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|  **Strands** | The Story of the Church; the Bible and Christian Beliefs |
| **Stage of Development** | Early Childhood (K-2) | **Created** May 2021 | **Review** 2025 |
| **Aim** | This unit explores the Christian festival of Christmas. The story of the birth of God’s king and the possible response of faith and awe. You could expand the unit by adding in appropriate Christmas craft activities.  |
| **Content Descriptions** | **Knowledge and Understanding*** What the Old and New Testament tells us about the Nativity
* Jesus is God’s promised king
* The reasons why Christians celebrate the festival of Christmas
 | **Religious Studies Skills*** Concept cracking
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| **Resources** | [The Christmas Promise](https://www.thegoodbook.com.au/the-christmas-promise-hardback) by [Alison Mitchell](https://www.thegoodbook.com.au/authors/alison-mitchell) & [Catalina Echeverri](https://www.thegoodbook.com.au/authors/catalina-echeverri)  | Christmas picture book that links the Old Testament promises with the arrival of King Jesus. |
| [Song of the Stars](https://www.sallylloyd-jones.com/books/song-of-the-stars-board-book-edition/) by Sally Lloyd-Jones | Christmas picture book that clearly portrays Jesus as God’s gift to the world.  |
| [Jesus Story Book Bible](https://www.sallylloyd-jones.com/books/jesus-storybook-bible/) by Sally Lloyd-Jones | The Christmas story in this Bible is great for older children and links the story to the Old Testament promises about Jesus.  |
| ASC video on Christian festivals  | This is a short 3-minute video, available on the ASC website that outlines the Christian festivals of Easter and Christmas.  |
|  | RE: Quest [www.request.org.uk](http://www.request.org.uk/) | A great website produced by the Anglican church in the UK with lesson ideas and videos of key Bible stories. |

| **Lesson** | **Key Questions** | **Lesson Activity Ideas** | **Resources** |
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| **1** | God keeps his promises Part 1 | What promises did God make about Jesus?Did God keep his Old Testament promises? | 10min10min10min15min | Activity: Play a memory game. Either with cards or objects e.g. you could put several objects in a bag after showing them to students and ask them to recall what is in the bag. Explain that today we will be looking at some of the promises God made in the Old Testament (before Jesus’ birth) about Jesus. It is helpful to remember these promises as they help us understand who Jesus is. Read: The story of David & Goliath in A Children’s Bible (1 Samuel 17). Explain that David was a great king but that he was in no way perfect – he did some terrible things. He even murdered an innocent man. But God promised his people that after King David he would send an even greater king. This King would be called the Good Shepherd and come from David’s family. And this Shepherd was going to lead God’s people back to the place where they belonged-close to God’s heart. Storyboard: split the whiteboard up into 6-8 boxes and divide the story up into the same number of scenes as boxes. Re-read the story and ask different student volunteers to come up and draw each scene on the board as you read. After you have finished reading the story ask students to re-tell the story to their partner using the pictures as a guide. If students are not able to draw you could ask for student volunteers to act out the different characters as you re-read the story for a second time.Worksheet: God keeps his promises | Objects or memory gameChildren’s BibleWhiteboard, whiteboard markersWorksheet: God Keeps his Promises Part 1  |
| **2** | God keeps his promises Part 2 | What promises did God make about Jesus?Did God keep his Old Testament promises? | 15min10min20min | Share: Ask the students if they know what their name means. Use the internet to look up some of the meanings of the students’ names. Share what your name means. Explain that in the Old Testament there is a man named Isaiah and his name means ‘God to the rescue’. God had a special job for Isaiah. His job was to listen to God and tell the people what he heard. God told Isaiah what the promised king (Jesus) would be like by describing him to Isaiah with a whole lot of different names. Read: Isaiah 9:6 (the verse is on the worksheet) to the students and explain the meaning of the different names of the promised king e.g. what does wonderful mean? What does mighty mean? What does everlasting mean? What does Prince of Peace mean? Worksheet: complete the worksheet on Isaiah 9:6. If you have a children’s Bible with the story of Isaiah included it would be great to read this. | Bible/Children’s BibleWorksheet: God Keeps his Promises Part 2  |
| 3 | Joseph & Mary | How did God tell Mary and Joseph about the Birth of Jesus?What did God tell Mary and Joseph about the Birth of Jesus?How did Mary and Joseph respond to the news of Jesus birth? | 15min10min10min10min | Activity: Do a small news session. Students can share some news about their weekend or something they have done recently or are excited about doing in the future. Explain that in today’s story God tells Mary and Joseph some news via the angel Gabriel. Read: The story of the nativity from a Children’s Bible (Luke 1-2). Make sure it includes some information about Mary and Joseph being told about the birth of Jesus. Discuss what we learn about Jesus and his birth from this story. Activity: Print out the cards with pictures of the Nativity story on them. Ask the students to arrange the cards in order so that they tell the nativity story. Ask students to retell the story to a friend. Worksheet: He is Coming. As students are completing this worksheet you could discuss how and what they think each character in the story was thinking and feeling.  | Children’s BibleTimeline Cards Worksheet: He is Coming |
| **4**  | Shepherds | How do the Shepherds find out about baby Jesus?What do the Shepherd’s do once they have found out about Jesus?What does this story show us about Jesus? | 5min10min20min10min | Activity: show the students some symbols they will recognise e.g. McDonalds, Milo, school crest and ask the students what the symbols stand for. In today’s story an angel appears to the shepherds and tells them how they will know when they have found baby Jesus. “He will be wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger”. Just like we know when we see a Big M that we can buy a cheeseburger when the Shepherds found a baby wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger, they would know that they had found God’ chosen king.Read: The story of the Shepherds from a Children’s Bible (Luke 2). Normal kings do not sleep in mangers and do not have smelly shepherds coming to visit them. Discuss with the students why King Jesus is different to normal kings (he came to serve, and rescue people). You could also ask the children what they have been told about their own birth stories and if they have photos of anyone coming to visit them in the hospital.Activity: Use the timeline story pictures from last lesson to play a game of memory. You will need two copies of each picture for each pair of students. Worksheet: The Shepherds | Children’s BibleTimeline Cards from previous lessonWorksheet: The Shepherds  |
| **5** | Wise Men | How do the Wise Men find out about baby Jesus?What do the Wise Men do when they find out about Jesus?What does this story show us about Jesus? | 5min10min 10min20min | Activity: show the students some different symbols they will recognise e.g. road signs, Google, Apple, Lego and ask them what the symbols stand for (same activity as last lesson with different symbols/logos). In today’s story a star appears, and the Wise Men remember a promise from the Old Testament. They know the star is a sign that God has sent his king to Earth. Read: The story of the Wise Men from a Children’s Bible (Matthew 2). Discuss who the Wise Men think Jesus is. Hold their belief that Jesus is a king in contrast to Jesus’ birth and temporary home in a shed with some animals. Worksheet: The Wise MenExplain the meaning of the gifts presented to Mary and Joseph? Gold for a king, myrrh for one who will die, incense (frankincense) for God.Activity: Ask the students to design a Christmas card that includes a picture and a message from an aspect of the nativity story. You could show them some pictures online to stimulate their ideas.  | Children’s BibleWorksheet: The Wise Men Coloured pencils, cardboard, paper, glue.  |