

With Love From GOD TO YOU

The Script

Instant
Nativity



The basics

All you need for your nativity is this script, an enthusiastic narrator, a person in charge of the PowerPoint, and a willing congregation. That's it!

Your narrator simply follows through the script, telling the nativity story and encouraging audience participation. You also may want to customise it – we've included some ideas for carols, readings and accompanying resources.

Make sure you give it a good read through beforehand and make it your own. Have fun!

Character information

It can be great fun to encourage your church congregation or school to come dressed up as characters from the nativity. But don't worry – no line-learning is required!

In the weeks leading up to your nativity, remind people to come in their outfits. There are moments in the script where groups of characters will get a chance to shine.

The narrator's character is Planet Earth. A simple costume might be blue jeans and a green top. The narration could be shared between several people wearing similar clothes.

Accompanying resources

We have created a set of visuals you can use alongside your nativity.

Download the slide deck from our website, available for both widescreen and square screens.

This nativity is based on our children's story, ***With Love from God to You***, created in partnership with HOPE Together. Why not give away copies as a gift at the end of the service? You can order them online at special discounted prices. We have also created a video animation of ***With Love from God to You*** that you can download or stream it and show it in your church services.

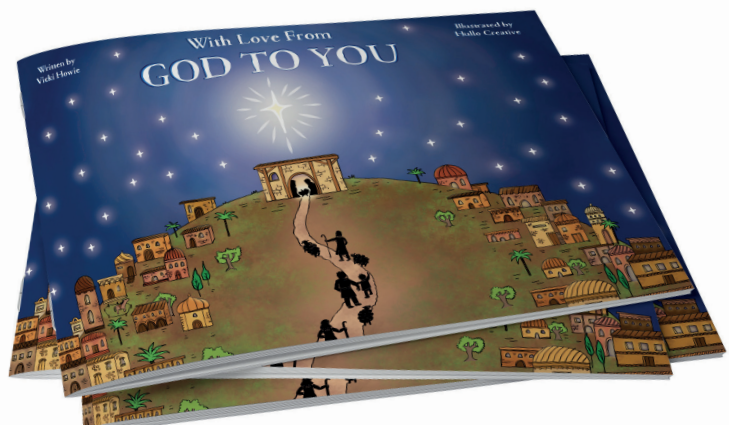
Check these out and all our other Christmas resources for you and your church at **biblesociety.org.uk/christmas**

Give the story

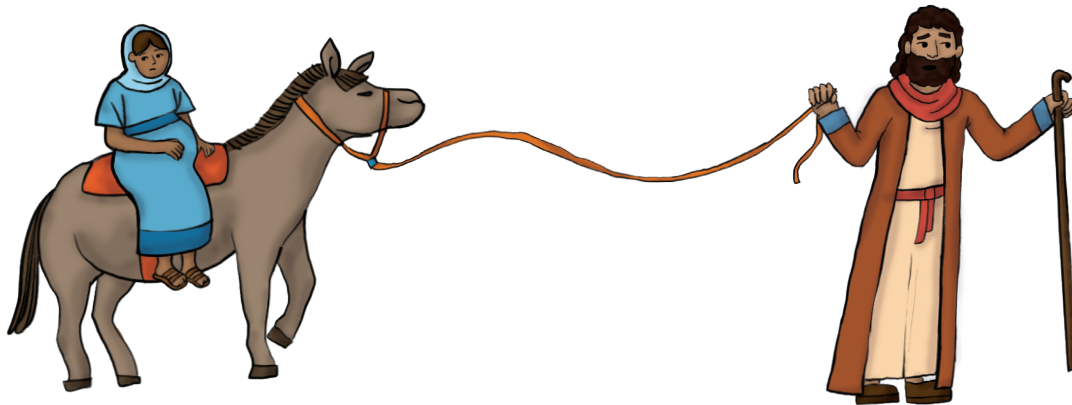
Free resources like this nativity, as well as our mission to help bring the Bible to people all around the world, are funded by our generous supporters.

To find out more about holding a collection at your church for Bible Society, please visit

biblesociety.org.uk/get-involved



The Script



Introduction to the story

PLANET EARTH

SLIDE 2

Are you receiving me? It's Planet Earth calling!

Let me give you a spin!

Turn around or spin on the spot

How do you like my blue oceans and my green lands? God did a good job when he made me, way back in the beginning.

And that's where today's story, the Christmas story, starts – in the beginning!

But first, I'm going to need some help from you.

When I say each of these words, I need you to join in with an action:

SLIDE 3

LOVE/LOVED Put your hands on your heart.

LISTEN Cup your ear.

FRIEND/FRIENDSHIP Shake hands with someone near you.

BIG HUG Give yourself a hug.

Have some fun practising these words and actions.

They'll be in blue capitals throughout your script so you can really emphasise them and remind the audience as you go.

There are also some parts of this story where I need you to make different sounds. (Instructions will come up on the screen, so keep your eyes peeled!)

