

THE CHRISTMAS TREE'S TALE

Every Christmas tree tells a story – this one is no different. There is a story behind each of things that we hang on the tree.

This is a story of a tree throughout Advent. You will need to colour a tree A3 size. An adult or you can make one up. It is 4 sheets of A4 put together, then colour it. Then once a day colour the decorations and hang them one on the tree.

Each day has a different theme.



Get Ready

You will need paper, paints, card, scissors, colouring pens, glitter, and glue. An adult nearby may be useful.

GO

There is also a daily prayer.

By kind permission of BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship)

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1 Be prepared

Today is getting everything ready day, getting everything ready for your Christmas tree tale. It's getting ready time of year. It's called Advent, and it is when we are getting ready for Christmas. The time when we remember a special baby called Jesus was born.

So let us get ourselves ready by saying this Advent prayer.

Get Ready

Thank you, Father, God, for Christmas, Help me to make room during the day to spend time thinking about Jesus. Amen

2 The Christmas tree's tale

John 3:16

The story of the Christmas tree happened a long time ago in Germany. One dark night Boniface was travelling through a thick forest. He loved God Very much, and wanted to tell everyone about Jesus. Suddenly he bumps into a group of people worshipping their own God. They had tied a young boy to an oak tree and were about to kill him with an axe.

"Stop" shouted Boniface, he ran to the tree untied the boy and grabbed the axe he swung the axe into the oak tree. Whilst chopping the tree down he told the story of how God loves and cares for people. There was no need to kill anyone to make God happy. The oak tree fell to the ground and something caught Boniface's eye, a tiny fir tree growing near the roots of the oak. "Look at this little fir tree. Its leaves are always green, just like God's love that goes on for ever" he said "and this little tree points to the sky as if pointing to God."

Get Ready

Father God, Thank you for the story of Christmas tree which reminds us of God's love for the whole world. Amen

GO

Paint the tree and put it up on the wall ready for daily decorating.

3 The Angel's tale

Luke 1:26-28

Just as Boniface wanted to tell others about Jesus, so the beginning of the Angel's tale starts with a wonderful piece of News. A special angel called Gabriel was sent by God to deliver this message to a young Mary who lived in the town called Nazareth about 2,000 years ago.

Mary was at home when she suddenly noticed a door swinging open. Out of curiosity, she moved towards it.

"Hello Mary" a Gabriel said "God be with you. He is pleased with you". Mary was so surprised because she had never seen an angel before. Mary loved God and was longing to know when God would send his Son into the world like he had promised.

"Don't be afraid" Gabriel said "God has chosen you to have a baby boy called Jesus. He will grow up to be great because he is God's Son. The Saviour of the world".

Get Ready

Thank you, Father God, for the wonderful message Gabriel gave to Mary. Thank you that Jesus is God's very own Son. Amen

GO

Find the picture of the angel and cut it out, decorate it in dazzling colour and using a spot of glue on the back, stick it on your tree.

4 Mary's Tale

Luke 1:38

It was not surprising that Mary was in shock by Gabriel's message. She was not married and never seen an angel before. She was frightened but looked the angel in the eye and was comforted. She asked "How is it possible for me to have a baby."

"God's spirit will fall upon you," said Gabriel. "Jesus is God's special baby His own Son. Remember with God anything is possible."

Mary replied "I want to do whatever God wants. He is my master I am his servant. "

With that Gabriel left

Get Ready

*Dear God Thank you for using ordinary people who love you, to do ordinary things for you.
Amen*

GO

Mary was just a young ordinary woman, but she loved God. Can you find a picture of her? She is kneeling ,cut it out, colour it and stick it on your tree

5 Joseph's tale

Matthew 1:20-21

Someone else found out about Mary's amazing news, but at first, he was not too happy about it, his name was Joseph and he was engaged to be married to Mary. When he found out she was expecting a baby, he was so upset that he wanted to call the engagement off. He did not understand what had happened.

Whilst he was working things out in his mind, he fell asleep. Suddenly he had a dream.

An angel appeared and said, "Do not worry about marrying Mary, just go ahead and get married. Yes! Mary is pregnant; her baby is very special because he is God's Son. When Mary gives birth to him you must call him Jesus which means saviour because that is what he is!"

When Joseph woke up, he felt so much better, He knew he what he had to do. He married Mary.

Get Ready

Lord God, some things that happen are difficult for me to understand. Help me to trust you.

GO

Cut out the picture of Joseph, he is the one with the beard and is wearing what looks like an apron at the front. Colour him and stick him on your tree.

