



Christmas Party

FCBC

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Introduction

During Christmas, we at FCBC love to throw Christmas parties where we invite our friends and family to come and experience Christmas together with us.

Whenever we are invited to a party, are we excited and marking the date in our calendars or finding excuses to decline the invitation? It depends on our previous experience of the party we attended. We hope that our friends and family will enjoy our Christmas parties this year so that they will look forward to our invitation next year.

We have prepared this manual and hope that it will prove useful in helping you plan your Christmas Party for this year.

There are three main parts that you will need to think through as a cell:

Part 1: Pre-Christmas Party

- Planning
- Prayer

Part 2: Christmas Party

- Fun – Party games and music
- Food – Hosting the party
- Friendship – Be Real and Be Relational

Part 3: Post-Christmas Party

- Reporting
- Reconnect

Part 1: Pre-Christmas Party

PLANNING

a) Time and Date

Pick a time and date that is as convenient as possible for your guests. For a party to be successful, we need guests.

- Pick a date that doesn't clash with any major event and a time that is convenient for the guests. For example: Mondays may not necessarily be the best days considering that it is the first day of the work week. For marketplace cells, week nights are more feasible than weekends and lunch time parties are good options to consider.
- Set a time that is realistic for your guests. Starting too early might be difficult as your guests might have to come from work, and starting too late might not be good too as it means the party will end late. Dinner parties tend to be the most common but don't discount brunch and tea time too!
- Consider what your guests just did and what they will be doing the next day. For example: If your party is during the week and your guests are coming from work, make sure you give them enough time to get through rush-hour traffic to get to the party. Also, do consider that they may not exactly be full of joy if their work day didn't go smoothly. Also, if they must go back to work the next day, just remember that they may not let their hair down as much as you'd like and open up as they would be subconsciously thinking of the next day's work.

b) Select a Suitable Venue

Find a private venue where everyone can feel relaxed. In addition to having parties at homes, you can also consider other venues such as condominium function rooms, office meeting rooms or cafeterias. The main consideration for a suitable venue is where everyone can feel at ease but still engage in meaningful conversation. You can create a homely feel without necessarily being at home.

- Consider the number of guests and select an appropriate venue. Some parties have been conducted in private function rooms of condominiums, restaurants, or even church.
- Make sure to secure your venue early and consider the logistics that you will need to acquire for that venue to work (sound system, tables, chairs, etc).
- The trick to having a great party is to have a venue which can facilitate meaningful conversation with little or no distraction.
- If you are having a party in the marketplace, be sure you seek permission to host a party from the venue owner or whoever is in-charge.
- Do take into consideration your guests' accessibility to the venue as well as any time limitation for using the venue.

c) Decorations

How the place looks will also help in setting the atmosphere for the party. Naturally, decorate the place in a manner suitable to celebrate Christmas.

- Decorations can be bought or made. Either way, it's a good way to bring the cell together to prepare the place.
- Decorations don't just refer to decorative pieces. Other more "mundane" items play an important part too – items like cutlery, tablecloths, lights, etc.

d) Venue Setup

Not all venues are ideally setup to host a party. Homes may have items or furniture that may not facilitate hosting a larger group of people and other venues may be totally bare. Make sure you plan the layout well so that your guests have enough space to mingle and sit around.

- Make sure there's easy access to the food and drinks.
- Have a lounging area if possible for your guests to get comfortable and relax.
- Shift any breakables away from the high traffic areas.
- Remove any rugs if you want to avoid getting them stained.

- Make sure that your guests know where the restroom is.
- If there are going to be children, child-proof your venue. The last thing you'd want is for a child to be hurt.

e) Plan the Guest List

Inviting guests to your Christmas Party shouldn't be random and left to chance. Come together as a cell and plan who you're going to invite.

- Set a goal as a cell. How many guests do you want to see at the party? Remember, there will always be a level of attrition between the number of invited guests and number of attending guests. A general rule of thumb would be to invite more people and consider this attrition. Some sources indicate that it can only be 20% to 25% of invited guests who eventually attend, so take this into account!
- Invite your guests. Praying is important and great and all that, but you need to step out and actually invite your guests.

f) Get the Word Out

For your guests to make it to your party, they're going to need some information. You can consider using social media to invite your guests. Alternatively, consider buying Christmas greeting cards from bookshops and use them as invitation cards.

- Give them all the relevant information on when and where the party's going down and how to get there.
- Let them know if they can bring other guests.
- Provide all other miscellaneous instructions so that they can have a great time at the party (e.g., gift exchange instructions, food instructions if it's a potluck, etc).

g) Set a Budget

Throwing a party can be expensive once you put everything together. We're talking about getting sufficient food, securing a venue, decorating the place,

preparing other items and so on. So, set a budget and plan your party according to it.

- Parties aren't fun if you don't invest in it, but that doesn't mean that it's all about how much money you have. Plan according to your budget and if something might not fit monetarily, work around it!
- Pool together as a cell to make sure everything that's needed is provided for.
- If finances are a constraint, consider a potluck party.

h) Have a Clean Up Plan

You'll want your guests coming into a nice and clean venue and you'll also want your home to be restored to its former glory (or you'll need to return the venue in good condition). So, please do plan to clean up before and after the party.

i) Put Everything in a Planning Checklist

If you need a sample checklist to help you keep track of planning your Christmas Party, feel free to use the attached planning checklist in Appendix B.

PRAYER

Encourage the members to fast and pray for the Christmas Party. Believe that God will give you opportunities to invite your friends and family and that you will have favour and open doors with them. Pray for each guest you are inviting and send out the invitations.

As your Christmas Party approaches, intensify prayer and consider fasting for your Christmas Party. Bind any spiritual forces that seek to thwart the programme or stop guests from attending.

Part 2: Christmas Party

FUN

a) Party Games

A party is only fun when the hosts of the party are having fun themselves. It's always important to put yourselves in your guests' shoes. While it may seemingly be apt to play games that revolve around Christmas (e.g., quizzes about the Christmas narrative or carols), not all your guests may be that familiar with Christmas. As such, try and plan out games where everyone can enjoy and be part of regardless of what Christmas is to them.

- Attached in this manual are some party games for your reference. However, if you'd like to explore other options, please feel free to do so.
- It's always handy to have some household games ready such as board games or card games. As long as they are simple enough, people can easily get into it and have some random fun.

b) Music

One of the best tools in our arsenal that can set the mood and atmosphere is music. Make sure you've got some nice tunes playing.

- Get a media player. This can be a laptop, your phone, an mp3 player and so on. If you've got appropriate music for the season, go right ahead. If you don't, get Spotify (just google it). Honestly, it's the best resource for music, even if you use the free version. With Spotify, you instantly have access to a huge library of songs. You can even search for pre-made Christmas playlists.
- Get suitable speakers. Even if you've got great tunes, those tunes wouldn't do any good if they can't be heard. Most of us would have speakers at home, but are they suitable? Try to get speakers that can cover your venue well. Be sure not to blast the music and drown out all conversation nor make it so soft that it might as well not be playing.

- Appoint someone to be the DJ. At the very least, someone needs to manage the volume during the party.

FOOD

a) Food

Christmas parties tend to revolve around food, and lots of it. If you want your guests to stick around, make sure you provide good food. Since it's the Christmas period, take the opportunity to provide some festive food – turkey, baked ham and so on.

- Make it a special festive menu; after all this is a Christmas Party.
- Try and have a special attraction in the meal, e.g., home-cooked food, specialty dishes, barbeques, etc.
- There are a lot of Christmas set meals available during the season, but they usually require advance booking. Keep that in mind!
- Have lots of finger food on hand. It's always important to have food available to guests the moment they walk in. These can be as simple as chips and dip or as fanciful as homemade dim sum.

b) Drinks

People don't only come to a party hungry, they come thirsty too. So, let's have some nice drinks prepared for them!

- Just like the finger food, have drinks available the moment the guests step in.
- Have enough drinks for everyone; don't let your guests mingle empty-handed or with an empty glass.
- Have a nice selection of drinks; often we don't focus much on drinks and only prepare a limited variety of drinks. Have a variety of fizzy drinks, non-carbonated drinks, juices and of course, water.

- Have some coffee and tea on hand too. You'll never know who would like a hot drink instead.
- Make sure there's easy access to the food and drinks.

FRIENDSHIP

a) Be Real and Be Relational

Being yourselves is a surefire way to make your guests feel at ease and relaxed. Make it a point to welcome your guests and mingle with them. Pay attention to their body language whether they are comfortable or feeling unsettled. Help your guests settle in by introducing yourselves and take special interest in getting to know them.

- Find a non-imposing manner of identification. The most common way that this is done is through stickers with names written on them. For a sit down party, you can consider asking your guests to write their names on stickers and stick to their glasses.
- Most of your guests will not know the other invited guests. The cell is the glue that will bring them all together. Encourage the cell to unleash their most sociable personalities and get them talking to various guests from different groups and where possible, bring the various groups together.
- One surefire way to get guests mingling at your party is to have a gift exchange since it is Christmas. Just remember to set a price cap on the gifts so that it doesn't get too out of hand. Another way of managing this gift exchange is for the cell to prepare enough gifts for all the invited guests so that no one is embarrassed at not bringing a gift for exchange.

b) Delegate the Work

It takes the entire cell to host a great party, so don't just let a few people do all the work. Delegate and assign tasks so that the workload is spread out. Even when it comes to hosting guests and keeping the atmosphere nice and relaxed, everyone has a part to play.

- Assign tasks to as many people as required so that all bases are covered once the party has started.

- You might be busy coordinating some behind-the-scene activities while the party is going on, so make sure the rest of the cell are helping by hosting the guests.
- If you can't do it yourself, have someone on hand who is looking at the overall condition of the party. Are more drinks and food needed? Has the music stopped? Are people feeling a little too warm or cold? Is there enough space? These are just some things to be thinking about.

