

## THE ISLAND

LEADER	DATE (am) 21 December
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

- **SERIES / LESSON:** Christmas Traditions / Happy Birthday Jesus!
- **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Luke 1:26-56 – 2:8-21
- **CONCEPT:** We can give Jesus our hearts

### GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To help kids realise that the birth of Jesus is not the end of the story – it can end in our salvation if we choose.
- To challenge kids to give their hearts to Jesus this Christmas.
- To lead kids into a prayer time and help them understand that God listens.

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ DVD player / laptop / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Song DVD
- ✓ Treasure chest with items from the last three weeks' stories (angel cake, The Island census, Christmas candy cane)
- ✓ 7 balloons with a word from the memory verse (Luke 1:37) attached to each balloon, hidden around the church at various locations
- ✓ The Jesse Tree your kids made three weeks ago
- ✓ The Christmas Chocolate Bar story – see [http://www.eliab.com/Stories/Childrens\\_Stories/Sweet\\_Christmas/sweet\\_christmas.html](http://www.eliab.com/Stories/Childrens_Stories/Sweet_Christmas/sweet_christmas.html) for ideas. You can adapt this as appropriate to what is available. This story from [www.eliab.com](http://www.eliab.com) is also included in the materials for your reference.
- ✓ Chocolate bars / sweets for the story
- ✓ Birthday cake (made of individual iced fairy cakes, set on a plate in a circle and layered up. You can use candles if you wish. Make sure there are enough for each child.)
- ✓ Name tag box

## FAMILY SERVICE

The children will be in the main sanctuary from the beginning of the service and will stay throughout. The following is a programme of what takes place before The Island officially takes over the sequence. Approximate timing shows that the entire church service should last just over an hour.

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**11:30      Opening Christmas Carol – Praise team**

## Welcome and Prayer

## Announcements & Offering

## Lighting of the Advent Candles

**Christmas Carol – Praise team**

**11:45**      **Invite children to the front of the church**

(Screen: slide 1 – The Island logo)

**Welcome Rocky & Ringo** – Chat with the monkeys. Talk about how excited you all are that so many people are in church this morning for our special birthday celebration. Ask them to help you sing with the kids.

<p><b>A. Worship through Music (with puppets)</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>5 minutes</b></span></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcome kids and invite them to praise God by singing.</li> <li>2. Sing a song together (<b><i>This is the Day</i></b>).</li> <li>3. Ask kids to lift a mat each and sit down. (<i>The mats could already be placed at different spots at the front of the church beforehand to save time and a human traffic jam during the service!</i>)</li> </ol>	<p><b>You'll need ...</b>          DVD player / projector          Song DVD (Hillsong Kids – Supernatural)</p>
<p><b>B. Message</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>25-30 minutes</b></span></p> <p><b><i>Make sure to give your puppeteers a copy of the following script to prepare in advance of the service. Bring extra copies to the service to leave in the puppet box, just to be prepared!</i></b></p> <p><b>Rocky –</b>  <b>Ringo –</b></p> <p><b>Rocky:</b> Hey! Whose birthday is it?</p> <p><b>Emma:</b> Whose birthday is it, Rocky? ... Well, we're having our celebration a few days early because the day we actually celebrate the birthday is on 25<sup>th</sup> December. Does that give you a clue?</p> <p><b>Rocky &amp; Ringo:</b> [Talk to each other. Say things like, "Hmm, I don't know ... Who could it be? ... Whose birthday is it on 25<sup>th</sup>? ... That's</p>	<p><b>You'll need ...</b></p> <p>Screen: slide 2 (<i>The Island background</i>)</p>

