



# Junior Church

**LESSON PLANS: 20-12-20**

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# Family Fun

(All Ages)

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## Good news for everyone

**Activity time:** 10–15 minutes

**Aim:** to think about Jesus' birth

**You will need:** n/a

1. Read all the stories related to Christmas in Bubbles Bonus Sheet K (attached)

## Good news for everyone

**Maggie says,**  
“Sharing a Bible story with children does not have to be a passive activity – and their listening does not need to be passive either.”

Involve them as you tell the story; ask questions about the pictures; discuss what might happen next. Chat afterwards about what happened and encourage your child to tell the Bible story back to you. Use plenty of expression as you read and make voices for the different characters. Children can get very involved with the people and events in stories. A well-told story can help children face big issues through even very simple text.”

**Use these stories with Bubbles Sheets 41–45.**



### 4.3 A message for Mary

Mary was busy at her house. She was soon going to be married to Joseph and there was so much to do. Mary was very excited about the wedding.

Suddenly, she looked up. An angel was standing there. Mary was surprised. She had never seen an angel before.

“Don’t be frightened, Mary,” the angel said. “I have brought you an important message. God has chosen you to have a very special baby. The baby boy will be God’s own Son.”

Mary was puzzled. “But what about our wedding?” she asked.

The angel smiled. “Don’t worry. God knows all about it,” he said. Then the angel disappeared.

Mary thought about the message the angel had brought. God’s Son would soon be born, and she had been chosen to be his mother. How amazing! Mary sang happily as she worked. What would Joseph say when he heard her news?

Luke 1:26–38

### 4.1 A message for Joseph

One night, Joseph had a dream. “It’s true,” an angel told him. “Mary is going to have a very special baby. The baby is God’s own Son. You must call him Jesus.”

Joseph loved Mary. He was happy to marry her and help look after the special baby.

The Roman emperor wanted to find out how many people lived in the country where Mary and Joseph lived. So, he ordered everybody to travel back to the place where they had been born.



Joseph and Mary went on a long journey from their home to a town called Bethlehem. Mary was very tired. Her baby would soon be born. But lots of other people had got there first. All the hotels were full. There was nowhere for Joseph and Mary to stay.

A kind hotel-keeper let them rest in his stable. And that is where Jesus, God’s Son, was born.

Matthew 1:18–23; Luke 2:1–6

### 4.4 A message for the shepherds

One night, some shepherds were on the hillside outside Bethlehem. Suddenly, there was a dazzling light and an angel appeared.

The shepherds were very scared. “Don’t be frightened,” the angel said. “I have brought you some wonderful news. God’s Son has been born tonight.”

Lots more angels appeared in the sky. They sang, “Praise to God in heaven. Peace to everyone on earth.”

When the angels had gone, the shepherds said to each other,

“Come on, let’s go and find this special baby.” They left their sheep. They ran down the hillside to Bethlehem. They found baby

Jesus lying on a bed of straw. Just as the angels had said. The shepherds told Mary and Joseph all about the angel’s message.

The shepherds were so excited they told everyone they met the good news. “God’s Son has been born!”

Luke 2:7–21



### 4.2 A message for the wise men

A long way from Bethlehem, there were some wise men. They were looking at the stars. “Look at that big, bright star up there,” one said. “It’s telling us a king has been born,” said another. “How exciting! Let’s go and find him.”

The wise men chose some special presents to give the baby king. They began a long journey. They followed the star to King Herod’s palace. “We’ve come to see the special baby,” they told him.

“What baby?” he asked.

“The new king,” the wise men answered.

“But I’m the only king here,” said Herod, angrily.

“You will probably find the baby you are looking for in Bethlehem,” the king’s advisers said. And they were right. The wise men knelt down. They knew Jesus was very special. They gave him the expensive presents they had brought – gold and rich perfumes.

Matthew 2:1–12



### 4.5 Happy birthday, Jesus!

Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem. There was nowhere for them to stay. Mary was going to have a baby soon.

A kind man said that Mary and Joseph could stay in the animal shed by his house. Very soon, the baby was born. Mary and Joseph called him “Jesus”.

Some shepherds saw an angel. The angel said, “God’s Son has been born.” Lots more angels appeared. They sang, “Praise to God. Peace to everyone.” The shepherds went to see the baby.

