

The Gingerbread Man's Christmas Adventure

Adapted as a story by Peter & Amanda Deaville, from an original play by Rachel Gotobed

1 – Setting the Scene

George	'Hello everyone – my name is George - I'm a gingerbread man.'
G1	<p>You may have heard a story about my relative in which he runs away shouting, 'Run, run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!'</p> <p>Well, he came to a sticky end. But, in this story, I survive to tell my tale.</p> <p>Well it's not really my story – I want you all to join me on a journey back to the first Christmas to discover why it is so special.</p> <p>So 'Run, run, run as fast as you can, come see with me, I'm the gingerbread man!'</p> <p>Why don't you all join in and say with me?</p> <p>'Run, run, run as fast as you can, come see with me, I'm the gingerbread man!'</p>

2 – Angel Gabriel the Messenger talks to Mary

George	'So, I'm, ready to take you all on a special Christmas adventure.
G2	<p>We're in a little town called Nazareth, far, far away; where the sun shines brightly every day and the air is filled with the smell of spices, like ginger.</p> <p>I'm listening to Mary, the oldest daughter of the house; she sings as she sweeps the floor.'</p>
Narrator	Suddenly, a bright light fills the room - someone is there – an Angel !
N1	<p>He is called Gabriel and has come to tell Mary of God's plan to save the world by sending his Son. And Mary is to be his mother.</p> <p>It's quite a message for a young girl who is not even married. And a big responsibility for her.</p> <p>But God knew that, even with all her doubts, she would fulfil his promise to the world.</p>

3 – Joseph’s Anxiety about Gabriel’s message from God, to Mary

George G3	<p>‘Now, all of you probably want to know what happened to Mary next.</p> <p>So say with me: ‘Run, run, run as fast as you can, come see with me, I’m the gingerbread man!’</p>
Narrator N2	<p>Joseph was engaged to Mary to be married. He was shocked when she told him she was soon to give birth to a son - God’s son - as told by the Angel Gabriel.</p> <p>Joseph was okay about the angel’s visit – he’d read of them in the scriptures – and he also knew God had promised a Saviour. But he was not so keen on Mary being the baby’s mother. So Mary explained to him again.</p>
Mary M1	<p>‘We are to call the baby ‘Jesus’, meaning ‘God saves’.</p> <p>And, like Isaiah foretold years ago, Jesus will also be known as ‘Immanuel’, meaning ‘God is with us’.</p>
Narrator N3	<p>Joseph was in a real state and before he went to sleep, he decided to call the wedding off. But, whilst asleep, an Angel appeared to him in a dream saying he should call the baby ‘Jesus’ and told him to go ahead with the wedding.</p> <p>So, next day, Joseph talked with Mary’s mum and they all decided Mary should stay with her cousin Elizabeth until all the gossip died down.</p> <p>George the Gingerbread Man was as confused as Joseph about everything he saw happening and asked Mary what ‘Immanuel’ means.</p>
Mary M2	<p>‘It is God’s name for Jesus given when to Isaiah in a dream, hundreds of years before Jesus was born.</p> <p>‘Immanuel’ means God’s promise to be with us always -in the good times and the bad – he is always there to guide us and to keep us safe’.</p>
Narrator N4	<p>George also felt that God was with him in this story – saving him from being eaten quite a few times!</p> <p>Which reminded Mary - she felt a bit hungry!</p> <p>And George wanted to stay in one piece so, he said:</p>
George G4	<p>“Run, run, run as fast as you can, come see with me, I’m the gingerbread man!”</p>

