

A NIGHT LIKE NO OTHER



Bible Reference: Luke 2, Matthew 2

Date: 12/14/25

Grade: PreK /Kindergarten

2nd Service

Memory Verse:

"And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" Isaiah 9:6

Schedule

- Welcome/ Intro Activity.....5 minutes
- Kids Worship @ 11:00.....15-20 minutes
- Circle Time and Bible Story.....10 minutes
- Movement Activity.....10 minutes
- Craft.....5-7 minutes
- Music.....5 minutes
- Global Partner Feature.....5-7 minutes
- Prayer and Bible Verse.....10 minutes
- Snack/ Discussion Time.....5-7 minutes
- Additional Activities.....As Needed

Notes and Reminders

Happy December! As we prepare for and celebrate Christmas, let's take time to pray for families who are experiencing grief this Christmas. For many, this season is a reminder of changing circumstances (moving to a new town, losing a family member, the last of something, etc.) We can be in prayer that God will help people who are hurting to feel his comfort and to continue to see the joy of Jesus' birth despite the hurt they are experiencing.



SHEPHERD BIBLE STUDY

How many times have you read or heard the narrative of Jesus' birth? When interacting with a familiar Bible story, it is easy to simply skim over it and assume we understand all there is to know about it. Rather than taking that approach, spend time this week meditating on Luke 2:1-20.

The detailed account of His conception and birth, as well as the details between those two events, provide the believer with a gift of God's grace that is far too important to gloss over. This event preceding Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection lays the foundation for a close and thoughtful study of the Gospels.

The details around the conception and birth of Jesus provide reason for amazement and strengthen our faith. Consider the detail of *Mary* having been a virgin, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14. Jesus was born in the small town of Bethlehem, fulfilling the prophecy of Micah 5:2. He was born into the family line of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—fulfilling God's promises in Genesis 12:3; 17:19; 28:14.

All of this ought to cultivate a sense of wonder at the divine intervening in the human world, and an amazement at the detail to which God worked out His plan.

Additionally, recalling the details of Jesus' birth ought to generate affirmation in the believer's heart and mind. The uniqueness surrounding the birth of Jesus affirms His claims of being the Son of God.

Finally, the birth narrative should grow the anticipation of the believer. At the end of the New Testament, the book of Revelation sheds light on the end of sin and death, the final judgment of the living and the dead, and the new heaven and the new earth. These promises can seem distant or unlikely; however, the joy and gratitude that comes from understanding Jesus' birth narrative can cultivate confidence in and anticipation of the future promises of Jesus.

Luke 2 invites us to behold our God, who—out of His great love for us—“emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity” (Phil. 2:7). Jesus came to earth to rescue sinners. The angels' announcement to the shepherds in Luke 2:10 is also for us: “Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”

JUNIOR SHEPHERD HIGHLIGHT

How many times have you heard the story of Jesus' birth? When a story is familiar, it's easy to think we already know everything about it. But this week, take time to slow down and really think about Luke 2:1–20.

The story of Jesus' birth is full of amazing moments that can strengthen our faith. For example, *Mary was a virgin*, which fulfilled a prophecy in Isaiah 7:14. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, just like the prophet *Micah* said in Micah 5:2. Jesus also came from the family line of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, which fulfilled promises God made in Genesis. All these details show how carefully God carried out His plan.

Remembering the details of Jesus' birth also helps confirm that Jesus really is the Son of God. The unique way He came into the world matches the claims He made during His life.

Lastly, the story of Jesus' birth should help us look forward to the future. The book of Revelation talks about a time when sin and death will be gone forever, and God will make a new heaven and a new earth. These promises can feel far away, but understanding the truth of Jesus' birth helps us trust that His future promises are real, too.

OUTLINE



Welcome and Intro Activity

5 minutes

Welcome the children and mark them as present on the attendance sheet on the clipboard by the door.

- As children arrive, ask for their help counting various classroom items such as blocks, baby dolls, crayons, or people in the room. Consider giving children a piece of paper and marker to write down the total.
- SAY Thank you for helping me count! You are excellent counters. In our Bible story today, we will learn about a ruler who wanted all the people living in his land to be counted. There were a lot of people to count. We will find out where the people needed to go to be counted.

