



Diocese of Armagh Board of Religious Education

Lesson Plan 2: The Life of Jesus
Foundation Level P1



Diocese of Armagh

Lesson Plan 2 - An Overview

This Diocese of Armagh Board of Religious Education Lesson Plan 2 (The Life of Jesus) has been designed to link specifically to the following:



(1) Revised Core Syllabus in RE (Northern Ireland) *

Foundation Level P1.

Learning Objective 1: **The Revelation of God (The Life of Jesus)**

Pupils should begin to develop an awareness, knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the key Christian teachings about God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) about Jesus Christ and about the Bible; and begin to develop an ability to interpret and relate the Bible to life.

The Life of Jesus

d. Demonstrate knowledge of the Christmas story and its significance

Pupils should be able to:

- Listen to and retell the Christmas story.
- Design and make a Christmas card illustrating the Nativity scene.
- Make a model of the crib.
- Make up a prayer thanking God for the gift of Jesus.
- Make and distribute presents.
- Take part in a Christmas carol service.
- Make use of a wide variety of Christmas music.
- Dramatise the Christmas story.

LESSON PLAN 1 – AN OVERVIEW

Theme:	The Revelation of God (The Life of Jesus)
Stages:	Foundation Level P1
Learning Objectives:	<p>Communicate the Revelation of God</p> <p>Learn that God cares for his creation and people</p> <p>Learn that God is the creator of all things</p> <p>Learn that Creation is good</p> <p>Learn that God cares for the universe, people and animals.</p>
Scripture References:	<p>The Annunciation by the Angel Gabriel to Mary – Lk 1:26-36</p> <p>The journey to Bethlehem – Lk 2:4-5</p> <p>The birth of Jesus – Lk 2:6-7</p> <p>The Shepherds, the Wise Men and Herod – Lk 2:8-20; Mt 2:1-12</p>
Teaching Approach:	<p>a. Reading a Story</p> <p>b. Creating Artwork</p> <p>c. Music / Singing</p> <p>d. Drama / Role Play</p> <p>e. Using Pictures</p> <p>f. CircleWork</p>
Prayer:	Dear Lord, thank you for the gift of Jesus. Amen
Suggestions for parents:	Religious Education enables the child to develop spiritual and moral values and come to a knowledge of God. The teacher aims to work in partnership with parents to continue in school much of what is being done at home. By taking an interest in the worksheets or pictures they bring home, parents will be playing an important part in their child's faith development. They will help them to grow in faith, in knowledge of God and in love of God's word.
Links to Wider Curriculum:	Connections can be made between this Lesson Plan and other curriculum areas. This will give Religious Education a place in the life of the school beyond the time allocated to it each day. Specifically, this Lesson Plan enhances: Reading / Study Skills Writing (trace the tree) Maths (count the Wise Men and gifts) Geography and Nature (journey of Mary and Joseph) Art and Crafts Language Development Effective Listening and Good Communication (Circle Time) Drama – Nativity Play History – Nativity Story context.
Teacher: Reflection / Evaluation / Notes / Date:	

TEACHING APPROACH / RESOURCES

A. Reading a Story

The Story of Christmas

About 2000 years ago when King Herod ruled Judea (part of Israel), God sent the angel Gabriel to visit Mary. She was engaged to Joseph and lived in Nazareth. The angel said to Mary "Peace be with you. God has blessed you". Mary was surprised and the angel said "Be not afraid. You will be blessed by the Holy Spirit and give birth to a baby boy and you will call him Jesus. He will be God's only son. Mary was afraid but trusted God. "Let it happen as God chooses", she replied to the angel Gabriel. He told her that her cousin Elizabeth would also have a baby boy whom God had chosen to prepare the way for Jesus.

Mary then went to visit her cousin Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah. An angel had already told them that their baby would prepare people to welcome Jesus. He was to be called John. Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months and then went home to Nazareth.

