

## Week 12 – King of Kings

**Theme :** Jesus is the King of Kings.

### Games :

**Chinese whispers:** Get the children to sit in a circle. Whisper a sentence to do with Christmas. (e.g. The kings followed the shiny star dazzling in the sky.) They then pass the sentence around the circle, whispering to the person next to them. When the phrase gets to the last person, get them to say it out loud and compare it with the starting sentence.

**Christmas Decorations:** The children move around the room pretending to put up decorations. Every time the leader calls out a decoration, the children get into a position to demonstrate it. E.g. *star* (arms and legs out); *tree* (feet together, arms out at 45°); *paper chain* (all link arms); *tinsel* (wave arms and wiggle fingers); *bauble* (curl up in ball); *angel* (lie on back moving arms/legs, c.f. snow angel).

**Dodge snowball:** Children go to one end of the hall and have to run to the other end, at the leader's command. Use a mixture of small and large soft balls to throw at the runners. If they are hit below the knee, they join the throwers.

**Introduction :** Give each child a blank cut-out of a baby and an adult. (See resources). Ask them to write on one side of the baby all the things that a baby needs (for example, cuddles and nappies); on the other side write some of the things that were amazing about baby Jesus (for example, born in a stable, promised by God).

On one side of the adult cut-out, ask them to write all the things they think an adult might need; on the other side write some of the things they know about what Jesus did when he was on earth. Use their ideas to chat about how amazing it was that God came to earth as a human being.

**Story :** Tell the story of the Kings and Jesus' birth. Based on Matthew 2:1-12. Use story ideas in resources or act out.

**Application :** Use their ideas to chat about how amazing it was that God came to earth as a human being. He was born as a baby but grew up to be a king, of the Jews, of heaven, of our hearts.

**Memory verse :** *"The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us."*  
*John 1:14a*

Cut crown shapes out of thin card, one colour for each team, then cut it into several pieces. Hide the pieces around the room. Invite the children to find the pieces, and then challenge them to make the correct shape by putting them together to read the verse.

**Prayer:** Give thanks for all the things associated with Christmas and all that it means to us. Give thanks that Jesus is King of kings.

**Song:** Get children to suggest their favourite carol.

**Resources :** *Story, baby/man outlines, funsheet.*

## Week 12 Story

Remind the children that in the previous session they heard about the birth of Jesus.

Explain that today they will be thinking about Jesus starting his life on earth as a child. But they will be remembering that he is also a king. Divide the children into two groups. Tell them that you will read a story and they should listen carefully for the words 'king' and 'child'. Say that one group will do an action every time they hear the word 'king', and the other group every time 'child' is mentioned.

Move the groups away from each other to teach the actions: '**king**' (bow the head) and '**child**' (jump up and down). Teach them *both* the sign language action for '**Jesus**': touching the palm of each hand with the middle fingers, explaining that this indicates the nail marks from the cross.

### Action story

Invite the groups to sit opposite each other to listen to the story and do their actions:

When **Jesus** was born, some wise men from the East travelled to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the **child** born to be **king** of the Jews? We saw his star in the East and have come to worship him.' When Herod heard this, he asked his advisers where this **child** would be born. They said that their Bible (which was the same as our Old Testament) told them that the new **king** would be a **child** born in Bethlehem. Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem to find the new **king**. 'I want to worship him too,' he said. 'Please come back and tell me where you find the **child**.' The wise men left Jerusalem. They saw the star again as it went ahead of them to Bethlehem, to the very place where the **child** was living. They found the **child, Jesus**, with his mother Mary. They worshipped him. Although he was a small **child**, they knew he was also a great **king**. They gave their special gifts of gold (which was a gift for a **king**), frankincense and myrrh to the **child King**. An angel told the wise men not to go back to Herod, and another angel told Joseph to take **Jesus** to Egypt. **Jesus** the **King** was kept safe.