Circle Time and Bible Story

10 minutes

Thinking Activity

- Before the session, place birthday party items inside a gift bag. Invite volunteers to remove each item from the gift bag. Display the items where the children can see them.
- SAY What do all of these items have in common? [Allow responses.] You're right! These are all things that we might see at a birthday party! All of this birthday stuff reminds me of our Bible story today—Baby Jesus being born! Let's learn more about the birth of Jesus now.

Bible Story

- One day, an angel told Mary she was going to have a very special baby. The angel explained, "This baby will be God's Son." Then an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, "Do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. Her baby was put there by the Holy Spirit. Name Him Jesus because He will save His people from their sins!" During the time Mary was pregnant with Baby Jesus, they had to travel to Bethlehem to be counted. While they were there, Mary was ready to have her baby. Mary and Joseph looked for a place to stay, but every place was full. So Mary and Joseph found a place where animals were kept, and that is where Mary had her baby. Joseph named the baby Jesus. Mary wrapped Him in cloth and laid Him in a manger. That night, some shepherds were watching their sheep in the fields. An angel stood before them. A bright light was around the shepherds, and they were scared! The angel said, "Do not be afraid! I have good news for you: Today a Savior was born for you." Then the angel said, "Go find the baby. He will be wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger." Suddenly, many angels appeared. They praised God and said, "Glory to God!" When the angels left, the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem to find Baby Jesus. They found Him, and then they told others about Him. Everyone who heard about Jesus was surprised and amazed. The shepherds praised God because everything had happened just like the angel had said.





Review Activity

- Shuffle the cards and place the story sequencing cards faceup in the middle of the group. Ask leading questions such as “What happened first?” and “What happened next?” Assist children in placing the cards in the order in which the events of the Bible story occurred. Ask children how they think each of the Bible people felt in the scenes. Mix up the cards and challenge the children to place them in the correct order.
- SAY Thank you for helping me put these pictures in the correct order. How do you think Mary and Joseph felt in the beginning of the story? How did their feelings change? How would you have felt in each of these scenes? Although there were times of fear and confusion, our Bible story ends with joy. That is because Jesus’ birth is very good news! God sent Jesus to rescue people from their sins. That includes me and you. How does that make you feel?

Movement Activity

10 minutes


Write Jesus on a strip of paper. Hang eight pieces of paper at the child’s eye level in various places on the walls of the classroom. Hang papers with one piece of tape at the top, creating a hinge, so it can be lifted from the bottom. Choose a child to cover his eyes as you tape the Jesus strip under one of the papers. Lead the child to open his eyes and search for Jesus. Instruct the remaining children to make sheep noises, getting louder as he gets closer to Jesus and softer when he is farther away. Celebrate when the Jesus strip is found and choose a new child to cover her eyes. Repeat until everyone who desires to play has had a turn.


SAY Thanks, everyone, for being very helpful sheep! How did it feel when you found the paper with Jesus’ name? [Allow responses.] When the shepherds found Baby Jesus they were so excited that they went and told other people! They praised and thanked God for sending Jesus. Jesus is God’s Son who was sent to rescue the world from sin. Jesus would die on the cross and then, three days later, rise from the dead!

Craft

5-7 minutes

Before the session, use a permanent marker to draw smiling faces on dot stickers. Distribute construction paper, two craft sticks, and glue to each child. Guide the child to glue the craft sticks together to her paper, creating an X shape. Lead the child to fill the top open portion of the X with yellow crimped paper or paper strips using glue. Give each child a dot sticker to represent Jesus’ face. Instruct the child to place her sticker on the yellow paper. Suggest children use crayons to draw animals found in a barn such as a donkey, lamb, or cow around the manger.





SAY You all worked so hard on your art today! I like the way you put the hay in the manger. This art can help you remember to share the good news of Jesus' birth with others. Do you remember why Jesus was born? God sent Jesus to earth from heaven. He was born to rescue people from their sins. What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

Music

5 minutes

You will find music and other video resources on the USB which is already plugged into the TV. Feel free to play the videos in any order you like! You may distribute the Activity Page for the children to complete at this time, if they would prefer to sit and listen to the music.

Friends From Afar

5-7 minutes

You will find today's activity for Friends from Afar in the Binder on the counter. The information for this month's Global Partner family and an activity to learn about where they are serving are included.


