

Christmas Around the World

Narrator: "All over the world people celebrate Christmas! Whether you live in China, Argentina, Iraq, Russia, or the United States, the story of Jesus' birth is one of the most important stories ever told. God made every person. All of us are special to God. So no matter who you are or where you're from, we want to wish you a Merry Christmas."

"Different parts of the world have different music. Here at home [in the United States], we are known for Rock 'n Roll and Hip Hop. When we sing we like to have fun. Our first song is familiar to us all, 'Joy to the World.'"

Play and sing: Song #1 "Joy to the World"

*Joy to the World, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.*

Narrator: "The story of Christmas begins with Mary and Joseph."

(Mary and Joseph enter the stage and stand to one side. They look worried and afraid. They have just received overwhelming news!).

“Angels appeared separately to both Mary and Joseph to let them know that God was doing something special. He had chosen them. Mary would give birth to a son. And they were to give him the name Jesus. The angel told them that He would save people from their sins.”

“How did Mary and Joseph feel when the angel told them the news? Were they afraid? Were they worried? Certainly the news was overwhelming. But God encouraged them and reminded them that He would be with them through it all!”

“Mary and Joseph were Jesus’ earthly mother and father. In Russia, mothers and fathers play a big role in the celebration of Christmas. The father begins the Christmas meal by leading the family in prayer. The mother then draws a cross with honey on each person's forehead, saying a blessing – “In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, may you have sweetness and many good things in life and in the New Year.”

“Our next song, set to a traditional Russian tune, celebrates how God worked in the lives of Jesus’ parents, Mary and Joseph.”

Play and sing: Song #2 “Mary and Joseph”

*Mary and Joseph, God has chosen you
Don't worry, don't fear, God is with you.*

*Call Him ‘Jesus,’ He will save us all.
Call Him ‘Immanuel,’ God is with you.*