



Session One

COME ALONG, CHRISTMAS!

ORDINARY MARY, ORDINARY JOSEPH AND THEIR AMAZING BABY



“When Joseph woke up, he did what the Lord’s angel had told him to do. Joseph married Mary.”

MATTHEW 1:24 (ICB)

Our prayer is that these ideas will allow toddler groups to make the most of our biggest opportunity in the year to introduce families to the good news of Jesus Christ. We hope there are enough great ideas here for you to find the two or three that best suit your group.

The first Christmas story

When telling a story to children, get as close as you can to memorising it so that you can make eye contact and have your hands free to gesture and hold the props. Perhaps write a few critical words or phrases on a card as a prompt or put this script beside you. Practise doing it three times beforehand, and enough of it will stick in your memory! The precise words do not matter. Just tell the story as well as you can.

You will need:

- A Christmas bauble, some fairy lights and another Christmas decoration
- A wrapped box containing:
 - Picture of Mary from our downloadable graphics pack
 - Bowl
 - Picture of Joseph from our downloadable graphics pack
 - Hammer
 - Wooden spoon
 - Pillow
 - Picture of the angel from our downloadable graphics pack
 - Baby doll

Have you seen one of these before? **(Hold up each Christmas decoration in turn. Say something about each one)**

When these go up, we know that Christmas is coming. And at Christmas there are usually presents! **(Hold up the wrapped box)**

(Open the wrapped box. Don't take anything out yet) Inside this present I have all that I need to help us with the story of the very first Christmas. **(You could ask a child to pull out each item from the present as you need it)**

(Take out the picture of Mary). The first Christmas began with Mary. She was an ordinary young woman from an ordinary village. Mary did ordinary things, like making dinner **(take out the bowl)** and talking to friends. She was ready to be married to Joseph. **(Take out the picture of Joseph)**. Here he is. He was an ordinary young man from Nazareth. **(Take out the hammer)**. He was a carpenter. **(Take out the wooden spoon)**. He made things out of wood like this spoon, perhaps he made one for Mary.

Joseph was getting excited about their wedding day. Can you show me your excited faces? Then he found out that Mary was going to have a baby. Joseph was sad, he knew it wasn't his baby. Can you show me sad faces? **(Take out the pillow)**. He went to bed sad.

(Take out the picture of the angel). In the night, an angel told Joseph the good news, **(Take out the baby doll)** "Mary's baby is from God, he is God's own child, sent to rescue us. Give him the name Jesus."

Joseph woke up. He was happy that he could marry Mary. Show me your happy faces!

(Holding the Christmas decorations and the baby doll) We celebrate Christmas because we are remembering that the baby Jesus was born. Jesus is God's own son, who was born to rescue us.

Well done for listening so well.

Yummy fun

In our bible story today the angel came to bring Joseph the good news that Mary's baby was from God. Let's make a sparkly angel biscuit.

What to make

Angel biscuits

What you need

- Angel cookie cutter
- Angel biscuits made beforehand
- Icing sugar
- Sparkly sprinkles or hundreds and thousands to decorate
- Teaspoons
- Bowls for the icing

Instructions

- Make the angel biscuits in advance. You can follow [this recipe](#) or use your own.
- Add some water to the icing sugar to make semi- runny icing.
- Use a teaspoon to put some icing into the middle of the angel biscuit and spread it out.
- Decorate your biscuit with sprinkles.

Allergy advice

Gluten, dairy, egg

Safety considerations

Hand washing. Hot oven.



Photo time!

Set up a photo area, with simple props and a backdrop where children can dress up as Mary and Joseph. Snap a photo to show the rest of their family at home.

Character	Props	Dress up	Backdrop
Mary	Mixing bowl and spoon	Apron	Table and chair - table to be a kitchen table for Mary/angel Gabriel, or a workbench for Joseph.
Joseph	Hammer, wood	Dressing gown	
Angel Gabriel	Lamp to shine down onto child, baby boy banner	Angel wings, tinsel halo	

"We dressed up as Mary and Joseph. The angel told them they were going to have a special baby!"

Making it shiny

The angel appeared to Joseph to tell him that Mary's baby was God's son.
Make your own angel to hang up at home.

What you need

- ☑ Silver/gold/white paint (you could use a giant paint pad eg **Craftplay giant washable paint pad** or a bowl containing water-based poster paint)
- ☑ White or black paper (depending on your paint colour)
- ☑ Angel body (see cut out on page 6)
- ☑ Glue
- ☑ Scissors
- ☑ String
- ☑ Holepunch

Instructions

- Before the session, cut out the angel body and stick onto the paper.
- During the session, the children place their hands one at a time on the paint pad/in the paint and make handprints on the paper, either side of the body, to make the wings.
- Cut around the angel and attach the string at the top through a little hole.



Sing it out

If you're used to singing with your group, you know that it's not about the quality of your voice. It's all about the energy and simple actions you use to engage the children. Together you will make a joyful sound pleasing to God! This song has a verse for each of the sessions, so it is an excellent way to look ahead as well as remembering the story so far.

On that very first Christmas - Colin Buchanan

Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem
Bethlehem
Bethlehem
Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem
On that very first Christmas



**Hold reins. Rise up and down
as if you are riding a donkey!**

The baby Jesus born that night
Born that night
Born that night
The baby Jesus born that night
On that very first Christmas



Rock a baby in your arms.

The wise men come to worship him
Worship him
Worship him
The wise men come to worship him
On that very first Christmas



**Bow down and
worship Jesus.**

The shepherds told that the king is born
The king is born
The king is born
The shepherds told that the king is born
On that very first Christmas



**Put hands on your
head like a crown.**

The angels singing 'Glory to God'
'Glory to God'
'Glory to God'
The angels singing 'Glory to God'
On that very first Christmas



Jazz hands up high!

Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem
The baby Jesus born that night
The wise men come to worship him
The shepherds told that the king is born
The angels singing 'Glory to God'
On that very first Christmas



All the above!

