

Session 1 - 'Special News'



Collect or produce pictures of 'mummies with babies in their tummies' on acetate, card, or story board images. And also babies – photos, clipart or cartoons etc of babies (different race/ culture etc)

Provide baby doll(s) white, black etc

- Set the scene by describing Mary as a young lady and living long ago. She helped her family with cooking, cleaning etc
- Get children to act household tasks etc
- Explain she prayed and knew and trusted God.
- Tell the account of the angel coming to see Mary and giving her the special news
- Explain that because Mary trusted God she said yes to Him (Describe her feelings when she saw the angel, heard the news and said yes)
- Use puppets or other pictures to illustrate and ask questions to get children involved. Refer to any new babies in the group and remind the children they were all little babies once and all special.
- Tell the children that Mary was going to have a very special baby. This baby was going to be God's son.
- The angel said that Mary should call her Baby Jesus. She was very surprised but she loved God, and knew that what the angel said was true. Mary and Joseph were going to be married and they both said yes to God's special news.

Song

An Angel came to Mary
To Mary, to Mary
An angel came to Mary
And this is what he said.

You're going to have a baby
A baby, a baby
You're going to have a baby
He's coming very soon

You're going to call Him Jesus
Jesus, Jesus
You're going to call him Jesus
He's coming very soon



Session 2 – ‘A Baby on the way’



Get a story sack or bag/box of resources re things a baby needs – nappies, blankets etc

- Link back to last session Mary and Joseph to have a baby
- They were going to have to go on a long journey first. They wouldn't be able to take much and they and Mary's tummy would get bigger as they travelled to Bethlehem for everyone to be counted.
- They wouldn't be able to have all the things they would need for the baby and they didn't know where they were going to stay on their journey. But they knew God would look after them..
- Refer to Joseph and Mary getting ready, packing their bags etc
- Talk with children about where babies are born (hospital or at home)
- Explain that they would have to pack and get ready to go on a long journey.

What would they need?

- Show the items to encourage interaction

Sing:

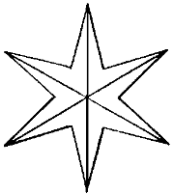
We're waiting for a baby ,
A baby, a baby
We're waiting for a baby
He's coming very soon

We're going to call him Jesus
Jesus, Jesus
We're going to call him Jesus
He's coming very soon

- Tell the children about starting the long journey and have puppets or cut out figures etc to show, Mary, Joseph and the Donkey setting off

You could sing Little Donkey to finish of (use coconut shells for clip clop sounds!)

Link forward to next session



Session 3 – ‘He’s arrived!’



- Link back with use of puppets, figures, story sack and pictures from previous session to the idea of preparing for a new baby.
- Referring to the children’s bible, remind children of Mary and Joseph travelling on the donkey to Bethlehem.

‘Here we are!’

- Tell how there was nowhere to stay except for a dusty old stable. None of the nice things that new babies usually have... no warm cot, just a manger, no warm blanket, just some old cloths. No toys or soap. There, Mary’s baby boy was born and they called him Jesus... just like the angel had told them to.
- **Sing:** ‘Away in a manger ‘
- Pass round baby doll wrapped up for children to kiss or cuddle. Then put in old box for a manger.

Animals in the stable kept it warm and it was dark outside but the stars were shining and there were angels singing in the sky!
You could switch on some white fairy lights for stars at this point.

- **Sing:**

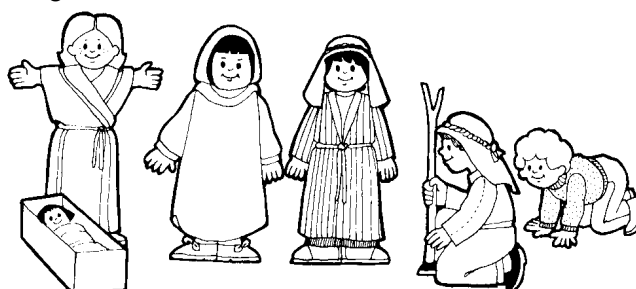
Other songs or add the visitors at this point (shepherds and kings) or leave until next session

Angels appearing to Shepherds etc

Could light a candle for saying a prayer

Twinkle Twinkle star so bright
Twinkle Twinkle in the night
Up above the world so high
Wise men saw you in the sky
Twinkle Twinkle star so bright
Twinkle Twinkle in the night

Twinkle Twinkle star so bright
Twinkle Twinkle in the night
God sent you to show the way
To the place where Jesus lay
Twinkle Twinkle star so bright
Twinkle Twinkle in the night



Session 4 - 'Presents for the baby'



- Develop the story now by referring to the children's bible.
- Link back to last session to remind children
- Say that lots of babies and their families get visitors and presents when they are born... people come to see them and say hello for the first time.
- Ask children: Who came to visit them?
Sometimes these visitors bring a present. What did they have?
- Now refer to angels in sky and telling shepherds about Jesus. They went to see the special baby in the stable. They didn't have very much but they brought a lamb.
- They knew the baby Jesus was a special baby.
- Use pictures, puppets etc to illustrate.
- Then talk about the kings.
- Use a different 'story sack' with crowns and gifts inside. Have a Christmas star on a stick and hold it up high for singing and showing how the star led them to Jesus.
- Say that they gave special presents to Jesus.
- Finish by saying that God has given Jesus to us for our special friend. God loves us very much and that's why Jesus was born.
- **Sing:** 'Little Jesus, sweetly sleep...we will rock you..'
- Prayer option maybe lighting a candle etc

