

**Children’s Activity //** **Jesus**

**Animation**

Play the short animation that comes with this resource entitled “Jesus”.

**Introduction**

The most important person in the story of the first Christmas is Jesus.

The Messiah had been promised many years before in Genesis when Adam and Eve were

removed from the Garden of Eden. God’s people had been waiting for their rescuer for generations. They were expecting a warrior, a king who would overthrow the rulers who had persecuted them for hundreds of years. However, they didn’t get a warrior but they did get a king. He came in the form of a baby, born to a poor, unmarried girl and his crib was a manger.

Jesus’ home is in heaven. Yet he left his home to live with us for a time.

We are so glad he did. Because he came to us, we now know what God is truly like. No more guesswork!

*The Word became a man and lived among us. We saw his glory—the glory that belongs to the only Son of the Father. John 1:14*

**Bible story**

*The story can be done in different ways depending on preference and what you have available.*

Read from the Bible: John 1:9-14 (it would be good to use a translation like The International Children’s Bible as it has language that is easier for children to understand.)

Reading or video option: Jesus Storybook Bible “Get ready”. The videos are available to buy as part of the JSB curriculum or you could search online.

Additional option is to use a video or reading of Song of the Stars by Sally Lloyd Jones <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFbm0wS3rlg>

**Song suggestion**

Oh What a Glorious Night by the Sidewalk Prophets <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6aGLV5CfoTU&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR2QqRjguE3jpk7PW15nP2hCPM1Xy6j4Itn50nKI7GJCQWhMRbp_3Hvg21s>

**Activities**

Map - Take the map and look at the planets on it in our solar system.

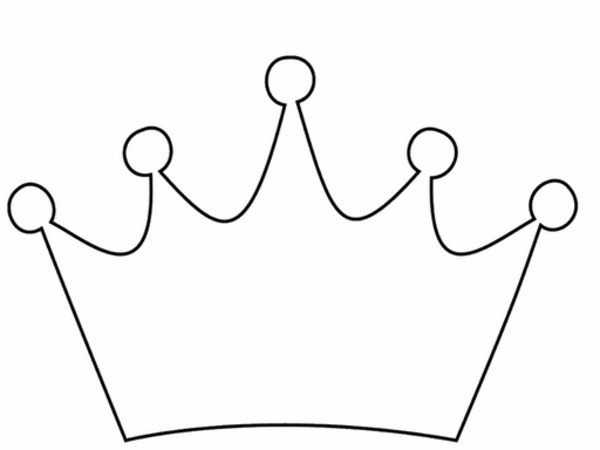
* Sun (which is a star)
* Mercury
* Venus
* Earth (our home)
* Mars
* Jupiter
* Saturn
* Uranus
* Neptune
* Pluto

Can you find earth Earth among all the planets? Put a dot on Earth (our home) to show Nazareth and the place of Jesus birth.

Now your map should be complete with all the journeys of those who were not at home.

Advent wreath

The last item to add to the wreath is a crown. Below is a picture that can be cut out, coloured and stuck on the wreath template that will complete each child/family’s Christmas wreath.



Christmas cards

Either give each child a bought Christmas card or invite them to make their own cards. Which option you choose may depend on your time limits. Give the children colouring pens and any craft materials that you think they may need to make their card.

Invite the children to write or draw a message in the card to tell someone that Jesus loved them so much that he left his home on the first Christmas and came to earth to be born as a baby. He did this to live on earth as one of us and then to die on the cross and rise again so that we could be friends with him.

Encourage the children to take the card and post it to someone who is not in their family, e.g. member of church family, a neighbour, a friend.

Remind them that we want to share the message of Christmas with everyone.