

Short Talk

(SHT223)

Who is this baby?

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SHORT TALK: “Who is this baby?”

Aim of Short talk:	To engender a sense of awe as people reflect on the amazing truth that the baby lying in the manger is God incarnate.
Use of Short talk:	This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used, for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.
Main themes:	Jesus, Incarnation, Christmas Day, Gift
Biblical references:	Luke 1:30-31, Luke 2:11, John 1:1-3
Lectionary:	Christmas Day
Props:	You will need a crib with a baby in it, wrapped loosely in wrapping paper, with a large gift tag on it saying, <i>“For Everyone, with love from Father God.”</i> Place this front centre of your church where everyone can see it. Inside the manger are 3 envelopes with a Bible verse as follows: 1. Doctor Luke writes: <i>“the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.’”</i> (Luke 1:30-31 NIV) 2. Doctor Luke writes: <i>“The angel said to the shepherds, ‘This very day in David’s town your Saviour was born—Christ the Lord!’”</i> (Luke 2:11 Good News Version) 3. John writes: <i>“Before anything else existed, there was Christ, with God. He has always been alive and is himself God. He created everything there is—nothing exists that he didn’t make.”</i> (John 1:1-3 New Living Translation)

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Have any of you children been given a present today?

- Who would like to come and join me and show everyone here what you have received? (*Children show congregation their gifts*)

Behind me is a big gift – I wonder who it is from.

- Can anyone find the gift tag and read out who has sent us this big gift? (*Child reads out what has been written on the gift tag*)

So God has given us a gift – let’s unwrap it. (*Children pull off the wrapping paper*)

- Look at this – a baby! The gift that God has given us is a baby.

Now the baby in **this** manger is simply a doll, but it reminds us that over 2000 years ago, God gave us a real baby unlike any other ever given.

So who is this baby,

- and why do we celebrate His coming on Christmas Day?

Let's hear what a doctor called Luke discovered about the baby when he talked with people who knew what had happened at the birth.

- His words can be found in the Bible,
- and today can be found next to the baby in 3 different envelopes.

Who can find envelope 1?

- Please read out the words for us. *(Child reads the following: Doctor Luke writes: "the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.'")*

We have discovered from Luke that the baby is a boy called Jesus and his mother was called Mary.

Let's see what else we can find out. Who can find envelope 2?

- Please read out the words for us. *(Child reads the following: Doctor Luke writes: "The angel said to the shepherds, "This very day in David's town your Saviour was born—Christ the Lord!")*

We have also discovered from Luke that the baby Jesus is our Saviour –

- A Saviour given to the shepherds and the people who were living at that time,
- but also a Saviour given to every man, woman, boy and girl.
- Father God has given us the gift of a Saviour because He knows that each one of us needs one.

But there is more to discover. Who can find envelope 3?

- Please read out the words for us. *(Child reads the following: John writes: "Before anything else existed, there was Christ, with God. He has always been alive and is himself God. He created everything there is—nothing exists that he didn't make.")*

Another man, called John, who was a close friend of Jesus, has told us something that is totally mind blowing.

- The baby in the manger is none other than God in a human body! Oh wow!

Jesus is the One who existed before anything else came into being.

- Jesus is the One who made the world, the seas and everything in them.

Jesus is the One who made you and me,

- and yet – here He is, God come to earth as a vulnerable and helpless baby,
- a baby that can be seen and touched,
- and who grew up to be a man who showed everyone He met what God is really like,
- and who invited people into a life-giving relationship with Himself.

That invitation to know God and be known by Him is offered by Jesus to all of us too.

I wonder how you will react to God's amazing gift of Saviour Jesus this Christmas Day.

- Let's respond now as the wise men did by worshipping Him. (*You may like to sing, "O come let us adore Him..."*)