



# Christianity:

## Why does Christmas matter to Christians?

### Topic Overview

- Christians believe that Jesus is God and that he was born as a baby in Bethlehem.
  - The Bible says that his birth showed that he was extraordinary and that he came to bring good news. Christians celebrate Jesus' birth.
  - Advent for Christians is a time of getting ready for Jesus' coming.
  - Christians believe that God came to Earth to be with people and show them how to live.
  - God came to earth to bring good news to everyone.
  - The good news was about God and how to be close to him.
  - Christmas is a time when many Christians thank God that Jesus came to earth to show and tell people how to live.
- **Gospel of Luke:**  
The Angel Gabriel told Mary that she would have a son and call him Jesus.  
Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem to be counted in the census.  
While they were there, Jesus was born.  
Mary laid him in a manger because there was no room at the inn.  
An angel appeared to some shepherds and told them about Jesus' birth.  
The shepherds found Mary, Joseph and Jesus in the manger.  
They praised God and thanked him for what they had seen.

### Links with other religions

- **Chanukkah** (Judaism). Both are winter festivals, celebrated by retelling the story and giving gifts, special foods and customs, and remember God giving gifts to his people.
- **Jesus** (Judaism). Jews do not believe Jesus was the Son of God.
- **Jesus** (Islam). Muslims believe Jesus is a messenger of Allah (God). They do not believe Jesus is the Son of God.

Key Vocabulary	Definition
Jesus	Christians believe Jesus is the Son of God.
God	Christians believe God is the creator of the universe.
Bethlehem	A small town in Jerusalem where Jesus was born.
Bible	A book of holy writings accepted by Christians as coming from God.
Christian	Someone who believes in the teachings of Jesus.
Advent	The arrival of something or someone.
Mary/Joseph	Jesus' mother / Mary's husband
Nazareth	A city in Israel where Jesus lived.
Stable	A building where animals were kept.
Manger	A long trough from which horses or cattle feed.
Shepherds	A person who herds, tends, and guards sheep.
Angels	A spiritual being serving God especially as a messenger.
Census	An official count of the people who live in a country or other area.
Nativity	The birth of Jesus.

