AUSSIE BIBLE MATES · BIBLE MATES EXPLORERS · AUSTRALIAN EDITION

A CHRISTIAN CHRISTMAS UNIT STUDY

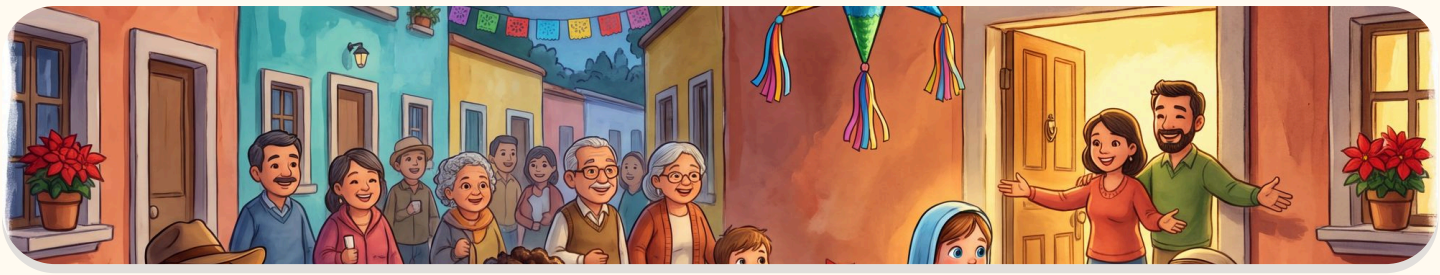
# Christmas
## AROUND THE WORLD

"Good news of great joy which will be to all the people." Luke 2:10

**Parent Guide**



Whole family · ages 5–13 | 8 lessons | 3 levels | Read along with Drew



# 🎵 Our theme song: Good News for All the World

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

**INTRO**
Pack your bags, mates! Grab your map!
Let's go around the world... for Jesus!

**VERSE 1**
In a little town called Bethlehem
on a quiet starry night
a baby lay in a manger bed
and the sky was shining bright
The angels sang to the shepherds
"Do not be afraid!
Good news of great joy for everyone:
a Saviour's born today!"

**CHORUS**
Good news for all the world!
Good news for every girl and boy!
From the east to the west, from the north to the south
sing it out with joy!
For unto you is born this day
a Saviour, Christ the Lord!
Good news for all the world (good news!)
Good news for all the world!

**VERSE 2**
In Mexico we knock on doors
for nine nights, one by one
Las Posadas, "Is there room?"
just like Mary and her Son
¡Feliz Navidad! (¡Feliz Navidad!)
the whole street sings along
Make room, make room for Jesus
and fill your house with song

**VERSE 3**
In the Philippines the parol stars
are shining in the dark
bright lanterns hung in every home
like Bethlehem's own spark
Maligayang Pasko! (Maligayang Pasko!)
the light has come to stay
Jesus is the Light of the World
he chases dark away

**(Chorus)**

**VERSE 4**
In Germany we light the wreath
one candle every week
Advent's the time of waiting
for the King we love to seek
Frohe Weihnachten! (Frohe Weihnachten!)
we give like Nicholas gave
he gave because the Saviour came
to love us and to save

**VERSE 5**
In Ethiopia it's the seventh of January
dressed in white we go
to sing and pray with candles
in the early morning glow
Melkam Gena! (Melkam Gena!)
the church bells ring and ring
the same good news in every land
for Jesus Christ the King

**BRIDGE**
And here in Australia
it's sunny Christmas Day
Carols by candlelight
then backyard cricket play
From Canada down to Sydney
the same good news is true
Joyeux Noël! Merry Christmas!
God sent his Son for you!

**BREAKDOWN**
Who is the good news for? (Everyone!)
Who came down at Christmas? (Jesus!)
Who's the greatest gift of all? (Jesus!)
Who did he come for? (Me and you!)

**(Chorus)**

**OUTRO**
Merry Christmas, everyone...
around the world!

**"The angel said to them, 'Don't be afraid, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be to all the people. For there is born to you today, in David's city, a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.'"**
**Luke 2:10–11 (WEBBE)**

**Scan to sing along**
https://aussiebiblemates.com.au/songs/good-news-for-all-the-world/




JOURNEY STOP 1 · WHERE AND WHEN

# The First Christmas

📖 **Story time**

Big Mate opened the Bible to Luke 2 beside the Christmas World Map. “Close your eyes, Mates,” he said. “Let’s imagine we’re there.”

Little Mate squeezed his eyes shut… and the night was suddenly cool and starry. They were crouched behind a low stone wall outside a little hill town of flat-roofed houses.

“It’s cold!” whispered Tilly, pulling her jumper tight. “No snow, though,” said Ruby. “It hardly ever snows in Bethlehem.”

Lamplight glowed from a stone room where the animals slept. Inside, Mary smiled down at a tiny baby wrapped in bands of cloth, lying in a feeding trough full of hay. Joseph stood close beside them.

Shepherds hurried up the path with their sheep, just as the angels had told them. Pip’s bill dropped open.

Little Mate put a finger to his lips. “That’s baby Jesus,” he breathed.

“Good news of great joy,” Big Mate whispered, “for all the people. Even for us, all the way over in Australia.”

🤔 **BIG QUESTION**

**Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Is it near us or far away?**

QR

🎧 **Listen with Drew**
Scan to hear this story read aloud.

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, being small amongst the clans of Judah, out of you one will come out to me who is to be ruler in Israel.” **Micah 5:2**

# Real Bethlehem!

Where Jesus was born, and what it was like there.




CONTINENT
**Asia (Western Asia)**

HEMISPHERE
**Northern**

DECEMBER
**Winter, about 12–14 °C**

TOWN OF
**King David**

## THINGS YOU MIGHT SEE



**A feeding trough (manger)**



**A small hill town**



**A long walk from Nazareth**

**9 km** south of Jerusalem: Bethlehem is a small hill town.

**About a week** to walk from Nazareth, about 110 km in a straight line.

**AD 336** the earliest record of Christians keeping Christmas on 25 December, in Rome.

**No year 0** 1 BC is followed straight away by AD 1.

## Try it! Where in the world?

1. Spin the globe and find Australia.
2. Find the Mediterranean Sea and, near its eastern end, Bethlehem.
3. Is it near us or far away? Which way would we travel?
4. Put a big star on Bethlehem on your Christmas World Map and tape a string from home to the star.

Maps are simplified drawings, not to scale. Customs vary from family to family.



# Where Jesus Was Born

Little Mates · ages 5–7

Name: _____ Date: _____

**WORDS TO KNOW** Bethlehem · continent · map

**1** **Trace the word.**

Bethlehem

**2** **Number the story, 1 to 4.**

- ☐ The shepherds visit baby Jesus.
- ☐ Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem.
- ☐ Angels tell the shepherds the good news.
- ☐ Jesus is born.

**3** **There was no room in the inn. Where did Mary lay baby Jesus? Circle it.**





**4** **Bethlehem is in the continent of...**

☐ Asia ☐ Australia

**5** **Count the continents on a globe with a grown-up. There are _____ continents.**

**6** **Mary and Joseph walked for about 5 days. Fill in the missing days.**

**1, 2, _____ , _____ , 5**

**7** **Draw Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in Bethlehem.**



**How did I go?**