

# The First Christmas Story For Kids

Story

**SCHOLASTIC**

## The first Christmas

Share this wonderful story to find out why we celebrate Christmas



**L**ong ago, long ago, in a town called Nazareth, Mary and Joseph. Mary was going to have a baby and one day Joseph told her that they must make a journey. "Everyone else has moved to the home of their family to give a register," said Joseph. "So we must go to Bethlehem. Just that is such a long way and the baby will be here soon," said Mary.

"Why do you mean to leave so early?" answered Joseph.

The next day they packed bundles of clothes and food to take with them. Joseph brought the donkey to the front of the house. Mary climbed on to the donkey and Joseph led the bundle behind her. Then he led the donkey along the track.

It was a long journey and Mary was nearly asleep when they arrived.

"We will soon find a place to stay," smiled Joseph. He began to knock on the doors of the inn.

Knock, knock, knock.

"Have you a room for the night?" asked Joseph.

"No, sorry we are full," said the innkeeper.

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But the first innkeeper was kind and he felt sorry for poor Mary.

"Have no fear," he said, "why don't you sleep in my stable. The animals will happily share their beds."

So they went in and Joseph and Mary laid the baby Jesus in the manger.

That night the house was full of Mary and Joseph. Mary was gentle in her arms of cloth and the baby was sweet boy in the manger.

"We will call our special baby Jesus," said Mary.

On the way hills, some shepherds were sleeping with their sheep and were woken by a bright light in the sky. When they looked up, an angel told them the exciting news that the Son of God had been born in a stable. While the angel was speaking, more and more angels appeared, singing and praising God. Soon the bright light and angels disappeared and the shepherds went down with their sheep again.

"Let us look for this important baby," said one of them and they set off down the hillside towards Bethlehem. They found the stable and quickly looked in. One by one they knelt and the manger to see the baby. They told Mary and Joseph about the angels and on the way back to their hills they shared their exciting news with everyone.

So far away lived three Wise Men who knew all about stars. One night, a new star appeared in the sky and they knew this meant that it was time to follow it to Bethlehem. They rode for a long time on camels through the desert to visit the baby, led by a bright star that stopped right over the stable. When they were in the stable, they knelt down and gave the baby Jesus gifts and presents of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Every Christmas we sing special carols and give our dear presents, in that we have us remember this story about the birth of the baby Jesus.

Retold by Jean Evans

**Resource Bank**  
early years

**THE FIRST CHRISTMAS STORY FOR KIDS** IS A BEAUTIFUL TALE THAT HAS BEEN TOLD FOR GENERATIONS, CAPTURING THE HEARTS AND IMAGINATIONS OF CHILDREN AND ADULTS ALIKE. THIS STORY NOT ONLY SERVES AS A CELEBRATION OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON BUT ALSO IMPARTS VALUABLE LESSONS ABOUT KINDNESS, LOVE, AND THE SPIRIT OF GIVING. IN THIS ARTICLE, WE WILL EXPLORE THE ORIGINS OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY, ITS KEY CHARACTERS, THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EVENTS THAT UNFOLDED, AND HOW TO PRESENT THIS TIMELESS TALE TO CHILDREN IN AN ENGAGING AND MEANINGFUL WAY.

## ORIGINS OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS STORY ORIGINATES FROM THE ACCOUNTS FOUND IN THE BIBLE, PARTICULARLY IN THE GOSPELS OF MATTHEW AND LUKE. THESE TEXTS DESCRIBE THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST, WHICH IS CELEBRATED BY MILLIONS AROUND THE WORLD ON DECEMBER 25TH. THE STORY HAS EVOLVED OVER THE YEARS, BECOMING A BELOVED NARRATIVE THAT IS OFTEN SIMPLIFIED FOR CHILDREN WHILE STILL RETAINING ITS CORE VALUES AND MESSAGES.

## KEY ELEMENTS OF THE STORY

THE CHRISTMAS STORY IS FILLED WITH MEMORABLE CHARACTERS AND EVENTS. HERE ARE SOME OF THE KEY ELEMENTS THAT MAKE IT SPECIAL:

- **MARY AND JOSEPH:** THE PARENTS OF JESUS, WHO TRAVELED TO BETHLEHEM FOR A CENSUS AND FOUND NO ROOM AT THE INN.
- **THE NATIVITY:** THE SCENE OF JESUS'S BIRTH IN A STABLE, SURROUNDED BY ANIMALS AND LAID IN A MANGER.
- **THE ANGELS:** HEAVENLY BEINGS WHO ANNOUNCED THE BIRTH OF JESUS TO THE SHEPHERDS.
- **THE SHEPHERDS:** SIMPLE MEN WHO WERE THE FIRST TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS AND CAME TO SEE THE NEWBORN KING.
- **THE WISE MEN:** ALSO KNOWN AS THE MAGI, WHO TRAVELED FROM AFAR, GUIDED BY A STAR, TO BRING GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE, AND MYRRH.

