

# Come as you are...

# Celebrating Christmas



**A resource to use with 11-16 year olds**

© *Liz Morton*

# Come as you are...

**Icebreaker: 'Who am I?' game.**

In the bag are the names of lots of famous people. Split your group into 2/3 teams and then get them to nominate one person. That person then has one minute to give clues to the identity of as many people in the bag as possible—without using their names. If they don't know any of the names they choose/their team can't guess from the clues, the name goes back in the bag. Winners—the team that identifies the most people.

(There is a template for you to add extra/different names if you wish to)



**Theme: - 'Come as you are....' - How do we respond to God's call?**

*This resource looks at the events around Jesus' birth from the perspectives of several different people:*

**Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, The Shepherds, The Wise Men.**

*Decide which you would like to use and split your group into smaller groups, giving each one of the readings to consider.*

*Allow up to 10 minutes for the group discussion and then bring the groups back together and invite them to share :*

- *A summary of the reading*
- *Their response to the questions*

## **Zechariah**

**Read Luke 1:5-25, 57-66**

**Consider these questions**

- I wonder how Zechariah felt when the angel appeared?
- I wonder what his reaction was to what the angel had to say?
- I wonder what a difference it made to his life?

## **Mary**

**Read Luke 1:26-56**

**Consider these questions**

- I wonder how Mary felt when the angel spoke to her?
- I wonder how Joseph and her family responded to her news?
- I wonder what she thought the future would bring?

## **Joseph**

**Read Matthew 1:18-25**

**Consider these questions**

- I wonder how Joseph felt when Mary told him she was to have a baby?
- I wonder what he felt after the angel spoke to him?
- I wonder what she thought the future would bring?

## **The Shepherds**

**Read Luke 2: 8-20**

**Consider these questions**

- I wonder how they felt when the angels appeared?
- I wonder what they felt when they saw Jesus?
- I wonder what a difference the experience made to their lives?

## **The Wise Men**

**Read Matthew 2: 1-12**

**Consider these questions**

- I wonder how they felt when they first saw the star?
- I wonder what they felt when they saw Jesus?
- I wonder what a difference the experience made to their lives?

## ***A Chance to Respond....***

Having looked at individuals who were involved in events around Jesus birth and the way they responded to God's call, there's now a chance for the young people to do the same.

Have a variety of resources—different coloured paper &/or card, pens, pencils, ribbon, any collage material, glue, plasticine—can be as elaborate or simple as you wish.

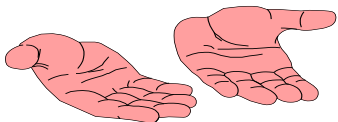
Ask the group to think about the words they've just discussed—particularly the positive way each person responded to God's call. Think about how different each person was—a young teenage girl, an old man, a group of shepherds etc and yet how God valued each one and had a role for each of them—just as they were.

Now think about how we might respond to God. Invite everyone to draw/write/make something to represent their response to God's gift to us at Christmas—it might be a picture, a plasticine model—*it might be an idea to let the group know how long they have for this activity 10/15min or whatever is appropriate for your group.*

Encourage the young people to do this individually (soft music in the background can help to keep a reflective mood).



### ***Prayers***



At the end of the response time, come together in a circle for prayers. The leader should explain that everyone will pray around the circle moving anticlockwise. Also explain that people sometimes pray out loud and sometimes silently inside, so to know when each person has finished praying it would help if everyone said Amen when they had finished their prayer.

If everyone is clear how it going to work and each person knows who they follow then the prayers can begin with the leader.

The leader should pray a short prayer, giving thanks for the passage, for the people their and for the fellowship shared, then say Amen.

The prayers should then continue around the circle. At the end, the leader could lead the Grace or Lord's Prayer to conclude and collect the prayers together.

|                           |                         |                           |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Taylor Swift</b>       | <b>Justin Bieber</b>    | <b>Malala Yousafzai</b>   |
| <b>Chris Martin</b>       | <b>David Walliams</b>   | <b>Prince William</b>     |
| <b>Mother Teresa</b>      | <b>The Queen</b>        | <b>Dua Lipa</b>           |
| <b>Cristiano Ronaldo</b>  | <b>JK Rowling</b>       | <b>Rylan Scott-Neal</b>   |
| <b>Ant and Dec</b>        | <b>Kim Kardashian</b>   | <b>Sam Smith</b>          |
| <b>Holly Willoughby</b>   | <b>Beyoncé</b>          | <b>Kristen Stewart</b>    |
| <b>Greg James</b>         | <b>Dina Asher-Smith</b> | <b>Kanye West</b>         |
| <b>Raheem Sterling</b>    | <b>President Obama</b>  | <b>Bill Gates</b>         |
| <b>Leonardo Di Caprio</b> | <b>Elvis Presley</b>    | <b>Angelina Jolie</b>     |
| <b>Johnny Depp</b>        | <b>Ed Sheeran</b>       | <b>Ariana Grande</b>      |
| <b>Martin Luther King</b> | <b>Nelson Mandela</b>   | <b>Harry Styles</b>       |
| <b>Jacqueline Wilson</b>  | <b>Elton John</b>       | <b>Nicole Scherzinger</b> |

