



TODDLER SESSION

Help your 0- to 4-year-olds
learn that Christmas is about
how God came to be with us.

Use this session to show toddlers that God came to be with us.

Larissa & Josh Goscombe are ministers, parents and musicians who live in Sydney, Australia. Josh has been writing songs about Jesus since he was 17 years old. He is an Anglican minister and children's musician and performer. Larissa combines her musical, theological, and ministry training to disciple her kids, serve at church and create resources that minister to children.

Jenny Brake is a skilled illustrator who lives in Lancashire with her husband Nick and their three children. She has also illustrated the 'A Child Should Know' series and several other books for kids.



A familiar rhyme that opens the door for little ones to meet Jesus.

A charming reimagining of the classic nursery rhyme with a festive twist that is sure to delight both children and parents. Children will love following the twinkling Christmas star across the pages of the nativity as they are introduced to the Christmas story in a recognisable and memorable way.

Objective

To help children know that Christmas is all about how God came to earth to be with us.

Outline

Pray

1 min

Play the song

5 mins

Use the sing-along video to follow along with actions, or watch the animation.

Opening question

5 mins

Read (+ dress up)

10 mins

Read the book and dress up the children with nativity props as you go.

Complete the craft & activities

30 mins

EXTRA IDEA:

Give a copy to everyone in your group: 10 PACK.

Opening prayer

Dear God, thank you for a chance to learn more about Jesus today. Help us understand how you came to be with us and make us friends with you again. Amen.

Song

Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star by Josh & Larissa Goscombe



Learn the actions
←

Or listen to the song with the pages from the book



Opening question

What are stars? What are they like?

Elicit answers: Bright, shiny, twinkly, at night, far away, very hot... This book is all about a *special* star.

Twinkle, twinkle little star
How I wonder what you are.
Up above the world so high,
Over Bethlehem tonight.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are.

Twinkle, twinkle, way up high,
Angels singing in the sky.
Shepherds hear the angel say,
“Christ the Saviour born today.”

Twinkle, twinkle, way up high,
Angels singing in the sky.

Twinkle, twinkle, from afar,
Wise men following the star.
Bringing gifts to give the king,
Bowing down to worship him.

Twinkle, twinkle, from afar,
Wise men following the star.

Twinkle, twinkle, in the night,
Mary hugs her baby tight.
“Call him Jesus,” Joseph says,
“He’ll save people from their sins.”

Twinkle, twinkle, in the night,
Mary hugs her baby tight.

Twinkle, twinkle, up above,
God the Father looks with love.
Gave his Son so he might bring
Peace to all who trust in him.

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
How I wonder what you are!

Read (+ dress up)

Bring these objects to **turn the children into the nativity characters** as you read:
1. Lantern/torch. **2.** Some toy sheep. **3.** Tinsel. **4.** Paper or plastic crowns. **5.** Baby doll.

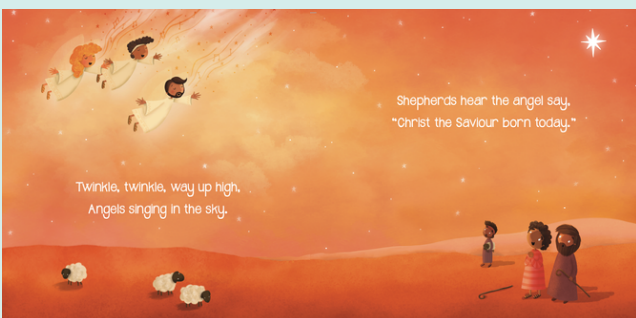
If you can, turn the lights low and use fairy lights and/or glow-in-the-dark stars.

