







COME ALONG, CHRISTMAS!

THE WHOLE STORY







You want more of the Christmas story? You've come to the right place!

Just like the Advent calendar, these simple readings and activities are designed for under 5's. The Bible verses go with each day's sticker and tell a bit more of the story. We have quoted from the International Children's Bible but you can use any version you have at home if you prefer.



Read the verse(s) for each day to your child and then put them into everyday language that they can understand. Use the activities to help your child to grasp a little more of what is happening in each part of the story.

Day	Sticker	Little bit of Bible	Big bit of play
Before you begin	<p>Meet them all</p> 	<p>This is how the birth of Jesus came about. (Matthew 1:18)</p>	<p>We're going to hear the true story of how Jesus, God's promised saviour, was born.</p> <p>Stick on the first 5 stickers. Who are you excited to meet? Dress up / find play figures to help you explore the story together.</p>
1	<p>A girl called Mary</p> 	<p>God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin who lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David. Her name was Mary. (Luke 1:26-27)</p>	<p>Mary was engaged to be married. It's exciting looking forward to a special day. Is there a special day you are looking forward to? Spot 2 things in your house that tell you a special day is coming.</p>
2		<p>God sent the angel Gabriel to a virgin who lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. She was engaged to marry a man named Joseph from the family of David. Her name was Mary. (Luke 1:26-27)</p>	<p>God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth with a message for Mary. Can you make a Nazareth out of Duplo or building blocks and imagine how Gabriel zoomed in? <i>Keep your model to use later.</i></p>
3		<p>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." (Luke 1:30-31)</p>	<p>Mary was surprised to see an angel. Dress up, or dress a toy up, like an angel. Use tin foil, dressing-up clothes or anything else that comes to hand.</p>

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4		<p>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 1:32-33)</p>	<p>This baby will be God's king on a throne forever. Pick a chair in your home to be a throne and play "The king on the throne says..." (like Simon says). Remember, only do it if the king says so!</p>
5		<p>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." (Luke 1:35)</p>	<p>The angel said that God the Holy Spirit would put the baby in Mary's tummy, so the baby would be God's son. Use an upturned cup as Mary and give your child a small object (e.g. pasta shell / mini figure) to put inside it. <i>Keep this to use on day 7</i></p>
6	<p>A young man called Joseph</p> 	<p>Mary was engaged to marry Joseph. (Matthew 1:18)</p>	<p>Add Mary and Joseph to your model Nazareth, using whatever play figures come to hand. They have promised to get married.</p>
7		<p>But before they married, she learned that she was going to have a baby. She was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man. He did not want to disgrace her in public, so he planned to divorce her secretly. (Matthew 1:18-19)</p>	<p>Use your Mary cup and baby object (from day 5). Joseph heard that Mary was having a baby, but it's not his baby! You know it's God's baby but Joseph doesn't know that yet. He feels sad. He thinks he can't marry Mary. Can you pull a sad face?</p>
8		<p>While Joseph thought about this, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby in her is from the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 1:20)</p>	<p>Joseph met God's angel in a dream – put your Joseph figure to bed. The angel told him that Mary's baby was God's baby. Hooray! Joseph is happy that he can still marry Mary. Can you show a happy face?</p>
9		<p>She will give birth to a son. You will name the son Jesus. Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21)</p>	<p>Go and get a family photo or some toys. Can you tell me the names of each one? The angel told Joseph what name to give to the baby. What was it?</p>

