

Quiet Hope



Bible verses:
Luke 1:5-20



Aim:
To understand that praying comes with waiting, but we can wait with hope



Today's fruit:
Patience



Memory verse

'The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Saviour was born in David's town. He is Christ, the Lord."'

(Luke 2:10-11 /CB)

picture that matches what you're saying, and build a story board / comic strip.



Sing it

'It was on a Starry Night' (with Makaton)
by SingingHandsUK (2:34)

'Away in a Manger' (with Makaton) by SingingHandsUK (2:24)



Start it

Give each person a jelly baby* sweet, but say that you aren't eating them now – everyone will have to wait. You can then ask them about their week or general questions (to create the wait!). Eventually tell them they can eat the sweet. Ask if they enjoyed waiting. Why? Why not? Explain that today's Bible story is all about someone who had to wait a long time.



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- **Make:** Create some clocks together, using card (or paper plates) and split pins. Encourage the children to include the words 'God is with me when I wait' into their design.
- **Play:** If possible provide lots of different things that help us wait, eg digital egg timers / sand game timers / stopwatch / clocks. Allow the children to play with them. They could use them to play fun little games such as: stopping the stopwatch as close to 10 seconds as you can, or how long everyone can sing one long note in one breath.



Share it

Go to freebibleimages.org to the 'Two miraculous babies' page. Download and print the pictures and story planner (you'll use them over the coming weeks) or have the images available to show on a screen. Share pictures 9-15, and as you say the story out loud, ask the children to select the

- **Pray:** Practise waiting for God together. Say that you're all going to make yourselves comfortable by sitting / laying down / closing eyes, and together you are going to practise waiting quietly for God. This means being calm and quiet and giving God space to talk to us, or give us a feeling or an idea, or a picture in our heads. We practise together because it can sometimes feel like a difficult thing to do

on our own. (Top tips: Don't worry about achieving silence or stillness, but give gentle whispered reminders. You know your group best, but be aware of time – it's good to try together, but not for too long! You could use an egg timer.)

**Please ensure you have appropriate permissions to give children a sweet, and are aware of any dietary needs.*

Hope for Better



Bible verses:

Luke 1:26-38, 57-64



Aim:

To know that trusting God might mean doing things differently



Today's fruit:

Peace



Memory verse

'The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Saviour was born in David's town. He is Christ, the Lord."'

(Luke 2:10-11 /CB)



Share it

Use the pictures from freebibleimages.org – 'Two miraculous babies' story. Select pictures 1-8, and as you say the story out loud, ask the children to select the picture that matches what you're saying, and build a story board / comic strip.



Start it

Ask the children to find a space and listen carefully to the instructions you will give them. Give a series of simple instructions, changing them just as the children begin to follow them, eg 'Find a partner ... actually, stay where you are'; 'Sit on the floor ... no, stand back up'; or 'Walk to one corner of the room ... stop! Go to a different corner instead'.

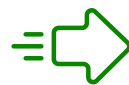
Ask them how it felt when the instructions kept changing. Today is all about a person called Mary, who trusted God when something surprising happened.



Sing it

'It was on a Starry Night' (with Makaton)
by SingingHandsUK (2:34)

'Away in a Manger' (with Makaton) by
SingingHandsUK (2:24)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- **Make:** Decorate some biscuits. Start with plain biscuits, and ask 'What would make this better?' After you've had some answers, allow the children to decorate their biscuits using icing sugar and sprinkles etc.

- **Play:** Play a trust game – using a blindfold, lead the children around the room by the hand or with your voice. Talk about how they have to trust when they can't see you or where they are going.
- **Pray:** Sing the first verse of 'Away in a Manger' together. Before you start, say that you'll be singing to God as your prayer. As we sing, we can use our imaginations to think about baby Jesus, and be thankful to God for him.
- **Try:** See if you can learn the Makaton signs from one of our songs earlier. Maybe there will be opportunity to share it with others in a carol service or similar.

Moving Hope



Bible verses:

Luke 2:1-7;
Matthew 1:18-25



Aim:

To learn how the Holy Spirit was
crucial to the Christmas story



Today's fruit:

Love



Memory verse

'The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Saviour was born in David's town. He is Christ, the Lord."

(Luke 2:10-11 /CB)



Start it

Guess Who! Say that you're going to give some clues about the people we heard about last week, and the group have to try and guess who you're talking about, eg 'This person had to wait a long time, they wanted a child, they couldn't speak for a long time ...' etc.



Share it

Using the images and story planner from **freebibleimages.org** – 'An angel visits Joseph' – select pictures 1-7 and as you say the story out loud, ask the children to select the picture that matches what you're saying, and build a story board / comic strip.



Sing it

'It was on a Starry Night' (with Makaton)
by SingingHandsUK (2:34)

'Away in a Manger' (with Makaton) by
SingingHandsUK (2:24)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- **Make:** A Nativity set. Give everyone something similar (like a cardboard tube / lollipop sticks / a smooth stone) and choose which Nativity character they are going to make. For inspiration look here: share.google/u7FqYZi8G5G1QEC6x
- **Create:** Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Angel Gabriel and some stable animals.
- **Play:** Provide some items for the children to dress up in, eg tea towel headdress, wrapped-up doll Jesus, shawls, shepherds' crooks etc. See if they can re-tell the story.

- **Pray:** Sit together in a circle. Thank the Holy Spirit for all the amazing things that happened to make the birth of Jesus so wonderful. Thank the Holy Spirit for working and bringing people together. Thank the Holy Spirit for bringing you all together.
- **Try:** Have some sensory items available such as straw, wood, linen cloth etc. Talk about where each thing appears in the Nativity story and talk together about them, eg 'I wonder if this straw would be comfortable to sleep on?'

Hope is Real



Bible verses:
 Luke 2:8-20



Aim:
 As the shepherds go into Bethlehem, they find a hope that is real, trustworthy and for everyone



Today's fruit:
 Joy



Memory verse

'The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Saviour was born in David's town. He is Christ, the Lord."'

(Luke 2:10-11 ICB)



Start it

What makes you feel full of happiness? Allow some time for the children to think of an answer, and see if they can come up with an action to go with it: eg 'dancing fills me with happiness' then all dance on the spot. Invite them each to share their ideas and actions.



Share it

Go to freebibleimages.org – 'Jesus is born – Christmas diorama'. Download and print the pictures and story planner or have the images available to show on a screen. Select pictures 1-10, and as you say the story out loud, ask the children to select the picture that matches what you're saying, and build a story board / comic strip.



Sing it

'It was on a Starry Night' (with Makaton)
 by SingingHandsUK (2:34)

'Away in a Manger' (with Makaton) by SingingHandsUK (2:24)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- **Make:** Continue creating your Nativity set from last week, using the same materials, but this time create: shepherds and sheep
- **Play:** Play a game of pass the parcel or some other party games. Talk about the wonderful gift of Jesus, and that we can enjoy celebrating him together.
- **Pray:** Using your (or another) Nativity set, place it in the middle of the circle. Ask the children to spend a minute looking at all the people in the story, and what they did. Then say a prayer: Thank you, God, for all these people who trusted you. Thank you, God, for the perfect gift of Jesus. Amen.
- **Try:** Using the Nativity set, sit in a circle together and ask the group to look at the people from the story. Ask if they have a favourite character, and then ask them why.