

Christ the Saviour Is Born. The Original Christmas Story

- 1. A Powerpoint Assembly for Upper Primary in class (and or for sharing by zoom to other classrooms.)**
- 2. Script for use by the teacher to accompany the slides in the powerpoint.**
- 3. A star template for children to decorate and record all the ways in which they can be a light to the world this Christmas**

Children will develop a deeper understanding of the importance of Jesus' birth and the lessons we can learn from all those involved in the Nativity story when Jesus – God the Son himself - came to earth as a tiny baby to save us over 2000 years ago .

You will need:

The KS2 Nativity Assembly Powerpoint :

Interactive Whiteboard:

Children to read out each slide 3- 13

Optional Music

Slide 1: Introduction: Teacher

Good Morning everyone

With Christmas just around the corner, I thought it would be a good idea to look a little closer at the Christmas Story and remind ourselves of the true meaning Of Christmas, to see what lessons we can learn from the story of Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the Wisemen.

Jesus's birth in that little stable in Bethlehem was the fulfilment of God's promise to his people both then and today over 2000 years later.

Slide 2:

From the time God created the world the people in the Old Testament had been waiting for the fulfilment of God's promise. For over 2000 years since the time of Abraham they waited.

His coming was foretold in the books of the prophets. The people of the Old Testament were waiting for a Messiah who would be a king sent by God who would unite people all over the world.

The name Messiah means 'the anointed one' the prophet Jeremiah stated that he would be descended from King David

"The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous branch, a king who will reign wisely."

In our modern world we can sometimes struggle with the concept of time, a minute can feel like an hour, an hour like a day and a year can feel like a lifetime when we are waiting for something, With God - time as we measure it- has no consequence God always was.



Sing O Come O Come Emmanuel



Slide 3:

Mary was very young when the angel Gabriel appeared to her and told her of God's plan for her. She must have been frightened, how could she tell her family and Joseph. She did not see herself as being special or destined for greatness and yet she did one simple thing. She listened to God's will- she was to be the mother of His son Jesus – she listened, and she accepted God's will and trusted in his plan.

Sometimes today we can be so busy that we do not take time to listen for God's call, we can not see or hear the signs he gives us that he is near.

Mary offers us a reminder that we need to stop, listen for the Lord, and then spend our lives saying "YES."

Today let us remember that if we trust in God and listen for His voice we too may have grace and peace like Mary to know that He has a plan for each of us.

Help us to be alert and vigilant and to follow the example of Mary and Joseph every day and in every way.

Lord Hear Us

Slide 4:

The angel Gabriel also told Mary that her cousin Elizabeth was going to have a baby. Elizabeth and her husband were an older couple who had been married for years and had not been blessed with children until now.

With no thought for her own safety Mary travelled over 80 miles on foot to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Mary stayed with Elizabeth and her husband until after their child had been born, doing what she could to assist her beloved cousin.

How often can we say that we have put the needs of others ahead of our own?

As we prepare for this blessed season of Christmas let us model ourselves on Mary.

Ask not how does this affect me or what do I get but help each one of us to be kind and eager to be of assistance to others at home, in school, in our local community and in our world.

Lord Hear Us

Slide 5:

Joseph was a very good, kind and holy man, but he too was human. When he initially found out that Mary was having a baby he felt hurt and betrayed.

He was so worried about what other people would say. He was prepared to call off the wedding -- that was until the angel came to him in a dream and assured him that all was okay. It was God's will and Joseph accepted the special role that God had chosen for him.

How often have we been too quick to respond when we are hurt or angry?

Do we react rather than respond?

Our words, like our actions, when said can never be unheard.

Today as we prepare for Christmas we pray that we can be more like Joseph and not act in haste or anger, that we too will hear God's voice and allow others the same grace, understanding and even forgiveness that we would ask for ourselves.

Lord Hear Us

Slide 6:

At that time all of Palestine was ruled by Rome. When they were told that they had to make the long journey on foot to Joseph's hometown, Joseph and Mary took what little they needed and headed off without complaining.

The town they were going to was Bethlehem which in **Hebrew means "House of Bread"** How fitting that Jesus who was to give us the **Bread of Life** was born in this little town.

Today we too are following government guidelines but instead of being asked to pack a bag and travel for days we are being asked to stay at home, stay in our bubbles, wash our hands etc . Stay safe.

We ask that we can be like Mary and Joseph and do what is asked of us to help others and allow us to celebrate Christmas safely with the people that we love.

Lord Hear Us

Slide 7:

With so many people travelling to Bethlehem the inns were all full.

There were no rooms or beds to be found. Each door they knocked on they got the same reply, "Sorry, we have no room for you here!"

Today we can get so busy living our fast-paced lives, always running from here to there, with things to do and people to see - that we dont have room for Jesus in our lives.

Let us remember to give some of our time to Jesus everyday .

