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# JUMP In!

Leaping into Faith with Little Ones

## A CHRISTMAS COUNTDOWN

A three-session Christmas series for use  
with pre-school children

### SUGGESTED RESOURCES

- 'A Countdown to Christmas' – Action Rhyme
- *The Play-Along Bible*, Bob Hartman
- Percussion instruments

# A Christmas Countdown

SESSION ONE: 10, 9, 8



## BIBLE STORY

Luke 2:1-7

This series is to accompany the teaching of an action rhyme called 'A Christmas Countdown' which can support the telling of the story of the first Christmas.

See separate sheet for the action rhyme and start to teach the rhyme and actions.

Focus on the numbers 10, 9 and 8.

*The Play-Along Bible*  
Away in a Manger, p52



## SONG SUGGESTIONS

1. Learn and teach the '[Counting down to Christmas](#)' theme song (see lyric sheet)
2. 'Away in a manger'
3. 'It was on a starry night'
4. 'Calypso carol'

## CRAFT IDEAS

Over the next three sessions, make a Christmas Countdown that supports the teaching of the action rhyme.

Using the card templates, get the children to colour/decorate numbers 10, 9 and 8. You can stick these on lolly sticks so they can be held up easily.

You could also make a large collage for display that shows the Christmas Countdown and could be used as a backdrop for saying the rhyme together in a Christmas service.

For more ideas, check our Pinterest boards:

- [Christmas Countdown](#)
- [Christmas Crafts](#)



## PRAYER

Get everyone to shout together, 'Advent is here!'

Advent is here – we are counting down the days until Christmas!

Advent is here – we are waiting to celebrate the birth of Baby Jesus!

Advent is here – Thank you, God, for this very special time of year!

Amen.



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# COUNTING DOWN TO CHRISTMAS

## THEME SONG LYRICS



Tick-tock  
Tick-tock  
Tick-tock, tick-tock  
Tick-tock, tick-tock

We're counting down to Christmas  
Advent time is here  
We're counting down to Christmas  
A special time of year  
We're counting down to Christmas  
There's lots to see and do  
We're counting down to Christmas  
It's fun for me and you

10, 9, 8,  
7, 6, 5,  
4, 3, 2 and 1  
Counting down to Christmas,  
Come on everyone!

Baby Jesus born today the Saviour of the  
world  
Let's clap and shout and sing out loud that  
Jesus is the Lord.

Tick-tock  
Tick-tock  
Tick-tock, tick-tock  
Tick-tock, tick-tock

We're counting down to Christmas  
There's presents round the tree  
We're counting down to Christmas  
With friends and family  
We're counting down to Christmas  
Sing carols old and new  
We're counting down to Christmas  
God's love forever true.

10, 9, 8,  
7, 6, 5,  
4, 3, 2 and 1  
Counting down to Christmas,  
Come on everyone!

Baby Jesus born today the Saviour of the  
world  
Let's clap and shout and sing out loud that  
Jesus is the Lord.



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# A Christmas Countdown

## ACTION RHYME

### RHYME LINE

Ten angels shining bright  
Fill the sky with heavenly light  
Nine people rushing round  
'Til a place to sleep is found  
Eight sheep on a hill  
Munching grass while all is still  
Seven camels form a chain  
Travel far through dust and rain  
Six stars way up high  
See them sparkle in the sky  
Five beds at the inn  
There's no room – you can't come in  
Four shepherds hear the news  
Run to see – no time to lose  
Three gifts rare and old  
Myrrh and frankincense and gold  
Two parents full of joy  
Cradling their little boy  
One baby – God's own son  
Born today for everyone!

### ACTION

Hold up ten fingers  
Wiggle fingers to represent sparkling light  
Hold up nine fingers and wiggle  
Sleeping hands by head and close eyes  
Hold up eight fingers  
Rub tummy – say 'Baaa...'  
Hold up seven fingers  
Walk on the spot and fingers rain down  
Hold up six fingers  
Twinkle, twinkle hands  
Hold up five fingers  
Wag finger and shake head  
Hold up four fingers – cup ear  
Hand over eyes and run on the spot  
Hold up three fingers  
Count up 1, 2, 3  
Hold up two fingers  
Rock the baby  
Hold up one finger  
Draw large circle in air with both hands to represent world

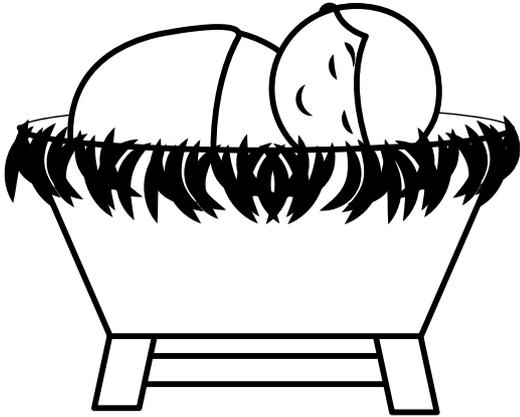


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1

One baby – God’s own son,  
born today for everyone!

