

CHRISTMAS

A creative, prayer-centred exploration of the Christmas Story.



Introduction

This short series of prayer activities will help students to reflect on and engage with the Christmas story in a fresh way.

Stories are more than entertainment. Good stories invite us to join in. These prayer activities invite students to participate and engage in the Christmas story as it unfolds, to consider the thoughts and feelings of some of the principle characters, and to reflect on their own thoughts and feelings as well.

Good stories enable us to see our own life-story in new ways. These prayer activities invite students to reflect on the events and relationships in their lives, and encourages them to express their thoughts and feelings, ask questions, and if they want to, try praying.

If you adapt these prayer activities, or if you create prayer activities based around other characters or other aspects of the Christmas story, please let us know, and please let us share them with others. The best way to do this is to go to the Resources > Upload Resources page on our prayerspacesinschools.com website, and fill in the boxes.

Peace be with you.

Gabriel And Mary Hopes And Dreams

Equipment: Paper strips, felt tip pens, sticky tape & scissors or a stapler. Optional: gazebo, tinsel.

Set-up: Start a few paper chains off, perhaps inside a gazebo, and place the rest of the equipment close by.

Activity: Print or write out the conversation between the angel Gabriel and Mary. Encourage the students to think about the things that they say to each other, and in particular Mary's declaration, "nothing is impossible with God." Encourage the students to think about their hopes and dreams, however impossible they may feel, and to write or draw them onto strips of paper, which can be added to the paper chain.



Born In A Manger Feeling Sorry

Equipment: Sand, sand trays, sheeting.

Set-up: Place the sand filled trays onto the sheeting, ensuring that they are not too close to allow privacy.

Activity: Encourage students to think about how Jesus had to be born in a manger because the innkeepers turned Mary & Joseph away. Sometimes people do and say unkind things to us; sometimes we do and say unkind things. Invite students to think about something for which they are sorry whilst writing the word 'sorry' into the sand, before then brushing it away again as a sign that they will try and move on from it.



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Shepherds On The Hill World Map

Equipment: Felt tip pens, post-it notes, world map, cushions.

Set-up: Lay down the world map on the floor and place the cushions and other equipment around the edge.

Activity: Encourage students to think about how God chose to share the news about the birth of Jesus to shepherds, people that weren't considered important at that time. Invite students to think about people in our world that might not be considered important and to write a thought or prayer for them onto a post-it note and stick it to the map.



Wise Men's Star Asking For Guidance

Equipment: Felt tip pens, star shaped post-it notes or cut-out stars & sticky tape, a big sheet of dark blue or black paper (to be the night sky).

Set-up: Securely attach the night sky to the wall and place the other equipment at its base.

Activity: Encourage students to think about how God put a star in the sky to help guide the wise men to where Jesus was. Invite them to think about something that they feel they would like guidance on, or help with, and to write or draw a picture about it onto a star post-it note before adding it to the night sky display.



Jesus' Gifts Being Thankful

Equipment: Play dough, protective sheeting, a table & chairs.

Set-up: Cover the table with protective sheeting, and place the play dough on top.

Activity: Encourage students to think about how the wise men offered gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Jesus when they saw him. Invite them to think about everything for which they can be thankful, especially at Christmas time when we receive gifts, and to then choose one or more of those things to make out of play dough as an expression of their thankfulness.

