

Game: What's in the Christmas stocking? (Play with your family)

Place some Christmas items inside a Christmas stocking. Put your hand in the stocking and describe to everyone what is inside. Christmas stocking item suggestions: Carrot // Bauble // Snowman // Fairy lights // Santa hat etc

**Activity: Good gift?**

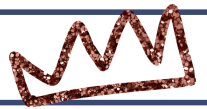
Cut out a selection of pictures from the catalogues or print images off the internet of toys, kitchen equipment, garden flowers and so on. Some things should be the sort of things suitable to give a baby; others not. You could also have some things that are not straight forward – a cot, for instance, which is suitable for a baby but not likely to be brought as a gift. Divide the images into things that are good gifts for a baby and things that are not. Draw a line down your piece of paper and stick the good gifts on one side and the bad gifts on the other.

Activity: 12 words of Christmas (play against someone in your home)

Set a timer for 5 minutes and write down as many words as you can think of to do with Christmas. After the 5 minutes is up, go through one list and put a line through any words that another person has on their list. For everyone word that no one else has mentioned you get a point.

There are lots of things that we might think of when we talk about Christmas, Christians believe that the most important part is the baby Jesus.

Watch: It begins in Bethlehem <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NisoCFMNmRM>

**Story: Jesus is born**

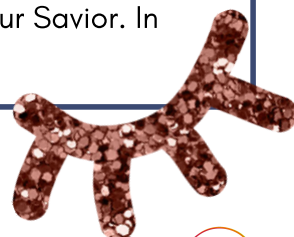
It took Mary and Joseph a long time to get to Bethlehem. They didn't have cars back then, so it probably took them a lot longer to get there. This was very tiring for Mary because she was soon going to have a baby. When they reached the town, all the hotels were full and there was nowhere that they could stay. Finally, someone felt bad for them and offered them a place to stay. The Bible doesn't say for sure where they stayed but most people think that they stayed in a small barn where animals were kept. In any case, doesn't it seem strange that Jesus, the King of the Jews wasn't born in a fancy palace or even a hospital? Mary and Joseph were thankful that they at least had a place to lie down. It was warm, and there was plenty of straw to lay on. That night an exciting, wonderful thing happened: Mary and Joseph had a baby! But this wasn't just any baby, he was Baby Jesus!

The creator of the whole world, the King of Kings, and the one who would save the world. The little baby boy fell asleep in Mary's arms. She wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger on some clean straw. Mary and Joseph soon fell asleep; they were so glad to have this special baby join their family.

Craft: Jesus in the manger Christmas card <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NisoCFMNmRM>

Prayer:

Dear Father, we are thankful that you loved us so much that you sent your only Son to be our Savior. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



For more resources check out Urban Saints Energize website: <https://www.energize.uk.net/>

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