An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him not to be afraid and that Mary had been chosen by God as the mother of his son and he would be named Jesus, which meant 'Saviour'. He went ahead and took Mary as his wife.

At that time the Roman Emperor Augustus wanted everyone in the Empire to pay their taxes. He ordered everyone to go to their home towns and register for a census. They travelled a long way from Nazareth to Bethlehem where Joseph's family came from. They had problems finding somewhere to stay as every house was full and every bed was taken in all the Inns. The only shelter was a stable and this is where Mary gave birth to Jesus, the Son of God. She wrapped him in cloth called swaddling clothes and laid him in the manger, where the animals ate their food from.

The shepherds were in the fields outside Bethlehem watching their sheep when an angel appeared and said "I have good news. Today a Saviour has been born and you will find him lying in a manger". They saw more angels who were singing "Glory to God in the highest and peace to everyone on earth". The shepherds went to Bethlehem and told everyone the good news and praised God.

A bright star appeared in the sky and some Wise Men in faraway countries saw this and knew there was a new King born. They followed the star bringing gifts. Herod, the King of Judea heard this and he was angry that there was somebody that would take his place. He sent for the Three Wise Men and told them to follow the Star and tell him where the baby was. He planned to kill the new king but they did not know this.

When the Wise Men entered the house where Jesus was with Mary, they bowed down and worshipped him. They gave him the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They were warned in a dream by God not to go back to Herod so they went home a different way.

Then an angel appeared to Joseph and warned him to take Jesus and Mary and escape to Egypt and to escape from Herod and he did just that. When Herod realized he had been tricked he was furious and ordered that all the boys of two or younger in Bethlehem and around be killed. After Herod had died, Joseph had another message from an angel in a dream who told them to go back to Israel. But when they heard that Herod's son was now King of Judea they were afraid and instead went to Galilee and lived in their old town of Nazareth.

