



CHRISTMAS RESOURCE FOR CHILDREN'S WORK

A VISIT FROM AN ANGEL

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THEME: A VISIT FROM AN ANGEL



DEFINE: ANGELS

The dictionary definition of an angel explains an angel as:

- A spiritual being believed to be
- An agent, or messenger of God,
- Conventionally represented in human
- Form with wings and a long robe

GAME: CHINESE WHISPERS

The children sit in a circle and a leader whispers a message to the first child. The message is passed from one child to the other by a whisper, once the last child receives the message they tell the group the message they have just heard. The leader then tells them the message she gave in the first place. As the theme is 'a visit from an angel' I suggest you keep to the theme.

DISCUSSION

How had the message changed?

Was it a similar message to the leader's?

If the message had changed slightly; why do you think this was?

What type of messages do we like to receive?

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OLD TESTAMENT: STORIES

Who had a visit from an angel in the Old Testament?

In the book of **Genesis 18: 1-15** the angels visited **Abraham** and told him that his wife Sarah was going to have a baby. Abraham laughed at the idea of his wife Sarah having a baby. She was old! The Angel said, 'Is anything too hard for the Lord?'

Jacob a grandson of Abraham was visited by angels as he slept after a long tiring journey. He rested his head on a large stone- not a very comfortable pillow. Jacob began to dream; he dreamt that he saw a stairway to heaven with angels going up and down to heaven and God was standing beside him. God told Jacob how much he loved him and promised he would always be with Jacob (**Genesis 32: 22-33, 33:4**).

Moses, the Shepherd was out looking after his sheep on the mountainside when he noticed a bush on fire. Flames were everywhere though the strange thing was as he looked closer to the bush, the bush was not actually on fire! As Moses went to investigate further a voice called out to him. 'Moses, Moses.' An angel was in the bush and told Moses that God had a special job for him to do. Moses would be given the job to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. Although Moses was just an ordinary person God would help him do a very special job (**Exodus:3 1-12**).

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NEW TESTAMENT: STORIES

Like the stories we have just looked at in the Old Testament of the angels bringing news to ordinary people we look now at how the angels in the New Testament had a very prominent role in the telling of Jesus birth. Let's look at a few of the people the angels visited. There are various ways of telling stories – you may read directly from the bible, act out the stories, use video clips or tell the stories in your own words. You choose!

THE ANGEL VISITS MARY

We read in **Luke 1:26-38** how the angel appeared to Mary as she was going about her normal day activities. Suddenly she is standing face to face with an angel! The angel tells her not to be afraid and that God has a very special job for her. Wow, some job, to be the Mother of Jesus. After the angel had spoken Mary replied, 'I am the Lord's servant'.

THE ANGEL VISITS JOSEPH

When Joseph heard that Mary was going to have a special baby and that they were not married, Joseph at first was very reluctant to marry Mary. But as he was worrying about this news an angel visited Joseph in a dream. The Angel told Joseph not to be afraid and that Mary's child born of the holy spirit would be the Mother of Jesus. Jesus would save the people from their sins (**Matthew 1: 18 - 25**).

THE ANGEL VISITS THE SHEPHERDS

I love the story of the visit of the angels to the shepherds. The shepherds in those days were known as the lowest of the low. Uneducated possibly very smelly men! That night they were probably huddled together round the fire trying to keep warm and looking out for any wild animals that may attack their sheep. Then suddenly, a blinding light fills the sky and angels begin singing praises to God. Wow, what a sight to behold! The angels tell the shepherds not to fear – or do not be afraid! Once they hear the amazing news of the birth of a very special baby they are no longer afraid. Their wonder turned to joy.

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DISCUSSION

- How did Mary respond to the visit from the angel?
- How did Joseph respond to the visit from the angel?
- How did the Shepherds respond to the visit from the angels?
- How would you feel if an angel came to visit you?

KEY PHRASE: DO NOT BE AFRAID

God wants ordinary people to tell others about Jesus and his love. When we serve God he reminds us not to be afraid and assures us that he will always be with us.

RESPONSE

Q. What are the practical ways we, that is adults/Children/YP could bring good news to others this Christmas?

Q. Think of people who you could reach out to this Christmas. E.g. the elderly in a local Nursing Home or living on their own, the homeless or someone who has been bereaved. The list goes on. How will you make this happen?

ACTION: GIVE AWAY SCROLL

Below you will find how to make a scroll. How about each child in your group making a Christmas scroll with encouraging words written on it? It may be a bible promise or an encouraging phrase. Once completed why not encourage the children to give their scroll to someone in the congregation they think might appreciate one. Or you may decide to give each member of your congregation a scroll! You decide! (See instructions at the end)

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THE CHRISTMAS RAP

Here are a couple of suggestions on how to use 'The Christmas Rap' by Leslie Noon. You may wish to get the children to act out each verse using narrators, or getting individual children rapping a verse each and the rest of the children joining with the chorus.

Chorus

Listen everybody to our Christmas rap,
It's time to put Jesus on the map,
It's time to remember what took place
When we welcome the saviour of the
human race.

Joseph

Joseph and Mary had walked a long way,
They needed to find a place to stay.
Poor Mary was worried, her baby was
due,
And Joseph needed to have a rest too.

Chorus

Innkeeper

To find a room they were unable
The innkeeper let them stay in his stable,
And that was where Jesus was born
On that very first Christmas morn.

Shepherd

The shepherds were busy minding their
sheep,
It was so peaceful they were nearly asleep.
Then came some singing from up in the
sky,
They were so afraid they wanted to cry!

