Appendix 1. The First Christmas

JESUS IS BORN

(adapted from KWL Chapter 21)

YOU WILL NEED:

- 3D figures of infant Jesus, Mary and Joseph
- King Herod, some soldiers
- three wise men with gifts, an angel (Nativity Set)
- stable, Egyptian house, shiny star
- long brown strip of road, yellow desert strip

Children are seated in a semi-circle ready to listen to the story. When the children are settled, go to the shelf and carry the materials as you would the Bible. Place these beside you.

Roll out long strip of road. Place the stable at one end of the road and the three wise men at the other end.. Place the yellow desert and Egyptian house far away from the stable. Place King Herod with soldiers halfway on one side of the road. Begin by saying...

Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Pick up Jesus and place him in the stable.

His mother's name was Mary; her husband's name was Joseph.

Pick up Mary and Joseph and place in the stable with the baby Jesus.

After Jesus was born, three wise men came to see him.

Move the three wise men along the road towards the stable.

They had seen his "star" where they lived – in the east.

Hold up the star above the stable and then continue, moving the three wise men along the road to stand in front of the stable.

When they found Jesus, the wise men gave him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Move the three wise men to give their gifts to the baby Jesus one at time and then move them to journey back home, but following a different route that does not pass King Herod.

Use a hand gesture to point to King Herod, saying:

When King Herod heard that the wise men had found a new king in Bethlehem, he was very angry. He sent his soldiers to find Jesus in Bethlehem.

Move the soldiers to walk from side to side on the road looking for the baby Jesus.

But they could not find him.

Place Joseph lying down and move the angel to hover above him as you say...

God sent an angel in a dream, to warn Joseph that the soldiers were searching for Jesus.

Move Joseph to stand up and gather Mary and Jesus and set them on the road and continue...

So that night Joseph took Mary and Jesus to Egypt, where they would be safe.

Move them to the Egyptian house in the desert.

They stayed in Egypt until it was safe for them to go back home to Nazareth.

Engage with 'I wonder', KWL p158.

Appendix 1. The First Christmas

I wonder...why the wise men brought gold, frankincense and myrrh...why king Herod was angry when he heard what the wise men were searching for...how Joseph and Mary felt about having to go to a new land...how you would feel if you were in danger and had to leave your home...why Jesus was so special...why the wise men (who didn't belong to Jesus country) came to visit him.

Carefully pack story materials into storage box and put on shelf. Ensure that children are watching so they know how to pack the materials away and where to find them.