

# God chose to live as **One of Us**

## **Christmas Resources for Children and Families 2012**

### ***Interactive messages:***

Below you will find interactive messages that can be used with children and families during your service, family service or other events throughout the Advent season.

### ***Advent 2: Jesus in God's story***

For this message you will need:

- Either some pictures (*that you can use in a PowerPoint*), props or a copy of a familiar story that most people will know in your congregation, e.g. the three little pigs, Snow White, Cinderella etc.
- A copy of the Bible—a big one would work really well as an illustration for this message.

You want to share with everyone a fairly brief version of the familiar story that you have chosen. About two-thirds of the way through the story, stop at an unusual stage before you get to the final section of the story.

Announce to everyone, 'That is the end of the story. I hope you have enjoyed our story today.' (*People should react by saying, 'No, that is not the end of the story, you missed a bit' etc.*) Ask people to help you finish the story before moving on to the link below.

'Stories are wonderful things; we all have our favourite books and movies that tell a particular story. We even have lots of stories that we can share from our own experiences and, when we catch up with our friends, we love to do just that. God's Word, the Bible (*hold up your Bible to illustrate this point*) is God's big story of His love for the world. There are lots of stories within this larger story but all included in God's story of how he loves us and the way that He has connected and interacts with us.

This Bible—God's big story—is divided into two parts, the Old Testament and the New Testament. There is much in the first part of the Bible that points towards Jesus and the fact that He was going to be born into our world. Imagine if we stopped the story before we got to Jesus being born—it would be like the story we shared a moment ago that stopped before the important bit and didn't have the ending.

'God's Word, His story, points to Jesus being born and how He would live and interact with those living at that time and the important sacrifice He would make. Just as the story we told this morning wasn't complete if we stopped at the stage we did—if we didn't have Jesus (which we celebrate at this time) God's story would not be complete.

'I wonder where Jesus fits in to your story. How does his life impact your life?'

# God chose to live as **One of Us**

## Christmas Resources for Children and Families 2012

### **Games and activities:**

Below is a collection of games and activities that link to the topics that flow through the Advent season. You might like to use some of these in your Kids Church/Kids Club or perhaps you could use some after one of your services to engage children and their families. You may even like to use some of these while you are doing a special event in a park or at your church hall at some point during the Advent period. Each game or activity will have an outline and a link that helps connect the children and families to the key message.

The games and activities are listed in the order of the above advent themes but they can be used all together or you can pick and choose—they all link together into the overall theme of the Advent series.

### **Where does Jesus fit into our story?: Advent 2**

For this activity you will need:

- Paper large enough to do a storyboard on, e.g. A3 would work best
- Textas, crayons, pencils or other drawing items etc.
- To mark out a storyboard/film strip on the paper, e.g. an oblong the width of the page divided into 5 or 6 sections.

Get each child to draw their life story in the spaces provided. *'I wonder what are the important parts of your story that you would include.'*

As they are working on their storyboard put the challenge out *'I wonder where Jesus fits into your story?'*

When all the storyboards are finished, get children to share what they have included and why. Ask the question again about where Jesus fits into their story.

The Bible, God's story, points towards Jesus being born and how He would live and interact with those living at that time and the important sacrifice He would make. Each of your storyboards that you have created today would not be complete if we took out one of the sections, it would only tell part of the story and you would be missing an important bit. If we didn't have Jesus (which we celebrate at this Advent time) then God's story would not be complete, we would be missing some very important bits.

### **Beetle Game: Advent 2**

For this activity you will need:

- A game of 'Beetle' (the classic build a beetle game) *(You could substitute this game for another game where you need to spin a spinner or throw dice in order to see what part/section you add to the item you are building—if there are pieces missing then the item is not complete.)*
- A Bible

Follow the directions of the game—depending on the size of your group you may like to have more than one game or get people to play the game in teams.

**Link:** 'Today we have been playing a game of 'Beetle' where we needed to spin the spinner to see which parts of the beetle we added on our turn. The winner of the game of course was the person/group that had all the parts together first to build a full beetle.

In order to finish the challenge and win the game, you needed to get all the pieces. It would be a complete beetle if some of the parts were missing. If we stopped playing the game when everyone still had parts missing then the game would not be complete.

The Bible, God's story, points towards Jesus being born and how He would live and interact with those living at that time and the important sacrifice He would make. Like the game we have been playing this morning would not have been complete if we stopped before the beetle had all its parts—if we didn't have Jesus (which we celebrate at this Advent time) God's story would not be complete, we would be missing some very important bits.