TEACHING APPROACH / RESOURCES

B. CREATING ARTWORK | COLOUR IN THIS NATIVITY SCENE



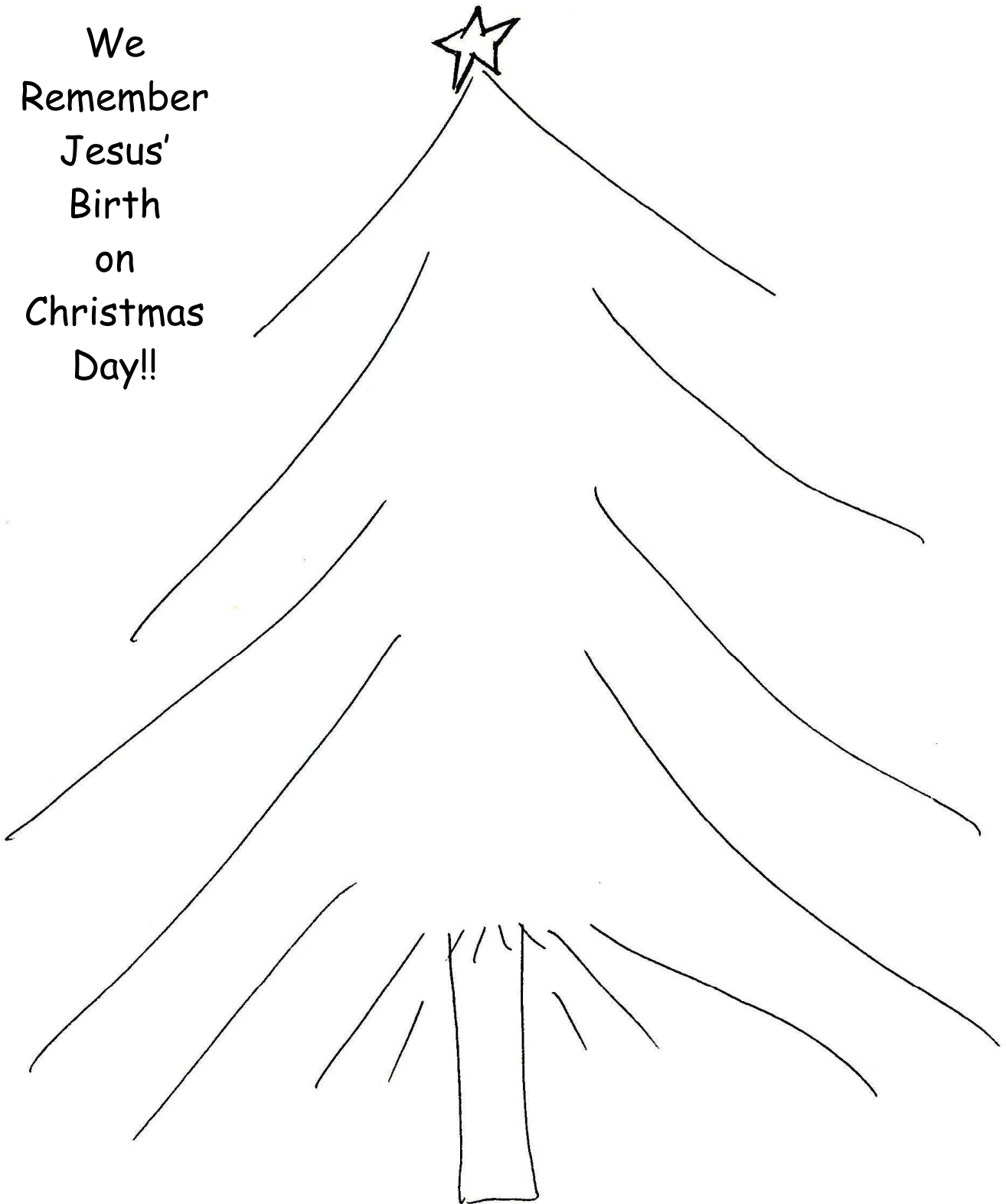
CUT OUT AND MAKE A MODEL OF THE CRIB



Using safe scissors, cut out these nativity characters.
Use glue to stick them on to cardboard and create your own special Christmas crib.

FILL IN AND COLOUR THIS CHRISTMAS TREE

We
Remember
Jesus'
Birth
on
Christmas
Day!!



Merry Christmas!

TEACHING APPROACH / RESOURCES

C. MUSIC AND SONG



THREE WISE MEN

(To the tune of Three Blind Mice.)

Three wise men, three wise men
Travelling a far, seeing a star
They found the Saviour in Bethlehem
Fell on their knees to worship
Never before had there ever been a Child like Him
Three wise men.

Three wise men, three wise men.
Followed the star, followed it far.
They followed the star to Bethlehem
Bowed down and worshipped the newborn king
Gave gold, and myrrh, and frankincense,
To Jesus the king.

TWINKLE TWINKLE LITTLE STAR CHRISTMAS

(To the tune of "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star".)

Twinkle Twinkle little star
How I wonder what you are
Up above the manger high
Like a diamond in the sky
Guiding the wise men on their way
To where baby Jesus lay

TEACHING APPROACH / RESOURCES

D. DRAMA / ROLE-PLAY

The Nativity

Rhyme :
(Spoken by children)

Welcome everybody,
We're glad to see you here.
To share a special story
Now that Christmas time is near.

Mary had some special news,
An angel told her so,
And that was the beginning
A long long time ago.

Narrator : Joseph became Mary's husband and they set off on the long journey to Bethlehem with many other people.

Song : **Little Donkey** (Parents to join in)

Little donkey, little donkey on the dusty road
Got to keep on plodding onwards with your precious load
Been a long time, little donkey, through the winter's night
Don't give up now, little donkey, Bethlehem's in sight

Ring out those bells tonight
Bethlehem, Bethlehem
Follow that star tonight
Bethlehem, Bethlehem
Little donkey, little donkey
Had a heavy day
Little donkey, carry Mary
Safely on her way

Little donkey, carry Mary
Safely on her way

Song : **Here we go up to Bethlehem.**

Here we go up to Bethlehem, Bethlehem, Bethlehem
Here we go up to Bethlehem,
On a cold and frosty morning.