6 St. Nicholas' Tale

John 1:12

Even though Mary and Joseph were the first to hear about God's special baby, they knew that Jesus was not just for them. The angels had told them both that Jesus was God's gift to the world. On December 6th, each year people throughout the world think about a man called St Nicholas as the get ready for Christmas. Once upon a time there was a man called Nicholas who followed Jesus. One day as he walked through the streets of Myra, he heard sad voices through an open window

"Oh dear we have no money "a young girl said.

Back came the reply "And nothing to eat"

"I am so sorry " said the father. " But there is nothing I can do".

Nicholas felt sad when he heard this and walked away.

That night while everyone was asleep, Nicholas crept back into the house taking three bags of gold coins with him and threw them into the room.

When the girls woke up, they found a bag of gold coins inside their shoes

"Now we can have everything we need" the girls cried "but who do we thank"

Because they did not know what Nicholas had done, they thanked God for a wonderful present

Get Ready

Father God, thank you for the presents we can give and the ones we hope to receive.

Thank you for giving Jesus as your gift for the whole world. Amen.

Go

What do you put out hoping to find it full of presents? Cut out the stocking and stick them on the tree.

7) The Donkey's tale

Luke 2:13-4

While Mary and Joseph waited for their baby to arrive something unexpected happened. The Emperor Caesar Augustus, wanted to count all the people in his empire, so he ordered a census. This meant that everyone had to travel to the town where his or her family came from.

One day Mary and Joseph loaded their donkey and left their little home in Nazareth to go to Bethlehem. It was a long way, and Mary was expecting her baby very soon. For most of the time she probably walked along the bumpy dusty roads. But when she got too tired, she may have ridden on the donkey's back.

How they must have looked forward to reaching Bethlehem.

Get Ready

Father God, sometimes unexpected things happen and we are unsure what will happen next. Help us to trust you because you know what lies ahead of us. Amen

GO

A donkey was very important to people in the time of Joseph and Mary. It was a means of transport and for carrying heavy loads. Find the donkey laden with luggage. Cut him out, colour him and stick him on your tree.

8 Bethlehem 's tale

Luke 2:6

No one knows whether they were surprised at what happened next. Mary was feeling exhausted as she and Joseph travelled towards Bethlehem . She knew that the baby would arrive soon and she needed to rest. Bethlehem was full of people. The small town was crowded because of the census. They tried the Inn.

“Have you any room ?” asked Joseph. The Inn keeper shook his head. The Inn was already overcrowded.

Mary and Joseph found shelter in the stable. They settled there to rest. While they were there, during one night, Mary gave birth to her baby boy. She carefully wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him to sleep in the manger.

“His name is Jesus” whispered Joseph.

Get ready

Father God a stable seems a strange place for your Son to be born. Thank you that you can use all sorts of strange and unlikely places and situations. Amen

GO

When we see pictures of the stable where Jesus was born it looks very clean and tidy and pleasant. But it was not like that at all .When you cut out the picture of the stable think about what it was really like. Decorate it and stick it on your tree.

9 The shepherds' tale

Luke 2:10-11

A group of Shepherds, who were huddling together on a hillside, had no idea what had happened in a stable in Bethlehem. For them it was an ordinary night.

The shepherds sat together, guarding their sheep through the night. Suddenly the darkness blazed with light, because God's brilliance burst through the sky. They were terrified.

"Don't be afraid!" ordered an angel. "I have come to bring you some wonderful news, which is for you and for everyone in the whole world. Tonight in Bethlehem, a very special baby has been born. He is God's saviour for the whole world!"

Get Ready

Father God, when I hear the story the angels told the shepherds, help me to feel the same wonder and excitement. Amen

GO

Being a shepherd was a full time job both day and night. A shepherd was expected to find food for the sheep and protect them with his crook during the night.

Cut out the shepherd's crook and put it on the branches of your tree.

10 The Heavenly choir's tale

Luke 2:13

The angel not only told the shepherds that Jesus had been born but he gave them clues about where to find him. The angel told them that the baby would be wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

Soon the whole sky was full of angels singing.

“Glory to God in the highest heaven! And peace to his people on earth who live in a way that pleases God”.

Eventually the angels returned to heaven, and the sky grew dark once more. The shepherds stood together amazed by everything they had seen and heard. They shouted to one another

“Come on what are we waiting for. Let's go to Bethlehem and see if we can find this special baby”.

Get Ready

Holy, holy, holy. is the Lord God Almighty. Who was and Who is to come. You are worthy, our Lord and God. To receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. Amen

GO

Find the picture of the singing angels. Cut out and put on it on your tree as they sing their song of praise to God









