

Under 5's praise service

Advent resources

In this resource you will find some suggestions to help you plan a toddler praise service. There are some suggested elements which you may want to include but the resource is designed to be pick and mix and for you to order things as is most appropriate for your context.

Songs: These songs are a mixture of songs written by us and those you can find on YouTube.

Hush there's a baby by Maynard's Groovy Bible tunes.

<https://youtu.be/toQoB9rN74A?si=D-ZzNxopHvCHRF6i>

Here is a simple song to sing about Christmas.

It is to the tune of '**Here We Go Round The Mulberry Bush.**'

You could write your own version – we've given you some ideas:

An angel gave the shepherds news
Shepherds news, shepherds news
An angel gave the shepherds news
On this the very first Christmas

He said "a child is born for you
Born for you, born for you"
He said "a child is born for you
On this the very first Christmas.

The shepherds went to find the babe,

They found him on a bed of straw

Jesus is the baby's name

Wise ones came and brought him gifts

Here is a simple song to sing about Christmas.

It is to the tune of **Frere Jacques**

You could write your own version. You will find Nicola, one of our CYDO's teaching it from 4 minutes in on this link. <https://youtu.be/fiEx9rBK5VA?si=1fw607siGCI9dtW3>

Light a candle, light a candle,
Let it shine, let it shine,
Welcome baby Jesus, welcome baby Jesus,
It's Christmas time, it's Christmas time.



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Prayers:

Noisy Prayer

This is a thank you prayer focused on the noises heard in the nativity story.

We thank you God for the Angels who shared the message of Jesus birth.

Ahh, ahh, ahh, ahh. (sing these words)

We thank you God for the Shepherds looking after their sheep.

Baa, baa, baa, baa. (could pretend to be sheep)

We thank you God for the innkeeper who found a stable for baby Jesus to be born.

Knock, knock, knock, knock. (could actually knock on something)

We thank you God for the star that sparkled and shone and showed the way.

Twinkle, twinkle, twinkle, twinkle. (make twinkle movements with hands)

We thank you God for the wise men who brought baby Jesus some special gifts.

Tada.....(could pretend to hand over a gift)

We thank you God for the donkey watching over baby Jesus in the stable.

Clip, clop, clip, clop. (could clap hands for this sound effect)

We thank you God for the people who loved and cared for baby Jesus.

Coo, coo, coo, coo. (could rock a baby in your arms)

We thank you God for the soft hay keeping baby Jesus warm.

Rub hands together to make the sound of rustling hay.

We thank you God for baby Jesus. (could make baby noises)

Amen



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Prayers:

Parachute prayer

This can be done energetically with the children involved in lifting and lowering the parachute, or it can be a more reflective prayer with the children lying on their backs under the parachute as the leaders gently lift and lower it.

As you lift the parachute – speak a sentence prayer

As you lower the parachute – say Thank you for sending Jesus

For example:

Lift: God as we think about Christmas we say

Lower: Thank you for sending Jesus

Lift: You chose Mary and Joseph

Lower: Thank you for sending Jesus

Lift: You invited the shepherds to come and see

Lower: Thank you for sending Jesus

Lift: You gave a new star as a sign

Lower: Thank you for sending Jesus

Lift: You invite us to the celebration

Lower: Thank you for sending Jesus

On the final Amen, lift the parachute on the 'arrrrrrr' and then on the 'men' everyone lets go except one leader who quickly gathers it in.



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Prayers:

Physical prayer

This prayer tells parts of the Christmas story and thanks God for sending Jesus.

All crouch down low for each story part then jump up to shout the repeated phrase 'Hooray for Jesus,'

For example:

Crouch: We think about Christmas and how you sent us your son

Jump up: Hooray for Jesus

Crouch: Thank you for choosing Mary to carry your baby

Jump up: Hooray for Jesus

Crouch: Thank you for the shepherds who were the first to see

Jump up: Hooray for Jesus

Crouch: Thank you for the Kings who brought precious gifts

Jump up: Hooray for Jesus

Crouch: Thank you that you sent Jesus, for me and my family

Jump up: Hooray for Jesus

Amen



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Story:

Who Was In The Stable?

To use with a children nativity set or knitted nativity. Give children figures to hold and after each section the figures are brought up and placed in the stable.

Let's find out who was in the stable and build our nativity here. I need your help.

When I say 'Who was in the stable on Christmas night?', can you shout out 'who was in the stable in Bethlehem?'

Who was in the stable on Christmas night?

All: Who was in the stable in Bethlehem?

Mary and Joseph, tired from their journey, were looking for a place to rest. Mary and Joseph were in the stable in Bethlehem.

Who was in the stable on Christmas night?

All: Who was in the stable in Bethlehem?

The Donkey that brought them, that carried poor Mary. The Donkey was in the stable in Bethlehem.

Who was in the stable on Christmas night?

All: Who was in the stable in Bethlehem?

