



## **Christ and His Birth: Object Lessons**

Ideas for 25 object packages that all lead to increased worship of the Messiah.

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# Christ and His Birth: Object Lessons

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## 28 Surprise Bags

Here's a way to keep Christ at the center of your celebration of His birth—all the time. One sermon is inadequate to reveal the profound details, the subtle side stories surrounding the event of His birth. The object lessons described by this article can help you to develop a greater appreciation for the full splendor of the Incarnation of our LORD.

## How It Works

These object lesson bags can be opened the same way as with an advent calendar—one or more a day, as your schedule permits. Or, you can do several of them a day to cover them all in a seven-day period.

Fill each bag with the suggested object(s), and place all of the bags in full view of your family--on top of a piano or on a prominent shelf, at the beginning of your celebration period (December if you celebrate Christmas; around October if you follow the Hebrew calendar and keep the Biblical Feast of Tabernacles).<sup>1</sup>

These objects are approximately 4 inches square, or smaller. Collect objects that are exquisite, beautiful, or as unusual as possible, to reflect the awe-inspiring nature of the Messiah's birth.

Place each object into a small Zip Lock® plastic bag and add a 3x5 card that contains companion Scriptures for those objects where a Scripture passage is suggested. Then put the plastic bag into a small brown paper bag (4 x 6 1/2"), available from a hardware store, where they are used for packaging screws and nails. Then attach a red bow at the top of each bag. Some people prefer to wrap each object like a gift, instead of using the bags. The plastic bags are easily stored year around and they save you time re-sorting objects year after year. The brown bags make them a surprise when they are opened.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on the Feast Days the LORD prescribed in the Scriptures, see our homeschool how-to #44, *Jewish [Biblical] Holidays Made Simple*.

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Email: [CrossOver@Ellison.net](mailto:CrossOver@Ellison.net)

If you at first find it difficult to locate all of the suggested objects, fill in with pictures of the missing items, using the covers of cards or pictures from magazines and catalogs.

At the start of your celebration period, set up an empty stable (crèche) somewhere in the room. Explain that Mary and Joseph are en route, walking and riding on a donkey, and that they won't appear until the eve of Christ's birth. You may want to have your Mary and Joseph figurines walk across the room a day at a time, arriving at the stable just in time.

You may have difficulty locating figurines representing Anna and Simeon. If so, you may want to use a Mary and a wise man from a different nativity set to become Anna and Simeon.

<b>Objects</b>	<b>Carols to Sing</b>
1. Story; stable	Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
2. Donkey; cows	Away in a Manger; The Friendly Beasts
3. Sheep; candy cane; picture of a shepherd	While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night
4. Dove	
5. Scroll; figurine with trumpet or town crier	
6. Chain	
7. Pussy willow branch with buds	
8. Pitcher; vegetable oil to pour into pitcher; small plastic doll	
9. Crown	
10. Judge's gavel (can use a small toy hammer)	
11. Lamb; lion	
12. Cross; crown of thorns	
13. Moon (can use a small white marble); Earth (look for a globe used on the top of a small pencil sharpener)	Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

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Objects	Carols to Sing
14. Ant (can use a picture of it, or a toy ant)	
15. [Nothing! Empty sack, to represent 400 years of silence]	O Come, O Come Emmanuel
16. Dancing figurine	Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus
17. Trash; small trumpet	Prepare Ye the Way of the LORD (Source: <i>GodSpell</i> )
18. Large angel figurine; small Mary figurine	Angels from the Realms of Glory
19. Foreign coins; little adobe house	O Little Town of Bethlehem
20. Mary, Joseph, and Jesus (Yeshua)	O, Holy Night; Silent Night, Holy Night; Away in a Manger
21. Swaddling cloths; stick manger; birthday cake (actual size)	Joy to the World; What Child Is This
22. Shepherds; angels	The First Noel; It Came upon a Midnight Clear; Hark, the Herald Angels Sing; Angels We Have Heard on High
23. Simeon; Anna	Once in David's Royal City
24. Heart	O Come, All Ye Faithful
25. Several kings (wise men/ magi); several camels; a star that lights; a long extension cord	We Three Kings
26. Three little boxes; fool's gold; Gummi Bears®; myrrh (use any herb)	Dona Nobis Pacem (3-part harmony)
27. A gift	Good Christian Men, Rejoice
28. White satin horse; old fashioned skeleton- key	God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

This is one of many

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Website: [www.homeschoolhowtos.com](http://www.homeschoolhowtos.com)

Email: [CrossOver@Ellison.net](mailto:CrossOver@Ellison.net)

Mailing address: Cross-Over, FLC 7028, 1000 Rim Dr.,  
Durango, CO 81301