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10		<p>She will give birth to a son. You will name the son Jesus. Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins. (Matthew 1:21)</p>	<p>Hide a play figure / toy in the room. Pretend it is lost and needs saving, and send your child on a rescue mission to find it. The name Jesus means saviour. Jesus is coming to rescue us from sin (all the ways we end up far away from God).</p>
11	<p>A simple shepherd</p> 	<p>That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep. (Luke 2:8)</p>	<p>Nobody thought shepherds were important. Yet they were the first ones God invited to meet the new king. Use a blanket as a field and some toys as sheep. Pretend to be a shepherd looking after them.</p>
12		<p>That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep. (Luke 2:8)</p>	<p>The shepherds were doing their ordinary job of looking after their sheep. What do you think a sheep needs? Pretend to be a sheep - can you make a sheep noise?</p>
13		<p>An angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them, and suddenly they became very frightened. 10 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." (Luke 2:9-10)</p>	<p>God's glory shone brightly around the angel as he told the shepherds his message. Can you find a torch or a light you can turn on that shines in the dark? What kind of news did the angel bring?</p>
14		<p>Today your Savior 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. (Luke 2:11-12)</p>	<p>Find a cereal box and make a simple stable. Put Mary and Joseph in it, with a play-figure / doll to be the baby. Who did the angel say had been born?</p>
15		<p>Today your Savior 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. (Luke 2:11-12)</p>	<p>Wrap the baby in your stable in strips of toilet roll / kitchen roll. A saviour being born is good news for the shepherds and for YOU! Use your face / body to show how you feel when you hear good news.</p>

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16	<p>An amazing angel</p> 	<p>Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel. All the angels were praising God. (Luke 2:13)</p>	<p>The shepherds got to hear an amazing group of angels singing when Jesus was born. Play some party music and have a little dance.</p>
17		<p>All the angels were praising God, saying: "Give glory to God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace to the people who please God." (Luke 2:13-14)</p>	<p>The angels sang 'Glory to God'. That means, 'Well done, God! You're amazing!' When did someone say 'Well done' for something you did? Did you get a sticker? A certificate? Can you find it?</p>
18		<p>Then the angels left the shepherds and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened. We will see this thing the Lord told us about." (Luke 2:15)</p>	<p>The shepherds said, "Let's go..." Where did they go to? I'm going to say "Let's go..." and you can do the action (eg Let's go swimming / jumping / dancing / hopping).</p>
19		<p>So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph. And the shepherds saw the baby lying in a feeding box. (Luke 2:16-17)</p>	<p>Place your cardboard box stable and baby somewhere in your house or garden. Set off like the shepherds did to find the baby together. God wants you to come and meet Jesus too.</p>
20		<p>The shepherds saw the baby lying in a feeding box. Then they told what the angels had said about this child. (Luke 2:17-18)</p>	<p>The shepherds wanted to pass on the message about Jesus to everyone – including YOU! Play a game of pass the whisper. Can you get the right message all the way around your family? Do you think the shepherds whispered? Or shouted?</p>
21	<p>A wonderful wise man</p> 	<p>After Jesus was born, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the baby who was born to be the king of the Jews?" (Matthew 2:1)</p>	<p>The wise men had read the promises God made right back at the beginning of the Bible. They were waiting for God's promised king to be born. Can you think of something exciting that you're waiting for / looking forward to?</p>

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22		<p>They asked, "Where is the baby who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east. We came to worship him." (Matthew 2:2)</p>	<p>The Wise men spotted a brand new star in the sky. Who did they say the star belonged to? Can you spot a star shining in the dark or find a sparkly star on a Christmas tree?</p>
23		<p>They saw the same star they had seen in the east. It went before them until it stopped above the place where the child was. When the wise men saw the star, they were filled with joy. (Matthew 2:9-10)</p>	<p>The wise men travelled a long way following the star. How did they feel when they found Jesus? Can you give each other or a toy a camel ride on your back and pretend to follow a star?</p>
24		<p>They went to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary. They bowed down and worshiped the child. They opened the gifts they brought for him. They gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matthew 2:11)</p>	<p>Can you think of a good gift to buy for a toddler? A teddy? A ball? What did the wise men give to Jesus? They gave him precious gifts because they knew he was a special king.</p>
25		<p>They went to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary. They bowed down and worshiped the child. They opened the gifts they brought for him. They gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. (Matthew 2:11)</p>	<p>Who is the youngest in your house? Can you get the grown-ups to bow down to them? Does this seem a bit funny? Important wise men bowing down to young Jesus seems strange, unless you know that Jesus is God's promised king and saviour. Who do you think this baby is?</p>