?

2. What message did the angel give Mary?



Work it out.

1. How was Jesus ordinary?

2. How was Jesus extraordinary?



Live it Out.

1. How would you have described Jesus before you heard today's story?

2. How thankful are you that God's gift of Jesus is for us too? Why?



Pray.



Wrapped Up

You will need: Rolls of Christmas wrapping paper, bows, ribbon, coloured paper, felt tip pens, sticky tape, scissors, bin bags and a timer.

Set up: Divide the wrapping materials between the teams before the activities start.

- The aim is to wrap up a team member to look like a Christmas present.
- One child is chosen to be wrapped as the present. Their face must not be covered/wrapped up.
- The team must wrap the child as a present, decorate them with ribbons and bows as well as make a gift tag from the coloured paper and felt tip pens.

Activity Pack 4

Christmas Crazyness

- Set a timer for 'wrapping time' leaving enough time for the present to be judged and unwrapped before the team has to move to the next activity.
- After judging the present, let the team unwrap them and throw the rubbish in the bin bag.

Scoring: Give a score out of 10. Take into consideration if the task was fully completed, neatness, creativity, team work, unique elements and wow-factor.

Safety: Use children's scissors and supervise the use of them. No running. No rough behaviour while wrapping the person.



Gingerbread Biscuitball

(This game requires 2 teams to play against each other.)

You will need: Mini gingerbread men biscuits, 2 buckets, 2 chairs, masking tape and a whistle.

Set up: Use the masking tape to mark out a court. Place a chair and bucket at each end of the court as goals. Mark a goal circle around the chairs.

- The aim is to score points by getting the gingerbread man biscuit into your opponent's bucket.
- Play by basic netball rules - no travelling with the biscuit, it can be held for 3 seconds before it must be passed.
- Choose a goal keeper for each team - they must stand on the chair and hold the bucket so it is above head height of the players. All team members play at the same time - positions don't need to be assigned.
- Stop the game if the biscuit

is dropped or not caught to prevent a collision of children as they go for the biscuit. Give the biscuit to the opposing team and continue play.

- Any team member can shoot for a goal if they are in the goal circle.
- Replace biscuits when they break/crumble.
- Play the game in 2 halves, switch goals at half time.

Scoring: 1 point per goal.

Safety: Use chairs that are sturdy and safe for the children to stand on. Check for allergies before children handle the biscuits. If children are getting too rough then switch them with the goal keeper to give them a chance to calm down before they rejoin the game.





Panettone

This activity requires good preparation, is very messy and needs plenty of clean up time afterwards but it is worth it! This activity could be done by more than one group at a time if you have enough tables for them to work at and a leader per table.

You will need: Ingredients (see the recipe in the appendix. Use the amounts in grams for working out what is needed for the number of children in total. The cup measurements are for the children to use), large bowls, tables covered with disposable/wipeable table cloths, disposable plastic bowls, cups (200ml capacity - to be used as their measuring cup), 2 large spoons and a fork for each child, cling film, marker pen, hand sanitiser, wet wipes, paper

towels, rubbish bins, printed recipe instructions for the leaders (one per table) and printed baking instructions to send home with the children (one per child).

Set up: Cut the blocks of butter into 50g cubes and let it soften before the activity. Gently warm the milk just before the activity starts. Set up the tables with disposable table cloths and ingredients in different bowls. Place a printed recipe on each table.

- The aim is for each child to mix a panettone dough to take home to bake.
- Check food allergies/intolerances before starting. If providing substitute ingredients then keep them separate to avoid cross contamination with the general use ingredients.

- Hand out the bowls, cups, spoons and forks. Write names on bowls.
- Sanitise hands before children handle the ingredients.
- A leader is needed to supervise each table of children. They must give step by step instructions so the children can mix their ingredients by themselves.
- Once the dough is mixed, the bowl must be covered with cling film.
- Place the covered bowls of dough in team groups for the children to collect before they go home.
- Children to help with cleaning up so the tables are wiped clean and ready for the next group of children.
- Clean hands with wet wipes.
- Between groups of children, refill the bowls of ingredients.

Scoring: No scores for this activity.

Safety: Check for food allergies/intolerances before children start the activity. If you are aware of these in advance then provide special ingredients if possible. Wipe the floor between groups to avoid slipping. No hands in the ingredients - everything must be measured out with the child's spoon.