Prayer and Bible Verse

10 minutes

Prayer (Use these words, or your own, to pray about today's Bible lesson. Take time to listen to prayer requests from the children and pray for them as well!)

- Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, into the world to rescue us from our sins. Help us to tell others the good news about Jesus. We love You. Amen

Bible Verse

- "And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" Isaiah 9:6
 - Teach the children the motions for this verse.
 - And he will be called- point one finger to your mouth
 - Wonderful Counsellor- tap your temples
 - Mighty God- flex your arms like muscles
 - Everlasting Father- tap your wrist (like a watch)
 - Prince of peace- hold your hands in front of your chest like you are praying
 - Have the kids join you in saying the verse and doing the motions several times to practice. Ask the children if anyone would like to do the verse on their own. If someone needs help, have them pick a friend or do it with them. If no one volunteers, repeat as a class twice more.
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Snack and Discussion Time

5-7 minutes

Have children sanitize their hands before passing out snacks and cups of water. During this time, you can connect with children and discuss questions regarding the lesson.

1. What did you like about the Bible story? (Preschoolers' answers will vary.)
2. Who was Jesus' mother? (Mary was Jesus' mother.)
3. Why was Jesus such a special baby? (Jesus is God's Son.)
4. Why was the birth of Jesus very good news? (Jesus came into the world to rescue us from sin.)
5. What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.

SAY An angel came to Mary and told her she was going to have a very special baby. Joseph found out the news when an angel appeared to him in a dream. The angel told Joseph to not be afraid, make Mary his wife, and name the baby Jesus. Before Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem to be counted. They tried to find a place to stay because Mary was ready to give birth. Every place was full. They had to stay in a place where the animals were kept, which is where she gave birth to Jesus. She wrapped Him in cloth and laid Him in a manger. That night, while the shepherds were watching their sheep in fields, an angel came to them and a bright light shone around them, and they were afraid. The angel told them to go and find Baby Jesus. Then, many angels appeared and started praising God. The shepherds found Baby Jesus and told others about Him. Jesus was born! This was very good news! Jesus was not like other babies. Jesus is God's Son. God sent Jesus to earth from heaven. Jesus came into the world to rescue us from sin

Additional Activities

As Needed

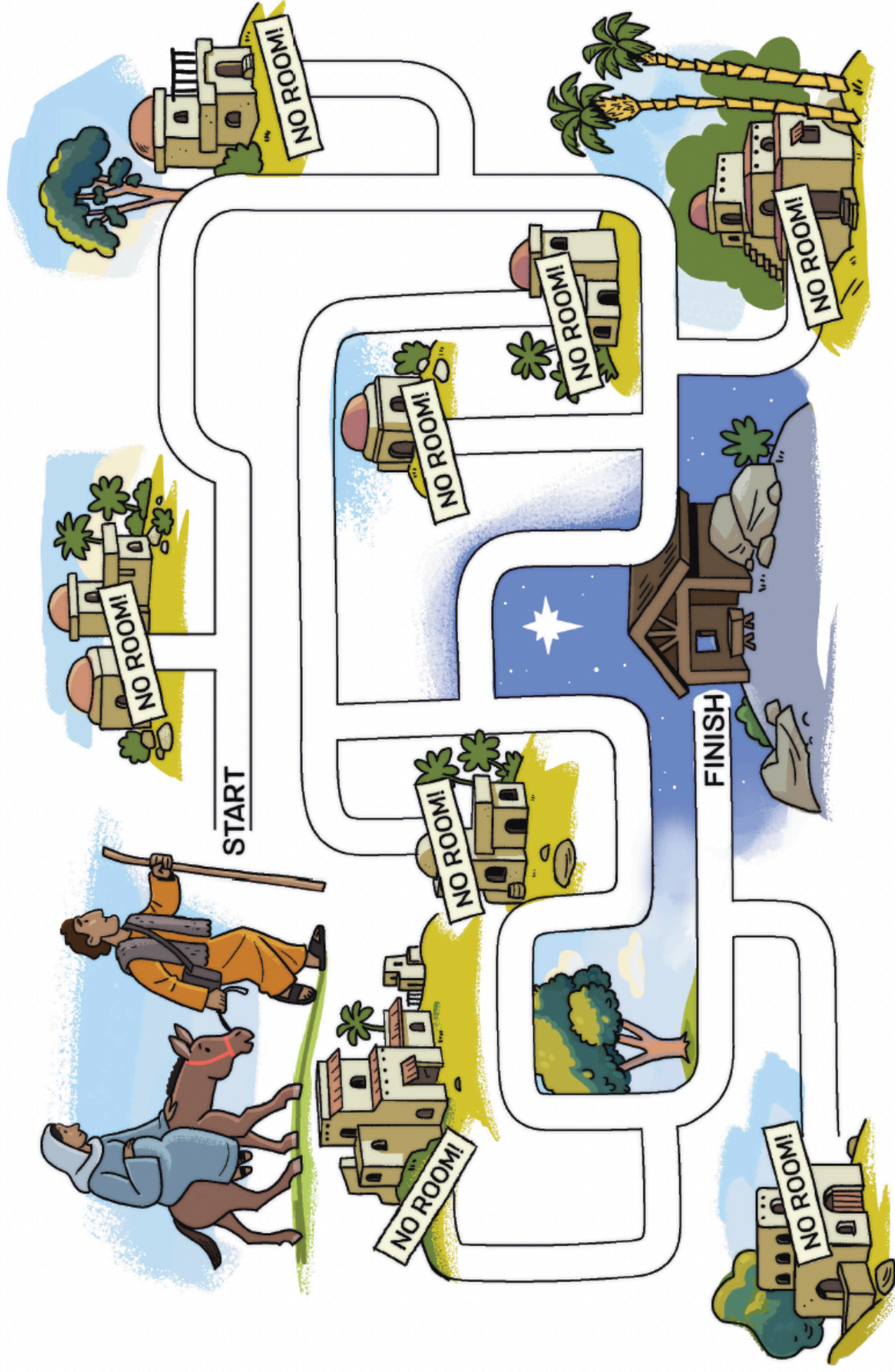
Demonstrate how to build a square shaped animal pen with blocks. Place a plastic animal inside. Challenge preschoolers to build pens and place plastic animal figures inside the block structures.

