



For more family Bible resources, check out our books 'The Adventure of Christmas' and 'Wonder of Easter' and listen to our podcasts.

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JOIN US ON



THE ADVENTURE OF
CHRISTMAS

WITH YOUR FAMILY



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Dear

**Come and meet the real
characters of Christmas!**

**Explore and enjoy the true
story of Jesus' birth with
these fun family activities.**

From



THE KING IS TO BE WORSHIPED!

Wise Men's Adventure

People called them **wise men** for a reason: they knew soooo much! About plants and people, seasons and stars. They studied hard and read lots of books. So when they saw the star that appeared that first Christmas they knew it was special; they knew it would lead them to Jesus, God's son. It was a star worth following! Follow it they did, for days, weeks, even months. Finally, the wise men came to Jesus. They were so excited!

What did they do when they finally found Jesus?

- Show-off how clever they were by reciting facts?
- Tell Mary, Jesus' mum, how to parent?

No, they **worshipped** Jesus.

MATTHEW CHAPTER 2 VERSE 11

"They went to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary. They bowed down and worshiped the child."

What does worship mean? What does it look like?

- The wise men fell down on their knees
- The wise men offered Jesus gifts

Why would these clever, important men fall down and **worship** a baby?! Because this was no ordinary baby and they knew it. The wise men understood that Jesus is our king. The very best and wisest thing they could do was worship him.

Read the full story in the Bible: Matthew chapter 2 verses 1-12.

Explore the Adventure

Follow the star. Give each family member a sheet of aluminum foil to make a star. See how creative you can be. Do your stars look different from one another's? For more fun, place your star somewhere in the house and direct family members to it: *'Take 5 steps forward!' 'Turn right!'*

What's the gift? Find something to hide in a bag or a box. Family members ask yes or no questions to guess what the 'gift' is. For example, *'Is it edible?' 'Is it soft?'* Try to guess the item in 20 questions or less.

The Main Thing

There are so many books to read and so much to learn! The most important person we can learn about is Jesus. When we understand that Jesus is God who came to save us, we **want** to worship him, just like the wise men did. Jesus is so good, loving, and holy, he deserves all of us. People all over the world worship Jesus as King; we can be wise and joyfully join them!

Enjoy the Adventure

One way the wise men worshiped Jesus was by offering him gifts. We honour Jesus when we joyfully give to others. Who could you surprise with a Christmas gift? Maybe you could:

- Give a neighbour a basket of fruit or homemade muffins
- Clear the table without being told
- Read to or play with a younger sibling
- Give Christmas/thank you cards to the person who collects rubbish or delivers groceries

Dear God, please give us understanding to know who you truly are. Help us to worship and adore you like the wise men did. Amen.



THE KING IS COMING!

Mary's Adventure

Mary didn't know what was coming. She was an ordinary girl, sweeping floors, fetching water and chatting with friends. Then suddenly... *Bam!* An angel appeared with a message for her.

LUKE CHAPTER 1 VERSES 30-33

³⁰The angel said to her, 'Don't be afraid, Mary, because God is pleased with you.'

³¹Listen! You will become pregnant. You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will rule over the people of Jacob forever. His kingdom will never end.'

Mary's life would never be the same. Her adventure was about to begin. She was going to give birth to the King of Kings - Jesus! There was much to prepare!

Explore the Adventure

At a meal, pretend a real-life king is going to join you.

- What would you do to get ready for their visit?
- What food would you make?
- How would you prepare the table?

Pretend one of you is the king - how would you greet them or serve them?

We do a lot to prepare for Christmas. What are some ways we get ready?

- In the kitchen - what food do we prepare?
- In the house - what do we hang up or display?
- Outside - how do some people decorate?

The Main Thing

With all these Christmas preparations, we may forget to prepare the most important place... our hearts. Mary's heart was prepared to receive King Jesus. When the angel said she was going to give birth to God's son she said, *'Let this happen to me as you say!'* (Luke 1v38) She trusted God and his plan.

This Christmas, get your heart ready by finding out more about Jesus because God sent him to be OUR king too! As you go on the Adventure of Christmas, you will see that he is worth following and listening to because he is the only king who comes close to us, knows us and loves us.

Enjoy the Adventure

- Make a sign that says 'Get ready! The King is coming!' Make it on a piece of card or decorate a piece of paper and put it in an envelope.
- Hide your sign for someone else to find. Slide it under the door, place it on a pillow, hide it in the cupboard. See how creative you can be as you remind each other to prepare for the birth of King Jesus!
- For even more fun, use a paint pen or Sharpie to write 'The King is coming!' on a Christmas bauble. Hang it on your tree or give it to someone you want to tell about King Jesus.

