



You will need...

- PPT “Who is He?”

Introduction delivered separately after the first song(s) to introduce the theme of the service

Introduction

[Click] Who is he?

We're all used to meeting babies. We know to let the baby pull our finger, we stroke their hair and comment on how beautiful he or she is.

But just sometimes, when we ask the question, “Who is he?” we find out that the baby is more than we thought.... and it changes what we do next... Let me show you what I mean.

[Click] This is a baby! This little crocodile looks so sweet. You want to tickle his tummy. Put your finger in his mouth with his tiny little teeth. You just want to drop him into your pocket. But when you ask, “Who is he?” you find out this is his Mum...

[Click] A Saltwater Crocodile- one of the 2 or 3 most dangerous animals in the world. If you ever meet her baby- don't put him in your pocket. Don't go near it!

[Click] Sweet! Throw a stick. Tickle his tummy. Pick him up. “Who is he?” Well; don't drop him. He's a Tibetan Mastiff puppy.

[Click] ...and they can be worth half a million pounds. The most valuable dogs in the world. It's a lot of pocket money if it goes wrong.

[Click] This is an antelope calf. If I saw it in a zoo, I'd walk past it. It's another antelope. Antelopes are like Zoo fillers. The padding between the Rhino's and the Elephants. “Who is he?” This is a white antelope....

[Click] There are only 300 of these left in the wild. On the edge of extinction. If I knew that; I'd stop. I'd take photo's. I'd call others over. I'd feel a bit sad, that there probably won't be any of these around in 20 years.

[Click] Just another baby creepy crawly! Fun stripe. “Who is he?” Don't put him in the ice cream tub with some lettuce to put under your bed. He will become a Queen Alexandra's birdwing caterpillar...

[Click] ... World's largest butterfly. Wow! A foot wide! Let that caterpillar do his chrysalis thing. He's amazing! Don't squash the caterpillar!



[Click] If I saw this baby, I think I'd ask to hold him. Go for a walk. "Who is he?" This baby grew up to be ...

[Click] Prince William- one day he will be our King. So if you had seen that baby. You wouldn't take him off for a walk- there are 4 policeman standing on the roof, 2 in cars outside and one of the staff is trained in martial arts. **PAUSE**

[Click] Who is he? Who is the baby born at Christmas in the Middle Eastern, 2000 years ago? This isn't him, but it could be- because he would have looked like any other Middle Eastern baby. Who is he? We all know he's called Jesus. We all know about the stable, Mary and Joseph, Shepherds and wise men. But who is he? Who is he that we're all here today celebrating his birthday? Who is he that most of the world are buying presents for each other 2000 years after he was born? Who is he, that when we understand who this baby is... it changes what we do next? That's what we're thinking about today. Who is he?

[Click] **READING Matthew 1:18-25**

[Click] This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about:

[Click] His mother Mary was to marry Joseph, [Click] but before their wedding, she was found to be pregnant.

[Click] When Joseph found out that Mary was having a baby, he was confused and upset. [Click] He knew that he wasn't the father, so he planned to end their engagement.

[Click] But before that could happen, an angel came to him in a dream. [Click] The angel told him, "The baby growing inside Mary is from the Holy Spirit. [Click] Don't be afraid to marry her. [Click] She will give birth to a son and you are to give him the name [Click] 'Jesus,' because he will save his people from their sins."

[Click] This happened, so that God's promise would come true:

[Click] "The virgin will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" [Click] - which means "God with us."

[Click] When Joseph woke up, [Click] he obeyed the Lord and married Mary.

[Click] And when she gave birth to a son, he gave him the name [Click] Jesus. [Click]



The story

Who is he? That's what we're thinking about.

It happened! [\[Click\]](#)

To find out, we're going to look carefully at the true Bible story that we've just heard read.

[\[Click\]](#).

[Read v18a from Bible](#)

Babies are born every minute of every day, in every country of the world. Many years ago, in Israel, far from here, one particular baby was born.