Part 3: Post-Christmas Party

REPORTING

Please report the details of your Christmas Party using the Google form at this link: fcbc.org.sg/cellparty17

- Name of Cell Leader
- Date of Party
- Start Time
- Number of Guests Attended
 - Adults
 - Children

RECONNECT

This year we are doing something different. We would like everyone who has guests attending your Christmas Party to reconnect with them after the party over coffee or a meal. During the catch-up meeting, make special effort in finding out their needs and praying for them. Ask God and pray for an opportunity to reach out to your guest by sharing your personal testimony, John 3:16 or praying a blessing for your guest.

Invite your guest to attend our Thanksgiving Service.

APPENDIX A

SAMPLE PROGRAMME

1. Arrival of Guests

Be ready to receive guests about 15 minutes before your scheduled event time. Some guests may come early, so have some people ready to mingle and finger food and drinks all prepared to be served.

2. Welcome

Once most of the guests arrive, it would be good to take some time for everyone to get to know one another. (You'll need to exercise some discretion when it comes to deciding when to start. If most of your guests aren't there yet, there's really no point in starting. But if it's getting a little late and not everyone is there yet, you might just have to get the party going first.) The welcome portion doesn't have to be a very long drawn process. It could be just going around and introducing yourselves, a simple fun icebreaker/game, or activity that gets everyone mingling. There's no need to force everyone to share every single detail of their lives during a fixed segment. After all, the whole idea of having a party is to get to know people throughout the duration of the party.

3. Grace

Since this is a cell-based event, you don't have to be shy or apologetic about saying grace. It is Christmas too. As the cell leader or host, take some time to gather everyone before dinner is served and say grace. Take the opportunity to thank God for the food, friends, family and His blessings, and speak a blessing over all your guests.

4. Dinner

Every party would have a different kind of meal. Some smaller ones may have home-cooked food served by the host. Some may have a barbeque, while others may have a buffet. Whatever it is, it's important to give your guests enough uninterrupted time to enjoy the food and company. Let the conversations and atmosphere be spontaneous before moving on to the rest of the programme.

5. Conversation (Over Dinner)

Most of the cell would probably be seated with their respective guests. Interact with your guests and relax over the food. At some point in the dinner, cell members can share with their guests about what they're thankful for this year. This is also a good time to arrange with guests for the one-on-one meetup before the Year-End Harvest.

6. Gift Exchange

Once everyone has pretty much finished their meal, find the right time to gather everyone together and start the gift exchange. A simple way of having a gift exchange is to number all the gifts that are brought. When it's time for the exchange, each guest reaches into a bowl with small pieces of numbered paper in it. Whatever number they draw will correspond to a gift in the pile and that is their gift for the party. You can even turn it into a game. There are many ideas for gift exchange games that you can find online.

7. End

Before the party ends, cell members can pray a blessing for their guests. If the party doesn't show any sign of people wanting to go home, that's a really good thing! Allow the guests to continue hanging around if they'd like and continue to get to know them. But once it starts getting late (or you've exceeded your booking time), make a polite announcement that the party is over. Or if you'd really like to be subtle about it, start cleaning up the place.

Miscellaneous Points:

- An estimate for the duration of the party should be about 2 to 2.5 hours.
- Sample games and icebreakers, carols, and a gift exchange story are attached in Appendices C, D and I respectively.
- Formats for sharing testimonies and John 3:16 are attached in Appendices E and F. These are to be used only during the one-on-one meetup time.
- Resources for hosting children guests as well as for sharing "Breaking the Barrier" can be found in Appendix H.
- The Christmas story for children in pictorial form is in Appendix G.
- Try to keep the party a party rather than a structured activity. If possible, keep it spontaneous. That's one of the best things about a party.

CHRISTMAS PARTY PLANNING CHECKLIST

| DATE & TIME | 25 December, 8PM | EVENT VENUE: | TC Chapel |
|--|--|---|---|
| 4 Weeks Before | 2 Weeks Before | 1 Week Before | Event Day |
| Things to do 4 weeks before the event:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Delegate tasks to cell. ▪ Organise guest list. ▪ Pray for invited guests. ▪ Plan menu/ order food and drinks. ▪ Send invitations. ▪ ... ▪ ... ▪ ... | Things to do 2 weeks before the event:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Check RSVPs, confirm guest list. ▪ Shop for needed supplies. ▪ ... ▪ ... ▪ ... | Things to do 1 week before the event:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare for last-minute RSVPs. ▪ Delegate actual day tasks and roles. ▪ Start decorating. ▪ ... ▪ ... ▪ ... | Things to do on the event day itself:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Buy perishables. ▪ Cook food. ▪ Finish final decorations. ▪ ... ▪ ... ▪ ... |
| GUEST LIST | | MENU | |
| Guest: | Invited by: | | |
| Guest names | Cell members' names | | |
| ROLES | | MISC NOTES | |
| Role: | Name: | | |
| Music | | | |
| F&B | | | |
| Games | | | |
| Decor | | | |
| ... | | | |
| ... | | | |
| ... | | | |

Party Games

Game #1: GETTING TO KNOW YOU – PERSONALISED ‘BOGGLE’

You can set up TWO to AS MANY GROUPS of about 4 - 5 persons per group to play this game.

Set up a 7-by-7 table by filling it up continuously with NAMES of group members including surname (add dialect name if there are fewer members in that group).

After the tables have been set up, form as many 3-letters and above words as possible within 3 minutes:

- A word can be formed so long as it continues from one alphabet to the next
 - include diagonals and running backwards
 - exclude using the same alphabet twice or more
 - related words found in the original words are to be excluded
- 3-letter words are worth 1 point, 4-letter words 2 points and so on. Add up the points for that round.

An example of filling in the 7-by-7 blank boxes with NAMES continually:

DanielKhong PohWeeLong AsherEng WangGuanghan SimonYee (words excluded would be ‘long’ or ‘ash’)

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | A | N | I | E | L | K |
| H | O | N | G | P | O | H |
| W | E | E | L | O | N | G |
| A | S | H | E | R | E | N |
| G | W | A | N | G | G | U |
| A | N | G | H | A | N | S |
| I | M | O | N | Y | E | E |

Before you start, get all to flip their sheets over and go one round to get everyone to introduce themselves to everyone else from all the rest of the groups. When introductions have been done, Game Leader to start and time the game play.

Some possible words that can be formed using the above 7-by-7 table:

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|----------|----------|
| 1. Dangle | 11. Pole | 21. Seen | 31. Was | 41. Her | 51. Nay |
| 2. Done | 12. Role | 22. Heron | 32. Wane | 42. Here | 52. Nag |
| 3. Does | 13. Roe | 23. Hero | 33. Won | 43. Hen | 53. Hog |
| 4. Doe | 14. Hope | 24. Aim | 34. Woe | 44. Gun | 54. Eel |
| 5. How | 15. Honor | 25. Wash | 35. Anger | 45. Guns | 55. Heel |
| 6. Pool | 16. Pore | 26. Washer | 36. Lean | 46. Hay | |
| 7. Loop | 17. Gore | 27. Saw | 37. Hang | 47. Gong | |
| 8. Loo | 18. Lone | 28. Weasel | 38. Leg | 48. Gang | |
| 9. Hoop | 19. Loner | 29. Wheel | 39. Gone | 49. Yes | |
| 10. Poor | 20. See | 30. Wag | 40. Has | 50. Yen | |

For subsequent rounds of the games, you could play using:

- HOUSING ESTATES and/or ROADS of home addresses from members
- HOBBIES of group members

Other variations of the game would be to swap the 7-by-7 tables clockwise, i.e., each group would fill up the 7-by-7 table with their own NAMES and pass it to the group on their left.

Logistics required:

1. As many copies of empty 7-by-7 tables (or simply A4 sheets and you get the participants to draw lines to make a 7-by-7 table).
2. Blank A4 sheets to write out the words that have been formed.
3. Pens/Pencils for each group

Game #2: R.O.C.K. – Rock!

Have teams of about 4 to 5 persons. Distribute 1 sheet per team. Game Leader would set an alphabet for a round of game play, e.g., 'A'. In 60 seconds, the team is to come up with words starting with the letter 'A' in as many categories as possible in the table. The Game Leader would review the round of answers and answers that are the same for two or more groups for that category would be eliminated. 1 point for each unique word for that round. 3 points for words related to Christmas that are unique to the competing groups!

| ALPHABET | Round 1 Sample: E.g., 'A' | Round 2 | Round 3 |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------|---------|
| 1. MRT station | Aljunied MRT | | |
| 2. School | Ahmad Ibrahim Sec | | |
| 3. City | Abu Dhabi | | |
| 4. Country | Australia | | |
| 5. Food | Ang Ku Kueh | | |
| 6. Fruit | Apple | | |
| 7. Animal | Ape | | |
| 8. Brand | Adidas | | |
| 9. Movie | Avengers | | |
| 10. Celebrity | Adrian Pang | | |
| 11. Song title | Away in a Manger | | |
| 12. Road | Ang Mo Kio Ave 3 | | |
| 13. Things in the office | A4 paper | | |

When reviewing answers, if 2 groups have the same answer, e.g., 'Ajunied MRT', that answer should be eliminated as it is not a unique answer.

Logistics required:

1. As many copies of the sheets with categories.
2. 1 Pen/Pencil per group

Make As Many Copies As Needed for Use

| ALPHABET | Round 1 | Round 2 | Round 3 |
|--------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. MRT station | | | |
| 2. School | | | |
| 3. City | | | |
| 4. Country | | | |
| 5. Food | | | |
| 6. Fruit | | | |
| 7. Animal | | | |
| 8. Brand | | | |
| 9. Movie | | | |
| 10. Celebrity | | | |
| 11. Song title | | | |
| 12. Road | | | |
| 13. Things in the office | | | |

Game #3 Memory Game

Instructions:

- Split your group into teams of 5. Each team sits facing the main leader.
- The leader will introduce the words and actions one at a time.
- All to follow along and try to remember the sequence. (for groups that consist of adults – maybe don't have this step as they should be able to remember all the actions)
- Game will end once the groups are able to say all 10 words and do the corresponding actions in order.

