

Advent and Christmas



FOCUS

1. During Advent we focus on our preparation for the journey towards Christmas.
2. The journey of Abraham and Sarah and God's faithful relationship with them.
3. The journeys of Mary and Joseph and the Magi.
4. Jesus is God with us – Emmanuel.

During these lessons your child may have:

- recalled that Advent is a time for us to prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas;
- developed an awareness and understanding of Advent customs and traditions;
- listened and responded to the journey of Abraham and Sarah;
- recalled the faith of Mary and Joseph as they journeyed to Bethlehem;
- listened and responded to the story of the visit of the Magi;
- recalled some of the signs that pointed to Jesus' birth;
- reflected on their own life journey and God's place in it.

Genesis 12: 1-9

The Lord God said to Abram, "Leave your country, your family and your father's house, for the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation;" . . . So Abram went as God had told him. . . .

Matthew 1: 23

Now all this took place to fulfil the words spoken by the Lord through the prophet: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.

Luke 2:1-20

Now at that time Caesar Augustus issued a decree for a census of the whole world to be taken. . . . So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee and traveled to Judea, to the town of David, called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered together with Mary his betrothed, who was with child. While they were there the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to a son, her first born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them at the inn.

Matthew 2: 1-12

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judea . . . some wise men came . . . from the east. . . . they went

into the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening the treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.

SUGGESTED HOME ACTIVITIES

These are some suggested activities to do at home with your child.

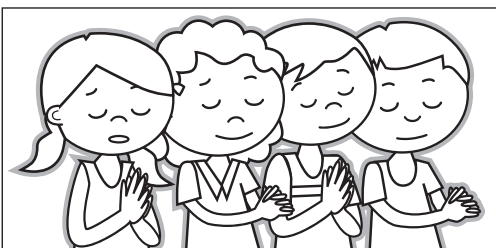
1. Read and discuss the Christmas Story with your child.
2. Talk to your child about how you prepared for Christmas when you were a child, highlighting particular family traditions.
3. Ask your child what gift they would have brought Jesus.
4. Encourage your child to design Christmas cards using the different events of the Christmas Story as the basis of their design.
5. Display a Nativity Set in your home.
6. Encourage your child to complete the exercise on the activity page.
7. More activities can be found at <https://ccd.sydneycatholic.org> Click **Curriculum overview/ Stage 2/Extension Activities**.

To Remember :

At Christmas we remember and celebrate that God is with us.

When Jesus was born many people had a part to play. Some announced Jesus' birth, some people cared for him while others came to worship him. Some of these people are listed below but their names are scrambled. Rearrange the jumbled letters and you will find out who they are. Once you have done this complete the mystery message.

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Lord Jesus, help us to see more clearly who you are and what you have done for us. We celebrate your birth with great joy and happiness. May we truly believe you are God with us. Amen