



TNCC
CHILDREN'S
CHURCH

THE DONKEY STORY

HOOK

PIN THE TAIL

Any version/variation, based on age range of class.

<http://www.wikihow.com/Play-Pin-the-Tail-on-the-Donkey>

Lead in to Lesson: Today, we are going to meet a very special donkey.



LESSON



Suggested props: a donkey puppet or soft toy

You may want to get an older child or your assistant to do the role play/dialogue as the Donkey with you as you tell the story.

Practice beforehand helps. Be as enthusiastic and clear as possible.

- TEACHER: Good morning children! How are all of you today?
Today, I want to introduce a new friend to you. He comes from very far away ... from a town called Bethlehem.
His name is Donkey. Donkey is a ... donkey!
Do you know what sound a donkey makes? *Heehaw ...*
Let's say "Hi" to Donkey the donkey!
- DONKEY: Heehaw. Hi Teacher _____. Hi Children.
- TEACHER: Donkey ... I heard that you were there when baby Jesus was born. Do you remember?
- DONKEY: Do I remember? Of course I remember. It was one of the most unforgettable moments in my life! He was the cutest little thing ... even if he was crying and kicking his legs about.
- TEACHER: So you saw him?
- DONKEY: Saw him? I carried his pregnant mother all the way across the desert to Bethlehem!
- TEACHER: You did?
- DONKEY: Abuhden? You thought it was a rabbit?



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- TEACHER: Err ... ok. When did you know that baby Jesus was someone special?
- DONKEY: Before he was born.
- TEACHER: What do you mean? How?
- DONKEY: Well ... his mother and father ... they were talking about him all the way to Bethlehem. They couldn't stop.
- TEACHER: That's normal, no? Parents are usually very excited about a new baby.
- DONKEY: The thing is ... they said that the baby was from God. God put the baby inside Mary. The angel told her. Appeared to her and said, "You are going to have a baby."
- TEACHER: Whoa!
- DONKEY: Yup ... the angel also appeared to Joseph to tell him that whatever Mary tells you is the truth. So just take care of her and the baby. Because this is God's baby.
- TEACHER: That's quite a story!
- DONKEY: Yup ... I was stopping for a drink. When I heard that, water shot out of my nostrils. It was so embarrassing.
- TEACHER: Did you really believe it? That Jesus was God's baby?
- DONKEY: Well, I was a little sceptical at first. I mean, if it's zombies, maybe that would be more believable. But angels?
- But when the baby was born, there was this super bright star in the sky. And then the shepherds came. And later on, these wise guys.
- TEACHER: You mean wise men?



- DONKEY: I don't know how wise they were. They brought gold and all sorts of weird presents for the baby. I mean, everyone knows babies need diapers ... not spices.
- TEACHER: But you saw all these things.
- DONKEY: Yes. And when I saw them, I believed. This was no regular baby. This was a special baby. Jesus was God's baby.
- TEACHER: Thank you for sharing your story Donkey the donkey. See you next time. Let's say "Bye Bye" kids!

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Joseph and Mary were looking forward to their wedding. They thought they knew how their story was going. But God had His own plans ... He put a twist into their tale and changed their lives for good. The twist that changed their tale changed our whole world.

From the beginning of time, God had a plan for a Saviour to save this whole world from sin and death. And this Saviour came as helpless little baby on Christmas. That's why we celebrate Christmas.



ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

HUDDLE TIME

Get kids in smaller groups. Get them to share what it means for Jesus to come to the world to save them. Pray for those who want to accept Him into their hearts. Pray for each other.

CRAFT

Donkey puppet



FILLER VIDEOS

Donkey's First Christmas <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hRTT2x4gS9Q>

Little Donkey <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dVQPmtjHzh4>

A Baby Changes Everything https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-y0_wNPSOaw



LESSON



Suggested props: a cow puppet or soft toy

You may want to get an older child or your assistant to do the role play/dialogue as the Cow with you as you tell the story.

Practice beforehand helps. Be as enthusiastic and clear as possible.

