

Love is a gift


Bible verses:

Luke 1:57-66; 2:1-7;
Matthew 1:18-25


Aim:

To celebrate the birth of Jesus
as the gift of God's love and
the sign that God is with us


Today's fruit:

Peace

Resource: *The Birth of Jesus*



Memory verse

**'God will give us a son who will be
responsible for leading the people.
His name will be
Wonderful Counsellor,
Powerful God,
Father Who Lives Forever,
Prince of Peace.'**

(Isaiah 9:6 ERV)



Start it

Bring a sharing snack, like a packet of biscuits, wrapped up in a box. (Please be aware of allergies.) Show the group the wrapped gift and ask them, 'What is the best gift this could be?'

Explain that today we are going to be thinking about a very special gift that we celebrate at Christmas – the gift of Jesus. Open the gift together and share the treat.



Share it

Use *The Birth of Jesus* handout. Cut out the characters and place them in the middle of the circle as you read the story, stopping to add in characters or ask questions.

I wonder:

- How might Joseph have felt when he learnt that the person he was going to marry was going to have a baby who would be the son of God?
- What do you think it was like to travel all the way to Bethlehem?
- Why did Mary put the baby in an animals' food box?



Sing It

'Isaiah 9:6' (memory verse song) by Quest NC (1:15)

'There are promises' (official kids worship music video) by YancynotNancy (2:08)

'God gave me Jesus' (pre-school worship song) by KidSpring Children's Ministry (1:54)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- **Make:** Colour and stick the characters from *The Virgin Mary* handout on to the third page of the Advent timeline.
- **Play:** If you have a Nativity set, allow the children to play with it and re-enact the story. Alternatively make your own by cutting out Bible characters from the handouts and Blu-tack them on to some wooden blocks.
- **Pray:** Pray some Peace Prayers. Using a picture of the world or a globe, place it in the centre of the circle. Ask the children if they know the names of any countries. Talk about the memory verse. It says Jesus is the Prince of Peace. We know lots of places in the world that need the peace of Jesus. Pray together for peace in our world.
- **Try:** Have a little celebration together. This could include party decorations, games and maybe food. Talk together about why we celebrate the birth of Jesus.