Note(s):

Link to tutorial video below:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B7hUF2GAS4ikc3VkJNDBrZDJ2VVk>

Cue Sheet

| Phrase | Action |
|------------------|--|
| Christmas tree | Arms above head, fingertips touching Point to the left and right alternately for 4 counts |
| Give presents | Left and right hands in front of body, pushing away from body to the left and right alternately for 4 counts |
| Eat ah eat | Alternate moving left and right hands towards mouth for 4 counts |
| Snowfall | Move arms from above head in a wavy fashion down to where your body is in a squat in 4 counts |
| Jingle bells | Spraying action to the right and left alternately for 4 counts |
| Gingerbread man | Spin around in a star jump action for 4 counts |
| Warmth | Use arms to hug yourself and sway from left to right alternately for 4 counts |
| Christmas lights | Sprinkling hand action above head, diagonally up, at sides and diagonally down over 4 counts |
| Turkey | Flap arms like wings to the right for two counts and to the left for two counts |
| Star | Do a star jump |

Game #5: 'TALENT' TIME

You can play in teams of 4 to 5 persons where each team sends out 1 player to compete, based on a given word, for example 'The Whitest...'

When all representatives are ready, you can reveal the area that they now need to compete on:

- 'The Whitest Teeth'

Assess each of the rounds and keep scores for the various teams.

These are some categories that the Game Leader can call out:

- The longest ... : The longest BIG TOE
- The shortest... : The shortest FRINGE
- The thickest... : The thickest HAIRDO
- The thinnest ... : The thinnest EYEBROWS
- The most... : The most MOLES on your left arm
- The least ... : The least LEG HAIR
- The lowest ... : The lowest DEGREE OF EYEGLASSES
- The tiniest ... : The tiniest EYES (Get them to smile)
- The biggest ... : The biggest AHHH (opened mouth like at the dentist)
- The highest ... : The highest TOSS OF A TISSUE PACK (cannot hit ceiling)

Logistics required:

- A few tissue packs for concurrent tossing if you use that challenge. Otherwise, no logistics required.

Game #6: NEVER HAVE I EVER

Everyone starts off with 5 'lives' indicated by holding up their palm, with all 5 fingers up.

Each person takes turns to say a statement that he/she has never done before, using the phrase 'Never have I ever...'. If any of the rest hearing the statement has done what was said, they lose 1 'life' by folding down one of their fingers.

An example could be, 'Never have I ever driven a car.' The hearers who have driven a car would need to fold down one of their fingers, i.e., they have 4 'lives' remaining.

For large groups with 10 or more players:

Play until 2 to 3 persons are knocked out completely.

For smaller groups with less than 10 players:

Play until there's one last person left with 'live(s)'.

Game #7: Charade

Game Leader prepares slips of paper with words or phrases, folds them and puts them in a bowl. A player then chooses a slip of paper and acts out the word or phrase.

Here are some common clues used in charades:

- To indicate a book, pretend to read a book.
- To indicate a song, pretend to sing.
- To indicate a movie, pretend to crank an old movie camera.
- To indicate the number of words, hold up that many fingers. (then hold up one finger before pantomiming the first word, two fingers before the second, and so on)
- To pantomime a word that rhymes with the word you want players to guess, first tug on your ear to mean 'sounds like'.

The first person to guess the word or phrase gets a point. If you like, divide into teams before playing. Players from each team take turns to choose a slip of paper for their teammates. The first team to guess the word or phrase gets a point.

Keep track of the points earned by each player or team. The one with the most points at the end of the game wins.

Logistics required:

- Slips of paper with words or phrases and a bowl
- A prize for winner

Suggested words for Chinese Christmas parties:

| | | | |
|------|------|------|-----|
| 平安夜 | 火鸡 | 树桐蛋糕 | 袜子 |
| 麋鹿 | 白雪 | 圣诞卡 | 棒棒糖 |
| 唱圣诞歌 | 红色 | 绿色 | 火腿 |
| 绵羊 | 鹿 | 礼物 | 星星 |
| 长袍 | 长靴 | 皮带 | 扣子 |
| 铃铛 | 圣诞树 | 烟火 | 丝带 |
| 婴儿耶稣 | 三位博士 | 牧羊人 | 天使 |

QUESTIONS OVER DINNER #1
(IF ALL ARE SEATED AROUND THE DINNER TABLE)

Pass out slips of paper and ask everyone to write a question that someone else would later pick from the pile and answer.

After they've answered the question, they can have 3 tries to guess who came up with the question. Should they pick their own question, they can put it back and draw another question.

(You may need to run through the questions to check that all the questions asked are appropriate and would not put anyone on the spot.)

Logistics required:

1. Slips of paper
2. Pens

QUESTIONS OVER DINNER #2
(IF ALL ARE SEATED AROUND THE DINNER TABLE AND IN NO HURRY TO LEAVE)

You could play some other games around the table and those who 'forfeit' (i.e., lose a round) have to draw a slip of paper and answer a question.

- (i) GUESS A NUMBER BETWEEN 1 TO 100.

Have someone set and fix a number within the range of 1 to 100. Everyone at the table takes turns to guess a number in the range and the one who set the number for that round would respond with 'higher' or 'lower' accordingly.

For example, the 1st person picked '35'. This number is unknown to the rest. The 2nd person makes a guess, '50'. The 1st person says, 'lower' implying that the range is now narrowed to 1 to 50 (since the secret number '35' is truly lower than 50). The 3rd person will now guess the next number in the new range of 1 to 50.

The guessing continues as the range narrows until someone is finally cornered to say, '35' and the forfeit would be to draw a question and answer.

- (ii) TAKE TURNS TO ADD MORE WATER

Have 2 paper cups of water with both about 75% full. Place 1 paper cup in the middle of the table and everyone takes turns to add some water from the other cup, trying their best to pour carefully so the 1st cup doesn't spill over.

The fun part of this game is to watch how carefully people try to add just 1 drop and breathe a sigh of relief when they succeed, and pass the baton on to the next person who would now be 'stressed'.

The person who causes the spill will do a 'forfeit', i.e., answer a question from the pile.

Cut Out & Fold

| | |
|--|---|
| Which hawker stall OR restaurant is a MUST TRY in Singapore? | What animal do you like most OR least, and why? |
| Who is someone you respect most in life? | Who is someone you are most thankful for, and why? |
| What was the weirdest thing that has ever happened to you? | What is your dream job? |
| What is the biggest risk you have ever taken? | What is your favourite movie, and why? |
| Which superhero is your favourite, and why? | Where is your dream holiday destination? |
| What is one dish you can cook OR cook well? | Share 1 weakness you have when it comes to food OR shopping (you choose). |
| What is your typical order at McDonald's or Kopitiam (if you're not a fan of fast food)? | Share one thing on your bucket list. |
| What food do you dislike most? | What is your favourite ice cream flavour? |
| What makes your best friend, the best friend for you? | What is one thing you are thankful for in 2017? |
| Would you describe yourself as more of a disciplined or lazy person, and how so? | Is there some goal that you are working on right now, and what would that be? |

CHRISTMAS SONGS

1. We Wish You A Merry Christmas

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
Good tiding for Christmas
And a Happy New Year

2. Jingle Bells

Dashing through the snow
In a one-horse open sleigh
O'er the fields we go
Laughing all the way

Bells on bob-tail ring
Making spirits bright
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song tonight

Jingle bells Jingle bells
Jingle all the way
Oh what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh

3. Deck The Hall

Deck the hall with boughs of holly
Fa la la la la la la la la
T'is the season to be jolly
Fa la la la la la la la la
Don we now our gay apparel
Fa la la la la la la la la
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol
Fa la la la la la la la la

Fast away the old year passes
Fa la la la la la la la la
Hail the new ye lads and lasses
Fa la la la la la la la la
Sing we joyous altogether
Fa la la la la la la la la
Heedless of the wind and weather
Fa la la la la la la la la

4. Angels We Have Heard On High

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains

Glo-ria
In ex-celsis Deo
Glo-ria
In ex-celsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King

5. Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King

Hail the heav'n born
Prince of Peace
Hail the Sun of Righteousness
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to save the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King

6. Silent Night

Silent night holy night
All is calm all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Silent night holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia
Christ the Saviour is born
Christ the Saviour is born

Silent night holy night
Son of God love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord at Thy birth
Jesus Lord at Thy birth

7. Joy To The World

Joy to the world the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven
And nature sing

Joy to the world the Saviour reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods
Rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

He rules the world
With truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders and wonders
Of His love

CHRISTMAS SONGS

(with chords)

1. We Wish You Merry Christmas (K=G)

G C
We wish you a Merry Christmas
A7 D7
We wish you a Merry Christmas
B7 Em
We wish you a Merry Christmas
C D7 G
And a Happy New Year

Chorus

G D
Good tidings we bring
C D7 G
To you and your friends
D G C
Good tidings for Christmas
C D G
And a Happy New Year

2. Jingle Bells (K=D)

D
Dashing through the snow,
G
in a one-horse open sleigh,
Em A7
O'er the fields we go,
D
Laughing all the way.
D
Bells on bob-tails ring,
D7 G
Making spirits bright,
Em A
What fun it is to ride and sing
A7 D
A sleighing song tonight. Oh!