Pages 1 – 4



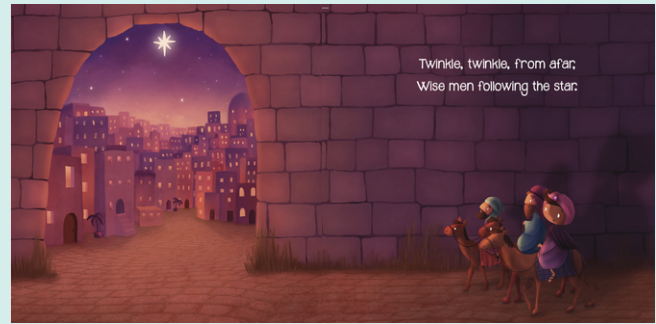
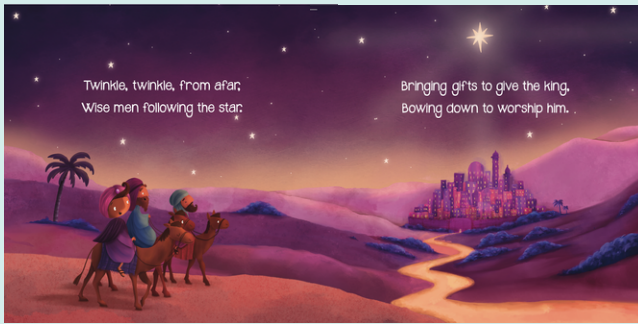
- At the first ever Christmas, there was a big, bright star in the sky that wasn't usually there! Like this:
- *Turn on the lantern or torch.*
- **Can you see it?** (Point to book) **Can you see it's bigger than the others?**
- Everyone in Bethlehem was wondering *why* the big, bright star was there.

Pages 5 – 8



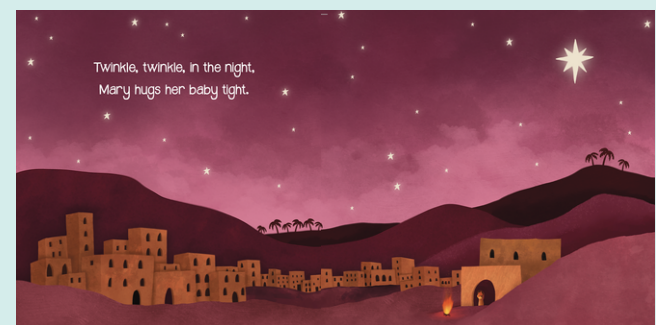
- **Who are these people in the sky with the star?** (Point to angels). They're not people at all, they're angels!
- *Give some tinsel to a few children to be angels; wrap it round their heads.*
- **What were the angels saying?** They were explaining why the big, bright star was there - to announce that God was coming to be with us!
- **Who were they talking to?** (Point) Shepherds.
- *Hand out the toy sheep to the children who want to be shepherds.*
- **Do the shepherds look happy?** Yes! They were so excited about God coming to be with us - he was coming as a baby boy called Jesus!

Pages 9 – 12



- **Who also sees the star?** The wise men (or kings).
- **What are they riding on?** Camels!
- *Hand out the paper crowns to the children who want to be wise men.*
- They were following the star because they were also excited that God was coming to be with us as the baby Jesus – they wanted to find him and give him gifts.
- So, we've got our shepherds, our angels, and our wise men (point at each group) – they were all there to see what the star was shining for – the baby, Jesus, God coming to be with us.
- **But where is this special baby?** Well, the star will show them!

Pages 13 – 16



- There he is – in his mummy's arms. Mary hugs her baby tight.
- **Can you hug the baby Jesus?** *Get each child to take turns hugging the baby doll and give the doll to a child to be Mary.*
- Jesus must have been a very special baby to have such a bright star shine for him and all these people trying to find him! **He was a special baby because he was God coming to be with us.**

Page 17 – 20



- The big, bright star announced to the angels, shepherds, and wise men that God was coming to be with us! At Christmas, we celebrate this and can therefore be just as happy and excited to see the baby Jesus as they were.

Pray

Let's thank God for sending baby Jesus.

Dear God, thank you for using a big, bright star to announce the arrival of your son, Jesus! Thank you that it's the happiest, best news in the world. Thank you for sending him so that we can be friends with you again.

Or use the prayer prompts below.

...God, you want to
be our friend!



Wow...

...You came to
find us!

...for the big
bright star that
showed where
Jesus was.



Thank you...

...for sending
baby Jesus so
we can be
friends with
you, God.

...for when we
forget that
Christmas is
about Jesus.



Sorry...

...for not always
wanting to be
friends with you,
God.

...help us to be
happy about Jesus,
like the shepherds!



Please...

...help us to worship
you, like the wise
men.

Teach your
children this
prayer
format!



Activity

1. Star Hide & Seek

Hunt for paper stars – find the big, bright star and the baby Jesus.

Stick them on the wall to create a twinkle, twinkle night sky!

You'll need:

- 10 cut out card stars (various sizes, one big one to be the 'big, bright star')
- A cut-out baby Jesus
- Bluetack
- An empty wall

Activity:

- Before the session, hide the stars around the room in relatively easy-to-spot places. Make sure the 'big, bright star' and the baby Jesus are also hidden.
- Stick one star on the empty wall and explain that we need to create a night sky – tell the children to hunt for stars. When the stars are finished, tell them to try and find the baby Jesus.
- Help them stick their discoveries on the wall with bluetack.

