



### Christmas: A Birthday Celebration

- *How do Christians celebrate Jesus' birthday?*

#### **Lesson ideas**

- How do we celebrate our birthdays? Show an assortment of cards, balloons, presents, decorations, perhaps some special food.
- Compare this with what Christians do to celebrate Christmas.
- Explain why Christmas is a birthday celebration. How would you feel if your friends had a party on your birthday but you weren't invited?
- Read or adapt the story of [Josh's birthday](#) by Gordon Bailey.
- Tell the story of Jesus' birth from 'The Storyteller Bible', 'The Tallest Candle' (Big Book) or Susie Poole's 'A Christmas Journey',
- Sequencing: use four simple pictures of the Angel and Mary, the Nativity, the shepherds and the kings and ask the children to put these in the correct order. Click [here](#) to download a set of pictures available, which have been created especially for the Trust. The sheet may be photocopied.
- Explore the Christmas story using images from the National Gallery, such as 'The Annunciation' by Lippi, 'Nativity at Night' by Geertgen, 'The Adoration of the Shepherds' by Guido Reni and 'The Adoration of the Kings' by Foppa.
- Read 'The Fox's Tale' by Inkpen and Butterworth which tells the Christmas story through the eyes of an animal.
- Ask the children to imagine that they are one of the animals in the stable. What can they see, hear, smell, feel, taste?
- Read Caroline Gould's story 'A Christmas Delivery' (click [here](#) to download) and talk about getting ready for a new baby.
- What did Mary have for her new baby?