- TEACHER: Welcome back children! How are all of you today?
Last week, I had a special guest here to meet all of you. Do you remember who it was? *Donkey the donkey.*
- Today, I have another friend to introduce to you. He was in the stable when Jesus was born. Born and raised in Bethlehem, here is Moo the Cow.
Do you know what sound a donkey makes? *Moo ...*
- MOO: Who called me? Who called me?
- TEACHER: Oh hello Moo! The children were just telling me what sound a cow makes.
- MOO: What sound a cow makes? I don't make that sound! Moo is my name. I don't go around saying, "Moo ... Moo ... Moo ..."
- TEACHER: Ok, Moo the cow. Moo, I understand you live in the stable where the baby Jesus was born.
- MOO: Oh yes. He was such a cute baby. The sweetest giggle. And boy, could he cry ... those lungs. Super strong.
- TEACHER: You must have been thrilled to see him.
- MOO: Absolutely not!
- TEACHER: What? Why?



- MOO: I was not at all thrilled with having a bunch of people in my house that night.
- TEACHER: But it was —
- MOO: All day long, Greg the Goat kept saying, “The inn is filling up. They are running out of rooms! And I kept saying, “No way they send people out here. Stable are for animals. Not people.” But what do you think happens around bedtime?
- TEACHER: People in the stable.
- MOO: A man, a donkey, and a pregnant woman ... who immediately goes into labour!
- TEACHER: She went into labour right away?
- MOO: Right away. I’m surprised she made it to Bethlehem!
- TEACHER: She gave birth in the stable?
- MOO: Oh yes. And it’s very difficult to sleep when someone is giving birth.
- TEACHER: I guess so.
- MOO: A cow has to have her sleep, you know.
- TEACHER: That’s true.
- MOO: Oh, but when the baby was born, you just knew he was special. The baby ... he changed everything. The whole stable just felt different because of his presence.
- TEACHER: I guess that made everything okay, huh?
- MOO: Well, almost. I was still made at the innkeeper.
- TEACHER: Why?
- MOO: You don’t put a baby into a stable, especially if the baby is the Son of God.



TEACHER: True.

MOO: So ... the innkeeper didn't get any milk for a few days.

TEACHER: Uh oh.

MOO: Yes, and his customers were mad when they didn't have milk for their Koko Krunch.

TEACHER: Haha. Good one, Moo. Well thank you for joining us. Have a safe trip back to Bethlehem.

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Luke 2:1-7

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Imagine if grandma came for Christmas, and you made her sleep out in the porch. How do you think grandma would feel? I'm quite sure she wouldn't like it.

When Jesus was born, there was no soft bed. There was only a borrowed food trough in a borrowed stable. It was dirty and noisy, and it was no place for a baby, let alone the son of God. Imagine! The Creator of the Universe, the Son of God who reigns in Heaven, sleeping on a bed of hay. That's how Jesus entered the world, not as a conquering hero, but as the poor son of a carpenter. All because the inn had no room for Him.

Today, Jesus is not a little baby anymore. On the cross, He conquered sin and death so that we can become part of His family forever. Today, Jesus stands at the door of our hearts. He is knocking, knocking, knocking, asking if He can come and live in our hearts. Children, do you have room for Jesus?



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THE COW STORY

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

HUDDLE TIME

Get kids in smaller groups. Get them to share if they have welcomed Jesus into their hearts, and what it means to do that. Pray for those who want to accept Him into their hearts. Pray for each other.

SONGS

Away in a Manger <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M2ULTkNmIEY>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1YXvhbX0m-Q> (Hallelujah)

FILLER VIDEOS

No Room <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LIC7UCm7Uec>



LESSON

Suggested props: a sheep puppet or soft toy

You may want to get an older child or your assistant to do the role play/dialogue as the Sheep with you as you tell the story.

Practice beforehand helps. Be as enthusiastic and clear as possible.



TEACHER: Welcome back children! We've been having an exciting time here. We had Donkey the donkey, who carried a heavily pregnant Mary to Bethlehem. We had Moo the Cow, who was in the stable when Jesus was born.

