

# Explore It

## FOR LEADERS



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### SPECIAL VISITORS

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#### Luke 2:8-20 Some shepherds hear about Jesus

Today's session is a celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. As well as exploring the story of the special visitors invited to meet Jesus, there will be an opportunity for the children to get into the party spirit. You may want to turn the whole session into a Christmas celebration. We are all invited to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Each child will need:

→ Pens/pencils and paper

You will need:

→ Party decorations, party food, resources for party games (optional) – see Action It section

## Start It

● **Say:** Imagine you were asked to organise a special Christmas celebration.

Questions are provided below, but the main aim of the activity is to get the children to imagine the Christmas celebration they would create if they had the chance.

### Discuss:

→ Who would you invite?

→ What would the party invitations look like?

→ Where would it be?

→ What would you eat?

→ What kind of event would it be?

→ Celebrity parties often have a VIP section for very important guests. If your celebration had one of these, then who would you allow in there?

● **Say:** Christmas is a time of celebration, and this was exactly the same on the very first Christmas. Later we'll find out who got the first invitation to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

## Sing It

● **Say:** You'll probably know our song for this week, so sing along as we join the celebration!

'Come and join the celebration' by Scampton church (1 min 53 secs)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMqG5M76tFE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMqG5M76tFE)

## Tell It

**Ask:** In our last session we looked at the meaning of the name Immanuel. What did it mean?

● **Say:** The message 'God with us' carries on into the next part of our story. God sent Jesus for everyone, not just the very important people in this world. He showed his love for everyone by inviting some very special people to meet Jesus.

## Video

*The story of Christmas (Jesus and the shepherds)* by Saddleback Kids (2 mins 25 secs)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJIC57EvYFo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJIC57EvYFo)

**Ask:** Who were the first special visitors who came to see Jesus?

🗨 **Say:** You may have thought that the birth of such a special baby boy would have brought the VIPs in the area to visit. But instead, the angels called on the shepherds to visit Jesus.

**Ask:**

- ➔ It says in the Bible that the angels sang to the shepherds. If you were in charge of the angel choir, then what song would you ask them to sing to the shepherds?
- ➔ Can you think of a well-known Christmas carol that is all about the angels singing to the shepherds?

## Video

🗨 **Say:** As we get ready to celebrate together, we can dance and sing along to the song 'Hark! the herald angels sing'.

You can use this music to transition the children to the celebration part of the session.

'Hark! the herald (Sing out loud)' by The Spirituals Choir (5 mins 55 secs)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmtKIOB-0-I](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmtKIOB-0-I)

## Action It

Spend time as a group celebrating the birth of Jesus. Here are some ideas:

- ➔ Do a Christmas Praise Dance Party!  
*Dance party – Christmas themed* by TGIF Dance Party (9 mins 40 secs)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXOg3UDX9C4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jXOg3UDX9C4)
- ➔ Play some Christmas games. (Game number four, Nighty Night Sheep, fits with today's theme.)  
[www.biblegamescentral.com/the-story-of-christmas-minute-to-win-it-games](http://www.biblegamescentral.com/the-story-of-christmas-minute-to-win-it-games)
- ➔ Make some sheep cupcakes. You can bake from scratch or use plain shop-bought ones to decorate and to eat at the party. You may wish to add a bit of Christmas cheer to the decorations.  
[www.preppykitchen.com/sheep-cupcakes](http://www.preppykitchen.com/sheep-cupcakes)

## Video

To bring the time of celebration to a close, and to prepare the children for the prayer time, watch the clip that reminds us that God chose the humble shepherds to meet Jesus.

'He chose the shepherds' by Friends and Heroes (3 mins 25 secs)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=McaMIYMXOyE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=McaMIYMXOyE)

## Pray It

- 🗨 **Say:** At the end of the clip we saw Jesus as a grown man meeting the disciples after his resurrection. Jesus may have come to us as a baby boy, but he grew to be a man who showed his love to all people. God chose the shepherds as the first people to meet Jesus in order to show us that God's love is for everyone.
- 🗨 **Say:** To bring our time of celebration to a close, we are going to share our memory verse together. With big loud voices we are going to celebrate the special gift of Jesus.

**'For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'**  
— (Isaiah 9:6 *NIV*)

## *Explore It*

Remember to send home the *Explore It Ideas* for children and families.

# Explore It

## IDEAS

Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.

ADVENT  
SESSION 04

### SPECIAL VISITORS

 Luke 2:8-20 Some shepherds hear about Jesus

## FOR ME

## TOGETHER



### Sing

Listen to this song all about the Christmas Story and see if you can either learn the words or make up some actions to go along with the song.

*The very first Christmas* by LifeKids

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=9p6XEj9ITNk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9p6XEj9ITNk)



### Rest

Christmas is often a very busy time where there are lots of distractions. It is important that during this time of celebration we take a moment to be with God and thank him for the gift of Jesus. Take some time over the Christmas season to listen to the song based around your memory verse and thank God for the gift of Jesus.

'Isaiah 9:6-7' (Lyric Video) by The Corner Room  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iniM-81Rfg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iniM-81Rfg)



### Song for the week

'Come and join the celebration' by Scampton church

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMqG5M76tFE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pMqG5M76tFE)



### Memory verse

**'For to us a child is born,  
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and the government will be on his shoulders.  
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Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
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— (Isaiah 9:6 NIV)

### KIDS ALIVE! ONLINE

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/kidsalive>

*Kids Alive!* The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!