Chorus

D
Jingle bells, jingle bells,
D7
Jingle all the way!
G D
O what fun it is to ride
E7 (A7) A7 (D)
In a one-horse open sleigh

(repeat)

3. Deck the Halls (K=D)

D
Deck the halls with boughs of holly,
Em D A D
Fa la la la la la la la
D
Tis the season to be jolly,
Em D A D
Fa la la la la la la la
A7 D
Don we now our gay apparel,
D G Em A
Fa la la la la la la la
D Bm
Troll the ancient Yuletide carol,
G D A7 D
Fa la la la la la la la

D
Fast away the old year passes,
Em D A D
Fa la la la la la la la
D Bm
Hail the new, ye lads and lasses,
Em D A D
Fa la la la la la la la
A7 D
Sing we joyous all together,
D G Em A
Fa la la la la la la la
D Bm
Heedless of the wind and weather,
G D A7 D
Fa la la la la la la la

4. Angels We Have Heard on High (K=D)

D
Angels we have heard on high
A D
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
D A D
And the mountains in reply,
D A D
Echoing their joyous strains

Chorus

D Em D A D Em A
Glo-----ria in excelsis Deo
D Em D A D Em D
Glo-----ria in excelsis Deo

D
Come to Bethlehem and see
A D
Him whose birth the angels Sing
D A D
Come, adore on bended knee
D A D
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King
(repeat chorus)

5. Hark The Herald Angels Sing (K=D)

D A
Hark the herald angels sing
G A D
Glory to the new-born King
D A
Peace on earth and mercy mild
Em A
God and sinners reconciled
F#m G
Joyful all ye nations rise
F#m G A
Join the triumph of the skies
G Em
With the angelic hosts proclaim
A Em A7 D
Christ is born in Bethlehem
G Em
Hark the herald angels sing
A Em A7 D
Glory to the new-born King

D A
Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace
G A D
Hail the Son of righteousness
D A
Light and life to all He brings
Em A
Ris'n with healing in His wings
F#m G
Mild He lays His glory by
F#m G A
Born that man no more may die
G Em
Born to raise the sons of earth
A Em A7 D
Born to give them second birth
G Em
Hark the herald angels sing

A Em A7 D
Glory to the new-born King

6. Silent Night Holy Night (K=A)

A
Silent night holy night
Bm E A A7
All is calm all is bright
D Bm A A7
Round yon virgin mother and child
D Bm A
Holy infant so tender and mild
E E7 A F#m
Sleep in heavenly peace
A E A
Sleep in heavenly peace

A
Silent night holy night
Bm E A A7
Shepherds quake at the sight
D Bm A A7
Glories stream from heaven afar
D Bm A
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia
E E7 A F#m
Christ the Saviour is born
A E A
Christ the Saviour is born

A
Silent night holy night
Bm E A A7
Son of God love's pure light
D Bm A A7
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
D Bm A
With the dawn of redeeming grace
E E7 A F#m
Jesus Lord at Thy birth
A E7 E A
Jesus Lord at Thy birth

7. Joy To The World (K=C)

C
Joy to the world
G C
The Lord is come
F G C
Let earth receive her King
C
Let every heart prepare Him room

And heaven and nature sing
G

And heaven and nature sing
C F G C
And heaven and heaven and nature sing

C
Joy to the world
G C
The Savior reigns
F G C
Let men their songs employ
C
While fields and floods

Rocks hills and plains

Repeat the sounding joy
G
Repeat the sounding joy
C F G C
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

C
He rules the world
G C
With truth and grace
F G C
And makes the nations prove
C
The glories of His righteousness

And wonders of His love
G
And wonders of His love
C F G C
And wonders and wonders of His love

PERSONAL TESTIMONY GUIDELINES

What Christmas means to you and how Jesus came into your life
(5 minutes)

Align your personal testimony with the concept of this Christmas Party:
Let the questions below guide you in writing your testimony.

- 1) How life was like before you become a Christian
 - What awakened a need for God within you
- 2) How you became a Christian
 - Who introduced Jesus to you
 - What you heard about who God is and what He did to show you that He loves you
 - How it was presented to you
 - What caused you to make a decision to believe in God
 - What you did to invite Jesus into your life
- 3) How life was after you became a Christian
 - What your life was like immediately after you gave your life to Jesus
 - How long you have been a Christian
 - How God helped you to solve the problems or struggles that you had before you became a Christian
 - Write down three things you are thankful to God for since you became a Christian

ONE-ON-ONE SHARING (John 3:16 Presentation)

POSSIBLE RESPONSES

During the sharing time, the following are the possible responses of your guest and what you are to do for each response:

- ❖ If the guest says "Yes" to Salvation, confirm the decision using Scriptures
 - ◆ Open your Bible to John 1:12.
 - ◆ Let the guest read the Scripture.
 - ◆ Ask the guest: "When you receive Jesus Christ into your life, who have you become?"
Answer: A Child of GOD
 - ◆ Congratulate the guest for the decision made.

Following this sharing, ask your guest if there is a need you can pray over. Pray a prayer of blessing for your guest, and as the Lord leads, release the Holy Spirit's fullness before you end the meeting with him/her.

Pray:

Lord, I thank You for the salvation of (guest's name). I pray that You will fill him/her with the fullness of the Holy Spirit, and that he/she will experience Your love daily. I ask for the full blessings of the Cross to be upon him/her. Lead him/her in Your ways. Surround him/her with Your protection. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

- ◆ Invite your guest to join your cell activities and come for the Thanksgiving Service.

- ❖ If the guest is not ready to receive Christ but is open to know more about God, say:

I understand that you are not ready at this point to make this decision to invite Jesus into your life. But like what I have shared, God is real and hears our prayers. May I pray for you that God will reveal Himself to you and help you to experience His love in your life? If this is what you want, please repeat this prayer after me and mean the words in your heart.

Pray the "Seeker's Prayer":

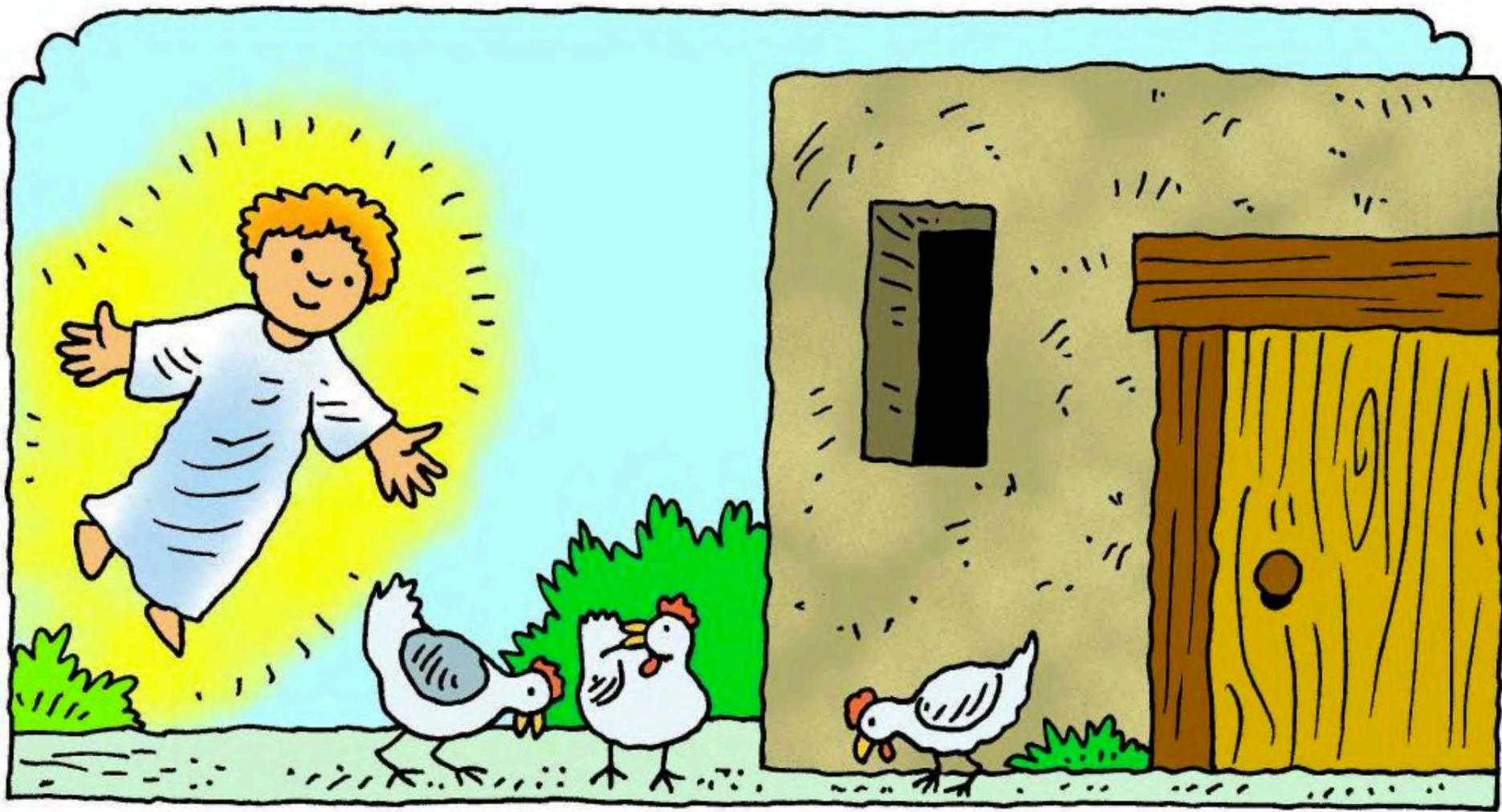
Dear Jesus, I do not know You but my friend tells me that You are real. I would like to know You more and I pray that You will reveal Yourself to me in the way You have shown Yourself to other Christians. Please help me to know Your love. Thank you for hearing me. I pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

- ❖ If the guest says "No" to Salvation, probe to understand his/her concerns and offer to pray a blessing over him/her.

