

PRESCHOOL

CHRISTMAS part 1: He's here!

Memory Verse

'They will name him Immanuel (Hebrew for "God is with us").'

Matthew 1:23 The Message

An idea to help you remember:

- Make a sign or a poster out of the verse and put it up with your Christmas décor.

Story Time

Read 'He's here!' (pages 176-183 in the Jesus Storybook Bible) or watch the video on our website.

Understanding the Story

Talk this through with your kids:

So far all the stories we've looked at in the Jesus Storybook Bible have been from the Old Testament. The Old Testament tells us what happened BEFORE the rescuer came. It paints a picture that no matter how good we are, how strong we are, how hard we try or how powerful we become, we'll never be able to escape the terrible lie on our own. We need a rescuer to break the power of sin (the terrible lie) and give us a way back to God.

Every story so far has given us hints and clues about who that rescuer is - every story whispers His name. Today's story is the first story from the New Testament, and in this story, we meet Him - our rescuer. His name is Jesus and the whole Bible points us towards him. In some parts of the bible they call Him Immanuel meaning 'God with us'. He's the one who will save us from the terrible lie!

Questions to get you talking:

- Have you ever held or met a newborn baby?
- What would you expect a great rescuer to look like?

Activities in your box

- **Nativity part 1.** Find the nativity template and crayons in your box. Colour in the characters from today's story (Mary, Joseph and Jesus)
- Ask Mom or Dad to help you cut out the characters and make the first part of your nativity scene.

- **Colouring Sheet** You'll find the colouring sheet from your box.

ELEMENTARY (K-3)

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Digging a little deeper:

God came to earth to be close to us. Jesus was a gift of love. Some people might think that God sent His Son, Jesus, to judge us or punish us. But that isn't true. He came to earth to live with us and show us God's love in action. He is God in the flesh here to rescue us from the terrible lie!

Questions to get you talking:

- Have you ever held or met a newborn baby?
- What would you expect a great rescuer to look like?

Activities in your box

- **Nativity part 1.** You'll need the glue gun and peg character bag from your box. Today, you'll make Mary, Joseph and Jesus. There is a video on the website walking you through what to do.
- **Colouring Sheet** You'll find the colouring sheet from your box.

ELEMENTARY (4-7)

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God coming to earth as a baby and living among us might be upside down from what we'd expect. Why didn't He come to earth with armies of angels? It's because God values relationship with us. He became human to help us understand, to give us a

way to choose Him. He didn't want to force us to know Him. Instead he made Himself relatable. Close. He moved into the neighbourhood so we could see His love through how he lives. A baby might be not be what we expected the rescuer to look like, but his life is a shout of hope into a weary world.

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