SAY The animals and the structures we built remind me of our Bible story. Mary and Joseph looked for a somewhere safe for Mary to have her baby. The only place they found was where animals were kept. Mary had her baby. Joseph named the baby Jesus. Mary wrapped Him in cloth and laid Him in a manger. A manger was used to feed animals like cows, goats, and other livestock. What do you think it would have been like to stay in a place where animals are kept?

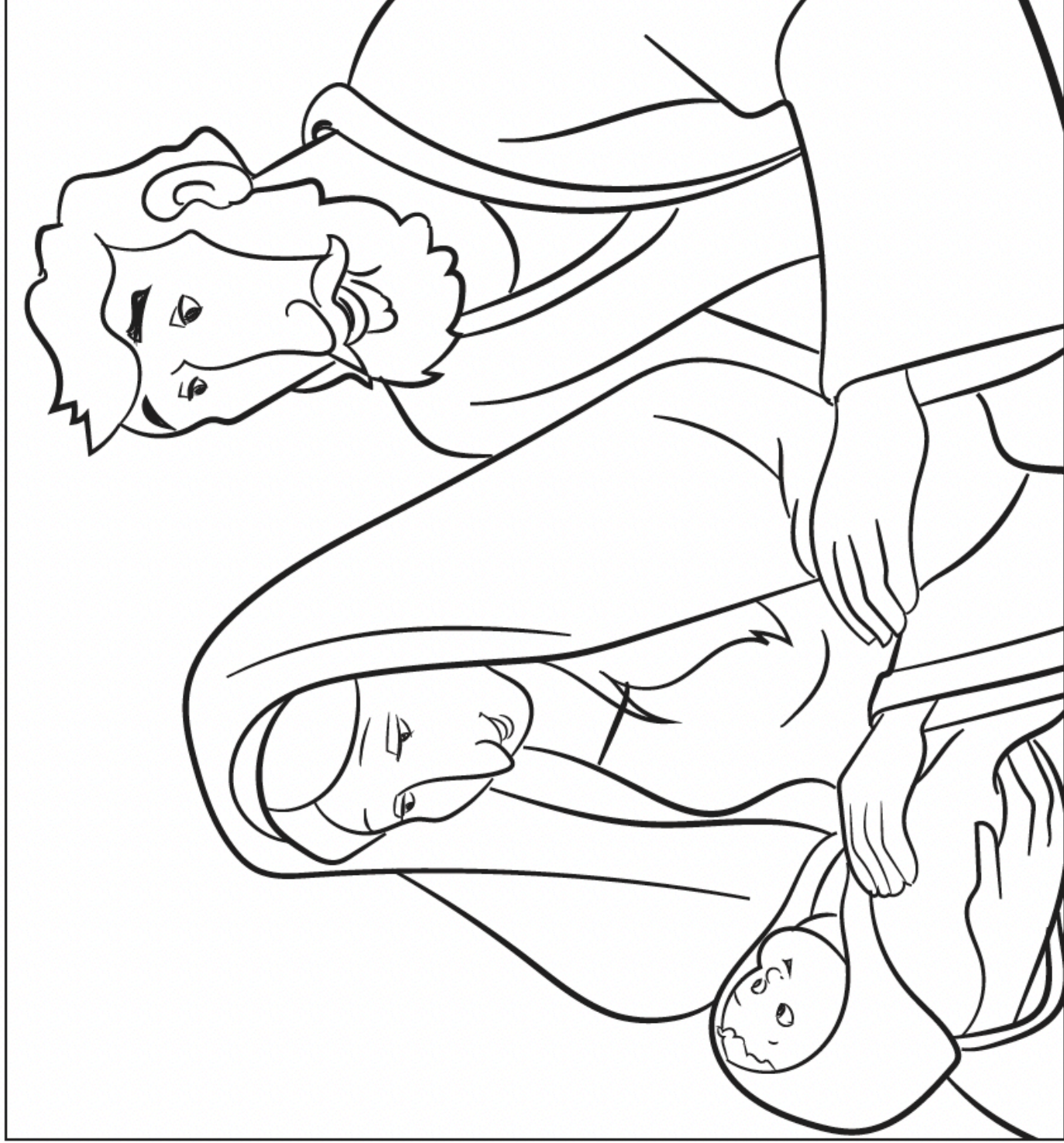


A Safe Place to Stay

INSTRUCTIONS: Follow the path to find a safe place for Mary and Joseph to stay.



NAME:



Jesus Was Born

