

CHRISTMAS IN CHOCOLATE

Introductory notes to Leaders:

Christmas in Chocolate is very light hearted. It is using examples of each of the kinds of chocolate/confectionery mentioned, producing each as it is mentioned and piling them up on the front table, and then distributing them amongst the children afterwards or sending them to an Open Door for Christmas centre.

The script has the names of the chocolate/confectionery in capitals. Besides the script, I produce a checklist, so I can make sure I have got everything, and a running order so they can be lined up correctly to make it easier for a child to help in handing them to me to keep the flow of the Christmas story moving.

The chocolates and confectionery available vary from year to year, as brands are abandoned or even old ones reintroduced. A few of the items used in the story are no longer for sale. Those I know about are starred on the accompanying running order. Most are so well-known, or useful to the story, that I have still included them and usually produce them as a little card with the name on. As new brands are produced, I try to include them in the story and update this page.

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The Christmas story in Chocolate & Confectionery

The Christmas story is so well-known that our minds can easily skim over it and we miss some of the **HIGHLIGHTS**. So, to help you concentrate as we recall the amazing events of the Incarnation of our Lord, here is the story from a different angle – this is Christmas in Chocolate.

A young girl called Mary heard a **WISPA** from the angel Gabriel that she was to be the mother of God's son. But how could this be? She was not yet married to Joseph. To have a baby born out of wedlock would certainly be a **TOPIC** of conversation in the village.

She told Joseph of God's **DIVINE** plan – God's age-old **PROMISE** of a Messiah was to be fulfilled in the child she was to bear. It was very difficult for Joseph to take it in, but the angel of the Lord came to him in a **DREAM** to confirm it all. Then political events overtook them.

Joseph had to return to his native town of Bethlehem, with Mary, to be counted in the Roman census in order to **BOOST** the taxes. It was a **MARATHON** journey for the **DUO**, especially for someone who was expecting a baby, but Joseph thought that the **BREAK**

would do them good.

After a tough time travelling, Joseph tried to find them a place to stay for the night, but **CLUB** after **CLUB** let them down. "No room," they all said. It was **TWILIGHT** before a kindly innkeeper, seeing their dilemma, offered them the only space he had left – with the animals in the stable block at the back of his pub. At least it was a roof over their heads. It was there that the baby was born and they named Him Jesus, meaning 'Saviour'.

That night, some shepherds and **DRIFTERS** heard **TUNES** in the sky proclaiming "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth." The singing was 'out of this world', literally, for it was by the angelic choir from **HEAVEN**, and the words and music seemed to **ECHO** round the hills.

When they recovered their **SENSES**, the shepherds said, "Come on, let's **GO** to Bethlehem and see what has happened there." When they arrived, they found the **TRIO**, Joseph, Mary and the baby, who had been laid in a manger. It was not at all a **CLASSIC** place, but smelly and dirty, not really fit to be a maternity ward.

The shepherds, however, were filled with wonder and **UNITED** in the feeling that this child was special. Could He be the one that the prophets had foretold: the **LION** of Judah? It was getting late, **AFTER EIGHT** in fact, so the shepherds, overjoyed by what they had heard and seen, returned to their sheep on the hills, with many a **TWIRL** as they danced along.

Meanwhile, in a far country, there were some **SMARTIES**, wise men or astrologers to you and me. Some people didn't understand them and thought they were looking for **MAGIC STARS**, but they were serious scholars busy scanning the **GALAXY**. One night they saw a **STARBURST** near the **MILKY WAY**.

Was it one of the **PLANETS**? Was it **MARS**? No, it was a very bright new star shining way out East. The wise men realized that it signalled the birth of a prince in Judaea. So they took **TIME OUT** from their normal work, agreeing to collaborate and **TRIPLE** the effort to discover what it was really all about. They set out to travel to Jerusalem to investigate.

They didn't take a **FLYTE** on an **AERO**plane. They didn't even take a **TAXI** or a **DOUBLE DECKER** but travelled by camel. The road was often **ROCKY** and it was a long journey, so they had to stop for a few **PICNICS** on the way. Eventually they came to the big city of Jerusalem, with all its **TEMPTATIONS**, but they ignored them.

Hurrying past grand buildings like the Temple, **MASTERPIECES** of architecture, they went straight to the **QUALITY STREET**, for they were looking for the palace. They were not embarrassed to **HOBNOB** with royalty.

When he first saw them, King Herod thought they were a lot of **SQUARES**, certainly not **FAMOUS NAMES**, but he soon became very interested in what they told him. He stopped the **REVELS**, dismissed the **MINSTRELS** and cancelled his game of **SKITTLES**.