Christmas Light Limbo

You will need: A rope or long pole, Christmas lights (electric or battery operated) and Christmas music.

Set up: Wrap the Christmas lights around the pole. Set up the Christmas music so it is ready to play when the game starts.

- The aim is to successfully limbo under the Christmas light pole so it can be lowered as many times as possible.
- 2 leaders are needed to hold up the pole. Or alternate children so they don't miss turns.
- Children line up at the pole. Begin with the pole horizontally and at shoulder height of the tallest child. They limbo (bend backwards with head back and walk forwards) under the pole one by one before joining the line again.
- Each time you get to the beginning of the line, lower the pole by a hand length so it's a consistent distance each time.

- A child is out if they can't limbo under the pole - if hands touch the floor/they fall over. Keep going until the last child is out.
- Keep the line moving quickly so children get multiple turns.
- Let children who are out hold the pole so they don't get restless while waiting.
- Count the number of times the pole is lowered to get a score.

Scoring: Give points for the number of times the pole is lowered.

Safety: If using electric Christmas lights, don't let children walk over the cable that leads to the socket as it could be a tripping hazard. Have an adult stand behind children when going very low so they don't hit their head if they lose their balance and fall backwards.



Snowball Fight

You will need: indoor snowballs/ cotton wool balls, indoor tennis net (or something soft to divide the playing space), masking tape and Christmas music.

Set up: Use the masking tape to mark out a playing court. Set up the net or a soft barrier to divide the court in half. Evenly divide the snowballs between the two sides and scatter them across the court. Set up the Christmas music so it is ready to play when the game starts.

- The aim is to finish the game with the least number of snowballs in your court.
- All members play at the same time. When the game starts, they must collect up the snowballs in their court and throw them into the other team's court. As there will constantly be snowballs coming into their courts, they

Grand Finale Game Suggestion

will have to work out how best to work together and efficiently to collect and throw snowballs faster than the other team.

- At the end of the game, count the snowballs in each half.

Scoring: The team with the least snowballs in their court is the winner.

Safety: If the game is getting rough then call a timeout and make the rest of the game more challenging by making all the team members spread out across their courts. They must stand in that spot for the rest of the game making it more challenging to reach snowballs and get them out of their court quickly or in large numbers.



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Step By Step Instructions for Leaders

Panettone (Italian Christmas Cake)

Ingredients per child:

- Just less than 1 cup strong brown flour (175g)
- 2 tablespoons golden caster sugar (25g)
- Pinch of salt (¼ tsp)
- ½ sachet of dried yeast (3.5g)
- 1 large egg
- 2 tablespoons warm milk
- Cube of butter (50g)
- Large spoon of dried fruit (20g)
- Large spoon of chocolate chips (20g)

Instructions for mixing:

- 1 Use your cup and spoon to measure the flour, yeast, sugar and salt into a bowl. Mix with a spoon.

- 2 Break the egg into the cup and beat with a fork.

- 3 Add the beaten egg and the milk (measured with your spoon) to the bowl and mix with the spoon.

- 4 Add the fruit, chocolate and cube of butter to your bowl. Start to mix with your fingers. When all mixed in, place the dough on the table and keep mixing until it forms a ball.

- 5 Punch/pull/knead the dough for 3-4 mins and roll into a ball again.

- 6 Place the dough in your bowl. Cover with cling film.



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Baking Instructions

Panettone (Italian Christmas Cake)

Ingredients: Brown wheat flour, caster sugar, salt, yeast, egg, milk, butter, dried fruit, chocolate chips.

Substitute ingredients provided:

- 1 Leave the dough in the cling film covered bowl in a warm place for a minimum of 1 hour or overnight if possible (above a radiator or in the airing cupboard).
- 2 Place the dough on a counter and punch it for a minute and then knead for a few minutes.
- 3 Leave for another 30 minutes to expand a bit more.
- 4 Preheat the oven to 180 C / Gas Mark 4.
- 5 Split the dough into 2 or 3 smaller balls (or leave as a large ball). Grease cupcake trays for smaller dough balls or a small cake tin for one larger panettone.
- 6 Brush the top with melted butter (optional).
- 7 Put in the oven for 25–30 minutes if split into smaller balls **OR** approximately 40 minutes for the larger cake.
- 8 Remove from the oven when they have risen and are golden brown.
- 9 Leave to cool and enjoy!



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