Pray:

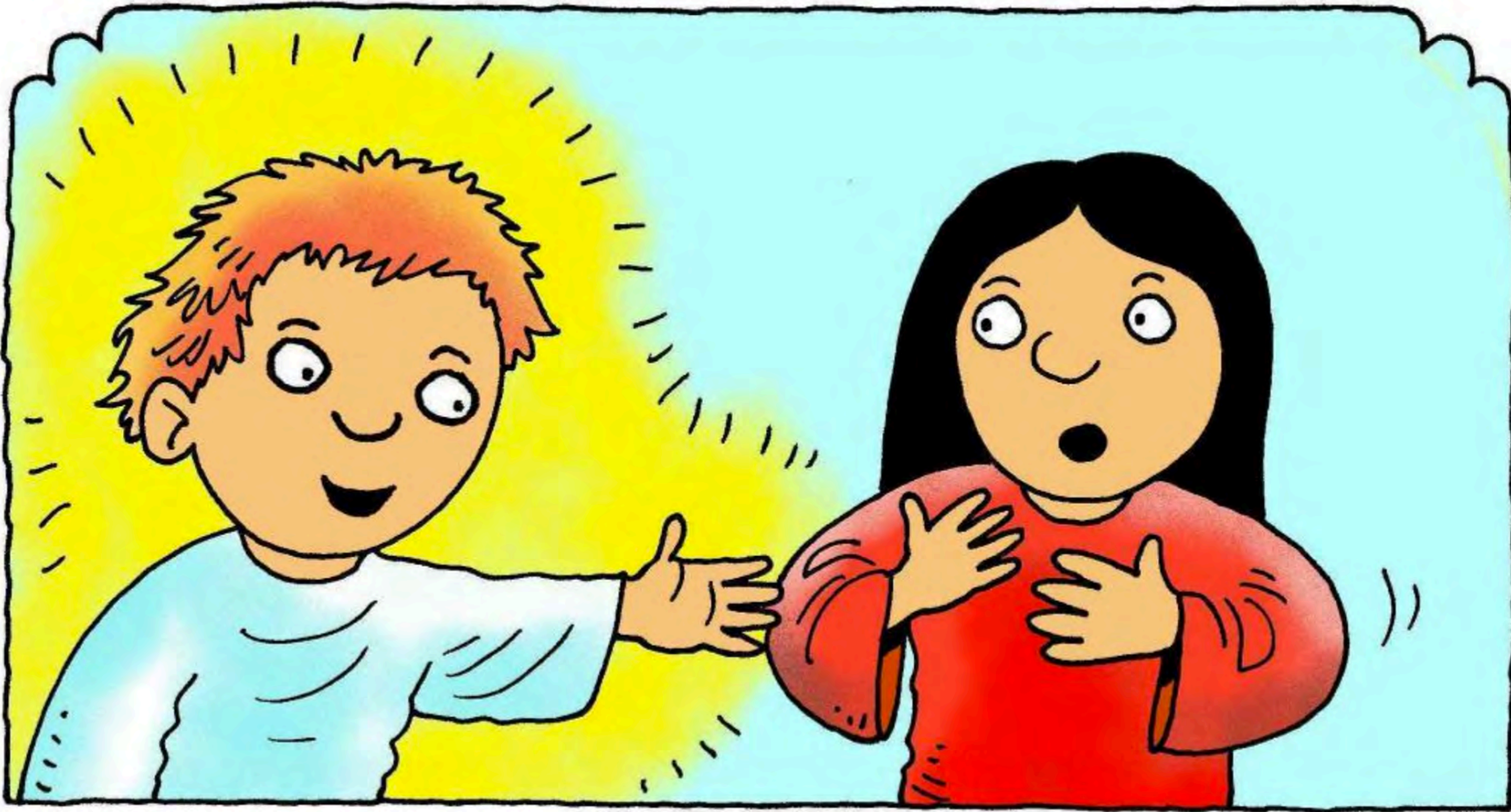
Lord, I thank You for this chance to share Your love with (guest's name). I ask that You will continue to keep him/her in good health and in joyful spirit, and that one day, (guest's name) will come into the wonderful experience of knowing and walking with You. Seal this truth in his/her mind. Thank You in the name of Jesus, Amen.

- ◆ Invite your guest to join your cell activities and come for the Thanksgiving Service.



Picture 1

Long ago, about 2,000 years ago, an angel was sent by God to a young woman who lived in the town of Nazareth. The girl's name was Mary and she was engaged to marry a man named Joseph.



Picture 2

The angel told her that she would have a baby and it would be from the Holy Spirit and she would name Him “Jesus”. He would be known as “Emmanuel”, which means “God with us”. He would save His people.



Picture 3

At this time, the Roman Emperor wanted everyone to go back to the town their families originally came from and so Mary and Joseph travelled a long way from Nazareth to Bethlehem, back to Joseph's hometown. Joseph and Mary travelled very slowly because Mary's baby was about to be born soon.



Picture 4

When they arrived in Bethlehem, they knocked on every door in the town, looking for a place to stay but everywhere was full of people. They went from inn to inn until they reached the last inn. The owner welcomed them but only the stable, where animals would sleep, had space for them.



Picture 5

At last, they had a place to stay but it was dirty, smelly and unhygienic. It was not suitable for a baby to be born in. Mary gave birth to Jesus right there in the stable.

Baby Jesus was wrapped in strips of cloth and placed in the manger, a trough that is used to feed animals.



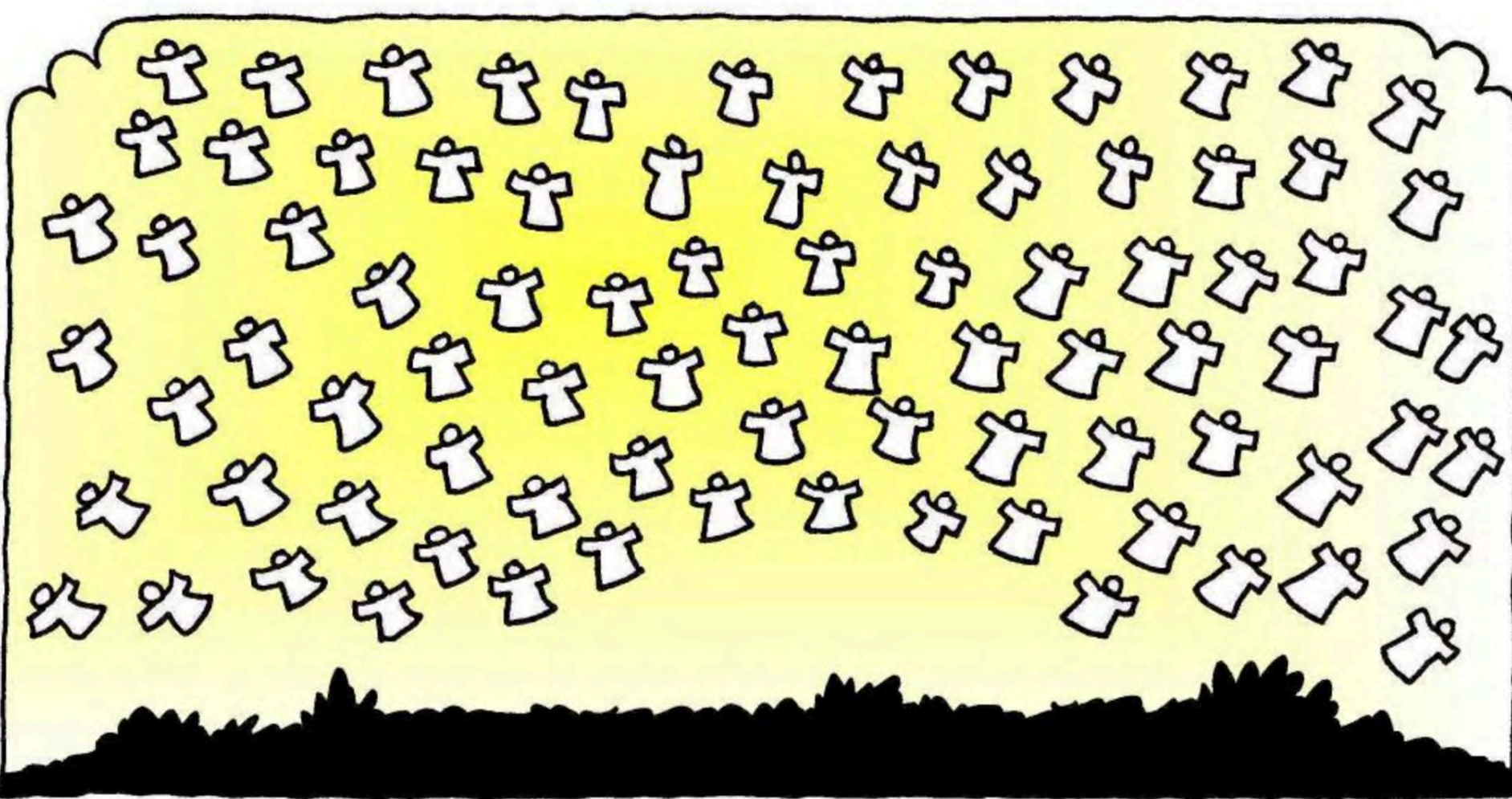
Picture 6

Meanwhile, there were a group of shepherds keeping watch over their flocks in the fields nearby.