Well not quite in it but high above, was a star. Shining bright, lighting the night, showing the way. A star was above the stable in Bethlehem.

Who was in the stable on Christmas night?

All: Who was in the stable in Bethlehem?

Shepherds, sent by angels, running from the fields, looking for a manger, telling of good news. Shepherds were in the stable in Bethlehem.

Who was in the stable on Christmas night?

All: Who was in the stable in Bethlehem?

Angels singing and shining, praising and praying, dancing and delighting. Angels were in the stable in Bethlehem.

Who was in the stable on Christmas night?

All: Who was in the stable in Bethlehem?

Someone else was there, but who was it? The baby Jesus. God's Son. The Saviour of the world.



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Story:

Christmas Pass the Parcel

Using different types of wrapping paper for each layer with an object in each layer to explore the story.

Introduce the parcel and say that this is a special Christmas gift given for everyone. Play a game of pass the parcel. When the music stops, get the person holding the parcel to un-wrap the layer holding up both the paper and what's inside' and use the paper and the item to tell the story. As each layer is revealed encourage everyone to wonder why each different paper has been chosen.

First layer - Christmas paper and party blower

More than 2,000 years ago, GOD began something new. He sent Gabriel, one of his angels, to visit Mary. Amazing she was a teenager living in Nazareth. Gabriel has a message for her, from GOD...

Blow the party blower

'You will have a baby. You will call him Jesus. He will be the son of GOD.'

Second layer - brown paper and footprints or a donkey

Mary was engaged to be married to Joseph. When the baby was nearly due to be born, they had to travel to Bethlehem to be counted in a census.

Third layer- New born baby paper and a piece of soft cloth and some straw

When they arrived in Bethlehem, they could not stay in the inn because there was no room for them. The innkeeper said they could stay in the stable. The baby was born and Mary laid him in a manger.

Fourth Layer- Brown paper and a toy sheep

Ordinary Shepherds out in the fields heard the good new of Jesus' birth from the angel and went to find the baby

Fifth layer- Star paper and a star

A star led people to the place where Jesus was born.

Sixth Layer- Newspaper and chocolates or sweets to share

The gift of Jesus' birth is good news for everyone and a time to celebrate. Share the goodies!



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Story:

In this bag you will find lots of interesting items to help you think about what happened at the first Christmas.

Lay the items out in this order in front of you:

1. Paper blower
2. Footprints
3. Strip of cloth
4. Cotton wool
5. Paper blower
6. Glow Stick
7. Star
8. Paper crown
9. Gold-covered chocolate coin (non allergy to choc)

- More than 2,000 years ago, GOD began something new. He sent Gabriel, one of his angels, to visit Mary. She was a teenager living in Nazareth. Gabriel has a message for her, from GOD...

1. **Blow the paper blower**

'You will have a baby. You will call him Jesus. He will be the son of GOD.'

- Mary was engaged to be married to Joseph. When it was nearly time for the baby to be born, they had to travel to Bethlehem to be counted in a census.

2. **Pick up the feet and mime walking a long way...**

- When they arrived in Bethlehem, they could not stay in the inn because there was no room for them. The baby was born and Mary laid him in the place where the animals ate.

3. **Touch the cloth and imagine it wrapped around baby Jesus...**

- Meanwhile, there were some shepherds looking after their sheep in a field.

4. **Stroke the cotton wool ball to think about the sheep**

- Then an angel appeared in the sky and spoke to them...



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Story:

5. Blow the paper blower

‘Don’t be afraid of me! Your Saviour has been born and you can find him in Bethlehem.’

- Suddenly a huge band of angels appeared in the sky, praising GOD and singing... **‘Glory to GOD in the highest !**

And as they did this a new star appeared in the sky.

6. Wave the glow stick in the air

- When they heard the news the shepherds hurried to visit the new baby in Bethlehem - they were very excited!

7. Take the star and hold it high in the air

- The star had been seen by some kings from the east.

8. Put on the paper crown and pretend to be one of the kings

- The kings followed the star until it stopped just where baby Jesus was to be found. They brought special presents for Jesus – gold, frankincense and myrrh.

9. Eat the chocolate coin

Let’s be quiet for a moment to think about the nativity story – of God’s special present to us, Jesus, God’s son.



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Crafts:

Handprint art

You will need:

- Paper
- Poster paints



What you do:

Paint some paint onto the children's hands or have a tray and put some paint in it.

Place the child's hand on the paper to make a handprint. Now create it into the image you want. You could make a Christmas wreath or a Christmas tree, we have given you some ideas to get going.

Christmas angel

You will need:

- White card
- Toilet roll or kitchen roll
- String



What you do:

Cut out an angel shape in card and decorate it.

Using double sided Sellotape or glue, attach a toilet roll to the angel shape.

Attach a loop to hang it up.



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Other resources:

Diddy disciples—www.diddydisciples.org

Bible society—<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/>

Roots—www.rootsontheweb.com (requires subscription)

1277—www.1277.org.uk