Thank you so much to everyone who has come dressed up as one of the characters from the nativity story. When we get to your moment, I'll explain how you can join in.

Right, are you ready? Then here we go ...

The Story Begins

PLANET EARTH SLIDE 4

In the beginning, when my seas sparkled and everything was clean and new, God made Adam and Eve – the first human beings!

Invite a boy and girl/man and woman to come to the front.

As you can see, they were wonderful!

God gave them minds to know him, hearts to **LOVE** him, and ears to **LISTEN** to his voice.

‘Guess how much I **LOVE** you?’ said God. ‘All the way round my Planet Earth!’

Well, that’s a very long way! I should know!

SLIDE 5

In fact, God **LOVED** Adam and Eve **so** much, that he made them a beautiful garden. He told them that they could eat the fruit from **any** tree – **except** one.

SLIDE 6 WHOLE CONGREGATION *Sound instruction*

NOT that one!

PLANET EARTH

‘If you eat the fruit from **that** tree, you will die,’ he said.

He wanted to keep them safe, you see.

So, Adam and Eve enjoyed the garden.

Invite the Adam and Eve to do some gardening.

God was their best **FRIEND**, and every day was perfect.

But not for long ... **Somebody** wanted to spoil their happiness and that somebody was God’s enemy, Satan.

SLIDE 7 WHOLE CONGREGATION *Sound instruction*

Boooooo! Hiss!

Boooooo! Hiss!

PLANET EARTH

‘Guess why God won’t let you eat that special fruit?’ hissed the crafty old snake. ‘He knows it will make you as clever as him. Go on – try it! You won’t really die!’

Eve gazed at the fruit. How **scrumptious** it looked, how **delicious** it would taste.

SLIDE 8 WHOLE CONGREGATION *Sound instruction*

Yum, yum!

PLANET EARTH

...How **stupendous** to become so clever!
She took a bite – and so did Adam.

How **ashamed** and **miserable** they felt, and they tried to hide from God.

SLIDE 9

‘You’d better leave the garden if you think you know better than me,’
God told them sadly. ‘Now work will be **back-breaking**, and when you
grow old, you will die.’

Ask the Adam and Eve to go back to their seats.

Oh, dear! One **FRIENDSHIP** broken. Snap!

Those human beings spoiled **everything** when they disobeyed God.

Nasty thistles and thorns grew in my lovely soil – ouch! And worse still, the
children of those humans started fighting and hurting each other, and me!

SLIDE 10

WHOLE
CONGREGATION

Sound instruction

CRASH! BANG! WALLOP!

CRASH! BANG! WALLOP!

PLANET EARTH

What would become of them?

But God said, ‘Don’t worry, Planet Earth. I have an **awesome** plan to rescue
them. I’m going to send my own son to be born as a tiny baby.’

I was puzzled, too! How would a tiny baby help?

SLIDE 11

God explained. ‘Two kind people called Mary and Joseph, from King David’s
family, will look after him. When he grows up he will give the world a **BIG HUG**
from me!’

God said that his son would remind the humans to **LOVE** him with all their
hearts and to **LISTEN** to his voice each day. Then they would overflow with his
peace.

I spun with excitement! I couldn’t **wait** for God’s little world-saver to be born!

Well, I watched and waited for **hundreds** of years – and **still** those human beings
went astray. Just like a flock of lost sheep!

SLIDE 12

WHOLE
CONGREGATION

Sound instruction

Baaa, baaa!

PLANET EARTH

SLIDE 13

But at last I felt the light touch of an angel’s step at Mary’s house in Nazareth.

Invite all the Marys to the front.

PLANET EARTH

'Don't be afraid, Mary!' said the Angel Gabriel.

'Guess how much God **LOVES** you! **So much**, that he wants **you** to be the mother of his baby son. Please give him the name Jesus because that means **GOD SAVES**.

Mary was so happy that she burst into a song of praise to God! It was music to my ears, I can tell you!

Invite the Josephs to the front, too.

But when Joseph heard the incredible news, he shook his head. Could it really be true?

SLIDE 14

That night, as he tossed and turned on his bed, an angel whispered into his dreams.

'Joseph, hear what Mary says, for every word is true – this baby is a gift from God ...'

SLIDE 15

So Joseph married Mary and he took great care of her.

But just when the baby was due to be born ...

SLIDE 16

WHOLE

CONGREGATION

Sound instruction

CRASH! BANG! WALLOP!

PLANET EARTH

A Roman soldier marched down the street. 'The Emperor has announced a census', he shouted. 'Everyone must go to their home town to be counted!'

So Mary and Joseph set off on the long journey to Bethlehem because that's where Joseph's family came from.

Invite all the Marys, Josephs and any donkeys to journey around.

SLIDE 17

When they arrived in Bethlehem, the little town was **heaving** with all the visitors. It was busy, it was buzzing ...