Dear God, please prepare our hearts to receive and celebrate you. Help us to know that Jesus is the greatest king ever! Amen.



THE KING WHO SAVES!

Joseph's Adventure

Joseph had his life sorted. Maybe he had a list of things he was going to do:

- Be a carpenter
- Marry Mary
- Have kids
- Lead a quiet life

But God had a big adventure for Joseph. He sent an angel to say, 'You're going to raise my son Jesus who will be the saviour of the world!'

How do you think Joseph reacted to this news? Draw what his face might have looked like:

Read the full story in the Bible: Matthew chapter 1 verses 18-25.

Joseph's life list was suddenly scrambled. But he trusted that God's plans were better.

MATTHEW CHAPTER 1 VERSE 24

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

Explore the Adventure

We might feel frustrated when our plans fall apart. Have any of these things happened to you?

- It rains on sports day.
- Your birthday party's cancelled.
- You get ill on holiday.
- Write your own... _____

When plans fall apart, it's hard to handle. Joseph felt that, too. But he found out that God's plans were better than his plans.

Can you come up with a story where something unexpected happens? Ask someone to collect some props and put them in a bag so you don't see them.

Try to include something...

- to wear
- from the bathroom
- to eat or drink
- shiny
- from outside

Start telling a story. Every few sentences, the other person hands you something from the bag. Include that unexpected thing in your story. Then swap over, collect new props and have another go.

The Main Thing

Jesus is the saviour we all need to save us from our sin. Sin is living without God. It's when we think we know best and want to be in charge. But only God is good, strong, wise and loving enough to rule the world, and our lives, perfectly.

God sent Jesus to save us by clearing up the mess of sin and showing us how great it is to live with him as our loving king.

As we go on the Adventure of Christmas, let's celebrate that God sent us Jesus to be our saviour!

Enjoy the Adventure

Save it!

Find a small ball or marble and gather round a table. Each player tries to stop the ball from rolling off their side of the table. But... no using your hands! Use your elbows, nose, knees, and even breath to save the ball from falling off your side of the table while trying to make the ball fall on your opponent's side of the table. You could play with two players, or the whole family. Who can save the ball?

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to save us. Help us to trust you and your plans more than we trust ourselves. Amen.



THE KING IS FOR EVERYONE!

Shepherds' Adventure

The sky was dark. The air was still. With dirt underneath their fingernails and patches on their clothes, the shepherds kept an eye on their flocks. Just another ordinary night watching sheep. But this was no ordinary night. This was the night God would deliver the best news ever... and the shepherds would be the first to hear it!

Suddenly, angels burst into the night sky announcing that King Jesus had been born for **ALL** people.

LUKE CHAPTER 2 VERSE 15

15 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.'

Read the full story in the Bible: Luke chapter 2 verses 8-18.

What do you think the shepherds did? Wait? Worry about the sheep?

No. They _____ to see the newborn king!

And they couldn't keep the good news to themselves. They told **everyone**!

Explore the Adventure

- Pretend to be shepherds at night. Take turns standing up and announcing something to 'go and see!' Maybe it's a bird in the garden, shoes by the door, or biscuits in the tin. Act like the shepherds: run and see with joy!
- Without looking at a map or globe, try to draw a picture of the world. How many continents or countries can you place? On your map write 'King Jesus is for Everyone!'

Take a guess:

- How many countries are there in the world? _____
- How many people are there in the world? _____

The Main Thing

God invites **everyone** to meet the Saviour, King Jesus. It doesn't matter if you're young or old, rich or poor, good or terrible in school, King Jesus was born so anyone can be saved.

Are you excited to meet him, like the shepherds were? Is there something that stops you wanting to know Jesus?

As we go on the Adventure of Christmas, we'll see that Jesus' birth is the best news for everyone! Like the shepherds, let's joyfully tell others about him.

Enjoy the Adventure

What might it be like to take care of sheep, all day, every day? Gather a few cotton balls (or white socks) and have someone hide them throughout the house. Then, as shepherds, find the sheep and gather the flock.

There are lots of ways to share good news with someone. You could...

- write it across the sky
- tell someone using sign language.

Shout out other ways we can share news!

We can be like the shepherds and share the good news of King Jesus coming to save us. Who can you tell?

Dear God, thank you for sending King Jesus to everyone. Help us understand that Jesus coming to save us is the best news ever. Amen.