

# Session 2 (After Break)

## Aim

- To consider who the nativity characters understood Jesus was, and what they knew about his future.

1. **Time might be needed first to finish off the 'Story Squiggles' activity.**

2. **Explain that at the time of Jesus' birth it was customary amongst Jews to go to the temple and present a 'Thanks Offering' when a child was born.**

As well as being an offering of thanks, this moment in the temple also signified for the Jews a deeper understanding of this new child as a member of their much larger faith family – belonging to the Jewish people.

The contemporary equivalent in the Christian faith is a baptism service which fulfils a similar role of thanking God, dedicating the new child to him and recognising the new child as a new member of God's family. Read the account in Luke (2v22-24) with the class. We advise using 'The Message' version because the vocabulary of this is much easier for pupils. Available from [www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com).

3. **Show the class some examples of baptism cards that people have written for a child.**

These might contain words that express what the child means to them, their hopes for that child for their future, prayers for that child—cards that would be kept for the future for when the child is old enough to appreciate them.

4. **In their groups, pupils are to prepare a card for Jesus,** writing their card from the perspective of the person they named last session as the person/group that they think would have been most pleased to meet baby Jesus. As well as considering what to write inside, encourage the pupils to consider what image to put on the front of their card.

5. **For their message on the inside, pupils could reflect on the following questions:**

- How did they (in character as Mary/an angel/a shepherd etc) know Jesus?
- What were their feelings upon meeting him?
- What were their hopes and fears for his future?