Today, we have another special guest. He received a special invitation from God to visit the newborn king. Please say hello to Sam the sheep!
Do you know what sound a sheep makes? *Baa ...*

SAM: Wheeee ... thanks for having me here! Am so excited to see all of you children here!

TEACHER: Hi Sam the sheep. Have you been to Malaysia before?

SAM: No, this is my first time. Normally I spend all my time at the green pastures. You know ... the ones beside the still waters.

TEACHER: It's near Bethlehem? Where Jesus was born?

SAM: That's right! We were in the fields late that night, when this angel appeared. It was shining super bright. It was quite a sight.

TEACHER: I'd imagine it would be quite scary. At least you had those big strong shepherds with you ...

SAM: Oh ... those guys? They were so, so afraid. They were shaking, covering their faces. They were terrified. They have never seen anything like that before.



- TEACHER: Oh. Then what happened.
- SAM: The angel told the shepherds, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."
- TEACHER: Wow. That's quite a mouthful.
- SAM: Yup. And then suddenly, there were angels, angels everywhere! With their halos and wings and instruments ... those U-shaped thingys with strings!
- TEACHER: The harps?
- SAM: Ya, right! And then they started singing. "Glory to God in the Highest" and "Peace on Earth". It was the most bee-yoo-ti-ful singing I have ever heard. And then they were gone.
- TEACHER: Gone? What did the shepherds do?
- SAM: Well ... they were not so scared anymore. In fact, they were real excited to go to Bethlehem to see what the angels were telling them about.
- TEACHER: Did you go with them?
- SAM: Of course! I had to see it for myself!
- TEACHER: What did you see?
- SAM: There was this baby, lying in the manger, hay and all. Super cute lil' fella. Then the shepherds headed back to the fields, praising God and telling everyone they met about the baby.
- TEACHER: Must have been unforgettable.
- SAM: It sure was. You know ... I have always wondered why God would invite a bunch of smelly shepherds to see the newborn King. I mean, those shepherds ... they never bathed! But I believe that's God's way of saying that Jesus came for



everyone, even the smelliest shepherd. He wanted everyone to know that they could come to Him, no matter who they were.

TEACHER: What a beautiful reminder this Christmas. Yes, Jesus came for all of us, whether we are big or small, fat or thin, clean or smelly 😊

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Luke 2:8-20

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

The people of Israel had waited for centuries for the birth of the Messiah. God told the story of his coming over and over through the prophets, but when the baby Jesus was born ... he shared the story with a few lowly shepherds.

God told the shepherds that Jesus had been born, and when he did, he told the world that Jesus had come for all of us. Jesus would not live in a palace, separated from the world. Jesus wanted everyone



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THE SHEEP STORY

to come to him, unafraid, so that he might be their Saviour. This message was not just for the rich and famous. This was a message for the whole world.

And after they met the Saviour, the shepherd went to tell everyone about Jesus. We can be like the shepherds and tell the world about Jesus. Jesus came as a little baby to die on the cross and save you and me.

And there's no better time than this Christmas time! Let's share this good news to all our friends. You can start by inviting them to church on Christmas day!



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THE SHEEP STORY

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

HUDDLE TIME

Get kids in smaller groups. Get them to share who they want to share Jesus with, and pray for those who don't know Jesus yet.

SONGS

Go tell it on the mountain <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qW4a8lv0kUk>



LESSON

Suggested props: a camel puppet or soft toy or picture

You may want to get an older child or your assistant to do the role play/dialogue as the Camel with you as you tell the story.

Practice beforehand helps. Be as enthusiastic and clear as possible.



TEACHER: Welcome back children! We've been having an exciting time here.
We had Donkey the donkey, who carried a heavily pregnant Mary to Bethlehem.
We had Moo the Cow, who was in the stable when Jesus was born.
Then we had Sam the sheep who came with the shepherds to see the baby Jesus.
Can you guess who our special guest today is?
Let's all put our hands together to welcome ... Cody the Camel!

CODY: Thank you, Teacher [name]. I'm quite happy to be here today.

TEACHER: You ... you know my name?

CODY: Of course I do. You are Teacher _____, and you _____ [some personal details].