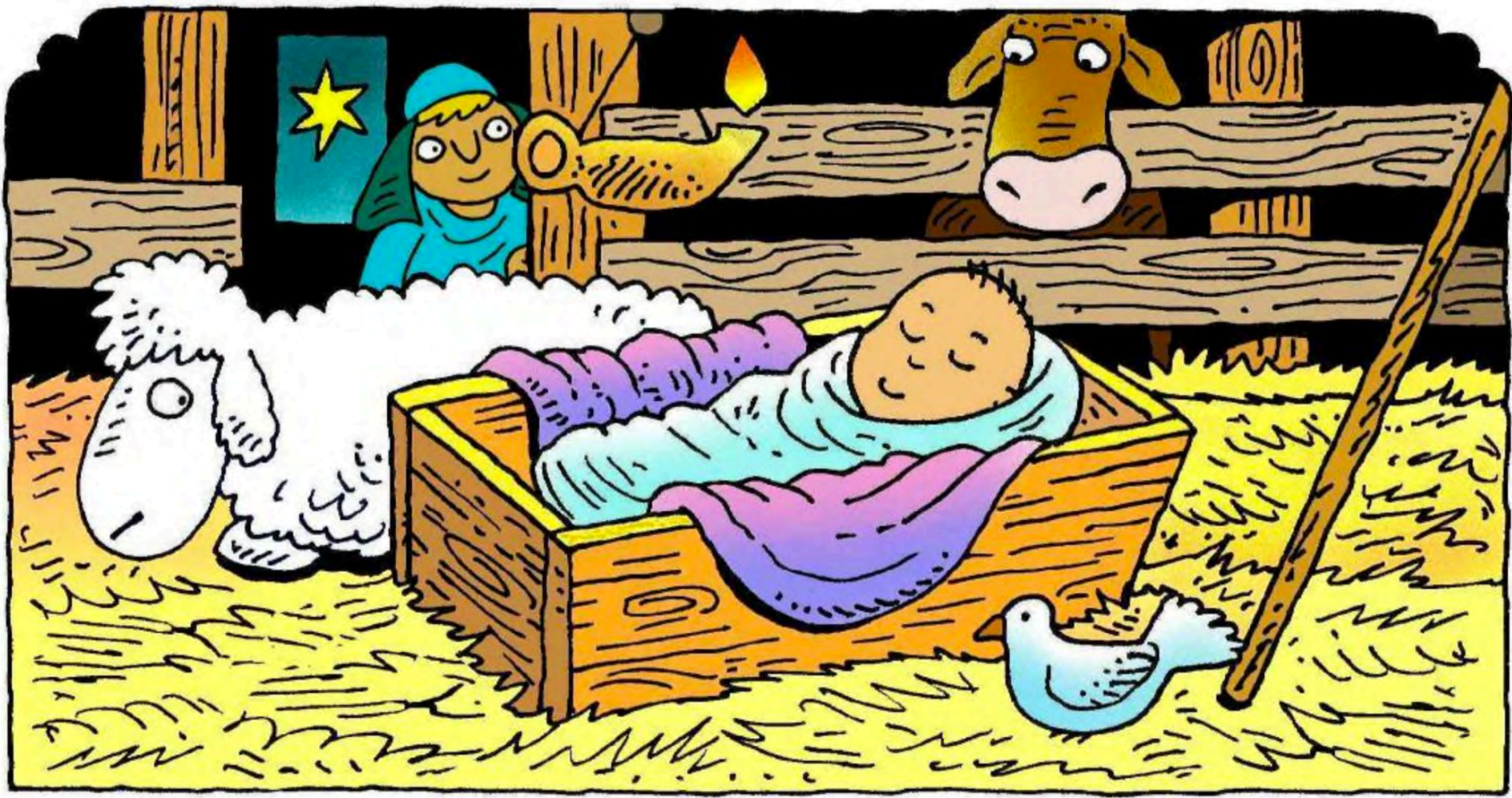
Picture 7

Suddenly, an angel appeared in front of them and they were taken aback by it! The brightness of the Lord's glory flashed upon them but the angel said, "Don't be afraid, I have good news for you which will make everyone happy. This very day in King David's hometown, a Saviour is born for you, He is Christ the Lord. You will know who He is because He will be dressed in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."



Picture 8

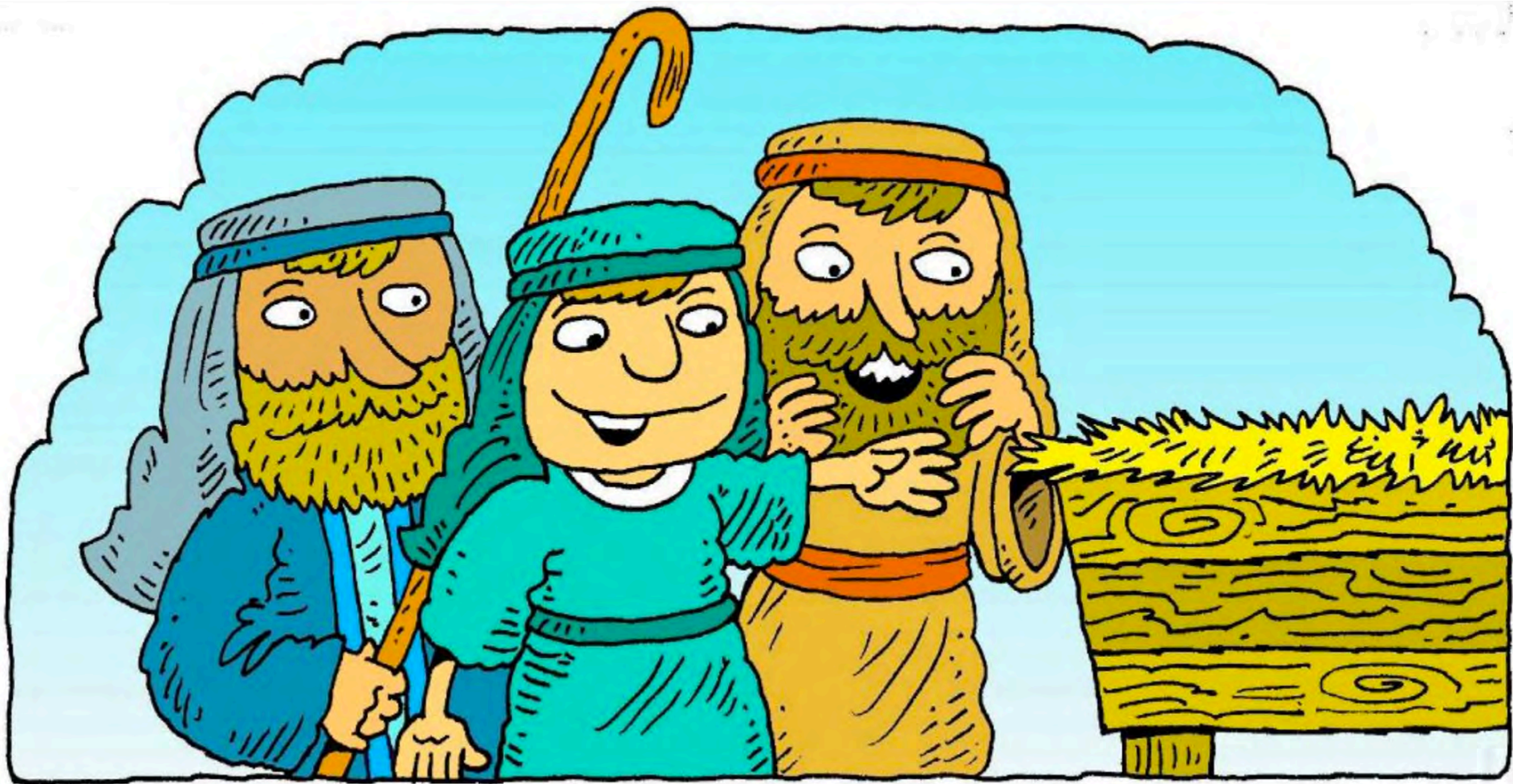
Suddenly, many other angels came down from heaven and joined in praising God. They said “May glory be given to God in the highest heaven! And may peace be given to those He is pleased with on earth!”



Picture 9

After the angels had left and gone back to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see what the Lord has told us about.” They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph. They saw the baby lying in the manger.

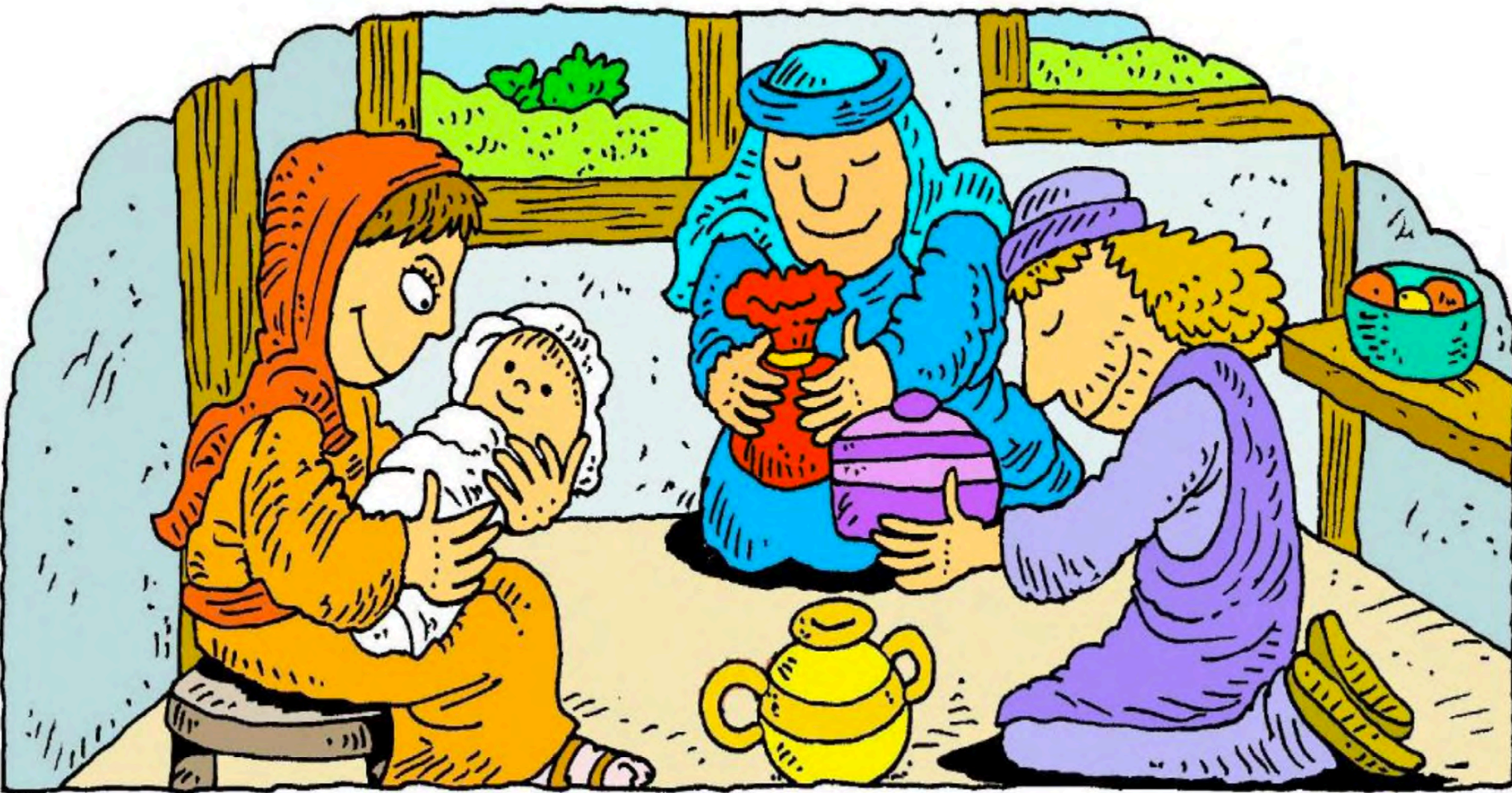
The shepherds told everyone about the baby and people were amazed at the story that the Son of God was actually born in a stable.



