



# Jesus is born in Bethlehem

## Luke 2:1-7

### FOR YOU

The Bible doesn't actually say that Jesus was born in a stable, but we assume that it was some kind of animal shelter because he was laid in a manger - usually used for feeding horses and cattle hay. Jesus was not born in a palace or anywhere where you would expect to see royalty or celebrities and especially the Son of God! God chose this humble start to show that Jesus' birth is good news for all of us - whatever our circumstances - not reserved for those who can afford it. So, however we imagine it, whether it is a clean and cute stable, or something a bit more down to earth. Whether it is full of noisy animals (including the odd lobster) or quiet and peaceful it was an amazing start to Jesus' amazing life

### STORY



Ready-steady

Show some things that you might have ready for a new baby's arrival and ask the parents to tell you where their babies were born and what they found the most useful when their baby arrived

*In today's story we are going to hear about a special baby arriving in a very odd place*



Read-tell

Read Jesus is born (p124). If you have props, then you can use those, if not show the picture on page 125 and ask everyone to point out the differences between that and the birth stories they showed earlier



Wonder together

*I wonder why God chose for Jesus to be born in an animal shelter rather than a palace?*

*I wonder what Mary and Joseph were feeling when they looked at Jesus' face for the first time?*



Additional ide-

Read Away in a manger (p52) from Bob Hartman's Play-along Bible



**MAKE & PLAY**



- There are lots of ready made nativity activities available at Baker Ross but the cost can soon add up. Why not try making one of these cute mangers from paper plates instead?
- Put out a nativity set or if possible take the families to visit the nativity scene in the church. Stand quietly looking at the scene and sing 'Away in a manger'.
- Have some nativity sets available for the children to play with
- Add Mary, Joseph and Jesus to your Mural

**PRAY**

Pretend to be rocking a baby in your arms

*Shh - the baby is sleeping. Thank you God for sleeping babies*

*Ahh - the baby is smiling. Thank you God for all the things you give us that make us smile*

*Oh dear - the baby is crying. Please help everyone feeling sad this Christmas.*

*Amen*

**SONGS**

- Big Thumbs
- Bananaman

**@HOME**

Make sure every family has a picture of the nativity scene and encourage them to stop at some point on Christmas day to get it out and 'sing away in a manger'