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem to be counted.
- They found a place where animals were kept, and that is where Mary had her baby.
- Joseph named the baby Jesus. Mary wrapped Him in cloth and laid Him in a manger.
- That night, an angel visited shepherds who were taking care of their sheep. The angel told them good news: A Savior was born. The shepherds hurried to find Baby Jesus.

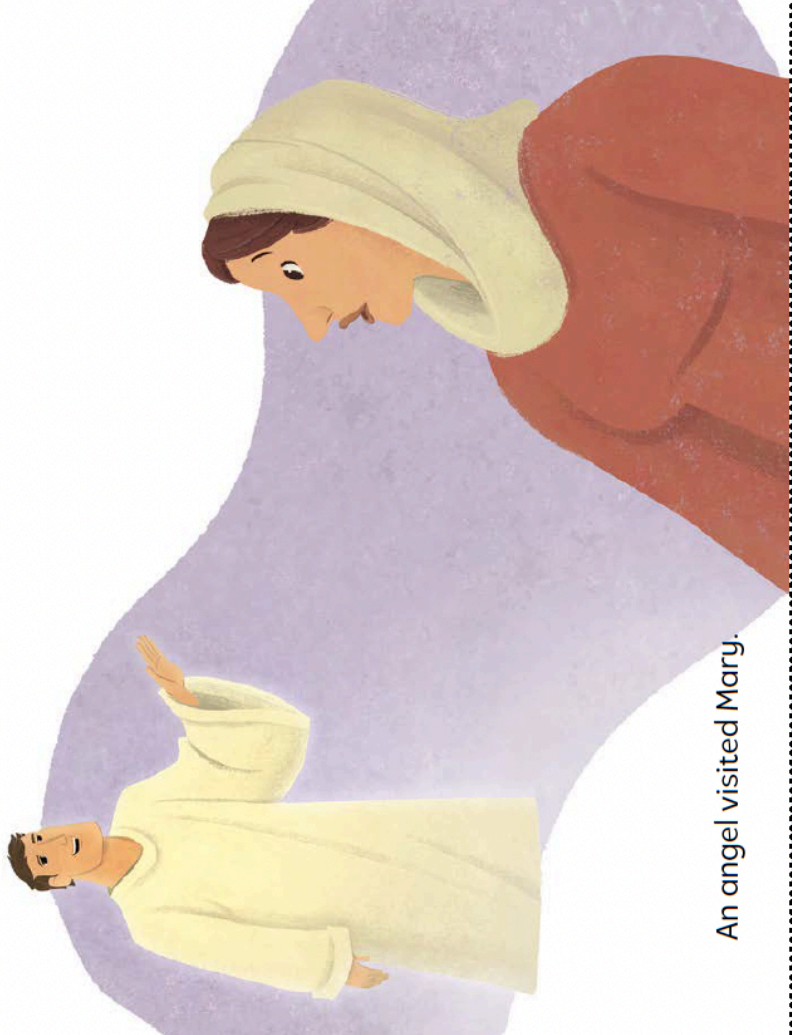
CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus was born! This was very good news! Jesus was not like other babies. Jesus is God's Son. God sent Jesus to earth from heaven. Jesus came into the world to rescue people from their sins.

