

DO

This week we are thinking about the excitement of the angels as they prepared to share the good news of the birth of Jesus. Just like the angels, we have a message of good news to share. And there are plenty of people to share it with and countless ways to pass the message on. Could you send it? Maybe you could make a poster for your window. What good news could you share this advent time? And how could you even send one as secret message? You could even try writing with lemon juice, for example, or using a special pen with invisible ink? Or decorate a stone and leave it somewhere so that people can see it.



Come and see – with the angels



We were never expecting that!
Years of anticipation and NOW –
Mary, Joseph ...
The Countdown has begun.

Something has begun.
Finally it is happening.
All of heaven is falling into place.
We have been keeping God's wonderful plan a secret.

Something's coming, quiet anymore.
All of us are going to have a part to play and we have been rehearsing for ages.
It's going to be the biggest thing to happen since the world was born.

It's going to change the world forever.
It will start small, almost unnoticed, but it will grow and Something's coming, something's coming!

First, we need the main players in place
and ready:
One of us is sent to a small village to a young girl.

Her name is Mary, and she doesn't know it yet, but she is going to be the one who will birth the change that coming.
We need to go tell her,
"Mary, be ready. It's you and something coming."



EXPLORE
<https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-stories/angels/>
An unexpected visit from the David Doug Hotel
He's Here! From the David Doug Hotel
<https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-stories/angels/>

Songs
<https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-stories/angels/>
No ordinary Baby By Marynards Gravv Bible tunes
I'm an Angel - ooh! By Marynards Gravv Bible tunes
https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-stories/angels/

PRAY
God loves to hear our prayers and loves to speak to us too. We might not always see angels, but we can listen out for God's message. We can look out for glimpses of God. God loves to hear our prayers and loves to speak to us too. We can listen out for God's message. We can look out for glimpses of God. When we use the yogurt pot telephone we have to take it in turns, speaking and listening for the message or the angels. These two ears are always busy God. I hear people talking, people whooshing, doors slamming and music playing. Help me to hear what you are saying to me. Help me to be quiet and listening. I want to listen for the message or the angels. But hearing is not listening, I want to listen for the message or the angels. I hear dogs barking and babies crying, cars whizzing and planes whooshing, while you listen. TV, sizzling, sizzling, ying in different places – which help you tune in to God? And we can look out for glimpsees of God. Make a yogurt pot telephone to help you listen to take it in turns, speaking and listening for the message or the angels. When we use the yogurt pot telephone we have to take it in turns, speaking and listening for the message or the angels. There's like a candle or do some colouring and maybe it helps you to listen to take it in turns, speaking and listening for the message or the angels. When we use the yogurt pot telephone we have to take it in turns, speaking and listening for the message or the angels. We might not always see angels, but we can listen out for God's message. We can look out for glimpses of God. God loves to hear our prayers and loves to speak to us too. We can listen out for God's message. We can look out for glimpses of God. When we use the yogurt pot telephone we have to take it in turns, speaking and listening for the message or the angels. These two ears are always busy God. I hear people talking, people whooshing, doors slamming and music playing. Help me to hear what you are off Ready, set, go – we are off Come and see what happens next.



THINK

Advent is a time of preparation for Christmas. It's also a time to prepare our hearts and minds. The angels carried God's message to Mary and Joseph. How do you do this? Mary hid all these things in her heart, Joseph changed his plans and took action that society would have frowned upon. What do you think God is saying to the world today and how do we respond?

PRAY

*Come and see
- but don't open until 1st December*

*Come and see
- but don't open until 1st December*

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The wise men watched the sky and looked at charts knowing that something great was going to happen. They had hope and looked at the stars for clues. A star appeared and led them all the way to find the baby Jesus. Who can you leave clues for about the special birthday? Who do you celebrate? Who might need to hear some good news? Who do you leave clues for about the baby Jesus? Using the template (inside front cover of book) cut out some stars from strong card. Decorate them and attach some string or ribbon. Write a message, or the word a hope, or perhaps make a countdown to how many days until we celebrate Jesus' birth. Hang a star on the door handle for someone to find, post a star through their letter box or perhaps leave a star for someone to find with the message of hope. How many stars can you share?



