

# 11. Party



## BIBLE STORY / REFERENCE

Luke 2:1-20, Matthew 2:1-12 (summary)

The shepherds and the wise men visit Jesus



## AIMS

To celebrate the end of term and to help the children continue to reflect on Jesus' birth and its significance

**This session is slightly different from the others as it is an outline for an end of term party. There will be more time for games than usual, but there is also a pass the parcel game which will help to fill in the details of the Christmas story not covered in the previous session and help the children to continue to reflect on the significance of Christmas.**



## PREP FOR LEADERS

Read the Bible verses for this session and reflect:

- Where have you seen God at work in your SU Group this term?
- What are your hopes for next term?

Take some time to pray for your group.



## GAMES / INTRO ACTIVITIES

pick it up and stick it back on before they can continue. The team which has all its members complete the relay first wins.

### ▶ Rudolph Relay

*You will need: red paper circles and Vaseline*

Divide the children into teams and have each team stand in a line. Give each child a circle of red paper to be their reindeer nose and give each team a tub of Vaseline. The first team member should use the Vaseline to stick on their reindeer nose and then run to the other end of the hall and back to their place. Each team member then does the same in turn. If their reindeer nose falls off at any point, they must

### ▶ Penguin Waddle

*You will need: balloons*

As with the previous game, have the children divided into teams with each team standing in a line. Give a balloon to the child at the front of each team. They must put it between their knees and waddle like a penguin to the other end of the hall and back before passing the balloon to the next child in the team.

If they drop the balloon at any point, they must pick it up and put it back in position before they continue. The team which

*(continued overleaf)*

has all its members complete the relay first wins.

### ▶ Musical Statues

*You will need: equipment to play music*

Play some music and let the children dance and move around. When the music stops they must freeze in position. Anyone the leaders spot moving is eliminated. Continue until you have a winner.

### ▶ Snowball Fight

*You will need: white paper*

Divide the children into two teams and have them on opposite sides of the hall with something to mark the line in the middle of the hall between the teams. Give each team some sheets of white paper. When the time starts they can scrunch the paper into "snowballs" and throw them at the other team. They can also pick up the snowballs that have been thrown at them and throw them back. Give a countdown and then tell the children to stop throwing. The team that has the least snowballs on their side of the hall wins.

### ▶ Snowman Competition

*You will need: white toilet roll, hats, scarves etc*

Divide the children into teams. Give each team white toilet roll and have some clothes, such as hats and scarves, available. Challenge them to choose one member of their team to dress as a snowman. Give them a time limit and see which team can create the best snowman.

### ▶ Name that tune

*You will need: equipment to play music*

Using a Christmas CD or playlist, play a few seconds from various Christmas songs and see how many the children

can identify.

## EXPLORING THE BIBLE

### ▶ Pass the Parcel Game

*You will need: equipment to play music, parcel wrapped as described below*

Children play a game of Pass the Parcel with a present wrapped in various types of paper as detailed below. Each time they open a layer, take a moment to talk about the next layer of paper and get them to see if they can work out the link with the Christmas Story. There is also a short paragraph in the script below for each layer, which will help a leader explain.

(You will need to prepare by wrapping the prize (Celebrations chocolates) with the layers of paper in this order: star paper, newspaper, brown paper, new baby paper, birthday paper, Christmas paper. If you have children with nut or dairy allergies you can include an alternative treat for them along with the Celebrations. If the school would not want you to give the children sweets or chocolates, you could include something else associated with a celebration, e.g. a balloon for each child, instead.)

Top layer - Christmas paper

**One of the things most people love about Christmas is the presents. We have a Christmas present here, and we're going to play a game of Pass the Parcel. As we go, we're going to use the present to help us remember what Christmas is all about.**

(Music - let children pass the parcel and when the music stops the person holding it unwraps one layer.)

2nd layer: birthday paper

**Inside the first layer of the present, we have Happy Birthday paper. To a lot of people today, Christmas is just about presents and parties and Santa. These things are all fun, but Christians believe that the most important thing about Christmas is that it's Jesus' birthday.**

(Music)

3rd layer: New baby paper

**The next layer has paper that is used for a present for a new baby. Jesus was born as a baby at Christmas time. Christians believe that he wasn't just an ordinary baby, but he was God's son. Before he was born, an angel appeared to Jesus' mum, a lady called Mary, and he told her that her baby would be someone very special. One of the names used for Jesus is "Immanuel", which means "God with us."**

(Music)

4th layer: brown paper

**The next layer of paper is plain brown. It doesn't look as fancy or as expensive as the other types of paper. This can remind us that Jesus was born into a poor family. Although he was a king he didn't live in a palace. In fact, he was born in a place where the animals were kept and laid down to sleep in a manger which was an animals' feeding box.**

(Music)

5th layer: newspaper

**Next, we have newspaper. On the night Jesus was born, an angel appeared to some shepherds in a field and told them that Jesus' birth was good news for everyone in the whole world. The Saviour that God had promised to send had come. Christians believe it is still good news for everyone today.**

(Music)

6th layer: paper with stars on

**Next, we have paper with stars on it. There was a very important star in the Christmas story. It appeared in the sky to show that a new king had been born. Wise men followed it so that they could find their way to Bethlehem to worship Jesus and bring him gifts.**

(Music)

7th layer: Celebrations  
Chocolates

**Finally, we have Celebrations. We all enjoy lots of celebrations at Christmas time, but for Christians the important thing that we are celebrating is Jesus - that he came to earth to be a Saviour for everyone and to make a way for us to know God.**

**We hope that as you open your presents this Christmas you'll remember what it is that we're celebrating.**



## REFLECT & RESPOND

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### ▶ Prayer

Lead the children in a short prayer thanking God for sending Jesus at Christmas.