

Interactive story

Session Twelve – The Shepherds & Jesus' Birth

Bold text – Narrator

(Bracketed Italics) – everyone to join in

This interactive story works best with big groups. Start by teaching the group the interactive bits in brackets. When you get to them in the script, repeat them 2 to 3 times.

Have fun and be creative; you may wish to teach some volunteers ahead of time to help you tell the story. It's up to you. You're in charge!

It was an ordinary house.

(Everyone look around and nod and say, "Nothing special, but it'll do.")

The angel Gabriel appeared to a young woman called Mary.

"Don't be frightened," he told her. "I bring you God's good news. You will have a child. And you will call him Jesus."

Mary was confused. And she told the angel so.

"But I have no husband," she said.

"God's own Spirit will overshadow you," the angel replied. "And the child will be God's own son."

"I will do it," Mary agreed. "Whatever God wants me to do."

And so, quick as he'd come, the angel disappeared.

It was a sleepless night.

(Everyone rub your eyes and stretch and yawn)

Mary was engaged to be married to Joseph. But when she told him about the angel's visit, and why she was having a baby, he did not believe her.



So the angel visited Joseph in a dream.

“What Mary told you is true,” the angel said. “The child growing in her is God’s own son. So don’t be afraid to marry her. And, when the child is born, call him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

So Joseph married Mary, and waited for the baby to be born.

It was a dusty road.

(Everyone cough)

Mary and Joseph were on their way south, several days journey from where they lived, in Nazareth.

They were on their way because the Roman emperor who ruled their land wanted to count everyone who lived in the land of Israel.

They were on their way because everyone had to return to their hometown, and Joseph’s hometown was Bethlehem.

It was a little town.

(Everyone sing, “O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.”)

Bethlehem, that is – not far from Jerusalem, the capital.

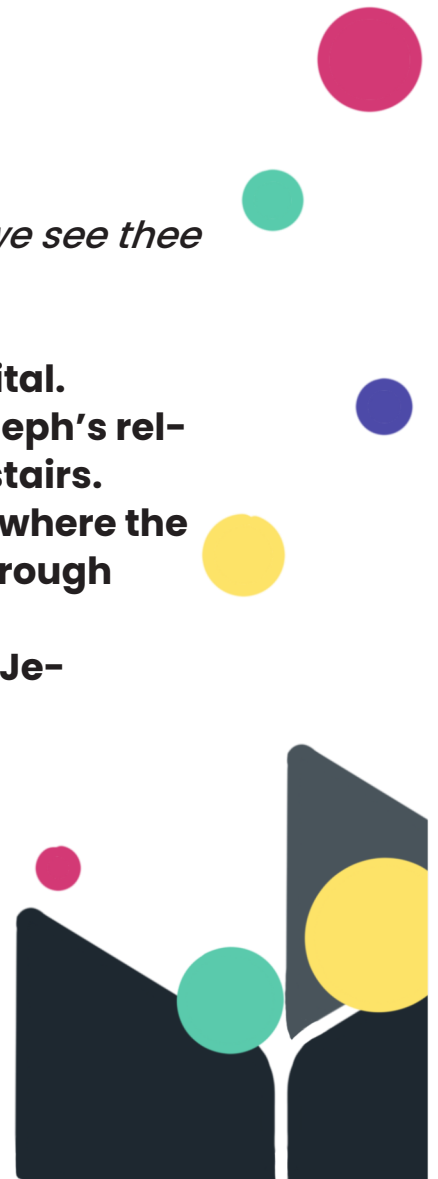
Mary and Joseph were meant to stay with one of Joseph’s relatives, but there was no room in the guest room, upstairs.

So Mary and Joseph stayed in the downstairs room, where the animals were kept for the night. A room with a feed trough and place for the animals to rest.

And that is where Mary gave birth to God’s own son, Jesus.

It was a lonely hillside.

(Everyone howl like a wolf)



Shepherds were watching their sheep, at night, near Bethlehem. Suddenly, an angel appeared to them, as well. Bright and shiny and terrifying.

“Don’t be frightened,” the angel said. “I bring you God’s good news. He has promised, for years, to send you a special Saviour. And tonight that Saviour was born – right here, in Bethlehem. Go. Look. And you will find him lying in a feed trough.

Then a great crowd of angels joined the first one.

“God is amazing!” They shouted. “And peace is his gift to all people.” And as suddenly as they had appeared, the angels went.

So the shepherds went, too. Off to Bethlehem. And they looked. And they found the child in a feed trough. And when they had told Mary and Joseph about the angels, they spread their good news throughout the town. And everyone who heard it was amazed, as well.