Come and see – with the wise men

How to play The Wise Men's Journey

Experience the story of the wise men travelling, following the star to where they will find Jesus.

Preparation – You need two or more players and the board on the back of the book.

Make the pyramid dice and cut out enough present-shaped counters for each player (inside front cover of book). The aim of the game is to find the baby Jesus and present your gifts.



How to play

Every player must choose their game piece (one of the presents).

Matthew 2:1-12 in the Bible

Begin by reading the story – see Week 2 in the book (or follow the instructions along the way. When you roll the dice, use the number on the side that lands face down. You need to roll a 3 to begin and put your present piece on the star. Then you can move forward from your next turn – roll the dice and move forward the number of places shown on the side facing down. Follow the instructions on the board as you go. If you land on a question square, you can choose to answer a question. If you get it correct you can double your next roll. If you get help from your team you only move one



with the wise men

space forward for the correct answer. If you get the question wrong, you miss a turn. When you reach the square before the stable, you must wait for your team mates to join you – the wise men arrived together.

Question Squares

(Answers at the bottom of 'Come and See More' at the back of the book)

- What 3 gifts did the wise men give to Jesus?
- Who did Herod feel about the new king?
- How did the wise men go to visit when they were looking for the new king?
- Can you sing a song about the news of a new king?
- What sign had the wise men seen, that told them a new king had been born?
- Can you sing a song about a star?
- Where were the wise men travelling to?
- What question did the wise men ask?
- Can you sing a song about the baby Jesus?
- What two things did the wise men find Jesus?
- found the child Jesus?
- Why did the wise men not return to Herod after seeing Jesus?
- Name 3 things they might have seen on their journey.



ExplorE

[Story Links](https://bit.ly/3ScVZTM)

Wise men read the wise men animation by Saddleback Kids
[Songs](https://bit.ly/3yWmIw)
Christmas is coming by Jason Gray
Jesus and the wise men by David Suchet
[Storybook Bible Read by Jesus](https://bit.ly/3SFN1L)

THINK

Where are the clues around you that are signs of God in the world? Talk to each other about times when looking back you can see how God was leading you. What would you take to give to Jesus? Looking forward, what are your hopes? Looking the signs and clues in today's story from the prophet Micah. You might like to explore. One is found in today's story from the prophet Micah.



PLAY

Look at the puzzle piece who are feeling lost or lonely. Thank God to help you see the picture of the person for your life. Decorate the puzzle piece that reach out and help others. Picture of where they have the full map or temple (centre of book) to make a puzzle to hold. The wise men did not have the full map or picture of where they have the full map or temple (centre of book) to make a puzzle to hold. Pray for the people who are feeling lost or lonely. Look at the puzzle piece who are feeling lost or lonely. Ask God to be with people who are feeling lost or lonely. Help us to notice and care for others. Help us to think about the baby, who journey with others. Help us to give praise to you. Help us to continue their journey. Help us to share your love with others. Help us to give thanks to you. Help us to worship the people who travelled, their journey. Think of your family and friends and ask God to bless them. Ask God to be with people who are feeling lost or lonely. Look at the puzzle piece who are feeling lost or lonely. Thank God to help you see the picture of the person for your life. Decorate the puzzle piece that reach out and help others. Picture of where they have the full map or temple (centre of book) to make a puzzle to hold. The wise men did not have the full map or temple (centre of book) to make a puzzle to hold.



Come and See
- but don't open until 6th December

Come and See
- but don't open until 6th December

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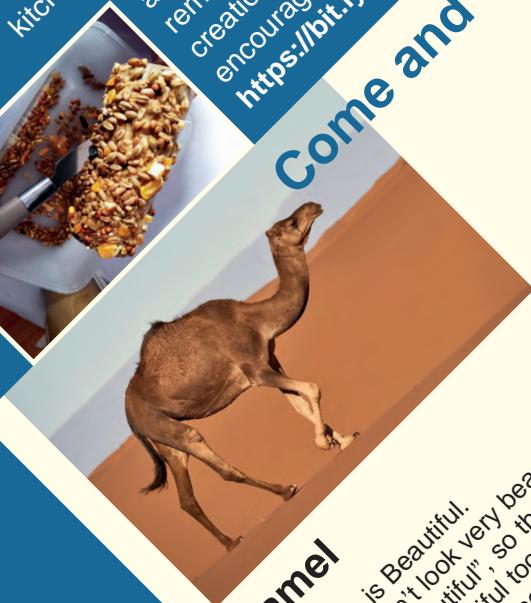
DO