This is the story of that baby. He looked like any other baby. But he was different to every other baby.

His name was Jesus. His title was the Christ.

Like Thomas the Tank Engine. Or Bob the Builder. He was Jesus the Christ.

That word "Christ" is a Greek language word. The Hebrew word is "Messiah". They both mean the same, which is a "promised, powerful, rescuing King". The Christ was the one that God's people had been waiting for hundreds of years, to rescue them.

This is the true story of how the Messiah arrived. He arrived as a baby. This is what happened.

[\[Click\]](#) **Meet Mary and Joseph**

[\[Click\]](#) [Read v18b-19](#)

Mary and Joseph would have been teenagers. Perhaps 15 or 16 years old, living in a quiet town. They would have grown up knowing each other. Joseph didn't go to school- he went into a workshop, to learn how to be a carpenter and he learnt to saw, chisel, joint and build.

[\[Click\]](#) They were going to get married. They had promised to, they had promised in public. The whole town knew. In the eyes of the law, in the eyes of the town, they were pretty much already married. That was how it worked in their culture.... Just the service and the party still to do, then they could move in together, and start life together.

But then came the shock.

[\[Click\]](#) Mary was pregnant.

[\[QUICK\]](#). But she wasn't married. Joseph knew he wasn't the Father. So who was the Father? And Mary was starting to look pregnant. People would notice soon... and then everyone would talk. Joseph had to make a decision. Quickly.

[\[Click\]](#) Joseph was fond of Mary; he didn't want to embarrass her. He was angry and hurt, but he chose not talk to others about her. That was kind of him. He didn't want to ruin her life..., or at least to ruin it more then it already was. Instead, he decided that he would very quietly break off



the engagement. [SPEED UP] The law said he could do that- and more. No one would blame him. He decided that he would tell Mary, and her family; and then he would start again. He probably hoped that Mary would move away, so he didn't have to see her, to remind him, of what could have been. [PAUSE]

He had a plan. It wasn't a great plan. But there wasn't a better one. It was a mess. Soon it would be a mess that everyone knew about. There was nothing anybody could do....

But what would help, would be if Joseph understood who this baby was. If he could answer the question, "Who is he?"

God gave Joseph an answer in two ways...

Firstly, God sent an angel...

1. [Click] The angel explained

[Click] Read v20-21

Who is he? [Click]

a. He is one of us [Click]

Read "Joseph, Son of David"

Joseph, [Click] the ordinary carpenter. But Joseph had a secret. But everyone knew! He was from an ancient, royal family. Great King David's family. This baby was placed into that royal family. This baby would be born into Joseph's family. An ordinary baby born to an ordinary couple, with just a hint of a special history. Because this baby, though long promised, was still just a baby, born to an ordinary couple- born to be one of us.... To grow up into a boy, a teenager, a young man and an adult. He lived his life. He made his decisions. This baby would be one of us.

[Click] It's a funny idea to think that Jesus grew up with normal parents, who made mistakes. Joseph would sometimes get angry with Jesus, when it wasn't Jesus' fault. Mary, would have had some bad days, and Jesus would have to be fine with it. In fact, like all people, Mary and Joseph, his friends, those around him- had the problem of sin. Sin, is a Bible word, to describe what we all know is true, that we are not the people we wish we were, we do not treat others as we'd like to, we don't treat God as the Boss. And the world he grew up in was broken by the effects of sin.

He was among us. One of us in many ways but... [Click]

b. He is better than us [Click]

Read "What is growing in Mary's womb is from the Holy Spirit"

This baby is from God. He would be born different. Without our brokenness. Without our mistakes. Without the problem of sin. In his life he would find out what it was like to be treated badly by boys in his town, to not fit in with teenagers on his road, to be hurt by those who hated him and even to die. He would always make the right decisions, returning hatred with kindness, caring for the weakest. Above all else, when he was hurting, when he was treated badly, He always trusted His Father God in heaven was in charge.