2. 'Dingle-Dangle Angel' Singalong

Sing to the tune of Dingle-Dangle Scarecrow. Get the children to lie down for the first two lines, and then jump up and do actions for 'wings' and 'King'.

When all the shepherds were sleeping,
and the sheep had gone to bed...
...Up jumped an angel,
and this is what he said:

I'm a very special angel
with some flippy floppy wings,
I bring you special news –
that Jesus is the King!

Craft

Nativity Finger Puppets

Cut along the dashed lines. Wrap around your finger and tape or glue the ends together to make a puppet!

1. Cut



2. Wrap



3. Tape or Glue



1 Star



2 Angel



3 Shepherd



4 Wise Men



5 Mary



6 Joseph



7 Baby Jesus

★ Have fun telling the Christmas story! ★

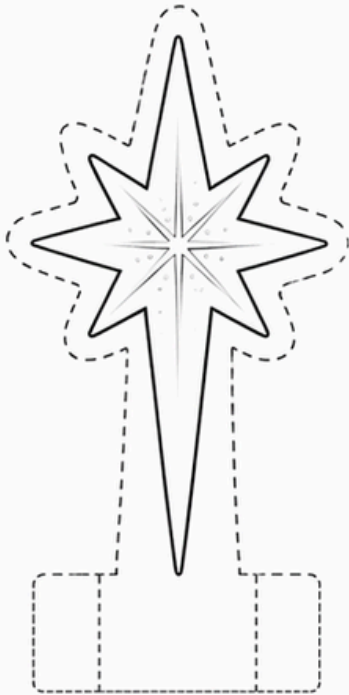
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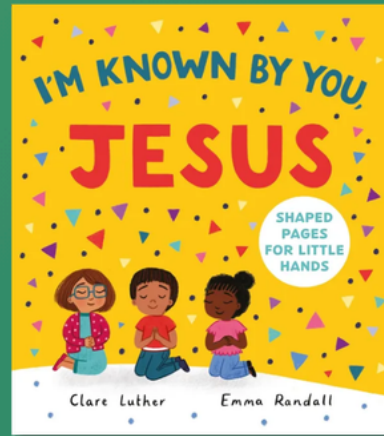
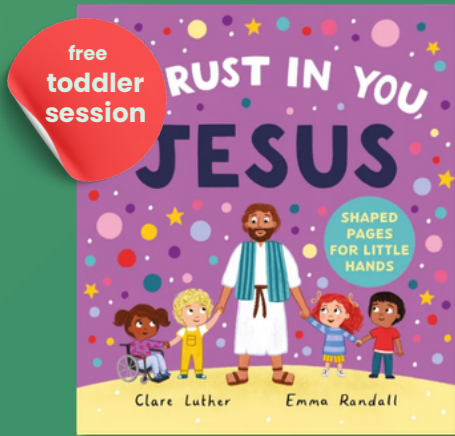
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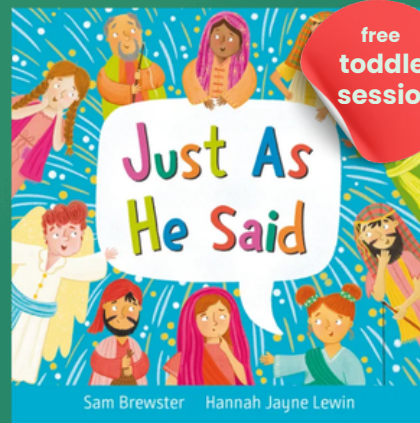
If you want more catchy, colourful toddler books...



Series about
Jesus!



The gospel
explained +
singalong
video.



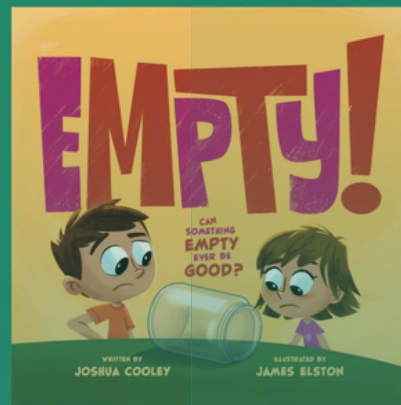
Three rhyming
stories in Jesus'
life



Board book
about Jesus'
Kingship



Looks at the
resurrection



See our
[toddler page](#)



More songs by
Josh & Larissa