This week we've been remembering that Jesus was born amongst the animals and placed in a feeding trough. I wonder what animals and birds and insects have in their own home near where you live? Can you find out whether any might be endangered? Especially in winter, some creatures need our help to survive. What can you do to help them this week? Could you make a bird feeder by filling the gaps in a pine cone or coating a kitchen roll inner with peanut butter, and rolling it in wild bird seed before hanging it somewhere outdoors? Or maybe construct a bug house out of recycled materials? As you do it, remember to thank God for all the wonderful creatures in creation. Find out how to protect hedgehogs and how to encourage bees: <https://bit.ly/BeeWWF> <https://bit.ly/hedgehogSt> <https://bit.ly/BugsHome>

Camel

My name is Beautiful. I know I don't look very beautiful, so that's my name. Camel comes from the Arabic word for "beautiful", so that's my name. Beautiful, all my friends are called beautiful too. We are on a trip to see the new King... We are like beautiful ships gliding through the desert, to present gifts most worthy to him, and what finer gift than me. Beautiful and my fellow beauties. Well that's what I thought, who wouldn't want a beautiful camel for a present? You would only give a beautiful gift to the King, and that's me, I mean, us! But the wise ones we are carrying have brought other gifts, and say we are just the transport. They have chosen gifts of Gold and keeps making me heavy to carry. Frankincense which is very smelly So, we're not the gifts – but the King can still appreciate us and maybe give us a pat. I can't wait to see him, the new King. I think these wise ones have gotten us lost again, my one is reading the map upside down! When we finally get to the King, I shall ask him for a compass and flare gun to help these three. Get home!

But for now we sail on, we ride over desert sands to find the new King and present him with smelly, heavy gifts – and not beautiful camels.



The mystery of the new Jesus was born - Animals Together by the Bible Society
Baby Jesus we love you - Animals Together by the Bible Society
Songs <https://bit.ly/3m6TRl>
Celebrate Jesus' birth - a Christmas Story <https://bit.ly/3Adje0>
When Jesus was born by CTA Inc <https://bit.ly/3LGL799>

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Story Links

x

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Come and See – with the animals



Next thing we know, they are lying down, right where I normally sleep. Only they aren't sleeping, they are shouting and fussing and making lots of mess. It's quite a while before they finally quieten down.

To top it all there seems to be something in my dinner. I am not impressed at all. I hope they won't be staying much longer. At least there's no more of them. Oh hang on, was that a knock

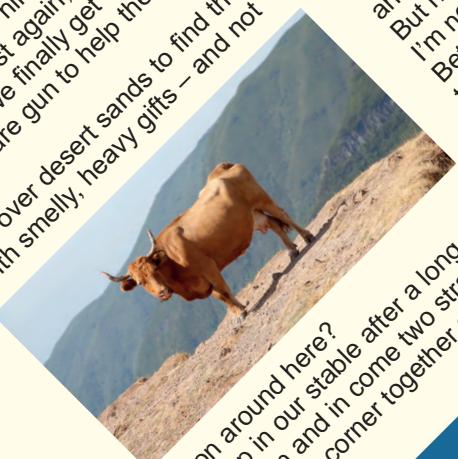


Donkey

My back! My back is aching and my hooves are sore. That was hard going. I've just walked one hundred and forty-eight kilometres! Yep, from Nazareth to here, Bethlehem. Did I say that it was really hard? I had to walk up and down such steep hills I was sure they were mountains, pouring rain, through all weathers – scorching sunshine, pouring hairdos. So why is my back sore? Because I was carrying Mary. She's a lovely girl but she was not light. Not her fault, she was pregnant but my goodness, she weighed a tonne! Carrying her and all their luggage, I'm surprised she made it!

There were days when my back isn't bent the wrong way!

Did I say that I honestly thought that I couldn't take another step, that I couldn't go on, that we'd never get here. But here we are! I'm now laying, snuggled up in a barn in Bethlehem. Mary has had under a blanket, in a barn in another step, that I could've made it! The baby's really cute. There's a bright light shining above us. I think I heard some singing earlier on. There's someone knocking at the door and the cow is grumbling that there's something in its food. Now for a well-deserved rest and massage, maybe a pedicure too.