He is always there for us -waiting patiently and eagerly for us to turn our thoughts and heart and prayers to Him. Let us open our hearts and our homes to let Jesus come into our lives during this busy Christmas season when we celebrate His first coming over 2000 years ago.

Lord Hear Us.

Slide 8:



Away in A Manger



(you can use the audio file in the PowerPoint or choose to play your own)

Slide 9:

If you had good news, whom would you tell first?

When something wonderful happens to me, the first people I want to tell are those closest to me, those most important in my life.

God had the best news of the ages- Jesus , His son, Our Saviour had been born in Bethlehem. Who did He tell first? Important religious people? Wealthy folk? Learned men?

No. God sent his angels to tell shepherds. Poor uneducated men out in fields minding their sheep. They had no power or influence. They had nothing to bring the baby King.

So why did God choose the lowest members of society to be the first to hear of Jesus' birth?

Firstly, shepherds did not have any airs and graces about themselves. They had humility and were amazed that God chose them to be the first to hear the news.

Imagine how unworthy they must have felt, but how honoured.

The second reason God may have chosen these shepherds was that when they witnessed this wonderful experience they went out to "spread the word" about what they had seen.

They weren't worried about what others thought of them.

They didn't over-think the situation and talk themselves out of telling the news.

They were overflowing with joy and probably still reflected a bit of the glory of being with Jesus.

Do you know what happened when those uneducated, simple shepherds spread the word that a Saviour had been born? People were amazed!

Dear Lord, help us to set aside our reservations that have become commonplace and explore the amazement of Jesus' birth.

Lord Hear Us.

Slide 10



Silent Night - you can use the audio file in the PowerPoint or



choose to play your own.

Slide 11:

When the Kings travelled from the East looking for the New Born King the first place they looked was in the royal palace. They travelled for days, maybe even weeks, with their entourage to worship the baby whose coming had been predicted in the books of the old testament and in the charting of the stars.

All too often we can make the same mistake as the kings, we can think that our happiness will be found in wealth and status, that when we get the latest game, the newest phone or if we found fame we will be fulfilled.

True happiness and contentment can not be found in material things. By sending his son to be born- in a stable rather than in a palace -God showed us that his love and our fulfilment will not be found in material and worldly things..God sent his only Son as a saviour for everyone, He would be found among the poor, the sick and the lonely.

Help us to do all we can to bring God's love to all we meet wherever we go

Lord Hear Us.

Slide 12:

The angels brought a message from God, to the three Kings - to not tell Herod of the baby's whereabouts. **Herod is the villain in the retelling of Christmas story.**

He was filled with rage and envy- fuelled by fear that this baby who had been born would try and take his wealth and his power.

We rarely like to admit when we are wrong, and we definitely don't like to admit when we have been jealous or mean.

If we are honest, we all have moments when we have been like Herod, we have been jealous and spiteful and we all have moments that if we could do things again we would do them differently, we would be a bit kinder, we would hold our tongues, we would help someone out without complaining.

This Christmas let us try to be kinder, to say sorry when we are wrong and like Jesus forgive those who, in the past, we have held a grudge against.

Lord Hear Us

Slide 13:

Again, the angels play their part as God's special messengers to earth. This time they warned Joseph of the danger that his new family faced.

Joseph took his role as protector of Mary and the baby Jesus very seriously and he gathered what little possessions they had and brought his family to a foreign land in the hope that there they would find safety and refuge.

Today we have families just like the Holy Family living among us. They have had to pack what belongings they could gather and make long and often dangerous journeys in the hope that their children will grow up with safety and security.

This Christmas let us extend the hand of friendship to those in need, let us remember the words of Jesus when he said;

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink."

Slide 14:

When A Child is Born- you can use the audio file in the PowerPoint or choose to play your own.

Jesus came as a light to the World.

He told us that God our Father loves us and wants us to be His children.

He taught the apostles to pray

He told us that God Our Father wants us to love and respect Him . We must put God first.

He told us that we must love one another as He has loved us.

He was kind- gentle- grateful - humble -helpful –forgiving!!!

This Christmas in 2020 AD let us try to follow His example and live as He did over 2000 years ago.

May God inspire each one of us here today to bring God's love to others - our friends, our family, our neighbours and all those who are in need in the world.

Amen

Lights of the World Mobiles.

- Give each child a copy of the star template (Grow in Love 4th class Primary 6)
- Children should glue the page on to a piece of card before cutting out the star shape.
- Invite the children to record on the star some ways in which they can bring the light of Christ to others –at school, at home, in the community or to those in need throughout the world.
- Allow the children to decorate their stars using bright colours, tinsel, glitter or other shiny sparkly materials.
- Have them punch a hole at the top of their star and attach it to a clothes hangar with a piece of string.
- These can be hung in or near the sacred /prayer space.