SLIDE 18

WHOLE

CONGREGATION

Sound instruction

Buzz, Buzz, Buzz!

PLANET EARTH

... In fact, it was bursting at the seams! And there was no room at the inn. Poor Mary and Joseph. Where were they going to stay?

Invite any innkeepers to the front

SLIDE 19

Only God knew that someone kind would say, '*I* can give you shelter for the night – if you don't mind my animals!'

Invite any 'stable' animals to come to the front

PLANET EARTH

And so Jesus was born in that simple place.

Mary wrapped the little bundle of **LOVE** and laid him in the animals' manger ...
And I cradled the sleeping baby and began to dream of peace on Earth!

Invite any shepherds to gather nearby and keep watch.

In the fields nearby, some shepherds were watching over their sheep ...

SLIDE 20

WHOLE CONGREGATION

Sound instruction

Baaa, baaa!

PLANET EARTH

... keeping them safe from hungry lions and bears.

Invite any angels to the front

SLIDE 21

Then suddenly an angel appeared to them, **sparkling** with heavenly glory.

That angel was light, white, **EYE-BLINKINGLY BRIGHT!**

And those shepherds were **terrified!**

'Don't be afraid!' said the angel. 'Guess how much God **LOVES** you! A Saviour who is Christ the Lord has been born for you today in Bethlehem. You will find the baby all wrapped up and lying in a manger.'

Then a great choir of angels sang, 'Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on Earth!'

Invite the shepherds and sheep to come to the manger.

SLIDE 22

So the curious shepherds hurried into Bethlehem ... and found Mary and Joseph, and the tiny baby lying in the manger. It was just as the angel had said!

Invite any stars to gather in a big star shape nearby and do some sparkling!

SLIDE 23

Then God hung a magnificent star in the eastern sky.

It glowed like a birthday candle. It was light, it was white, it was **EYE-BLINKINGLY BRIGHT!**

SLIDE 24

No wonder some wise men spotted it.

Invite any wise men and camels to gather near the star and do some star-gazing!

'Look! This is the sign that a great new king has been born,' they cried. 'Let's pack our camels' saddlebags with rich gifts and go to worship him.'

Invite the stars to lead the wise men and camels slowly towards the manger.

How their eyes shone as they followed the guiding star. It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where Jesus was staying.

SLIDE 25

'Oh, king of kings, we worship you!' they said as they bowed down and offered him their precious gifts: royal gold, and sweet-smelling, nose-tickling frankincense and myrrh!

SLIDE 26
WHOLE
CONGREGATION
Sound instruction

Ah! Gold, frankincense and myrrh!

PLANET EARTH

What a lovely scene!

But now I couldn't wait for Jesus to grow up and help the humans to **LOVE** God again and to **LISTEN** to his voice!

SLIDE 27

And that's just what Jesus did. Then he did something even **more** wonderful!

He lifted every wrong thing that anyone has ever done onto his own broad shoulders – and carried them right away.

Anyone who is truly sorry will be forgiven. Anyone who wants to, can be **FRIENDS** with God forever.

So let's celebrate the birth of Jesus our Saviour.

This baby is a gift ...

SLIDE 28
WHOLE
CONGREGATION
Sound instruction

WITH LOVE FROM GOD TO YOU!

Suggested carols and readings

You might want to intersperse your nativity with carols and Bible readings. Here are some suggestions to help:



Carols

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Angels From The Realms Of Glory
Silent Night
Joy To The World
In The Bleak Midwinter
Hark The Herald Angels Sing
Away In The Manger
While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks
O Little Town Of Bethlehem
Once in Royal David's City
We Three Kings
The First Noel



Readings

Genesis 1-2.3
Genesis 3.1-13
Luke 1.26-38
Matthew 1.18-25
Luke 2.1-7
Luke 2.8-20
Matthew 2.1-20
Colossians 1.15-21
Ephesians 1.3-10

You can order our Bible Society carol booklet online at biblesociety.org.uk/christmas which includes all the suggested carols.

At Bible Society we believe the Bible can be a catalyst for change for good around the world.

Working across Africa, China and the Middle East – in places where Christianity is growing fastest – we’re translating, distributing and helping people to relate to and make sense of the Bible. And we’re advocating for its place in society so that its wisdom, inspiration and relevance are not lost.

Here at home, where the Bible is readily available but rarely read, we’re introducing a new generation to the life-changing stories it contains and helping people engage with it better so that the Bible will continue to shape our communities.

We were founded over 200 years ago by a passionate group of people who believed God’s word should be shared across the world, and we’ve been sustained by the commitment of thousands of supporters – people like you – who’ve joined our mission to bring the Bible to life.

Everything we do is driven by one conviction: that when people engage with the Bible lives can change, for good. So if the Bible has made a difference to your life, please join with us through prayer and support to bring the Bible to life around the world.

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Find more resources to help you share the big story this Christmas at

biblesociety.org.uk/christmas

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