

Spelling out Christmas

(Adapted from *More Christmas Wrapped up*)

You will need:

- Nine cards (at least A3 size) with letters C H R I S T M A S on them.
 - Make letters bold enough to be seen.
 - The letters spelling CHRIST - paint red.
 - The letters MAS - paint Green.
 - Hide them around room - but not too difficult to find
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- 2 Narrators (N1 and N2) (You could lead this with one person)
 - Isaiah - Someone dressed up, and holding a scroll with Isaiah 9:6 on it.

** You may like to stop part way through this activity and sing a Christmas Carol. We suggest after the letter 'M'.

'Spelling out Christmas' Instructions:

N1 Around the room are the letters that spell CHRISTMAS! Have a look under your chair and if you have one wave it in the air. Hold onto it until I ask you to bring it to the front.
(Give people a moment to find all the letters.)

The first letter is **C**. If you have found the letter C can you bring that up the front.
C is for CREATION. God made a beautiful world.

N2 Can you tell me what are some of your favourite parts of creation? (*suggestions may be, beach, pets, sunsets, bush, stars at night etc.*)
God's world is beautiful isn't it?

N1 The next letter is **H**. If you have found the letter H can you bring that up the front.
H is for HEAVEN.

N2 Imagine the angels in heaven looking down on God's world. They would see that it was beautiful, but they would also see that everything had gone terribly wrong. People have spoilt God's world and were fighting and hurting each other. It was not the way God had made it anymore. So how was God going to deal with the horrible things going on in this world?

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N1 It has to do with the next letter **R**. If you have found the letter R can you bring that up the front.

R is for **REMEDY** and **RESCUE**

N2 God decided he would come and rescue his people. He would take on himself all that is wrong and broken. He sent prophets to tell people what he would do.

N1 One of them was a man whose name started with **I**.
If you have found the letter I can you bring that up the front.
(Isaiah comes on stage carrying a scroll.)

I is for **ISAIAH**. We are going to read what Isaiah wrote about God's rescue plan.

Isaiah reads:

Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

**For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.**

**And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

(Isaiah leaves the stage)

N2 So God's rescue plan had something to do with a baby, a King who will be mighty, rule forever and bring peace.

N1 Our next letter is **S**. If you have found the letter S can you bring that up the front.
S is for **SIMEON**.

N2 Simeon is also a person we read about in the Bible. He was a very old man. God had promised he would see the rescuer. He would see the baby that the prophet Isaiah spoke about hundreds of years before Simeon was born. Simeon was old, but believed God's promise and he waited, and waited and waited until

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N1 Our next letter is **T**. If you have found the letter T can you bring that up the front.
T is for **TIME**

N2 The time was right. God said it was time to act. All of heaven were ready to proclaim the coming of this special King - the rescuer that God had promised.

N1 Our next letter is **M**. If you have found the letter M can you bring that up the front.
M is for the **MESSAGE** to **MARY**.

N2 God had a very special message for a girl named Mary and that message was that she was going to be the mother of this special baby that God had promised and that God was the Father.

****We are going to stop and sing about the birth of this very special baby, Jesus.**

Song: Silent Night

N1 Our next letter is **A**. If you have found the letter A can you bring that up the front.
A is for **ANGELS**.

N2 The Angels appeared in the sky to a bunch of shepherds out in the fields and told them the good news about Jesus' birth. The shepherds left their sheep and went to see baby Jesus for themselves. And they weren't the only ones who went to find Jesus.

N1 Our last letter is **S**. If you have found the letter S can you bring that up the front.
S is for **STAR**.

N2 A special star appeared in the sky and some wise men who lived far away saw it. They knew that it meant a special king had been born, so they decided to make the long journey to find this king. They followed the star and it led them to Jesus.

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- N1 So here we have spelled **Christmas**. What word stands out? **CHRIST**.
Jesus Christ is the centre of Christmas; it is all about **HIM**.
Ask the people with **HIM to step forward to spell the word.
Jesus rightly should be the centre of our celebrations.
- N2 But there were other people in the story too.
Ask the people with **CAST to step forward to spell the word.
There was a large **CAST** of characters. Mary and Joseph were in the story. Isaiah, Simeon were involved as well. What about the shepherds and the wise men, they found themselves unexpectedly part of the cast as well and they were happy to be involved.
- N2 But the most amazing thing is that *all* of us are part of the **CAST** in this story too. We are part of God's great story. That's the certainty of Christmas.
This year, all around the world, we may **MISS** out on some things this Christmas
Ask the people with **MISS to step forward to spell the word.
But, we don't have to **MISS** out on God's love, and we don't **MISS** out on celebrating being part of this great story. Of that we can be certain!