

What we did at Christmas:

- ❖ Each day a new character would appear starting with the stable and on Christmas morning Jesus would appear.
- ❖ We would move the Wise Men around the house as Christmas approached.
- ❖ We made a new Nativity every year. One year we made a Nativity out of toilet rolls.
- ❖ We would count down to Christmas with an Advent calendar that we had on the fridge.
- ❖ Our Nativity seemed to grow each year and we would tell the story of each piece. I still recall that Superman came as a Wise Man one year.
- ❖ At Grandma's, on Christmas day, before we opened presents, the youngest grandchild was allowed to put Jesus in the manger. This was a big responsibility.
- ❖ Dad would read the Christmas story to us in bed the night before Christmas.
- ❖ One year we made a Nativity from our toys. Teddy was Jesus I think.
- ❖ We had a European Nativity with all the people in the village present. We chose who we would be.
- ❖ Mum would hide Jesus and we had to find him. He was usually hidden under Mary's dress but we pretended to look everywhere and Mum would tell us if we were "hot or cold"
- ❖ Every year the cousins would put on a Nativity play for all the grownups. It was great fun!
- ❖ Every December Mum and Dad would invite the neighbours around for Christmas drinks and we would sing carols.

Making a Scene at Christmas

Some ideas for Parents



Do you have a Christmas Nativity?

The varieties are infinite. The one in your home does not have to be expensive or elaborate.

Children often make Nativities at school. These can be on show year after year.

If you have a young child you can tell the story of the Nativity moving the different characters. Some worthwhile children's books about the Christmas Story are:

"The Nativity" by Julie Vivas

"Christmas" by Jan Pienkowski

"The Fourth Wise Man" Susan Summers, Jackie Morris

"The Three Wise Women" by Mary Hoffman

"Wombat Divine" by Mem Fox

"Jesus Birthday Party" by Nicholas Allen

"The story of the other Wise Man" by Henry van Dyke

As you put the Nativity out talk about:

Age 1 – 4

Let the children play with the Nativity characters if the Nativity is safe for them to do so.

Age 4 – 7

Talk about each character and what their role is in the story.

Age 7 – 11

Compare the different Gospel stories of Christmas. Make two Nativities – one that is from Luke and one that is from Matthew.

Age 12 +

Look at the challenging aspects of Christmas story. The flight into Egypt tells us that Jesus and his family became refugees. Can the family do something for a refugee family you may know about?

Think of the environment at Christmas. What can you do to help the environment – a real tree, hand made paper decorations, Nativity made from what is already around the house, gifts that are hand-made.