



I'M GLAD YOU ARE HERE!

AN ARTWORK FROM JORDAN

IDEAS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL GROUPS
FOR THE FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY





MATERIAL FOR THE CHILDREN'S SERVICE

- . Take the poster with the Epiphany collage from Jordan out of the booklet or order a copy for each child free of charge from www.ems-online.org/shop
- . Stick figures Emso the elephant and Pipit the bird (to photocopy)
- . case or travel bag for Emso
- . possibly a doll to represent baby Jesus
- . newspapers, magazines, glue, scissors, paints, card as backing for the collage
- . globe or atlas

PHOTO-COPYING / DOWNLOAD

All documents can be downloaded for photocopying from: www.ems-friends.org/en

INFORMATION ABOUT THE ARTIST

Anwar Boulos Haddadin lives in Jordan. He often works with collage technique. His works of art have been exhibited, and received awards, in Jordan and worldwide. He works at Yarmouk University in Irbid, Jordan, and heads the Design department. He created the Epiphany collage especially for the Evangelical Mission in Solidarity.



EMSO THE ELEPHANT TELLS OF HIS JOURNEY TO JORDAN

The children sit in a semi-circle. One person holds the elephant stick figure and tells the story from Emso's point of view. Emso's case lies in the middle.

Emso: I'm so glad you are here. A warm welcome to Sunday school today. My name is Emso and I am happy to be with you here today. Today is a special day – we are celebrating Epiphany. *Emso yawns* Oh, sorry, I am exhausted from a long journey. Yesterday I was still in Jordan. Do any of you know where Jordan is?

Look for Jordan on the globe or atlas

Jordan is a kingdom with a lot of desert. It is neighbours on Israel and Palestine. In Jordan there are a lot of people with different backgrounds. It was exciting to be there and to meet and talk with children. Fortunately I was not there in summer. The desert there is very hot and dry and you really need to ride a camel or travel by jeep. By the way, Jesus was baptised there at the River Jordan. I naturally had a look at that spot. The river meanders through the desert and plants grow near the water. We are celebrating Jesus's baptism and Epiphany together today, on 6 January. And I am here because of Epiphany. What is Epiphany, in fact? What are we celebrating? In Jordan I discovered a wonderful work of art and I took a picture for you. It is a colourful collage. I've brought along the photo for you. Who would like to take it out of the case?

A child opens the case in the middle. The case is empty.

Oops! Oh dear! I must have left it at home. What a pity! What will we do now? Hmmm... *Emso thinks.* I've got an idea: We'll remake the picture together. Come and help me!



SKETCH OF WHERE TO STAND

Emso describes the collage in his own words and explains who the people are and where they stand. This illustration shows what it could look like. The children get into position.

Emso: In the picture there are several people. On the right, Mary kneels down with Baby Jesus on her lap. Who would like to sit down here and put the doll on her lap? Several woman and men with presents stand to the left of Mary. They look at Baby Jesus and everyone is happy that he is there. They stretch out their hands with gifts. Come and give it a try.

The children reproduce the scene interactively. Depending on the size of the group, the picture can be re-created several times with different children. The girls and boys describe how they feel about it. If you have more time available you can get Emso to describe the picture in greater detail. But it is important to ensure that the children have not yet seen the collage itself. When all the children have sat down again, someone takes the stick figure of Pipit the bird and »flies« it around.

Pipit tweets: Emso, oh there you are! I'm glad to have found you. You are sometimes very forgetful. You left the picture on the breakfast table.



LOOKING AT THE POSTER TOGETHER

Place the poster (or several of them) in the circle. Staff can decide how to organise the way the children look at the picture, depending on the size of the Sunday school group, e.g. in a circle, or in small groups or singly. Comments are made to the whole group.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS TO THE CHILDREN

LEVEL OF RELATIONS

Who do you see in the picture?
Where are the people looking at?
Who is Jesus looking at?
What might the people be saying to Jesus?

COLOURS

What are the main colours?
What kind of mood does the picture convey?
If you were to frame it, what colour frame would you choose?

TECHNIQUE

Is it a painting?
Can you pick out newspaper cuttings or the like?

PLACE AND EVENT

What is happening in the picture?
What are the people doing?
Can you see a stable?
Can you pick out houses?

QUESTIONS FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Where can Jesus be seen apart from as a baby?
Can you see the star? Can you discover a map?
What could that mean?

CONCLUSION

Emso: In the picture we have discovered that the most varied people are happy about the birth of Jesus and welcome him. That is what we celebrate at Epiphany. It is as though people were calling to Jesus from all over the world, »I'm glad you are here!« Let us say that to each other now. We will hold hands and say: »I'm glad you are here!«

IDEA

Design a collage or painting on the topic.

SUGGESTED SONG

He's got the whole world in his hands

PRAYER

Dear God,
thank you for loving us.
Thank you for letting us celebrate Epiphany
worldwide today –
this day of such joy at the birth of your Son Jesus
Christ. We are glad, too.
Thank you for coming to meet us. Thank you for
letting us meet you.
Thank you for always letting us talk to you and say
what makes us happy and what makes us sad.
Amen.

*Idea and text: Anna Kallenberger and Annette Schumm
Illustrations: Gert Albrecht*

YOU + ME: FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD
is an educational programme for children in
Sunday school and primary school.

Children get to know each other worldwide:
at eye-level, ecumenically and open for simi-
larities and differences. **YOU + ME: FRIENDS
AROUND THE WORLD** is part of Evangelical
Mission in Solidarity, a network of churches
and mission societies in Asia, Africa, the
Middle East and Europe.

www.ems-friends.org/en

CONTACT

Evangelical Mission in Solidarity
YOU + ME: FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD
Global Learning with Children
Vogelsangstr. 62
70197 Stuttgart
Germany

Your contact persons

Anna Kallenberger and Annette Schumm
+ 49 (0) 711 / 636 78 44
info@ems-friends.org
www.ems-friends.org