<p>this Thursday, isn't it? ... Do you have any ideas? ... etc. etc.] Uhh, we don't know whose birthday it is on Thursday!</p> <p><b>Emma:</b> Oh dear! Kids, I think we'd better give them some more clues! Let's open up the treasure chest. Maybe the things we've put in there over the last few weeks will help Rocky and Ringo remember.</p> <p><b>1. Recap</b> <b>Ask different children to help you take out the props from the treasure chest. Have each child stand and wait in a visible spot until all the props have been explained, stories recapped and memory verses recited. Puppets may ad lib during the recap.</b></p> <p>Ask a child to help you open the treasure chest and take out the angel cake you put there three weeks ago. Ask for someone to explain what the angel cake should remind us of. Ask a few follow-up questions to recap the story of the angel Gabriel appearing to Mary with the message that she was going to have a baby boy called Jesus.</p> <p>Now, I like to play a game or two at a birthday party. What about you? I need seven people (<i>choose 7 kids</i>). I need you to go and find one balloon each as quickly as you can, then bring it back to the front. There is a word on each balloon. All seven of you have to put your words into the right order to remind us of what Mary said when she heard the angel's message. Okay? Go! (<i>7 balloons should have already been placed in different spots around the church with a word from the memory verse attached to each balloon (including the reference) – "For nothing is impossible with God." Luke 1:37</i>) Help kids to arrange themselves in order and hold their balloons high for the congregation to see. Display the verse on the screen also for the kids to read aloud.</p> <p>Mary could hardly believe what the angel of God was telling her! She was going to be the mummy of God's own Son! Even though she was nervous and didn't really understand everything, Mary trusted God. She believed that God would help her and look after her because He had given her this special job to do – being a mummy to Jesus.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * * * *</p> <p><i>The Jesse Tree the kids made three weeks ago should be set up in a prominent position in the church. Direct the parents to admire the kids' skill in making stars to hang on the tree. Ask a child to explain the significance of the Jesse Tree – why does it have that name? Ask questions to elicit the fulfilment of God's promise to send a Saviour hundreds of years before Jesus was born, and how Jesus came from King David's family tree as we saw in the book of Matthew.</i></p> <p>Remember that just like King David was Jesse's son, and Jesus was a great, great, great, etc. grandson of King David, so we are sons and daughters of Jesus. We can be happy and thankful to God because we are part of His wonderful family – and that means that</p>	<p><i>Treasure chest with items from the last 3 weeks (angel cake, census, candy cane)</i></p> <p><i>Angel cake</i></p> <p><i>7 balloons with a word from the memory verse (Luke 1:37) attached to each balloon, hidden around the church</i></p> <p><i>Screen: slide 3 (Memory verse – Luke 1:37)</i></p> <p><i>The Jesse Tree your kids made three weeks ago</i></p> <p><i>Screen: slide 4 (The Jesse Tree)</i></p>
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we are all brothers and sisters!

Finish by eliciting the Bible concept: God always keeps His promises.

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**Musical feature:** a child or group of kids can sing or play a Christmas carol on their chosen instrument

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Ask a child to help you open the treasure chest and take out The Island census sheet you put there two weeks ago. Ask for someone to explain what the census should remind us of. Ask a few follow-up questions to recap the story of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and the birth of baby Jesus, as well as the fulfilment of God's promise.

Boys and girls, Mary didn't have any nice things to look after her baby boy. She didn't even have a soft pillow and a cot for him to sleep in. Joseph couldn't even find a decent room for the baby to be born in. But Mary and Joseph knew that God was with them, and they trusted Him for help even though they were afraid and worried about what was going to happen to them because they knew that God always keeps His promises.

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**Musical feature:** a child or group of kids can sing or play a Christmas carol on their chosen instrument

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Ask a child to help you open the treasure chest and take out the Christmas candy cane you put there last week. Ask for someone to explain who would use a cane. Ask a few follow-up questions to recap last week's story of how God's angel appeared to the shepherds who were looking after their sheep at night in the fields close to Bethlehem. Elicit main points of the story – the shepherds' terror, the angel's message ("Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)), the multitude of singing angels in the sky, their visit to Bethlehem to see the baby Jesus.

The shepherds were so excited at this message from God, and so happy that they were the first people to know this good news of great joy that would be for all people! The shepherds left the little family. They went into the streets of Bethlehem and told everyone they met about this special baby, the Saviour sent from God. Everyone who heard the shepherds' story was amazed! And the shepherds made their way back to the fields, praising God and thanking Him for all the things they had heard and seen – just as He had told them through the angel's message.