We've got to be taxed in Bethlehem, Bethlehem, Bethlehem
We've got to be taxed in Bethlehem,
On a cold and frosty morning.

Where shall we stay in Bethlehem, Bethlehem, Bethlehem
Where shall we stay in Bethlehem,
On a cold and frosty morning?

Rhyme :
(Spoken by children) Bethlehem was busy,
It was getting dark and cold
All the rooms were taken
So the travellers were told.

Song : **Have you any room please.**

Have you any room please, in your inn? Joseph said.
No go away. We don't have any beds!
(x3)

Rhyme :
(Spoken by children) The animals were resting
In a stable full of hay
The inn keeper was very kind
And said that they could stay.

And later in the evening
Mary's baby boy was born
They put him in the manger
To keep him snug and warm.

Song : **Mary had a baby.**

Mary had a baby, yes, Lord,
Mary had a baby, yes my Lord,
Mary had a baby, yes Lord,
The people keep a-comin' an' the train done gone

Mary named him Jesus, yes, Lord,
Mary named him Jesus, yes my Lord,
Mary named him Jesus, yes Lord,
The people keep a-comin' an' the train done gone

Born in a stable, yes, Lord,
Born in a stable, yes my Lord,
Born in a stable, yes Lord,
The people keep a-comin' an' the train done gone

Song : **Little Jesus Sweetly Sleep**

Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, do not stir;
We will lend a coat of fur,
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,
We will rock you, rock you, rock you:
See the fur to keep you warm,
Snugly round your tiny form.

(x2)

Narrator : Some shepherds were looking after their sheep on the hills outside Bethlehem when they were woken by a bright light.

Rhyme :
(Spoken by children) An angel woke the shepherds
 "Quick - Go down and find the way
 To the place where Baby Jesus
 Is sleeping in the hay."

Narrator : Suddenly the sky was filled with hundred of angels singing. The shepherds hurried into Bethlehem to find the stable.

Song : **Go Tell it on the Mountain**

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain,
That Jesus Christ is born
(x2)

Narrator : In a land faraway some Wise men were watching the sky.

Rhyme :
(Spoken by children) A star was shining brightly
 The wise men watched its light
 And followed it to Bethlehem
 To see the wondrous sight.

Song : **Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star**

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Like a diamond in the sky.
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are!
(x2)

Song : **Three Wise Men**

Three wise men, three wise men,
Watched the star and saw it stop at Bethlehem.
We can see the bright star just as well as them,
It is shining brightly over Bethlehem.
(x2)

Rhyme :
(Spoken by children) The baby in the manger
 Just as the angel told
 They gave him special presents
 Frankincense, myrrh and gold.

Song : Away in a manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

(x2)

**Rhyme :
(Spoken by
children)**

So, that's our school nativity
It's nice to see you here,
To sing and help us celebrate
This special time of year.

Song : We Wish You a Merry Christmas. (Parents to join in)

We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas,
And a happy New Year.

Good tidings we bring
To you and your kin,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
And a happy New Year.

TEACHING APPROACH / RESOURCES

E. PICTURES AND IMAGES

Use some of these free images and pictures to create a poster, display or collage for your classroom



PhotoCredit for all: MorgueFile Free Photos

TEACHING APPROACH / RESOURCES

F. CIRCLE WORK

Gather the children in a circle.

Talk about the story of the nativity.

Make up a prayer together thanking God for the gift of Jesus.

Talk about who you will be giving presents to and getting presents from.

Talk about who you will be giving presents to and getting presents from.

Decorate the class Christmas Tree together

Listen to and sing Christmas carols and talk about them