This baby is better than us.

c. He came to save us [\[Click\]](#)

Read “give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins”

This is the wonder. This is the Good news.

Because Jesus came as one of us. He can rescue us. He can stand in place of us.

Because Jesus is better than us, he is the only one who can take what we deserve for our sin, and give us what he has earned by living without sin.

It feels strange talking about his death and resurrection at Christmas. But it was there even at his birth, in his name, “Jesus”- the one who saves. He was given a name to tell us that he was born to save... us.

Who is he?

One of us- who understands, who knows how it feels, who has hurt, who has felt broken, who has cried, who has lost, who has laughed, who has danced. He is one of us.

He is better than us- he shows us what the standard is. The person we would love to be, he allows us to be honest about who we are, how we fail, how we are broken. But he doesn't leave us there.

He came to save us. Of course, if we understand who he is – it changes what we do with him, how we respond. If we know who he is, we can't just leave him in a manger, we need to let him rescue us.

Who is he? God gave Joseph the answer in two ways.

Firstly, the angel explained. Secondly...[\[Click\]](#)

2. Isaiah promised [\[Click\]](#)

Read [v22-23](#)

All this happened to keep the promise that God had made through the Prophet Isaiah 800 years before. [\[Click\]](#) A promise that one day God would send a sign...

[\[Click\]](#) This sign was to be a young girl who would have a child and this child would be [\[Click\]](#) Immanuel, which means, “God with us”

He is God with us [\[Click\]](#)

Who is he? Well the prophet Isaiah had promised who he would be. The prophet Isaiah had explained that he is God with us.

That is the hardest part of Christmas to understand. Fortunately Sainsbury's have come to our rescue. They have made a video, to explain what it means that God sent Jesus to be God with us. They say it's the story of Dave, but really, we all know that this is the story of God. This story explains perfectly what Immanuel means, it explains who this baby is:



[\[Click\] Play Video of Sainsbury's advert \[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bq5SGSCZe4E\]](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bq5SGSCZe4E)

Thank you Sainsbury's!

"The greatest gift that I can give is me."

It's was God's idea first. The greatest gift that God could ever give, was himself. To love his people, us, he gave us himself.

Leaving Heaven, to be with his normal, imperfect people, to be our saviour to be God with us. That is love.

When we have an answer to the question, "Who is he?"- it changes what we do.

Listen to what Joseph did

[\[Click\] Joseph understood](#)

[\[Click\] Read v24-25](#)

Do you remember where we started with Mary and Joseph? It was a mess. There was a plan. Separation. Quietly leaving each other. Heart break. Anger. That was Joseph's decision. Then God answered the question, "Who is he?"

He is one of us

He is better than us

He came to save us.

He is God with us.

Joseph understood who Jesus was. [\[Click\]](#) So Joseph changed his mind. [\[Click\]](#) He had to. Because when he understood, he obeyed. He did what the Lord had commanded him.

Just as we need to. If we understand who Jesus is. We have change what we do next. We need to do what he has commanded. Jesus Christ is our Lord. Our Rescuer. We need to obey him. [\[Click\]](#)

Can you answer the question, "Who is he?"

[\[Click\]](#) Let's pray!

Dear Father,

Thank you Jesus is the Christ.

Thank you that he is One of us, he knows what it's like to live, to hurt, to live in a broken world

Thank you that he is better than us, so he shows us how wonderful life can be.

Thank you that he came to save us, so we can be in God's family, forever. Forgiven. Free

Thank you that he is God with us. The greatest gift that you could give was yourself. Thank you.

Please help us to understand who Jesus is, so that we can decide what to do next.

Amen.



Top Tips

- If you're handing out the Family Devotionals at the very end of the talk you can introduce it like this:

We've prepared a little project for you this week, no matter what your age. At this Church, we know that children can understand, explain and think about these things far better than we sometimes realise. Perhaps this week you can look through this little sheet together. The last question is, "How could you thank Jesus for what you have learnt?"- That must be a question worth answering.