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS STORY IS MUCH MORE THAN A HISTORICAL ACCOUNT; IT IS A CELEBRATION OF HOPE, LOVE, AND NEW BEGINNINGS. HERE ARE SOME OF THE SIGNIFICANT THEMES AND LESSONS THAT CAN BE DRAWN FROM THE STORY:

### HOPE AND JOY

THE BIRTH OF JESUS REPRESENTS HOPE FOR THE WORLD. FOR MANY, THIS STORY SYMBOLIZES THE ARRIVAL OF LIGHT IN TIMES OF DARKNESS. IT REMINDS US THAT EVEN IN DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES, JOY CAN BE FOUND.

### KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY

THE STORY EMPHASIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY, AS SEEN THROUGH THE ACTIONS OF THE SHEPHERDS AND THE WISE MEN. THESE FIGURES TRAVELED GREAT DISTANCES AND OFFERED GIFTS TO HONOR THE NEWBORN JESUS, DEMONSTRATING THE JOY OF GIVING.

### FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

THE CHRISTMAS STORY HIGHLIGHTS THE VALUE OF FAMILY AND COMMUNITY. MARY AND JOSEPH'S JOURNEY AND THE WELCOMING OF THE SHEPHERDS REMIND US OF THE IMPORTANCE OF COMING TOGETHER IN TIMES OF CELEBRATION.

### FAITH AND BELIEF

AT ITS CORE, THE CHRISTMAS STORY IS ABOUT FAITH. THE BELIEF IN A BETTER FUTURE, THE TRUST IN GOD'S PLAN, AND THE FAITH THAT SOMETHING MIRACULOUS CAN HAPPEN ARE THEMES THAT RESONATE DEEPLY, ESPECIALLY DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

# TELLING THE CHRISTMAS STORY TO KIDS

SHARING THE FIRST CHRISTMAS STORY WITH CHILDREN CAN BE A DELIGHTFUL EXPERIENCE. HERE ARE SOME TIPS ON HOW TO PRESENT THE STORY IN AN ENGAGING AND MEMORABLE WAY:

## USE SIMPLE LANGUAGE

WHEN TELLING THE CHRISTMAS STORY TO KIDS, IT'S ESSENTIAL TO USE LANGUAGE THAT IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND. SIMPLIFYING COMPLEX IDEAS WILL HELP CHILDREN GRASP THE CORE MESSAGES WITHOUT GETTING LOST IN DETAILS.

## INCORPORATE VISUAL AIDS

VISUAL AIDS CAN ENHANCE THE STORYTELLING EXPERIENCE. CONSIDER USING:

- PICTURE BOOKS THAT ILLUSTRATE THE STORY.
- PUPPETS TO ENACT DIFFERENT CHARACTERS.
- NATIVITY SETS TO DEMONSTRATE THE SCENE OF JESUS'S BIRTH.

## ENGAGE WITH ACTIVITIES

INCORPORATING ACTIVITIES CAN MAKE THE STORY COME ALIVE. HERE ARE SOME ACTIVITIES YOU CAN DO WITH KIDS:

1. **CRAFTS:** CREATE NATIVITY SCENES USING CLAY, PAPER, OR OTHER CRAFT MATERIALS.
2. **CAROLING:** TEACH CHILDREN TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS CAROLS THAT TELL PARTS OF THE STORY.
3. **ROLE-PLAYING:** HAVE KIDS TAKE ON THE ROLES OF DIFFERENT CHARACTERS AND ACT OUT THE STORY.

## DISCUSS THE LESSONS

AFTER TELLING THE STORY, TAKE SOME TIME TO DISCUSS ITS LESSONS. ASK QUESTIONS LIKE:

- WHAT DOES THE BIRTH OF JESUS MEAN TO YOU?
- HOW CAN WE SHOW KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY LIKE THE SHEPHERDS AND THE WISE MEN?
- WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO CELEBRATE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS?

THIS WILL ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO THINK CRITICALLY ABOUT THE VALUES PRESENTED IN THE STORY AND HOW THEY CAN APPLY THEM IN THEIR LIVES.