Picture 10

When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem, three wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. They had followed a star in the sky and wanted to find Jesus to worship Him.

The star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them till it stopped at the place where Jesus was.



Picture 11

When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, they knelt down and worshipped him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh and gave it to Him.



Picture 12

This happened over 2,000 years ago. An angel told Mary that she would have a baby who would be very important. He was so important that angels appeared to announce His birth, and shepherds and wise men from a faraway country came to meet and worship Him. Why was this baby so important?

Well, that's because He is God's Son, Jesus, and He came to be the Saviour of the whole world. He grew up to save many people and healed the sick.

1. SHARING THE CHRISTMAS STORY WITH CHILDREN

Transition to the sharing

“We just had a lot of fun together in this Christmas party, but do any of you know the reason why we celebrate Christmas? It’s not just about gifts or yummy food or family, the reason why we celebrate Christmas is because of the greatest gift of all – Jesus!

Jesus is God’s Son and at Christmas, we celebrate that Jesus was born on earth, for a very important reason. But first let me share with you what happened that first Christmas night.”

OPTION 1 – WATCH A VIDEO

Preparation

- Assign a cell member or a GKidz child within the cell to share a simple 2-3 minute testimony of God’s reality in their life, through answered prayer, miracle or healing. Ensure that the testimony is something that the children visitors can relate to.
- Download the Nativity Story video onto your laptop (<https://vimeo.com/83109095>)
- Either connect the laptop to a TV or projector, or play the video on your laptop if the group of children is not very big. Consider using external speakers to amplify the volume.

Instructions for Video Playback

- Play the video until the end, including the song, or if you do not want to play the song, stop the video at the 2:05 minute mark.
- **Summarise the Christmas story** – “This happened over 2,000 years ago. An angel told Mary that she would have a baby who would be very important. He was so important that angels appeared to announce His birth, shepherds and wise men from a far away country came to meet and worship Him. Why was this baby so important? Well, that’s because He is God’s Son, Jesus and He came to be the Saviour of the whole world. He grew up to save many people and healed the sick.”
- **Transition to testimony** - “Jesus wasn’t someone who only saved people many many years ago. He continues to save and help us today. Let us invite _____ to share a short testimony about how Jesus has been real in his/her life.”

Testimony sharing

- **Transition to the Breaking the Barrier Illustration** – “Wow thank you for sharing! Jesus is real and wants to save and help us even today! He came to save us in an amazing way. Now we are going to split into smaller groups to share with you a story using this special sticker book about Jesus and what He did to save the whole world.”

Break into smaller groups of 4-5 children to share the Breaking the Barrier gospel presentation (see Section 2 for instructions on how to use this gospel sharing tool)

OPTION 2 - SHARE THE CHRISTMAS STORY USING PRINTED VISUAL AIDS

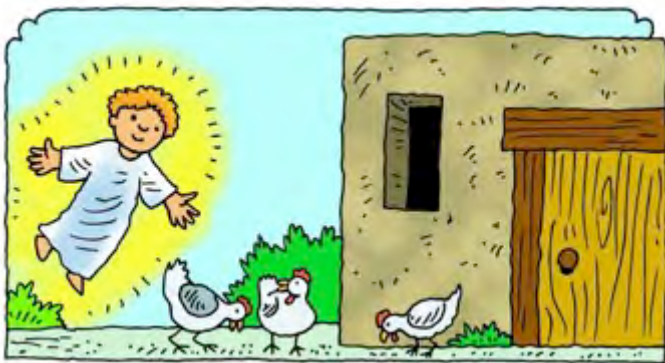
Preparation

- Print out the Christmas story visual aids in colour on A3 paper – the picture on one side and the text to read out on the back
- Ensure that the pieces of paper are in the correct order

Instructions

- Gather the children to sit facing the narrator(s) and the pictures
- Read the text for each picture in sequential order
- You can take turns among two adults to read the story
- If you have upper primary children from GKidz in your group, you can consider getting them to read the story.

Picture 1



Long ago, about 2,000 years ago, an angel was sent by God to a young woman who lived in the town of Nazareth. The girl's name was Mary and she was engaged to marry a man named Joseph.

Picture 2



The angel told her that she would have a baby and it would be from the Holy Spirit and she would name Him "Jesus". He would be known as "Emmanuel", which means "God with us". He would save His people.

Picture 3



At this time, the Roman Emperor wanted everyone to go back to the town their families originally came from and so Mary and Joseph travelled a long way from Nazareth to Bethlehem, back to Joseph's hometown. Joseph and Mary travelled very slowly because Mary's baby was about to be born soon.

Picture 4



When they arrived in Bethlehem, they knocked on every door in the town, looking for a place to stay but everywhere was full of people. They went from inn to inn until they reached the last inn. The owner welcomed them but only the stable, where animals would sleep, had space for them.

Picture 5



At last, they had a place to stay but it was dirty, smelly and unhygienic. It was not suitable for a baby to be born in. Mary gave birth to Jesus right there in the stable.

Baby Jesus was wrapped in strips of cloth and placed in the manger, a trough that is used to feed animals.

Picture 6



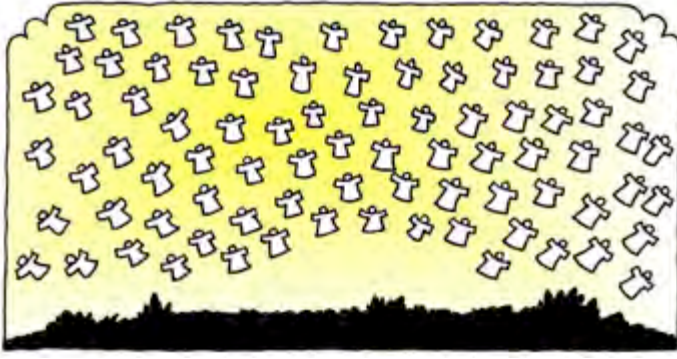
Meanwhile, there were a group of shepherds keeping watch over their flocks in the fields nearby.

Picture 7



Suddenly, an angel appeared in front of them and they were taken aback by it! The brightness of the Lord's glory flashed upon them but the angel said, "Don't be afraid, I have good news for you which will make everyone happy. This very day in King David's hometown, a Saviour is born for you, He is Christ the Lord. You will know who He is because He will be dressed in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

Picture 8



Suddenly, many other angels came down from heaven and joined in praising God. They said, "May glory be given to God in the highest heaven! And may peace be given to those He is pleased with on earth!"

Picture 9



After the angels had left and gone back to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see what the Lord has told us about." They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph. They saw the baby lying in the manger.

The shepherds told everyone about the baby and people were amazed at the story that the Son of God was actually born in a stable.

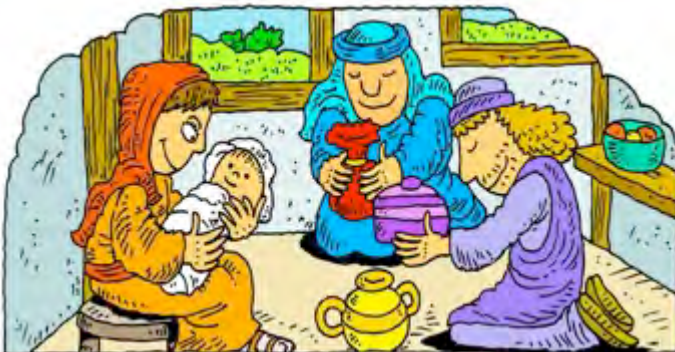
Picture 10



When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem, three wise men from the east came to Jerusalem. They had followed a star in the sky and wanted to find Jesus to worship Him.

The star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them till it stopped at the place where Jesus was.

Picture 11



When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, they knelt down and worshipped him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh and gave it to Him.

Picture 12



This happened over 2,000 years ago. An angel told Mary that she would have a baby who would be very important. He was so important that angels appeared to announce His birth, and shepherds and wise men from a faraway country came to meet and worship Him. Why was this baby so important? Well, that's because He is God's Son, Jesus, and He came to be the Saviour of the whole world. He grew up to save many people and healed the sick.

Pictures from copyright free source (<http://www.lambsongs.co.nz>)

- **Transition to testimony** - "Jesus wasn't someone who only saved people many many years ago. He continues to save and help us today. Let us invite _____ to share a short testimony about how Jesus has been real in his/her life."

