



First Part: General Presentation of the Project

Let's welcome Jesus

Christmas is the feast of Jesus!

Girl: Hi Carlo, how are you? I am just so happy. I like it so much when I know Christmas is approaching!

Boy 1: You're right, Paola! But not everyone remembers the true meaning of Christmas!

Girl: That's true! Do we want to tell everyone why Christmas is such a special feast for us? Let's see it together.

Narrator (Female Voice 1):

Christmas is the central moment of a beautiful true story.

We must go back many, many years ago.

Narrator (Male voice 1): Hello everyone, this is Mary and she is the mother of Jesus. She lived her childhood in Nazareth, a small town in northern Israel. She was just like any other little girl and did everything other little girls did: played with her friends, helped her mother with the housework, fetched water from the well. By the way, her parents were named Anna and Joachim. They raised Mary with so much love and taught her the Word of God. When she grew older, she was betrothed to Joseph, a righteous man, a descendant of the house of David. He was known in Nazareth because as a trade he was a carpenter.

Narrator (Male Voice 1): AN AMAZING NEWS (cf. Lk 1:26-38)

Narrator (Male voice 1): Imagine Mary in her home in Nazareth, absorbed in everyday chores. Suddenly she feels her heart filled with such joy as a light envelops the room and she sees before her a smiling young man. It is an angel of the Lord telling her:

Angel (Male Voice 2): "Hail, O full of grace! The Lord is with you."

Narrator (Male Voice 1): Mary is so surprised and wonders what this greeting could have meant. But the angel Gabriel, explains to her:

Angel (Male voice 2): "Fear not: God has chosen you to become the mother of Jesus, His son."

Narrator (Male Voice 1): Mary, so young, asks:

Mary (Female Voice 2): "How will this happen?"

Angel (Male Voice 2): "Nothing is impossible with God. Even your relative Elizabeth, in her old age, is expecting a son."

Narrator (Male Voice 1): Then, Mary, with great faith, says to him:

Mary (Female Voice 2): "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word."

Narrator (Male Voice 1): When the angel leaves, everything seemed as usual, but God had spoken to her and revealed a great mystery. Her heart leaped. Could she really be the mother of the Son of God? Nothing is impossible with God, the angel had said. God would help her overcome every trial.

Narrator (Female Voice 1): Months pass. The day when the child announced by the angel should be born is approaching.

But why are Mary and Joseph on a journey? By the order of the emperor, they must go to Bethlehem, a small town where Joseph's family came from, to register their names. What a long journey!

Mary is tired, and the baby is about to be born. Joseph looks for a place for her in Bethlehem, but there is no room in the inns.

It's already late in the evening. They head outside the city, where there are only the shepherds' caves. What will happen?

Narrator (Male Voice 1): A CHILD IS BORN FOR US (cf. Lk 2:8-20)

Narrator (Male Voice 1): It is late at night, and the shepherds, still awake, are watching over their flocks when suddenly a great light appears, and one of the angels says to them:

Angel (Male Voice 2): "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

Narrator (Male Voice 1): As soon as the angels have departed to return to heaven, the shepherds talk among themselves, still amazed...and decide to go in search of what the Angel had announced to them. They set out quickly and find Mary and Joseph with the baby in the manger. They do not speak, they just watch with hearts full of joy! Then they set off again to tell everyone, what they had heard and seen.

Narrator (Female Voice 1): Christmas: joy without end!

Narrator (Female Voice 1): What joy when a baby is born in a family! One cannot describe what the mother who held him in her womb for nine months feels in her heart;

And when the baby is born everyone has endless joy.

But today's joy is even greater, because this child is Jesus: he is the Son of God, he is God who makes himself tiny, who can be embraced. Can you imagine? This really happened!!!!

Children (M+F): "How beautiful Christmas is! What a joy to see little Jesus! Thank you, Jesus, for coming among us!"

Girl: Yes, Christmas is Christmas because Jesus was born,
but on that day, everyone thinks about gifts,
things to buy, lights...
they have a big party
but they forget who they are celebrating.
It's like a birthday party without the birthday person!
They dislodged Jesus, the birthday boy.

Boy 1: But for many years now, children all over the world have wanted to remind everyone that Christmas is the feast of Jesus, who was born and brought the joy of Heaven to Earth.

Girl: They do many things! But the heart of this project is to prepare figurines of Baby Jesus out of plaster, which they sometimes paint,
and they put in a crib to offer to people on the streets,
in shops,
in the squares,
along with a writing by Chiara Lubich, who first gave them the idea to bring Jesus back to the center of His feast.

Boy 1: Yes, and not everyone on the streets stops. Some are not interested or are in a hurry! But then many people take Jesus home! Look at what happened to Camillo once:

Bambino 2 (Camillo): - "Do you want to take Jesus home? We made them ourselves."

Man (Male Voice 2): - "How much does it cost?"

Bambino 2 (Camillo): Baby Jesus (figurine) is free, but if you want to give me something, we'll send the money to children in need because they are poor, homeless, or don't have enough to eat and can't go to school.

Man (Male Voice 2): - "Why do you do it?"

Bambino 2 (Camillo): "Because at Christmas, everyone thinks about lights, gifts... and they forget about Jesus on His birthday."

Narrator (Female Voice 1): Not knowing what else to say, the man asks him:

Man (Male Voice 2): "What about Santa Claus?"

Bambino 2 (Camillo): "It's not his birthday; it's Jesus' birthday."

Narrator (Female Voice 1): The man smiles, takes a figurine of Baby Jesus, and gives Camillo some money.

Girl: I also prepared the figurines and went to the square. I remember I was very shy at first... but I was happy to do it because many Baby Jesus would find a home, and because if people gave us something, we could help many children in the world.

Boy 1: Yes, every year the Gen4 choose where to send the money they collect...

Girl: ... and love over these years has worked many little "miracles" around the world.

Narrator (Female Voice 1): Let's see together how many beautiful things we have done over these years with the Gen4 from all over the world:

Narrator (Male Voice 1):

- We learned about children who were not well or couldn't go to school because their parents lost their jobs or didn't have enough money for medicine or books.

What a joy to know that they were able to get medical care and return to school!

Narrator (Female Voice 1):

- Or there are children who live in very poor places with no space to play or study well! Over the years, we have helped some schools or children's centers build playgrounds, repair classrooms, buy useful materials... or even provide clean drinking water!

Narrator (Male Voice 1):

- We met families who lived in tents, who "were evicted" just like Baby Jesus! What joy when, with the help of the whole community, a brick house could be built for them!

Narrator (Female Voice 1):

- Also, children and families who lost their homes due to earthquakes, floods, typhoons... we also got to send our love to them!

Narrator (Male Voice 1):

- So, to children and families living in war zones or escaping from places where there is war and finding themselves in different countries!

Narrator (Female Voice 1):

- And how beautiful when we can connect directly and write or get to know our new friends around the world to whom we have been able to send drawings, gifts, and our whole hearts!

Narrator (Male Voice 1):

- In short, so many different ways to give a home to Jesus who is born!

Narrator (Female Voice 1):

- In fact, welcoming Jesus at Christmas also means welcoming those in need, bringing joy, sharing!

How many things we have done over the years with the help of so many of our friends:

sharing toys with children who don't have any,

bringing joy to a home for the elderly,

giving drawings, a sandwich, a smile to people who are lonely or in need...

So many ways, for one purpose: to welcome and bring joy! Making space in our hearts for what truly matters!

Girl: Would you like to help us too?

Boy 1: That way, we can spread love all around the world!