### *The Island census*

Screen: slide 5 (The Island census)

Christmas candy cane

Screen: slide 6 (candy cane)

<p>Finish by eliciting the Bible concept: We can tell others about Jesus.</p> <p><i>Boys and girls holding props may leave props and sit down.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">* * * * *</p> <p>Boys and girls, God didn't tell this news first to the king, or to the politicians, or to the priest or minister in the church ... He chose to tell His good news to shepherds first. That tells us that God sees everybody as being important – it doesn't matter what your job is, or how much money you have, or how old you are, or where you live. God loves you and He knows you, all of you!</p> <p>Let's stand and sing! (<b><i>I Am Not Forgotten</i></b>) Kids sit down.</p> <p><b>2. Tell the story</b></p> <p><b>Emma:</b> Rocky and Ringo, have you worked it out yet? Whose birthday is it this Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December?</p> <p><b>Rocky &amp; Ringo:</b> JESUS!</p> <p><b>Emma:</b> Right! Now, we have a special visitor with us today. This is the first time he has ever been on The Island so we'd better give him a good welcome. When he comes up here, let's all say, 'Hello Pastor, okay? <i>Call the Pastor to the front.</i> Alright kids – altogether – 'Hello, Pastor!'</p> <p>Pastor, as you've heard, The Island kids know the Christmas story pretty well by now ... but I'm not sure about the grown-ups. Some of them have been waiting all year to hear this story! In fact, I think <i>they</i> might enjoy your story more than the kids will this morning!</p> <p><b>Hand over to Pastor who will tell the Christmas Chocolate Bar story. Check the link above for ideas for your story.</b></p> <p>Boys and girls, grown-ups, Rocky and Ringo ... what an amazing story! Angels, the journey to Bethlehem, the birth of the baby in a stable, the shepherds, God's promise of the Saviour of the world coming to life ... WOW! I can hardly believe it! But I know that with God, all things are possible, even the supernatural!</p> <p>Let's stand up and sing again. (<b><i>Supernatural</i></b>)</p> <p><b>4. Explain</b> You know, we have to remember that Jesus' birthday is actually the middle of the Christmas story. You see, God made that promise hundreds of years earlier – remember we learnt about that when we made the Jesse tree? And then, some years later, when Jesus grew up to be a man, He went to die for us – to make a way for us to be saved from our sin. God gave us the gift of salvation, if we want it.</p>	<p><i>Screen: slide 7 (The Island background)</i></p> <p><i>Song DVD</i></p> <p><i>Screen: slide 7 (The Island background)</i></p> <p><i>Song DVD</i></p> <p><i>Screen: slide 7 (The Island background)</i></p>
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Now, at any birthday party there is a cake for the birthday boy or girl, right? ( <i>Show kids the cake</i> ) Like the wise men, we can bring presents and gifts, and even cake, for Jesus. What Jesus really wants from us is not like the things we write on our Christmas lists, or the things we wish for on our birthdays. Jesus wants our hearts – my heart and your heart. Jesus loves us so much and He wants us to love Him back again. So the best gift you can give to Jesus this Christmas is your heart. And if you do that, Jesus promises to love you, to always be with you, and to be your best friend. And as we know, He ALWAYS keeps His promises!	<i>Birthday cake (made of individual iced fairy cakes)</i>
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<p><b>C. Conclusion (with puppets)</b> <b>10 minutes</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Let's invite the grown-ups to stand and sing our last song with us. Rocky, are you ready? Ringo, are you ready? Kids are you ready? Let's sing! (<i>Everyday</i>)</li> <li>2. Thank everyone for coming to take part in The Island birthday celebration for Jesus today. Invite them to come back this evening. Also – a reminder that we have a special service on Christmas morning at 10:00. Kids – Pastor will be waiting here to see what you got for Christmas, so you can bring a toy with you!</li> <li>3. Invite praise team to lead us in singing, 'Joy to the World'.</li> <li>4. Tell kids that <i>after the prayer</i> they should leave their name tags in the box, and because they have been so good they can have a piece of birthday cake.</li> <li>5. Close in prayer. Remember kids, when you say 'Happy Christmas', you can also say, 'Happy Birthday Jesus!'</li> </ol> <p>Have adult helpers collect name tags and distribute birthday cake.</p>	<p><b>You'll need ...</b></p> <p><i>Song DVD</i></p> <p><i>Screen: slide 7 (The Island background)</i></p> <p><i>Name tag box</i> <i>Birthday cake</i></p>
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## THE ISLAND cont'd

LEADER	DATE (pm) 21 December
HELPERS	TIME (mins) 40 minutes
PUPPETEER	No. of KIDS (m/f)

### GOALS:

- To encourage kids to engage in worship through singing.
- To reinforce today's Bible concept by consolidating a related Scripture verse.
- To consolidate the Christmas story and concepts by watching a DVD of the Christmas story.

### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- ✓ Song DVD / laptop / DVD player / projector / screen, etc.
- ✓ Memory Verse Slide (Isaiah 9:6)
- ✓ Christmas DVD (e.g. *The King is Born (The Animated Stories from the New Testament)* (2006) Boulevard Entertainment Ltd. ISBN: 1564894088)
- ✓ Small prizes (e.g. stickers, bookmarks, etc.)
- ✓ Name tag box



D. Memory Verse	10 minutes	You'll need ...
<p><i>"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."</i> Isaiah 9:6</p> <p>1. Open in prayer.</p> <p>*This is a repetition of last week's verse. Kids should be more familiar with the verse today, so you can test their memories later and try to have them recite the verse without seeing it.</p> <p>3. <i>Explain:</i> We know the Christmas story very well by now, but we must remember that the birth of baby Jesus is actually the middle of the Christmas story. Remember how we looked at God's promise of a Saviour long, long before the first Christmas? Look at what Isaiah wrote hundreds of years before Jesus was born. <i>Show kids the memory verse on screen. Read the verse together. Repeat it a couple of times.</i></p> <p>4. <i>Explain:</i> Jesus didn't stay a little baby forever, did He? No! When He grew up, He made a way for us to be saved from our sin when He went to die on the cross for us. And that's what this verse tells us. Not just a baby, Jesus is called many other names because of how great He is!</p> <p>5. Talk about what the verse means – Jesus is the Son born to Mary and Joseph, and to the people of the world. The government will be on His shoulders – means that Jesus is the Ruler of the world. He is in control. Talk about what the names of Jesus mean:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a counsellor is someone who listens and gives advice – Jesus is a wonderful counsellor;</li> <li>- Jesus is God's Son, and He has the power of God in Him – Jesus is mighty;</li> <li>- Even though Jesus was born as a baby, He grew up and still lives now. He is like a father or a daddy to us, wanting the best for us and loving us even when we make mistakes, and He will <i>always</i> be there, forever and ever!</li> <li>- Jesus is part of David's family tree, King David. That means it's a royal family tree, so Jesus could be called a prince – the Prince of peace. Jesus wants to bring peace to your heart and mine – love, joy and peace.</li> </ul> <p>5. Repeat the verse with actions. Leave the verse on the screen as it is long and perhaps more difficult for the kids to remember.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For to us a child is born – <i>rock a baby in your arms action</i></li> <li>- To us a son is given – <i>hold out hands, palms up, as if giving something</i></li> <li>- And the government will be on his shoulders – <i>pat shoulders</i></li> <li>- And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor – <i>start with both hands around mouth, and reach up with hands in the air</i></li> <li>- Mighty God – <i>hold arms up to show muscles</i></li> <li>- Everlasting Father – <i>with hands at the heart, stretch out sideways to show infinity</i></li> <li>- Prince of Peace – <i>hold up two fingers and make a peace sign</i></li> </ul>		<p>Memory verse slide (Isaiah 9:6)</p>



6. Repeat a few times, individually and as a group. If you think the kids are ready, show a blank screen and have them recite the verse without seeing it. 7. Finish with a group repetition of the verse with actions.	
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<b>E. Activity</b> 1. Ask kids to lift a mat and sit down. 2. Let them watch a religious Christmas film for kids, or excerpts from it, depending on how much time you have. 3. When the film is over, ask kids to put their mats away and stand in a space on the floor.	<b>25 minutes</b>  <b>You'll need ...</b> <i>Christmas DVD</i>
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<b>F. Conclusion (with puppets)</b> 1. Ask one boy and one girl if they can recite the memory verse. The puppets / another leader will judge if they deserve a prize. Award the prizes. 2. Ask kids to hold hands and sing <i>Jesus Loves Me</i> (first verse and chorus) <i>a cappella</i> , or with an instrument if preferred. 3. Close in prayer. Remind kids to come back next week! 4. Make sure kids leave their name tags in the box before they leave.	<b>5 minutes</b>  <b>You'll need ...</b> <i>Small prizes – bookmarks, stickers, etc.</i>  <i>Name tag box</i>
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