

Advent (all-age)

donkey sings the blues

AIM

To explore how we feel about Jesus coming amongst us: is he welcome or a nuisance?

INTRODUCTION

Let me tell you...

This was inspired by a three year old. He was having a temper tantrum while I was reading the Christmas story to his brother. I needed to distract him and shouted 'AND THE DONKEY SAID, "THERE'S A BABY IN MY DINNER!"' It worked – he was curious. And so was I – thus began this train of thought!

SKETCH

You will need

Characters: 1st Donkey, 2nd Donkey, Narrator, Cockerel

You will also need some pieces of paper, pencils and a manger for the prayer activity at the end of the sketch.

Narrator: A donkey sings the blues on Christmas Day:

1st Donkey: Why does Jesus appear and get in the way?

I want to get on with my life -

I want to eat my dinner!

But there's Jesus laying there helpless...

In the way – in MY hay!

Get out of the way Jesus

You're interfering with my life! (pause)

I will pass on a warning

To all donkeys everywhere

"Beware of Jesus – He may interfere with your life!"

Narrator: The message is relayed,

The story is told,

Advent (all-age)

donkey sings the blues

About the baby who got in the way.

Many years later the story is well known -

It is a legend among the donkeys of the world:

"Beware of Jesus – He may interfere with your life!"

(pause)

A donkey sings the Blues on Palm Sunday:

2nd Donkey: Why does Jesus appear and get in the way?

I want to get on with my life –

I'm young, I want some fun,

But there's Jesus standing in the way -

Climbing on my back!

Get out of the way Jesus

You're interfering with my life! (pause)

I'll pass on the warning

To all creatures everywhere -

"Beware of Jesus – He may interfere with your life"

Narrator: The message is relayed,

The story is told,

About the man who got in the way.

Many years later the story is well known -

It is a legend among the creatures of the world:

"Beware of Jesus – He may interfere with your life!"

(pause)

Advent (all-age)

donkey sings the blues

Narrator: A cockerel sings the Blues on Good Friday:

Cockerel: Why does Jesus appear and get in the way?

I want to get on with my life!

I want to show off; attract a mate -

But there's Jesus standing in my courtyard -

Staring at a man crying.

They've interrupted me!

Get out of the way Jesus -

You're interfering with my life! (pause)

I will pass on the warning

To all creation everywhere -

"Beware of Jesus – He may interfere with your life"

Narrator: The message is relayed,

The story is told,

About the man who got in the way.

Many years later the story is well known -

It is a legend among all creation:

"Beware of Jesus – He may interfere with your life!"

Prayer

Invite participants to consider how they might have found Jesus to be a nuisance and tried to nudge Jesus out of their life. If they would like to take a piece of paper and write or draw something that represents this, they could then put it in the manger with the Baby Jesus. Remind participants that Jesus loves us and accepts us just as we are.

Advent (all-age)

donkey sings the blues

Dear Jesus,

Persistent baby, consistent friend,

Thank you for loving me.

Amen

EVALUATION

Please try to answer these questions for yourself and for others who will use this material:

1. What was the most helpful thing?
2. What was the least helpful thing?
3. What would you like to try now?

THE NEXT STEP

If you want more Advent ideas please revisit the website.

Acknowledgements

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If you wish to offer any feedback – brickbats and bouquets are equally welcome! – you can do so in various ways.

You can email the Vision4Life steering group about general or website V4L issues via the website or at admin@vision4life.org.uk

If you have comments and particularly contributions to the prayer year, you can email the V4L prayer year coordinator via prayer@vision4life.org.uk

If you want to make contributions or ask questions about other V4L years you can email:

Year 2 – Transformed by the Bible: bible@vision4life.org.uk

Year 3 – Transformed for Evangelism: evangelism@vision4life.org.uk