# THE IMPACT OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY TODAY

IN TODAY'S WORLD, THE FIRST CHRISTMAS STORY CONTINUES TO HOLD SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL IMPORTANCE. WHILE THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS OFTEN COMMERCIALIZED, THE ESSENCE OF THE STORY REMAINS A REMINDER OF LOVE, PEACE, AND GOODWILL. FAMILIES AROUND THE GLOBE GATHER TO CELEBRATE, REFLECTING ON THE STORY'S THEMES THROUGH VARIOUS TRADITIONS, SUCH AS:

## TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

THE CHRISTMAS STORY IS CELEBRATED IN DIVERSE WAYS ACROSS DIFFERENT CULTURES. HERE ARE A FEW TRADITIONS THAT SHOWCASE THE GLOBAL APPRECIATION OF THIS NARRATIVE:

- **ADVENT CALENDARS:** MANY FAMILIES USE ADVENT CALENDARS TO COUNT DOWN TO CHRISTMAS, OFTEN FEATURING SCENES FROM THE NATIVITY STORY.
- **MIDNIGHT MASS:** ATTENDING CHURCH SERVICES ON CHRISTMAS EVE IS A TRADITION FOR MANY, WHERE THE STORY OF JESUS'S BIRTH IS RECOUNTED.
- **NATIVITY PLAYS:** SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES OFTEN PUT ON PLAYS THAT REENACT THE CHRISTMAS STORY, INVOLVING CHILDREN IN THE PERFORMANCE.

## THE ROLE OF MEDIA

MOVIES, CARTOONS, AND BOOKS CONTINUE TO ADAPT THE CHRISTMAS STORY FOR NEW GENERATIONS. THESE ADAPTATIONS OFTEN INTRODUCE THE STORY TO CHILDREN IN A FUN AND ACCESSIBLE WAY, ENSURING THAT THE LESSONS OF LOVE, HOPE, AND KINDNESS ARE PASSED DOWN.

## CONCLUSION

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS STORY FOR KIDS IS A TIMELESS TALE THAT TRANSCENDS GENERATIONS. IT TEACHES IMPORTANT VALUES AND PROVIDES A SENSE OF WONDER DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON. AS WE SHARE THIS BEAUTIFUL NARRATIVE, WE NOT ONLY CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS BUT ALSO INSTILL IN OUR CHILDREN THE SIGNIFICANCE OF LOVE, KINDNESS, AND COMMUNITY. BY ENGAGING THEM THROUGH STORYTELLING, ACTIVITIES, AND DISCUSSIONS, WE CAN ENSURE THAT THESE CHERISHED LESSONS CONTINUE TO RESONATE FOR YEARS TO COME.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### WHAT IS THE FIRST CHRISTMAS STORY FOR KIDS ABOUT?

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS STORY FOR KIDS TELLS THE TALE OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST IN BETHLEHEM, HIGHLIGHTING THE JOY AND LOVE SURROUNDING HIS ARRIVAL.

### WHO ARE THE MAIN CHARACTERS IN THE FIRST CHRISTMAS STORY?

THE MAIN CHARACTERS INCLUDE MARY, JOSEPH, BABY JESUS, THE ANGELS, THE SHEPHERDS, AND THE WISE MEN.

## WHY DO WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?

WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS TO COMMEMORATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST, WHO IS CONSIDERED THE SON OF GOD IN CHRISTIANITY.

## WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STAR IN THE CHRISTMAS STORY?

THE STAR REPRESENTS THE GUIDING LIGHT THAT LED THE WISE MEN TO THE BIRTHPLACE OF JESUS, SYMBOLIZING HOPE AND GUIDANCE.

## HOW CAN PARENTS INTRODUCE THE FIRST CHRISTMAS STORY TO THEIR KIDS?

PARENTS CAN INTRODUCE THE STORY THROUGH CHILDREN'S BOOKS, ANIMATED MOVIES, OR BY TELLING IT DURING FAMILY GATHERINGS.

## WHAT DO THE SHEPHERDS REPRESENT IN THE CHRISTMAS STORY?

THE SHEPHERDS REPRESENT HUMILITY AND THE IDEA THAT JESUS CAME FOR ALL PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE POOR AND MARGINALIZED.

## WHAT LESSONS CAN CHILDREN LEARN FROM THE FIRST CHRISTMAS STORY?

CHILDREN CAN LEARN ABOUT KINDNESS, GENEROSITY, THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY, AND THE TRUE SPIRIT OF GIVING.

## HOW IS THE FIRST CHRISTMAS STORY DEPICTED IN MODERN CULTURE?

IT IS OFTEN DEPICTED THROUGH PLAYS, SONGS, DECORATIONS, AND VARIOUS MEDIA THAT EMPHASIZE THEMES OF LOVE, JOY, AND TOGETHERNESS.

## WHAT ROLE DO THE ANIMALS PLAY IN THE FIRST CHRISTMAS STORY?

THE ANIMALS, LIKE THE DONKEY AND THE SHEEP, ARE OFTEN INCLUDED TO SYMBOLIZE THE HUMBLE SETTING OF JESUS'S BIRTH AND TO REPRESENT ALL OF CREATION CELEBRATING HIS ARRIVAL.

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