Cow

Wait a minute! What's going on around here? We were all enjoying a quiet nap in our stable and suddenly the door bursts open and in come two strangers. All of us animals get shoved into the corner together so these noisy visitors can have some space.



Who do you identify with in this story and why? Consider the sheep who gave up their bed and who carried the load, the cow who helped Mary to get to where she needed to be. Who do they remind you of today? What is your role in the Donkey who helped Jesus Christ, how are you going to respond? Who do they remind you of today? What is your role in the Christmas this year?



THINK



PLAY

Come and See
- but don't open until 13th December

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This week we are remembering the shepherds, ordinary folk who spent much of their day and night outside looking after their sheep. Although it would have been warm during the day the nights would have been very cold and lonely. There are many people in this country who do not have a home or even a warm place to sleep at night and use and rely on homeless shelters to provide them with a warm dry place to stay overnight. For the homeless the winter months can be very cold and gloves and hats are vital to keep them warm. What could you do to help? Do you have a homeless shelter so it can be given to a homeless person this Christmas.

Come and see - with the shepherds

The moon shone bright
In the dark sky that night
Over Bethlehem where people lay
Sleeping and dreaming of a brand new day.

 The star shone bright
In the dark sky that night
Over Bethlehem's new pride and joy
In a manger lay a baby boy.

 The moon shone bright
In the dark sky that night
Over the cold, dark fields in Bethlehem
Where no-one even thought about them.

 The cold, dark fields
Where the shepherd's kneeled
Together they huddled round small fires for warmth,
Tending their sheep who roamed back and forth.

 The cold, dark fields,
Where the shepherds kneeled,
Societies outcasts, not at all special,
Less than ordinary, not really essential.

 The sky shone bright
Over the cold fields that night,
An angel appeared saying "Don't be afraid"
"The Saviour is born; in a manger he's laid".

All the Angels Sing <https://bit.ly/3ipDdL5>
Born Is the King <https://bit.ly/3iLzz5j>
Songs by Doug Hyde
<https://bit.ly/3ip3egv0>
<https://bit.ly/3ip3q9o>
<https://bit.ly/3ip3xuad>
From the Light of the Whole Book Bible Read
The Shepherds in the Fields David Sopher <https://bit.ly/3ip3ipdx>
All the Angels Sing <https://bit.ly/3ipDdL5>
Born Is the King <https://bit.ly/3iLzz5j>

The sky shone bright
Over the cold fields that night,
More angels appeared, a heavenly choir
Singing and praising God, as they flew higher.
"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
And on earth, peace and goodwill to all".

 The star shone bright
In the dark sky that night
Leading the shepherds, who did not waver
Towards Bethlehem to see their Saviour.

 The star shone bright
O'er Bethlehem that night
The shepherds rejoiced and shared their good news
The people who heard were amazed and bemused.

On one dark night
Bethlehem shone bright
No longer outcasts or just ordinary
The shepherds were special, important,
and merry.

Why do you think God chose the Shepherds to be the first to go see Jesus?
The shepherds left their sheep and went, Jesus asked fisherman to leave their nets and follow him. What things do we need to leave to be able to follow Jesus today?
The shepherds went out and told everyone what they had seen. Who are you going to share the good news of Christmas with?

THINK



Amen.
Let us jump for joy!
Let God has come to us in the baby Jesus.
Like the angels, for God loves to God,
Just like the shepherds, for God loves us.
Be ready to say Amen!
Hold the box in your hand and watch as your prayer's spring out.
Stick the spring into the bottom of the box and press it down and close the box.
Cut out a heart or any shape you like and write on it the word Amen, stick this to the end of your paper strip.
Glue these strips onto the box and press it down and close the box.
Players will pop up. The strips of paper together to make two longer strips, one on top of the other, also at 90 degrees. When you have completed the folding stick them to the end together.
Find a matchbox or small box. Cut four long strips of paper (slightly narrower than the box) and write your names on them or draw pictures of people are going to make a spring so your name is a surprising player idea!

PLAY



Come and See
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