

THE IMPOSSIBLE PROMISE

A Christmas Story



Open the Book
Nativity Assembly



Storytellers needed

Essential:

Narrator, Mary, Angel, Joseph, Shepherds, Star Watchers from the East, Herod

Suggestions for presenting the story

1. This story is longer than most Open the Book stories as it is a special one-off for Christmas. You may want to mention this to your school/s.

The story can be presented in school, face to face with the children taking part.

But if you are recording your assembly together as a team or separately on Zoom, it can also be done quite easily.

2. Because there are five short acts in *The Impossible Promise*, storytellers can easily double up on parts if needed.

Act 1: Mary and the Angel

Act 2: Joseph and the Angel

Act 3: Shepherds and the Angel(s)

Act 4: Star-Watchers, Herod, Mary, Joseph, Jesus

Act 5: Closing summation

3. The narrator is active throughout the story but characters can speak their lines by either memorising them or reading them.

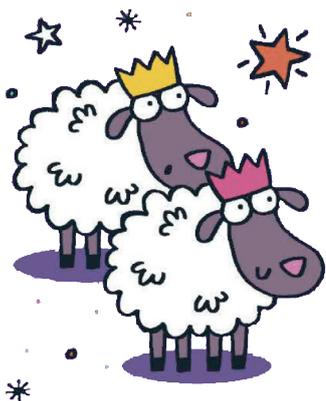
4. To include the children, wherever they may be watching this assembly, you can make a sign of the word BOOM or include an action of a single clap for the word Boom.

The narrator can pause in the story and someone can hold up the sign when it is time for the children to say or clap the word BOOM. You may want to give the children a practice before you begin the story. If you are recording the story, team members off camera can shout BOOM out like the children will.

Questions or other ideas

If you have questions or other ideas on how to present *The Impossible Promise*, please get in touch. We will add ideas to our Facebook page and our website as they come in.

enquiries@openthebook.net
www.openthebook.net



Merry Christmas! We hope you and the children enjoy this fun Christmas story written by Bob Hartman.

Introduction

Today's story is about Christmas. See if you can spot how many people were surprised!

LET'S OPEN THE BOOK and read a story taken from the Bible called *'The Impossible Promise'*.

Quiet moment for reflection

There are a lot of surprised people in today's story! This particular little tiny baby being born changed a lot of people's lives, not just his mum's and dad's.

Jesus' birth was a surprise. People felt a lot of different things when they heard about it. Even today, people are still surprised about Jesus the Son of God being born on earth.

Place the baby Jesus and the manger at the front as a focus.

I wonder what you find surprising about the Christmas story? Maybe it's that God's son was born in a stable? Maybe it's that of all the people God could have announced Jesus' birth to, he chose a group of people who took care of sheep? Maybe the angels surprised you? Or maybe you are surprised that a baby was sent to save the world? Or maybe something else? Let's close our eyes (or look at our baby Jesus) and think about what is most surprising in this story.

Give time to reflect. Starting with 10 count back slowly to 1.

Prayer introduction

Now, I'm going to say a prayer and if you want to make it your prayer say, 'Amen' (which means, I agree) at the end after me. (If not, you can sit quietly and think about what you've heard today.)*

*use bracketed words in schools where appropriate

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you that you are always there for us in the surprises that can happen in our lives, however they make us feel. Thank you for the surprise that is the gift of Jesus at Christmas.

Amen





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At Bible Society we believe the Bible can change people's lives for good.

Working across Africa, China and the Middle East – in places where Christianity is growing fastest – we're translating, distributing and helping people 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.

Find more resources to help you share the big story this Christmas at biblesociety.org.uk/christmas



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