Testimony sharing

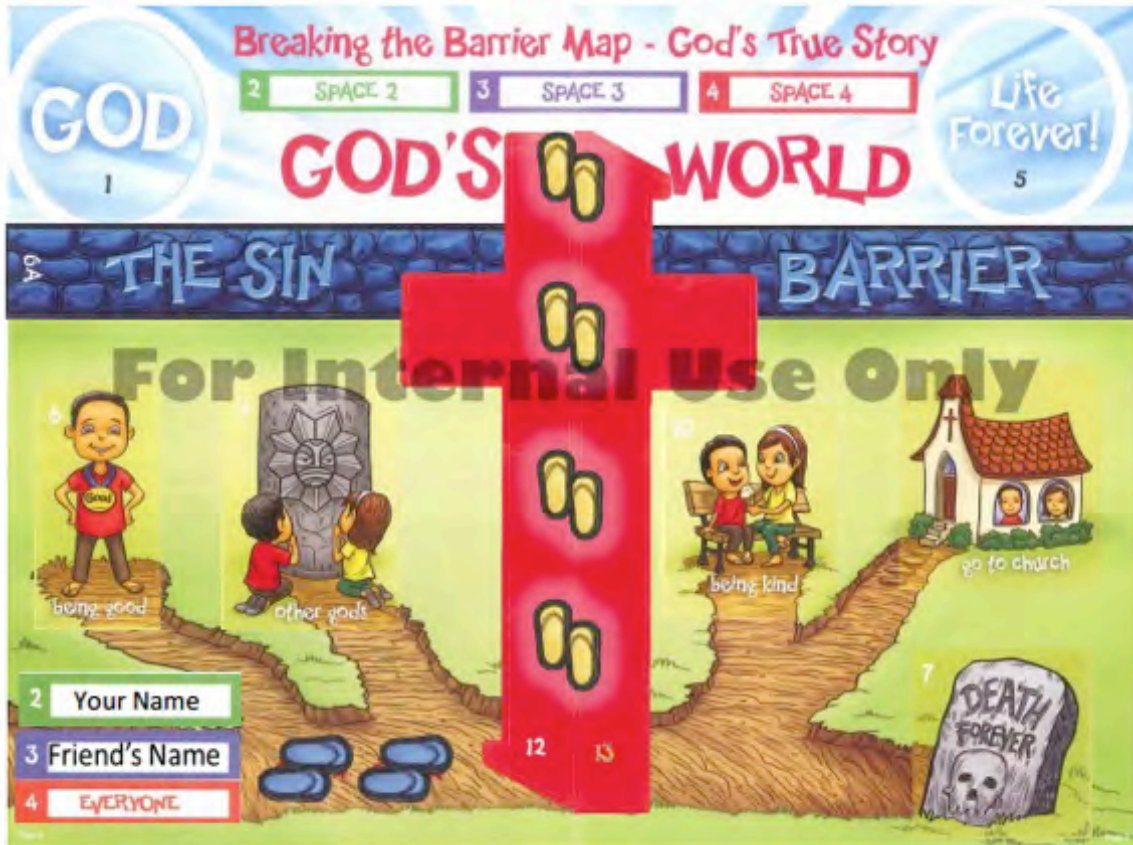
- **Transition to the Breaking the Barrier Illustration** – "Wow thank you for sharing! Jesus is real and wants to save and help us even today! He came to save us in an amazing way. Now we are going to split into smaller groups to share with you a story using this special sticker book about Jesus and what He did to save the whole world."

Break into smaller groups of 4-5 children to share the Breaking the Barrier gospel presentation (see Section 2 for instructions on how to use this gospel sharing tool)

2. BREAKING THE BARRIER ILLUSTRATION

Breaking the Barrier is a sticker booklet tool that GKidz uses to share the gospel with children in an interactive, understandable way. The booklet follows the sequence of the John 3:16 diagram, with a sticker to be pasted by the child at each step. The booklet includes a recommended script for what to say with each step, but the overview below is included for your early preparation if required.

Here is the completed picture after all stickers are pasted:



- 1) Explain to the children that we have a God who is great and who created the universe! He created the stars, moon, sun, trees, animals, everything! (Stick the "God" sticker)



- 2) Tell the children that God created you and me, He created everyone! (Stick stickers 2, 3 and 4, and write "You" and "Me" in blanks 2 and 3)



- 3) Share with the children that He created us so that He could spend life forever with us! (Stick the "Life Forever" sticker)



4) Tell the children that man chose not to have life forever with God; instead man chose to do things their own way. They chose not to listen to God and instead they chose to do what is wrong. This is called sin. And by choosing to sin, we choose to build a sin barrier between God and us. (Stick "Sin Barrier" sticker)



5) Because of our choice to sin, we cannot be with God, because God is holy and pure. And the more we choose to sin, the more we are separated from God. And it leads to us being separated from God. (Move the stickers down to the corresponding spaces at the bottom of the sheet)

6) Explain to the children that because of this separation, we will no longer have life forever, but we will instead be led to death forever. (Stick "Death Forever" sticker)



7) Help the children understand that we have tried many ways to get back to God. Sometimes we try to do good deeds, like helping the elderly, helping my mummy wash the dishes, but no matter how much we do, we will not be good enough for God. (Stick the "Being Good" sticker)



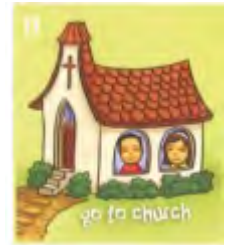
8) Sometimes, we choose to turn to other gods, but there is only one true God. (Stick the "Other gods" sticker)



9) Sometimes, we also try to be kind to others, but you know what, we still love ourselves the most. (Stick the "Being Kind" sticker)



- 10) And sometimes we think we can get back to God by choosing to go to church, but going to church is not enough if we are still the same inside. (Stick the “Going to Church” sticker)



- 11) Remember, God created you and me. He loves us so much that He chose to send His Son, Jesus, down to earth. (Stick the half of the cross pointing downwards) That is why we celebrate Christmas – the birth of Jesus! God gave us the greatest gift of our lives. He is the Saviour of the world.

- 12) When Jesus grew older, He chose to share with us through miracles and wonders, how much God loves us! But people still choose to sin. Do you think Jesus chose to give up on people at that time? No, He did not! Jesus chose to show us just how much He loves us by choosing to die on the Cross for us! That was the ultimate price He could pay for our sins. And guess what, Jesus did not stay dead. Three days after He died on the Cross, He rose again! And because He was no longer dead, He had the power over death and broke the sin barrier, giving us a way to go back to God again. (Stick the other half of the cross pointing upwards)



- 13) To return to God, all we need to do is to come to the cross (stick the blue pairs of sandals on the path towards the cross) and ask God to forgive your sins. (stick the gold pairs of sandals up the cross)
- 14) Tell the children that “Today, Jesus wants you to know that He loves you, even when you have done wrong before. He has chosen to be your Friend, but He also gives you a choice. He is the greatest gift that you can ever receive this Christmas. Will you choose to allow Jesus into your heart as your Friend? Will you choose to allow Jesus to take away your sins and will you choose to follow Him?”
- 15) If the children answer “Yes”, get them to repeat this prayer after you: “Dear Jesus, thank You for choosing to love me. Thank You that Your love for me never ends. Today I am making a choice. I choose to love you. I choose you to be my Saviour and my Friend. Please forgive me for all the wrong things I have done. I choose to belong to You. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.”

GIFT EXCHANGE IDEAS

1. Guess the Giver

Instructions:

- a. As the people arrive, Cell Leader (CL) will receive the gifts they brought and put a number on the gift and hand to that person who brought the gift a piece of paper with a corresponding number.
- b. The person will write down his/her name and an interesting fact about himself/herself on that piece of paper with the gift number on it and put that paper into a bowl, gift bag or hat.
- c. At the gift exchange time, CL will randomly pick a piece of paper and read out the fact of a person that was written on the paper, but not the name or number.
- d. The rest are to guess who that fact is referring to and the first person to give the right answer gets the gift and he/she is out of the game.
- e. The game continues until everyone gets a gift. This is fun, and you can get people to participate pretty quickly.

2. Just Be Blessed

Instructions:

- a. As the people arrive, CL will receive the gifts and designate a number on the gifts.
- b. At the end of the party when everyone is seated, CL will pass a bowl, container or gift bag with the numbers of the gifts written on pieces of paper.
- c. Everybody will pick a piece of paper with a number. When it is done CL will start to call out the numbers in sequence. The person with the number called out will collect his gift.
- d. This will continue till everyone gets a gift.
- e. CL please ensure that if anyone ends up with his/her own gift, the person next to him/her will exchange the gift with him/her.

3. RIGHT FAMILY CHRISTMAS

Instructions:

- a. Have everyone sits in a circle holding the gift he/she brought to the party.
- b. CL will read the below story aloud.
- c. Then everyone will start to pass his/her gift in either the "LEFT" or "RIGHT" direction as mentioned in the story.
- d. At the end of the story, everyone will keep the gift he/she is holding.

STORY FOR GIFT EXCHANGE

Christmas was almost here, and Mother RIGHT was finishing the Christmas baking. Father RIGHT, Sue RIGHT, and Billy RIGHT returned from their last-minute Christmas errands.

"There's not much LEFT to be done," said Father RIGHT as he came into the kitchen.

"Did you leave the basket of food at church?" asked Mother RIGHT.

"I LEFT it RIGHT where you told me to," said Father RIGHT.

"I'm glad my shopping is done," said Billy RIGHT. "I don't have any money LEFT."

The hall telephone rang, and Susan RIGHT LEFT to answer it.

She rushed back and told the family Aunt Tillie RIGHT LEFT a package for us RIGHT on Grandma RIGHT's porch.

"I'll go over there RIGHT now and get it," she said as she LEFT in a rush.

Father RIGHT LEFT the kitchen and brought in the Christmas tree. By the time Susan RIGHT returned, Mother RIGHT, Father RIGHT, and Billy RIGHT had begun trimming the tree.

The entire RIGHT family sang carols as they finished the decorating.

Then they LEFT all the presents arranged under the tree and went to bed, hoping they had selected the RIGHT gifts for their family.

Now I hope you have the RIGHT present for yourself, because that's all that's LEFT of our story...

Except to wish you a Merry Christmas... Isn't that RIGHT?