



NUA Christmas



What is NUA Christmas?

Scripture Union Ireland has produced this 3 part video series that provides a fresh perspective on the First Christmas and explores why it matters for us today. Join Sarah Campbell, Darren Bourke and Mark Murray on a very unique and entertaining journey that highlights the true meaning of Christmas.

Who is it for?

Aimed at 9-14 year olds, this resource is suitable for your Primary School/1st Year Students, Parish or Church.

Sample Session Plans

Episode One

Intro & Game (*Ice-breaker*)
See below - Reverse Charades

Watch Episode 1
The Origins of Christmas

Discussion
See Discussion Questions below

Or Journal Time
Found in the Digital Pack

Optional (younger audience)
DIY Christmas Jumper Creation
Found in the digital pack

Episode Two

Intro & Game (*Ice-breaker*)
See below - Bring Me

Watch Episode 2
The Unexpected Christmas

Discussion
See Discussion Questions below

Or Journal Time
Found in the Digital Pack

Or The Unexpected Quiz
Found in the Digital Pack

Episode Three

Intro & Game (*Ice-breaker*)
See below - Extreme Pictionary

Watch Episode 3
The Meaning of Christmas

Discussion
See Discussion Questions below

Or Journal Time
Found in the Digital Pack

Optional (younger audience)
NUA:Christmas Series Worksheet
Found in the digital pack

TIPS (IF APPLICABLE)

1. We recommend that you and your team watch the episode yourself before the session and familiarise yourself with it.
2. Sound - Good sound is essential, we highly recommend a good set of speakers or a sound system.
3. Have the NUA:Christmas episode already downloaded on a laptop. Don't rely on wifi for streaming.
4. Often during small group discussion, participants will pose additional tough questions. It may work well to offer an anonymous 'question box' where everyone's questions can be collected and discussed later!

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INTRO GUIDE





NUA Christmas - Episode Guide

● **Episode One:** *The Origins of Christmas*

Duration: approx. 8 mins

Episode Summary: Episode one explores the “why” behind the glitz and glam of Christmas, considering how the first Christmas fits with the narrative of the Jewish faith. The Jewish people had been awaiting a Saviour for thousands of years since his coming was foretold in the Garden of Eden. All their history had pointed towards this unique moment in recorded history!

Learning Objectives

Understand: Recall the events leading up to the first Christmas.

Communicate: Talk about why we celebrate Christmas.

Participate: Discussion or working together on the NUA:Christmas Journal.

● **Episode Two:** *The Unexpected Christmas*

Duration: approx. 9 mins

Episode Summary: Episode two explores how we eagerly look forward to Christmas each year. The people back then were waiting for the very first Christmas but when it arrived it was not at all what they were expecting! It was certainly a big surprise for Jesus’ mum, Mary, to find out she would be the mother of the Messiah. How did she and her fiancé, Joseph, cope with this news? And is there actually a donkey in the Christmas story?!

Learning Objectives

Understand: Reflect on how the birth of Jesus happened, as no one had expected.

Communicate: Talk about how sometimes our plans don’t meet our expectations.

Participate: Discussion or working together on the NUA:Christmas Journal.

● **Episode Three:** *The Meaning of Christmas*

Duration: approx. 7 mins

Episode Summary: Episode three explores how our knowledge of the Christmas story often stops with the baby in the manger, but this episode explores what happened next, between the first Christmas and the first Easter. Viewers are invited to consider what they believe about the real meaning of Christmas.

Learning Objectives

Understand: Reflect on the impact Jesus’ birth had on the world.

Communicate: Relate Mark’s and Sarah’s stories to events in their lives.

Participate: Discussion or working together on the NUA:Christmas Journal.

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NUA Christmas - Suggested Ice-breakers

● Episode One: *The Origins of Christmas*

Ice-breaker Game: **Reverse Charades**

Aim - to be the team with the most amount of points at the end.

How to play - You will need to divide the participants into two teams. Each team will need a volunteer to come to the front. Behind that person is a screen or clean whiteboard. On that screen/whiteboard can appear/be written various categories. The audience will have to try and describe the word that appears without making a noise. The volunteer will then have to guess (only one guess and within 5secs) what it is by their teams actions. If they guess it right they win a point. Team with the most points wins.

List: Eating, Fishing, Bowling, Karate, Line Dancing, Skiing, Driving, Praying, Wrapping Presents!

● Episode Two: *The Unexpected Christmas*

Ice-breaker Game: **Bring me**

Aim - to bring the most amount of items therefore gaining the most points to win.

How to play - A teacher/leader will have a list of things they need brought to them. They can be from around the house if on zoom and in the room in a school/youth club. This can be done in teams or as an individual, with teams more people feel involved. The leader will call out what they need. For example a leader might say "bring me two shoes" the team/person who brings it first gets a point. The team with the most points wins.

List: 2 shoes tied together, A pencil, A water bottle, 3 smart phones, A Tissue, 2 watches strapped together!

● Episode Three: *The Meaning of Christmas*

Ice-breaker Game: **Extreme Pictionary**

Aim - to be the team to get to the end of the list the quickest.

How to play - Divide the group in teams. Nominate one volunteer from each team to begin. Show only these volunteers the first Christmas object from your list without revealing the other objects. They run back to their team to draw the object on paper until someone guesses it, that person then runs back to you to tell you what they guessed and you reveal the next object to them. The team that gets to the end of your list first wins. You need to place yourself the same distance from each team and encourage them to wisper their answers as they come up to you.

List: Santa, Tinsel, Rudolft, Christmas Cracker, Shepherd, Manger, Elf, Snowman, Fireplace, Home Alone!

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NUA Christmas - Discussion Questions

Tip: You can facilitate discussion by splitting them into small groups or by asking them to complete the questions in the printable PDF Journal included in the digital pack.

● **Episode One:** *The Origins of Christmas*

1. What's your favourite thing about Christmas?
2. Why do you think people celebrate Christmas?
3. What do you know about the very first Christmas?
4. What's good about the world and what's flawed about the world?

● **Episode Two:** *The Unexpected Christmas*

1. What kind of un-wrapper are you: the Shredder, Paper Saver, Snail? Why???
2. How would you have felt if you were in Mary or Josephs situation?
3. What new things have you learned about the Christmas story?
4. Why do you think people still celebrate Jesus's Birth today?

● **Episode Three:** *The Meaning of Christmas*

1. What Christmas day traditions do you have?
2. Brussel sprouts - yay or nay?
3. What do you know about the life of Jesus?
4. What question would you ask Jesus if you saw him in person today?
5. What did you learn from Sarah and Mark's stories?
6. Why does the Christmas story matter in your opinion?

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