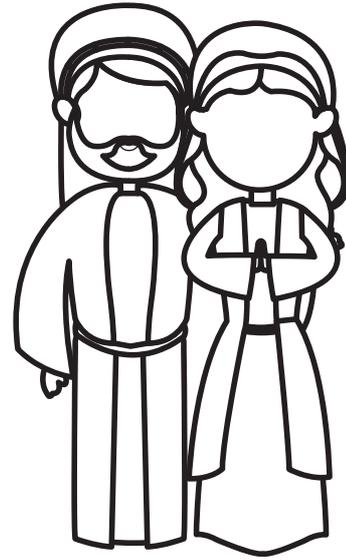


For God loved the world so much that he gave his  
only Son. God gave his Son so that whoever believes  
in him may not be lost, but have eternal life.

John 3:16 ICB

2

Two parents full of joy cradling their baby boy

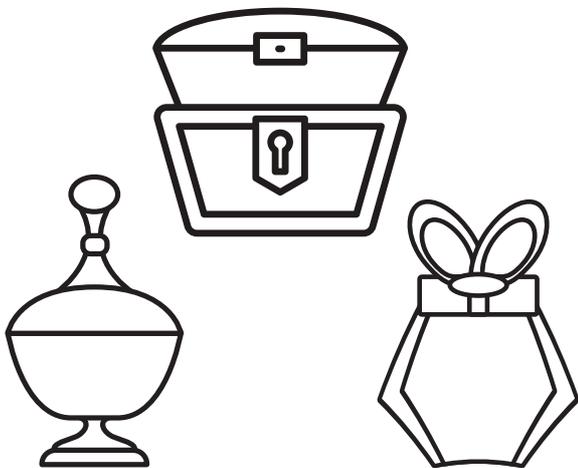


While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem,  
the time came for her to have the baby. She gave  
birth to her first son.

Luke 2:6,7 ICB

3

Three gifts rare and old – myrrh, frankincense  
and gold



They opened the gifts they brought for him. They  
gave him treasures of gold, frankincense,  
and myrrh.

Matthew 2:11 ICB

4

Four shepherds hear the news – run to see, no  
time to lose

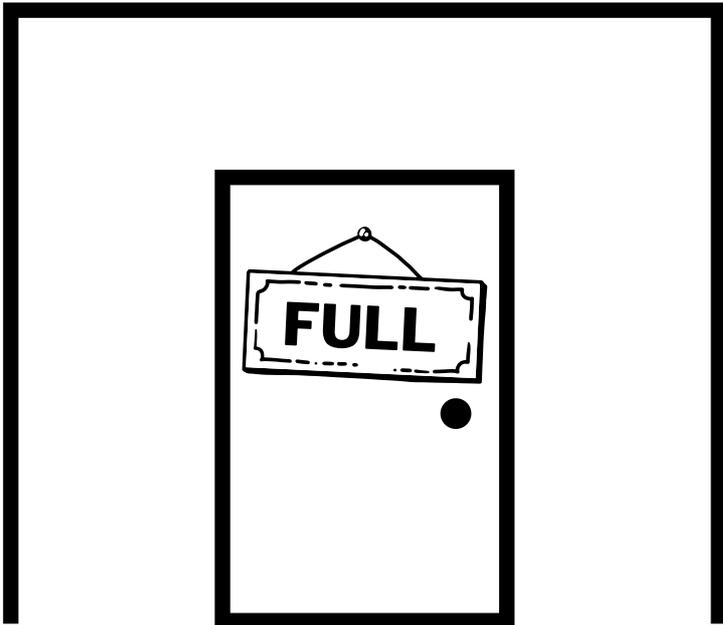


The angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, because I  
am bringing you some good news.”

Luke 2:10 ICB

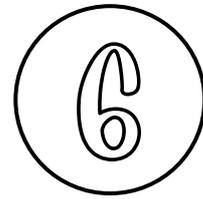


Five beds at the inn, there's no room  
- you can't come in



There were no rooms left in the inn.

Luke 2:7 ICB



Six stars way up high - see them sparkle  
in the sky

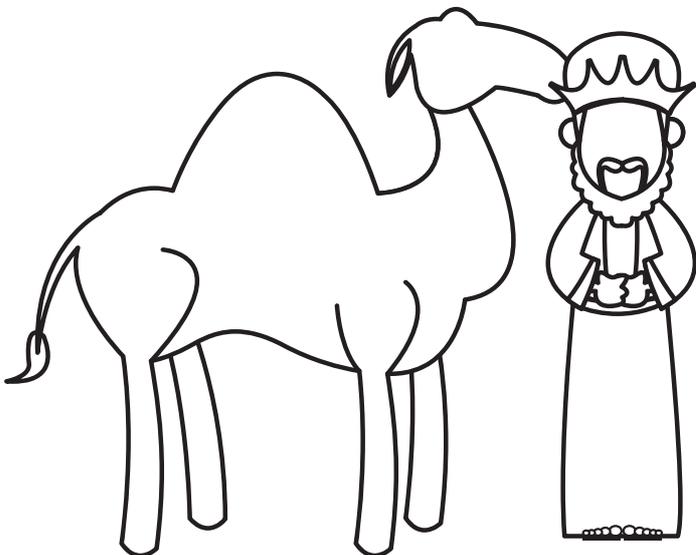


When the wise men saw the star, they were filled  
with joy.

