

**Introduction**

**At Home For Christmas** looks at some of the characters that are involved in the Christmas story. Each of the characters have something in common – they were not at home for Christmas.

Mary and Joseph left their home in Nazareth and travelled to Bethlehem.

The shepherds did not have a home but they came from the hills to the town.

The wise men travelled from their home in Persia to Bethlehem.

Jesus’ home was in heaven but he came to earth to live with us.

This resource has been created to be flexible for a variety of uses.

* It may be that you can engage in some face to face ministry with the children in your congregation. Some of the activities will be possible for you to do in person.
* Your congregation may be doing your children’s ministry online. The teaching and resources include videos that can be used online and the activities can be done by families at home together.
* You may be planning a Christmas all age service. With good planning and preparation the activities can be done from the front and in the church building together.

Some things to keep in mind:

* You may want to think about preparing resources for the activities ahead of time so that they have 72 hours “untouched” time and leaving them for children/families to collect on the Sunday to use.
* One of the activities in the last section entitled “Jesus” suggests sending a Christmas card to a member of the congregation, friend or neighbour. The same suggestion about time would apply here.
* If your ministry is online, you could post or drop on the doorstep some resources for families to use.
* The videos for the stories highlighted are from the Jesus Storybook Bible and are widely available to purchase or online.

Information to help with guidelines for face to face children’s ministry can be found at [www.presbyterianireland.org/Blended](http://www.presbyterianireland.org/Blended)