"A prince has been born in the land, you say?" A **RIPPLE** of murmuring went round the

room, then smirks on the faces of the courtiers, and **SNICKERS**, sorry, sniggers. Herod, however, was not amused. With his reputation, he was obviously a bitter and **TWISTED** man.

Some thought he was a **FRUIT AND NUT** case but they did not dare say so because they were scared of him, shaking like **JELLY BABIES** if he looked at them menacingly. However, there were some **BOASTERS** amongst the people at court, priests and teachers of the Law, who said they knew the answer to the problem for the Scriptures said that a Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

Herod tried to **FUDGE** the issue by saying that he wanted to worship the prince who had been born as King of the Jews, and so he ordered the wise men to report the baby's whereabouts to him. He thought he had fooled them into believing he was happy about the birth of a prince and simply wanted to visit the baby to show how pleased he was.

So he told them they were **POPPETS**, but really he intended to **RUFFLE** a few feathers. He didn't even give the wise men time to **TAKE A BREAK** but sent them on their way. They looked again for the star they had been following and it led them to Bethlehem. When they got there they did a **DOUBLE TAKE**.

Could this stable really be the place for such a tremendous event? But **BINGO!** – it was, for they found Mary, Joseph and the child. So, with **DELIGHT** and adoration, they knelt down and offered Him their **BOUNTY - GOLD**, frankincense and myrrh. Then God warned them in a **DREAM** that Herod was up to his **TWIX** again, seeking the child's life.

So they returned to their country by another route. They were lucky not to be caught by Herod's soldiers, but then they were **JAMMIE DODGERS** rather than **HEROES**.

Let's take a few **MOMENTS** to reflect on this familiar story, the **NICE** tale told at Christmas. It has little to do with **REINDEER** and **SANTA**, with robins or **FLAKES** of snow, or a baby in a cleaner than clean crib decorated with tinsel. The original event was not quite the pleasant story we sometimes try to make it.

Jesus was born in the humblest of surroundings and, within just a few weeks, became a refugee. All his life, He would be regarded as a threat, a danger, to all those in authority at the time and would grow up to die on a cross.

Don't miss the real meaning of this amazing event. That Jesus was born of a virgin has nothing to do with **BLACK MAGIC** and everything to do with the grace of God. He was born so that **ALLSORTS** of people may know God's love for them.

Many people are looking for a life with meaning and purpose, finding life dull and boring, in need of **REFRESHERS** of one kind or another. This morning, there is no **TROPHY** for counting how many different 'chocolatey' things have been mentioned in this story, but this Christmas could make a real difference to many if, in all your **CELEBRATIONS**, as you share chocolates, sweets, and all the other good things of this season with others, you tell them it is Jesus who makes all the difference.

By your words and actions, help them to **BELIEVE** in Jesus for He is the real **GOOD NEWS** – right now, just as He was 2000 years ago. We should not just pick out the **HIGHLIGHTS** – a baby in a manger, shepherds and wise men – but take in the whole Christmas story for at the heart of it is the message of God’s love for you and for them. And remembering the wonder of the Incarnation, let’s not forget to say ‘Thank You’, *MERCI*, to God for the gift of His only and beloved Son.

May the knowledge of that tremendous, unlimited and indescribable love, which is all yours, make this a Happy Christmas for you, and may your joy continue through the coming year.

Christmas in Chocolate - Running Order

HIGHLIGHTS	MILKY WAY	TAKE A BREAK
WISPA *	PLANETS	DOUBLE TAKE
TOPIC	MARS	BINGO
DIVINE	TIME OUT	DELIGHT
PROMISE	TRIPLE	BOUNTY
DREAM	FLYTE	GOLD
BOOST	AERO	DREAM
MARATHON *	TAXI	TWIX
DUO	DOUBLE DECKER	JAMMIE DODGERS
BREAK	ROCKY	HEROES
CLUB	PICNICS	MOMENTS
CLUB	TEMPTATIONS	NICE
TWILIGHT	MASTERPIECES	REINDEER
DRIFTERS	QUALITY STREET	SANTA
TUNES	HOBNOB	FLAKES
HEAVEN	SQUARES	BLACK MAGIC
ECHO	FAMOUS NAMES	ALLSORTS
SENSES	REVELS	REFRESHERS
GO	MINSTRELS	TROPHY
TRIO *	SKITTLES	CELEBRATIONS
CLASSIC	RIPPLE	BELIEVE
UNITED *	SNICKERS	GOOD NEWS *
LION	TWISTED	HIGHLIGHTS
AFTER EIGHT	FRUIT & NUT	MERCI
TWIRL	JELLY BABIES	
SMARTIES	BOASTERS	
MAGIC STARS	FUDGE	
GALAXY	POPPETS	
STARBURST	RUFFLE	