Matthew 2:10 ICB

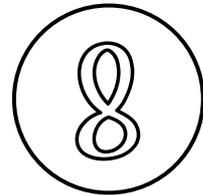


Seven camels form a chain, travel far through  
wind and rain

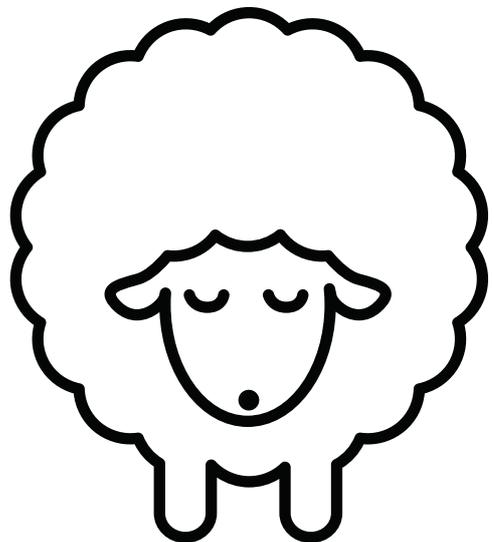


After Jesus was born, some wise men from the east  
came to Jerusalem.

Matthew 2:1 ICB



Eight sheep on a hill munching grass while all is  
still



That night, some shepherds were in the fields  
nearly watching their sheep.

Luke 2:8 ICB

9

**Nine people rushing round 'til a place  
to sleep is found**



**And everyone went to their own towns to be  
registered.**

**Luke 2:3 ICB**

10

**Ten angels shining bright fill the sky with  
heavenly light**



**All the angels were praising God, saying: 'Give glory  
to God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace to  
the people who please God.'**

**Luke 2:13-14 ICB**

# A Christmas Countdown

SESSION TWO: 7, 6, 5



## BIBLE STORY

Luke 2:8-20

Continue teaching the 'Christmas Countdown' rhyme and actions.

Focus on the numbers 7, 6, and 5.

### *The Play-Along Bible*

The Saviour has been born, p55



## SONG SUGGESTIONS

1. [Theme Song](#)  
'[Counting down to Christmas](#)' (see previous session)
2. *Tune: 'Jingle Bells'*  
Christmas time, Christmas time, Christmas time is near,  
Bang the drums and shake the bells and clap and give a cheer!  
Christmas time, Christmas time, Christmas time is near,  
We're so glad that Jesus came for everybody here!
3. 'Away in a manger'
4. 'It was on a starry night'
5. 'Calypso carol'

## CRAFT IDEAS

If you are making the Christmas Countdown collage or cards, continue doing this with numbers 7, 6 and 5.

For more ideas, check our Pinterest boards:

- [Christmas Countdown](#)
- [Christmas Crafts](#)



## PRAYER

Prayer song  
(*Tune: 'Twinkle, twinkle little star'*)

Twinkle, twinkle, star so bright,  
Sparkles in the darkest night.  
Baby Jesus born this day,  
Lying in a bed of hay.  
We will rock you as we sing,  
Thank you, Jesus, Baby King!



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# A Christmas Countdown

SESSION TWO: 4, 3, 2, 1



## BIBLE STORY

Matthew 2:1-12

Say together the 'Christmas Countdown' rhyme and actions.

Focus on the numbers 4, 3, 2, and 1.

### *The Play-Along Bible*

New Star, New King, p56



## SONG SUGGESTIONS

1. [Theme Song](#)  
'[Counting down to Christmas](#)' (see previous sessions)
2. *Tune: 'Jingle Bells'*  
Christmas time, Christmas time, Christmas time is near,  
Bang the drums and shake the bells and clap and give a cheer!  
Christmas time, Christmas time, Christmas time is near,  
We're so glad that Jesus came for everybody here!
3. 'Away in a manger'
4. 'It was on a starry night'
5. 'Calypso carol'

## CRAFT IDEAS

Finish making the 'Christmas Countdown collage or cards, with numbers 4, 3, 2 and 1.

For more ideas, check our Pinterest boards:

- [Christmas Countdown](#)
- [Christmas Crafts](#)

## PRAYER

Encourage everyone to join in saying 'Thank You.'

The wise men travelled very far when they followed your bright shining star. They said, 'Thank you.'  
They brought lovely gifts to Jesus – gold, frankincense and myrrh. Mary said, 'Thank you.'  
You sent Jesus to be our special friend. He is the greatest Christmas gift of all. We say, 'Thank you.'  
Amen.



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