“Angels told us about him,” they said. The shepherds went home very happy because they had seen Jesus, God’s Son.

A long way away, wise men saw a new star in the sky.

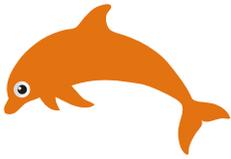
“A new baby king has been born,” they said. They set off to find him. The star showed them the way. At last, they found Mary, Joseph and Jesus. They saw Jesus and knelt down. They gave him wonderful presents. The wise men went home, very happy because they had seen Jesus, God’s Son.

Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 2:1–21



Help your child meet God in the Bible with these books and stories for young children from SPCK.





# Dolphins

(Age 3, F1 & F2)

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## Using Bubbles

**Activity time:** 20 minutes

**Aim:** to join in with the story of Jesus' birthday

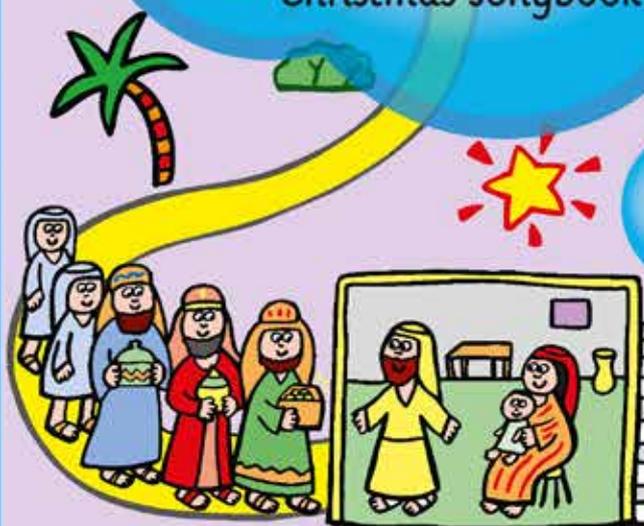
**You will need:** Bubbles Sheet 45 from pages 319 and 320, Bonus Sheet K (attached), scissors

1. Make the song booklets following the instructions on page 319.
2. Use the songs and the stories in Bonus Sheet K alternately to tell the whole Christmas story in songs and words. You might like to do this as one continuous activity or mix it in with other ideas from this session.
3. Begin by saying, 'One day, a young woman called Mary had good news.' Sing 'The angel came to see Mary'. Read 'A message for Mary'.
4. Say, 'Joseph had good news too. An angel came to see him – when he was asleep!' Sing 'Joseph's sleeping'. Read 'A message for Joseph' from.
5. Explain that shepherds were the next to hear about Jesus: sing 'In the sky, shining bright'. Who told the shepherds the good news? Read 'A message for the shepherds'.
6. Did anyone else hear good news? Did anyone else come to see Jesus? Yes! Sing 'Twinkle, twinkle, star so bright' and read 'A message for the wise men'.
7. Do the children agree that this is 'good' news? All smile, clap and thank God for Jesus' birthday.

# Bubbles<sup>13</sup>

Good news  
My very own  
Christmas songbook

paste



My name \_\_\_\_\_

cut line

fold line

With this **Bubbles Sheet**, your child will have the opportunity to learn new Christmas songs to well-known tunes and to create their own booklet to celebrate the Christmas story.

Singing new songs builds children's confidence and helps them to review what they have been learning. Make up the songbook as in the instructions below.

Have fun making the booklet and singing the songs together. Perhaps you are also preparing for your family mini-carol-singing event, or joining with a larger carol-singing group? You could invite them to share in singing

some of these child-friendly carols! Children need to experience that their gifts of praise and worship are accepted by other people as worship. This helps them to understand that their worship and praise is accepted and welcomed by God.

The Bible story is on **Bonus Sheet K**.

### How to make your Christmas songbook

- 1 Cut this **Sheet** in half along the bold white line marked with scissors.
  - 2 Fold the two pieces along the white dotted lines.
  - 3 Now paste together the two pages marked "paste", to make a little book.
- Draw a new picture and learn a new song with each Christmas session of **Bubbles**.

paste

light

fold line

## Good news for Mary



The angel came to see Mary,  
She was most surprised.  
"God is with you,  
He's pleased with you,  
So here I am to say:  
You'll have a baby,  
He will be God's Son,  
Our King for evermore!"  
The angel came to see Mary.  
Praise God! Praise God! Praise God!

