

## All Age Service Outline

## Theme: The Saviour is sent

### Welcome

### Introduction

Christmas is the good news story of how God sent a rescuer to save us when we couldn't save ourselves and bring us back to Himself. What was impossible for man was possible for God.

There are some things we humans just can't do! Try a few of these to see what I mean.

1. Lick your elbow
2. Twitch your nose without moving the rest of your face
3. Rotate your right leg in a clockwise motion, while drawing a "6" in the air with your right hand.
4. Wiggle your ears
5. Place your palm on a flat surface with your middle finger curled underneath, then raise (only) your ring finger.

There are lots of things we can't do but God is BIGGER and can do things we can't. God intervened in our world to send Jesus as a tiny baby, born for the most incredible mission of all.

### Song

Calypso Carol

### Reading

Luke 2 v 8-20

### Song

Go tell it on the mountain

### Reading

Matthew 2 v 1-12

## Quiz

### You will need

PowerPoint –The Christmas Quiz  
Audio Visual Equipment

## Song

The virgin Mary had a baby boy

## Talk outline

<https://ideas.brf.org.uk/christmas-presentation-of-the-real-meaning-of-christmas>

### You will need

The nine letters of the word '*Christmas*' written on separate pieces of A4 (A3?) card.

It would be good if each letter were also decorated in some way, while still remaining clearly visible and legible. Why not use differently coloured tinsel, wrapping paper, holly etc. to highlight and bring out each letter in a festive way?

Each letter card should also be numbered on the reverse, clear enough for the holder to see - only numbers 1 to 8, as the second 's' does not need to be numbered.

Once you have the letter cards ready, one further step would be to wrap each one in Christmas paper to create 9 'presents'.

If you have wrapped the letter cards, then begin the presentation by inviting children to come out and unwrap a present each, revealing the nine letters randomly. Begin to wonder what on earth this present is all about and how the letters are connected, leading eventually to someone recognizing that they spell the word Christmas. The emerging letters may of course already begin to spell something else first, however this will only add to the fun and in fact leads into the activity coming.

Alternatively, just simply hand out the letters randomly from the front.

You have now unwrapped the word Christmas, but this of course means so many different things to people. Now, by calling out the appropriate numbers linked to the letters, ask the card holders to come forward and arrange themselves so as to spell the following words.

(Remember when you are calling the numbers out, the children and adults should be standing so that the congregation can read the words left to right.)

Here are words you can spell linked to a comment, on which you can elaborate as leader:

CRAM - there's such a lot to do now that Christmas is so close

CHARM - there are such a lot of cosy, family traditions linked to this time of year

CASH - Christmas seems to cost more and more each time it comes round

TRASH - the same old TV programmes turn up again

SHAM - sadly we often have end up putting on a front and pretending to be nice to people we haven't seen for ages - even our relations!

SMART - it's a time for dressing up for those Christmas parties

CRASH - and also a time just to sit on the sofa and sleep!

HITS - listening to music and wondering what will be the Christmas number one

TRIM - or rather trimmings - all the extras that go with the special Christmas meal

But we know that Christmas is really more than all this. Amongst all these things, what is it that we are really unwrapping this Christmas? There are some more words hidden here, which might help:

CHARTS - not the Christmas top-twenty but the charts studied once upon a time by some wise people far away in the east

STAR - and who discovered a new star, which they followed carefully. It led them to....

HIM - the baby Jesus, lying in a manger

When Jesus looks at how we celebrate His birth would He spell our celebration like this?

(Arrange the following letters to come out and stand together):

C H R S T S

So what is missing ?

(The other letters then come out, right to the very front and arrange themselves to spell I AM)

Would Jesus say.....

I AM

Might you too forget to unwrap Jesus this Christmas?

## Song

Hark the Herald Angels sing

### Hark the Herald Prayer

<https://engageworship.org/ideas/hark-the-herald-prayer>

God, today we choose to “Hark”,  
to listen to your voice,  
to be still and know that you are God with us.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
RESPONSE: Glory to the new born King.

God we hear your promise of “peace on earth”,  
but we know that the nations have not yet embraced your peace.  
God we pray for Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, Afghanistan,  
[pause here for people to silently add other places and situations]  
and all other places where there is war, anger and broken lives.

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
RESPONSE: Glory to the new born King.

God we hear about the “incarnate Deity”,  
that you were pleased to dwell with us in flesh and blood.  
May we know you as Emmanuel, God with us,  
and may we share your presence with those around us.

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
RESPONSE: Glory to the new born King.

God we hear that Jesus was “born that we no more may die.”  
Be with those who are grieving at this time.  
[pause for silent prayer for people grieving]  
Help us to embrace your promise of second birth and resurrection,  
and live it out even here on earth.

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
RESPONSE: Glory to the new born King.

## **Song**

Joy to the World

## **Closing Prayer**

Dear Lord, on a wondrous night you sent your son to take on frail human flesh in order that all who believe in Jesus might be saved. You sent angels to herald his birth in Bethlehem and a star to proclaim it to the ends of the earth. Send us now as messengers of your good news and proclaimers of your peace. In Jesus name we pray. Amen