

MESSY CHRISTMAS TALK

INSTRUCTIONS: *Arrange the sweets/chocolate bars etc. mentioned in the text on a table where everyone can see them [NB to save money some can be found in a box of heroes/celebrations, and you can get mini boxes of Roses, Celebrations & After-eights]. As you tell the story ask the children [and adults!] to put their hands up when they hear the name of a sweet. If they are the first to raise their hands [and get it right!] they can take the sweet off the table as a prize. You can limit the number of times the same person is allowed to get a prize to make it fair for everyone. Have some suitable chocolates to give out at the end to any who don't win a prize.*

This is the story of Messy Christmas but there are so many messy things that happen in it, that I've hidden the names of lots of sweet things in the story to make it a bit nicer. If you hear me say the name of a sweet, put your hand up and you'll win that sweet as a prize. You're only allowed to win ??? prize/s though, so that others can all have a chance to win.

Long ago in Nazareth a girl called Mary was visited by an angel who told her she would be the mother of God's son. But Mary was afraid - having a baby was going to be messy for her. For one thing she wasn't yet married. To have a baby now would be a **TOPIC** of conversation in the village. And then there was her fiancé Joseph - when he heard about it he was really upset! But then an angel appeared to him in a dream and **WISPA**'d in his ear that the baby was God's idea. So, seeing as they were a couple of **LOVE HEARTS** they decided to go ahead with the wedding.

Before the baby arrived, however, things got even messier! The Romans made poor Mary & Joseph go on a long journey all the way to Bethlehem to be counted. It was miles away and doing that journey by donkey was certainly no **PICNIC**. Eventually they made it, but when Joseph tried to find lodgings, **CLUB** after **CLUB** let them down - "No room" they all said.

The only place they could find to stay was a messy old stable filled with farm animals - cows, sheep, goats, a donkey and even a little **KIT-KAT**. But that's where the baby was born - and his parents named him Jesus the Messy Messiah. Since they had no cot, they laid him in a messy feeding trough lined with hay. Mary wrapped the little child in strips of cloth - for in those days there was no such thing as baby-grows with poppers and **BUTTONS**.

That night in the hills it was getting late, **AFTER EIGHT** in fact, and some messy shepherds were sleeping rough in the fields with their sheep. Suddenly they saw angels lighting up the sky, heavenly **MINSTRELS** singing "Glory to God in the Highest". The angels told the shepherds to go and search for a special baby lying in a manger in Bethlehem. So they went and found Joseph, Mary and the baby Jesus just as they had been told.

But they were shocked when they saw the stable – it was all smelly and **TIC-TACKy!** When they realised that this child was special, however, they were full of wonder and **REVEL-led** at the thought of it. Could this be just as the prophets had said long ago - was this really God's Messy Messiah - the **LION** of Judah? Feeling happy, the shepherds went back to the hills singing praise to God as they went.

Meanwhile there were three wise men - **DRIFTERS** from eastern countries – Persian or maybe **TURKISH-DELIGHTing** in astronomy. One night they were busy looking up at the **GALAXY**, gazing at all the **MAGIC STARS**, when suddenly they saw a bright light in the **MILKY WAY**. It was a special **STARBAR** – showing that a new King had been born. They followed the star all the way to Israel and there, quite naturally, they headed for King Herod's Palace – for they weren't afraid to **HOBNOB** with royalty.

At first Herod didn't believe them and called them **ALL TEASERS**, but then his **TWISTED** mind began to worry they might be right. So he sent for his leading priests and bible scholars – real **SMARTIES** they were – and asked them where the Messy Messiah would be born. They told him Bethlehem, so Herod told the wise men how to get there and ordered them to report back to him on their way home.

The wise men travelled on until they reached the place where the light from the **STAR BURST** right over the place where baby Jesus lay. What a surprise they got! He wasn't in a nice clean palace, but a messy old stable! They didn't mind the mess, though; they just wanted to see Jesus. So in they went, knelt down at the manger and gave their **BOUNTY** of gifts - myrrh, frankincense, and **GOLD!** Then God warned the wise men in a **DREAM** that Herod was up to his **TWIX** again, trying to kill the child. So they decided to **FUDGE** the issue and to go home a different way.

Now that's the real Christmas story. It hasn't got much to do with reindeer, snow **FLAKES**, robins or a baby in a spotless crib decorated with tinsel. It just wasn't like that. Jesus was born a Messy Messiah, a threat to all the rich and powerful - don't miss the meaning. He came to earth so that **ALLSORTS** of people might know God's love for them. Many people today are looking for true meaning and purpose in their lives - a **BOOST** in difficult times. Jesus is the real **MCCOY** and even in this time of credit- **CRUNCH** - 'EE is on our side. That's the Messy Christmas Story – and it's truly a cause for **CELEBRATIONS!**



RIPPLE

Children's Ministry Connor

Sweets in Order of Appearance:

TOPIC	WISPA	LOVE HEARTS	PICNIC
CLUB	KIT-KAT	BUTTONS	AFTER EIGHT
MINSTRELS	TIC-TAC	REVELS	LION
DRIFTER	TURKISH-DELIGHT	GALAXY	MAGIC STARS,
MILKY WAY	STARBAR	HOBNOB	MALTEASERS
TWISTED	SMARTIES	STAR BURST	BOUNTY
GOLD	DREAM	TWIX	FUDGE
FLAKE,	ALLSORTS	BOOST	MCCOY
CRUNCHIE	CELEBRATIONS		