



No maximum number
depending on adequate
supervision



15 minutes over
several weeks

Christmas

Aim: To help boys understand the real meaning of Christmas

Equipment:

- Bibles
- Church calendar
- Tape recorder and tapes
- Scripts
- Pens

Christmas is about giving and receiving gifts but today we seem to give more and more extravagant gifts to the extent that people get into debt.

It is important to try and explain Christmas as a time for giving but it need not be a large gift – it's the thought that counts. This is quite difficult to get over to boys as we now live in a very material world.

However, there are lots of different stories that can be told about Christmas:

- The Angel's visit to Mary
- The Census and the journey to Bethlehem
- No room at the Inn
- The story of the Shepherds
- The time in the Temple
- The visit of the Wise Men
- The flight to Egypt

And many more from all versions of the Bible. Try different ones, as some of them are better than others for young people.

There are lots of activities going on in our churches at Christmas, often offering opportunities for boys to get involved in the actual work and activities of the church. Do please try and make the effort to involve your boys as they then feel part of the Church. Perhaps they could help with the decorations or decorate the Christmas tree. Help distribute the gifts from the toy service or visit wherever they are going to so they can see for themselves how much need there is in their local community. This sort of activity could be an achievement in itself but what is really does is help the boy understand the needs of others.

Instead of doing a Nativity play this year, why not get the boys to write the story in their own words and make an actual recording of a 'radio play' on a tape recorder or you could be more ambitious and video it. (Do not forget to have parents' permission if you are using the video). However if you use the 'radio play' style, it is fairly simple, no costumes needed or lines to learn and the boys really will enjoy hearing their voices coming across from the tape recorder. You could even start or end with a Christmas Hymn/Carol.

You might need to do it more than once before you get it right and the boys could have a copy of the tape to take home.