4 – Journey to Bethlehem – Birth of Jesus

George G5	‘That was a close escape. I can't believe Mary wanted to nibble on me! Luckily, I managed to get away so now I'll tell you about the rest of my adventure.’
Narrator N5	<p>George found a safe place to hide at Joseph's and watched him every day at work in his carpenter's shed.</p> <p>People were saying horrible things about him and Mary, but he just kept praying and saying to himself that nothing is impossible with God.</p> <p>Whilst working he noticed a lovely smell of ginger whenever George was around!</p> <p>Thinking about the angels visiting him and Mary, Joseph realised that <u>ordinary people do want to be saved</u> - from all sorts of things – from failure, poverty, illness, damaged families and, most of all, fear of dying.</p> <p><u>And that's exactly why Jesus came to be born on earth as God's son – to save us all.</u></p>
Narrator N6	<p>George knew he'd been saved from being eaten quite a few times.</p> <p>He hid in Joseph and Mary's luggage carried on a donkey during their journey to Bethlehem for the census. The donkey could smell George and tried to sniff him in the bags to eat him. Joseph explained about his journey with Mary.</p>
Joseph J1	<p>‘Yes, it was a difficult journey with the baby almost ready to be born’. And, when we got to Bethlehem, all the inns were full and the only room for us was in a Stable.</p> <p>‘Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that the Son of God would be born in a shed full of animals, but that's what happened. It was a bit smelly and dirty in the stable, but the manger made a great crib for the baby.’</p>
Narrator N7	<p>We looked in wonder at the baby lying there - <u>God's gift to save the world.</u></p> <p>This was just the beginning of Jesus' journey to his death on the cross – to save us all.</p>
George G6	‘To us, it was a day of rejoicing because the Saviour of the world had been born. And I'm so glad that God gave his only Son to save us all’.
Joseph J2	‘So, George, do you think you were saved all those times so I could eat you today?’

George G7	Definitely not! Time for me go! 'Run, run, run as fast as you can, you can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!'
--------------	--

5 – Angel and Shepherds praising the birth of God's Son

Narrator N8	There were lots of Angels in the sky above Bethlehem when Jesus was born. They sang the good news: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.'
George G8	'Well, I was in the stable with the baby Jesus - and the shepherds rushed in telling us all that had happened to them. They became so excited that they couldn't stop talking.' 'Look, here they come now'.
Shepherds S1a & 1b	'Good news! Good news! / Hear all about it! / Baby born in Bethlehem!' 'We're sharing the good news with everyone - the Saviour has been born. And we have seen him.'
Narrator N9	God has a way of doing things that no one expects. He knew that the shepherds would spread the good news of the Saviour's birth far and wide – telling everyone that the Messiah had come. And now everyone who hears this good news needs to tell other people too, so that the whole world can hear that Jesus came to be our Saviour. So the shepherds went on their way shouting the good news:
Shepherds S2	'Good news! Good news! / Hear all about it! / Baby born in Bethlehem!'

6 – The visit of the Wise Men

Narrator N10	Just then three men appeared, dressed like kings with beautiful clothes and jewels and riding on camels. They had travelled for weeks following a bright star in the sky and bringing gifts for the baby King, God's only Son! They were so glad they saw the star and followed it.
-----------------	---

	<p>They brought gifts – of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. Strange things to give a baby, really, but Mary and Joseph treasured them.</p> <p>The Wise Men explained that ‘Gold is for a King, Frankincense is for the great High Priest and Myrrh is for one born to die.’</p> <p>Melchior told them it had been foretold that this child would be born as God's gift to all men – the greatest gift ever – and so we had to make sure the gifts we gave were the right ones.</p>
George G9	George thought ‘Wow! I never realised that. Just thought a blanket or a toy would have been more useful’.

7 - What it all meant!

Narrator N11	<p>So we come to the end of George’s Christmas adventure. This is what we’ve learned.</p> <p><u>The Angel Gabriel told us Jesus was coming.</u> He was God's plan to save the whole world.</p> <p><u>Mary explained</u> how Jesus came to be ‘God with us’ – Immanuel – always there, wherever we are.</p> <p><u>Joseph told us</u> that Jesus was coming to be the Saviour of the world – he was born to die to save us all.</p> <p><u>The angels and the shepherds told</u> us how Jesus came to bring good news ‘We can all know Jesus as our friend and helper’.</p> <p>And <u>the wise men showed us</u> how Jesus came to be God's gift – a gift for the whole world. And Jesus told us later on – ‘This means whoever believes in me shall not perish but have everlasting life’.</p> <p>‘And that’s the end of George’s Christmas adventure. We hope that, through it, you’ve learnt more about why Jesus came just for you!’</p>
George G10	<p>‘So one more time before I go:</p> <p>One, Two, Three: Run, run, run as fast as you can, come see with me, ’cos I'm the gingerbread man!’</p>