Chorus

Wise Man

For hundreds of miles, men followed the
star,
They only had camels, not even a car.
An important baby they wanted to find,
The saviour King of humankind.

Chorus

by Leslie Noon.

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POEM & PRAYER

MY HOME IS FULL OF HAPPINESS

(A thank you rhyming prayer poem for Christmas appropriate for primary school aged children to say)

My home is full of happiness
My stockings filled with treats
My Christmas tree has twinkly lights Mum's cooking
us a feast.

My church is full of singing
My heart is full of joy
My nativity has the last piece A little baby boy.

My bible tells me of his life
My mind is filled with tales
My prayer is full of thankfulness
Because on this very day -
The son of God came down to earth To teach us right
from wrong,
And spread forgiveness through the world Today
true love was born.

And so we celebrate this day With presents, trees
and lights. We play fun games with loved ones And
eat food that's really nice. For this day is the
birthday of A precious little boy, Sent to save the
world forever Sent to bring us joy.

Read more at www.living-prayers.com



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POEM & PRAYER

A CHRISTMAS DAY PRAYER

(a prayer suitable for a child to say at a Christmas day service or as a Nativity Prayer)

Little baby Jesus was born upon this day Lying
in a manger, laid upon soft hay. His mother
Mary cared for him, His dad Joseph felt proud,
To be given such a precious boy, They felt safe
within Gods plans. Shepherds came to greet
him, Wise men carried gifts, And gave them to
the baby, They knew he would be king. So we
too on Christmas day Come to worship him.

And celebrate, with love and hope, To play and
laugh and sing. We love the lights upon the
tree, The presents and the food. We share this
special time together And say our God is good.
So good he sent us Jesus To walk and shine
the way, For us all to follow him, Into a
heavenly day.

Amen.

Read more at www.living-prayers.com



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CRAFT ACTIVITIES

ANGEL BUNTING TEMPLATE

Items required:

A4 card, glue, ribbon, glitter, pipe cleaners or feel free to decorate as you wish using other materials such as fabric, dollies and tissue or crepe paper.

(See template attached below)



GOOD NEWS SCROLL

Items required:

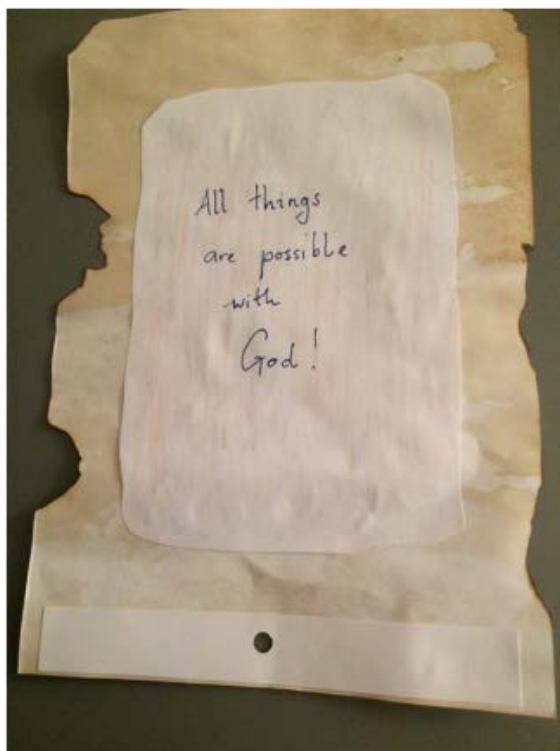
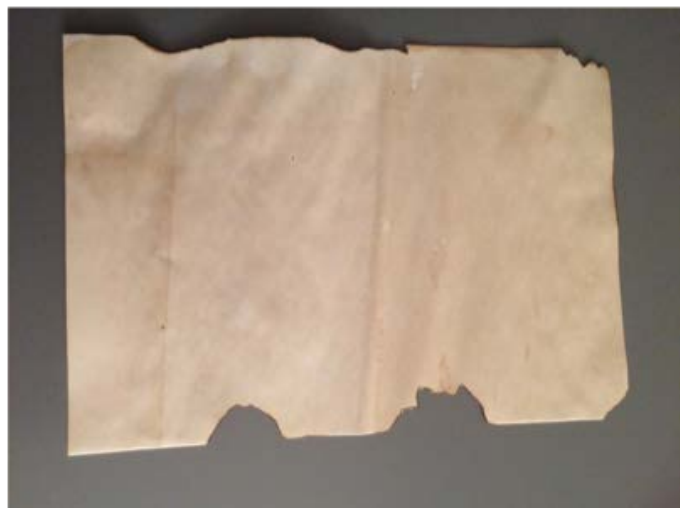
Paper, ribbon, glue, card, matches, coffee, hot water and hole punch.

Instructions:

- Take A4 paper and coat with coffee dissolved in water and allow to dry
- Cut paper in half: this will make two scrolls
- Lightly burn the edges if you wish (though this needs to be carried out by an adult)
- Place a small piece of card on lower edge of paper
- Add a bible verse or positive message inside
- Thread ribbon through hole and roll message into a scroll and tie in place with the ribbon

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CRAFT ACTIVITIES

ANGEL CRAFT

Items required:

Angel template, scissors, glue, silver tissue paper, doilies, decorative jewels, gold ribbon and a 50mm diameter polystyrene ball.

- Cut out template of angel body and wings.
- Decorate with silver paper and jewels or decoration of choice.
- Decorate wings – I have used doilies and a few jewels
- Glue body into a cylinder shape, attach wings and glue head into place. Add halo and face features.



wings : cut two

Body : cut one