Luke 1:26-38  
Tune: "When Santa got stuck up the chimney"

Draw Mary's face.  
Was she surprised?  
Was she happy?

1

## Good news for Joseph



Joseph's sleeping,  
Joseph's sleeping,  
In his dream,  
In his dream,  
The angel comes  
With good news,  
The angel comes  
With good news,  
About a baby,  
About a baby.

Joseph wakes up,  
Joseph wakes up,  
Goes to Mary,  
Goes to Mary.  
"Mary, let's get  
married,  
Mary, lets get  
married.  
Jesus will be born,  
Jesus will be  
born."

Matthew 1:18-25  
Tune: "Frère Jacques"

God is with you right  
now. Draw a picture to  
show God is with you!

2

## Good news for the shepherds



In the sky, shining bright,  
Angels everywhere.  
Singing songs of thanks to God,  
"Baby Jesus is here!"

Shepherd boy, have you heard?  
Jesus is born today.  
Go and see him lying there  
In a bed of hay.

Luke 2:1-20  
Tune: "Jingle bells"

Sheep saw the  
angels, too.  
Draw a sheep.



## Good news from a star



The wise men have found Jesus. Sing about it!  
Twinkle, twinkle, star so bright,  
Twinkle, twinkle, in the night.  
God sent you to show the way,  
To the house where Jesus lay.  
Twinkle, twinkle, star so bright,  
Twinkle, twinkle, in the night.

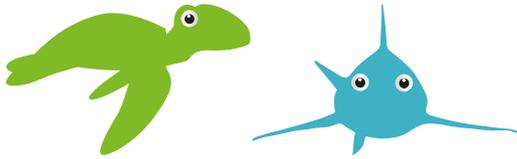
Tune: "Twinkle, twinkle, little star"

The wise men followed a  
star to find Jesus. Draw a  
big star and add glitter.



4

3



# Turtles Sharks

(Year 1 & 2)

(Year 3 & 4)

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## Christmas cards

**Activity time:** 10 minutes

**Aim:** to share the celebration of the birth of Jesus with someone else

**You will need:** template from page 318 (attached), A5 envelopes

1. Make a Christmas card. If you aren't able to send/give out your cards, post them online for us all to see!
2. In advance, make copies of the template from page 318, preferably onto thin card.
3. Invite the children to fold, colour and write in their cards.
4. Encourage them to think about the part of the Christmas story shown and to read the Bible verse. Talk through how it must have been to visit Jesus, not really knowing who he was or why he had come into the world.
5. Discuss with the children how Jesus was welcomed into the world and how you might welcome him into your homes this Christmas.
6. Invite them to decide who they would like to give their cards to, and to sign their own names before placing the cards in their envelopes and addressing them.



This card was coloured  
especially for you by



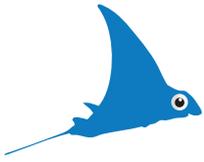
**"So they hurried off and  
found Mary and Joseph  
and saw the baby who  
was lying in the manger."**

**Luke 2:16**

**To**

**HAPPY  
CHRISTMAS!**

**From**



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## Happy Christmas!

**Activity time:** 10–15 minutes

**Aim:** to think about the reason for celebrating Christmas

**You will need:** copies of the Xstream sheet from page 319 (attached)

1. Discuss what the children know already about the Christmas story, and encourage them to revisit the Bible story from Luke 2:1–20 and Matthew 2:1–12.
2. Point out that all the things we do at this time of year should remind us that Jesus, our Saviour, was born into this world as a human baby. That is the real reason for celebrating Christmas.
3. Give each child a copy of the Xstream sheet from page 319 and challenge them to write their own Christmas poem using the template given.

# CHRISTMAS POEM

Make your own christmas poem.  
Think of things to do with  
the story of Jesus' birth.  
Write down below ones that begin with  
the letters of the word CHRISTMAS.

C  
H  
R  
I  
S  
T  
M  
A  
S

*Christmas*



*let it snow*

*may your  
days be  
merry &  
bright*