TEACHER: Do you know you're the only animal who got my name right?

CODY: Well, you pick up a few things hanging out with wise men.

TEACHER: I guess so.

CODY: That's how I came to meet the baby Jesus, you know. My master and a few colleagues spotted his star in the sky, and we all set off on a long journey west.

TEACHER: Did you know you were going to see someone special?

CODY: We most certainly did! They don't call them wise men for nothing, you know.



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THE CAMEL STORY

- TEACHER: I guess not.
- CODY: My master and his fellows had read the prophecies of the ancient Israelites, telling of the time and the way in which the new king would be born. As soon as they saw the star, they knew they had to have a look for themselves.
- TEACHER: And the star led you to Bethlehem!
- CODY: No, no, it led us to Jerusalem. That's where the king is, you know, and he was quite puzzled when we asked about the newborn king. Thankfully, the king had some fairly wise fellows of his own, and they opened the book of Micah to say, "You will find him in Bethlehem."
- TEACHER: How wise of you to ask directions.
- CODY: Well, being wise doesn't mean you have all the answers, but it means being smart enough to ask directions.
- TEACHER: So you go to Jerusalem, and you see the baby Jesus.
- CODY: Yes! And He was soooooo cute.
- TEACHER: That's what I hear.
- CODY: My master and his associates brought gifts for him. They brought gold, a spice called frankincense, and an oil called myrrh. These were gifts fit for a king, so it was rather strange seeing them in the hands of such poor parents. I could tell they had never seen such things in their lives.
- TEACHER: They must have been overwhelmed.
- CODY: They were, but not near as much as my master. You see, the gifts we brought were nothing compared to the boy. He was the Son of God. He was the redeemer of the world. He would bring something far more valuable than gold or frankincense or myrrh. He would bring eternal life.
- LARRY: How true.



- CODY: I still get people today asking me about our journey. What did the star look like? How much gold did you bring? How long did it take to get there? I tell them none of that really matters. We are not the story. The gift in the manger is the real story of Christmas.
- TEACHER: Wise words from a wise camel. Thank you, Cody.
- CODY: My pleasure, Teacher.
- TEACHER: And now, children, you know the story of the animals in the Nativity. Say Bye!

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi (or wise men) from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

*⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."*

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed



down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

THE WISE MEN'S GIFTS

What were the gifts that the wise men gave baby Jesus?

- Gold
- a spice called Frankincense
- an oil called Myrrh

These are very strange gifts to give a baby. One would think they'd give diapers, or milk powder, or cute clothing.

But these gifts were prophetic in nature. Even though the wise men may not have realised it then, but the gifts spoke about Jesus' life and death.

- Gold: symbol of Kingship — Jesus is KING and GOD
- Frankincense: used in temple worship — Jesus lived a HOLY and RIGHTEOUS life
- Myrrh: used to embalm the dead — Jesus was born to DIE for us so that you and I can live!

GREATEST GIFT OF ALL

While we all usually look forward to getting nicely wrapped gifts under the Christmas tree, Christmas is a time of giving. Usually, we give gifts to others to let them know with that gift just how special they are, just as the wise men did for Jesus.

But even the strange and expensive gifts by the wise men couldn't match the greatest gift of all ... God gave us Jesus. He gave us a Savior who would die for our sins and offer us eternal life. You can look in every store. You can browse every website. You'll never find a gift as wonderful as Jesus.

You have heard the tales of Christmas, told from the POV of those who were there: the donkey, the cow, the sheep, and the camel. There's one more tale left to tell, and that tale ... is yours. Now that you have come to the manger, now that you have heard from those who saw him first, what will you do with Jesus? Will you walk away from the manger? Or will you begin a new tale by receiving the greatest gift ever given? He's waiting for your answer.



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THE CAMEL STORY

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

HUDDLE TIME

Get kids in smaller groups. Give an opportunity for kids to respond to the greatest gift of all, Jesus.

VIDEO

Salvos Studio <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lds3258m1LU>

SONGS

The best present of all <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x6hoLn5GTn4>