KEY PASSAGE: John 1:29

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

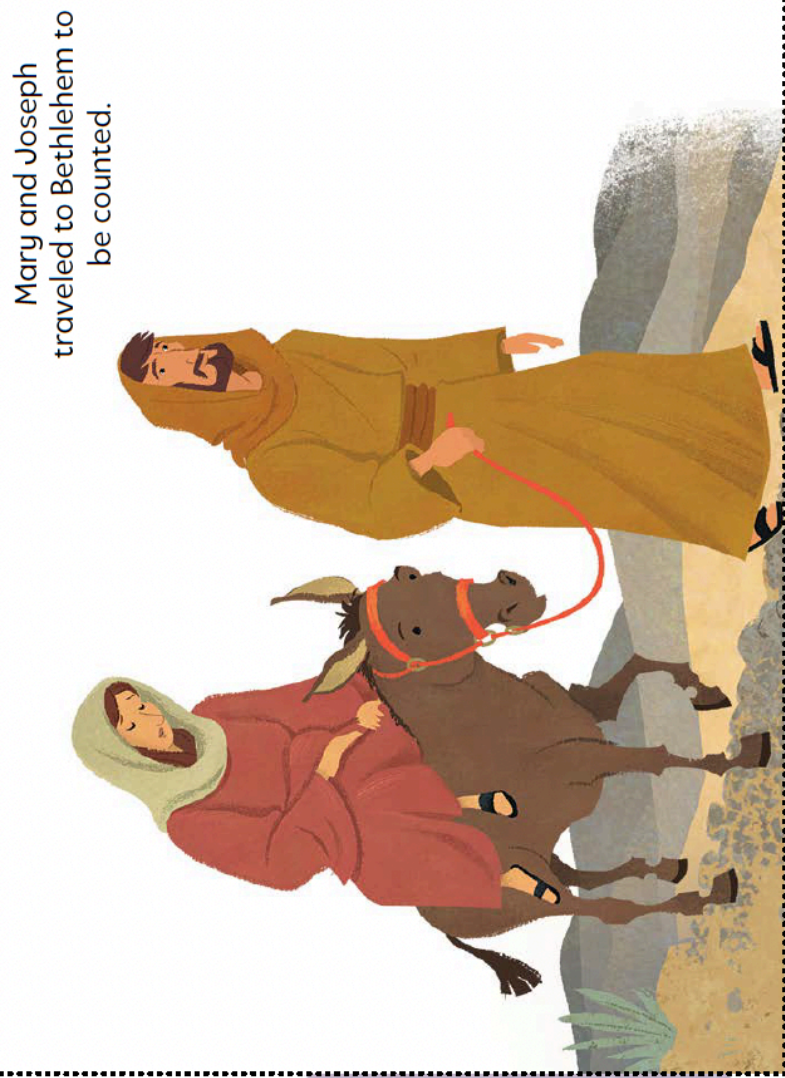
What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead.



An angel visited Mary.



Jesus was born where animals were kept and placed in a manger.



Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem to be counted.



Angels told shepherds a Savior was born and where to find Him.