

S.A.F.E. Homes



Strengthening Apostolic Families Everywhere



"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."
Luke 2: 11

The Birth of a Promise

Life flowed along in Nazareth, a little city in Galilee. Shopkeepers peddled their wares in the market, children played games in a vacant lot, and activities continued as usual in most households. But at one house, a young virgin girl listened raptly as an angelic being stood before her with an announcement.

"Don't be afraid, Mary." Afraid? How could she not be afraid? She had never *seen* an angel before, much less talked with one. The angel continued, "You have found favor with God and will bare a son. You shall call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins."

Mary finally found her voice as she stammered, "How can this be? I have never been with a man!"

The angel, Gabriel said, "The Holy Ghost shall overshadow you. This child will be the Son of God."

"Let it be according to your word," Mary humbly agreed as the angel vanished from sight.

In a single moment Mary's life changed forever. Months later, she and Joseph, the man she was engaged to, traveled to Bethlehem because of a decree by the King, and there she gave birth to the promised Savior in an humble stable.

On a distant hillside outside the city an angel appeared to shepherds watching their sheep by night. ***"Fear not!"*** the angel reassured the frightened group. ***"I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."*** Suddenly the night sky was filled with a host of angels praising God and singing, ***"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men,"*** (Luke 2: 10-14).

Following this angelic visitation the shepherds hurried into the city and found Jesus lying in a manger and worshipped him. Unable to contain their excitement, they spread the good news throughout the city of Bethlehem. Those who heard them wondered at the strange story the shepherds told. But did any of them search for the Savior? The Bible doesn't say.

Jesus has promised that someday He will return and take His waiting church away. To some this is a strange story, but to those who believe and are ready it is a welcomed promise. God fulfilled His promise the first time and He will surely do it again. Will you be one of those who welcome His coming?

Family Prayer: *Lord, just like I believe in Your miraculous coming 2,000 years ago, I believe that someday you will return to catch Your church away to live with You forever. I want to be one of the few ready for that day.*
In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Includes
Family
Activities

Want more?
Scroll down for
Bonus Pages



Let's enjoy an old fashioned game of Hide-and-Seek. As the shepherds sought for, and found, the exact stable where Jesus was born, search for your family members. When everyone has had a chance to be "it" celebrate being together with your family. Because Jesus came, we can all be part of God's family!

Let's talk

Although Jesus' birth had been prophesied for hundreds of years before it happened, many people were still seemed to be unaware when He came. Do you think it will be the same way when He comes again? How does this happen?

Just like angels appeared in the sky outside of Bethlehem and sang to the shepherds, how about gathering together a group to go caroling in your community? You, too, could bring joy to others as you declare the good news of Jesus' birth!



Additional Challenges

Think of all the different people impacted by the birth of Jesus 2,000 years ago. In your own words, try to describe how these individuals must have felt as the story unfolded.

- **Mary:** (example: bewildered, scared, etc.) _____

- **Joseph:** _____

- **Shepherds:** _____

- **The wise men:** _____

- **King Herod:** _____

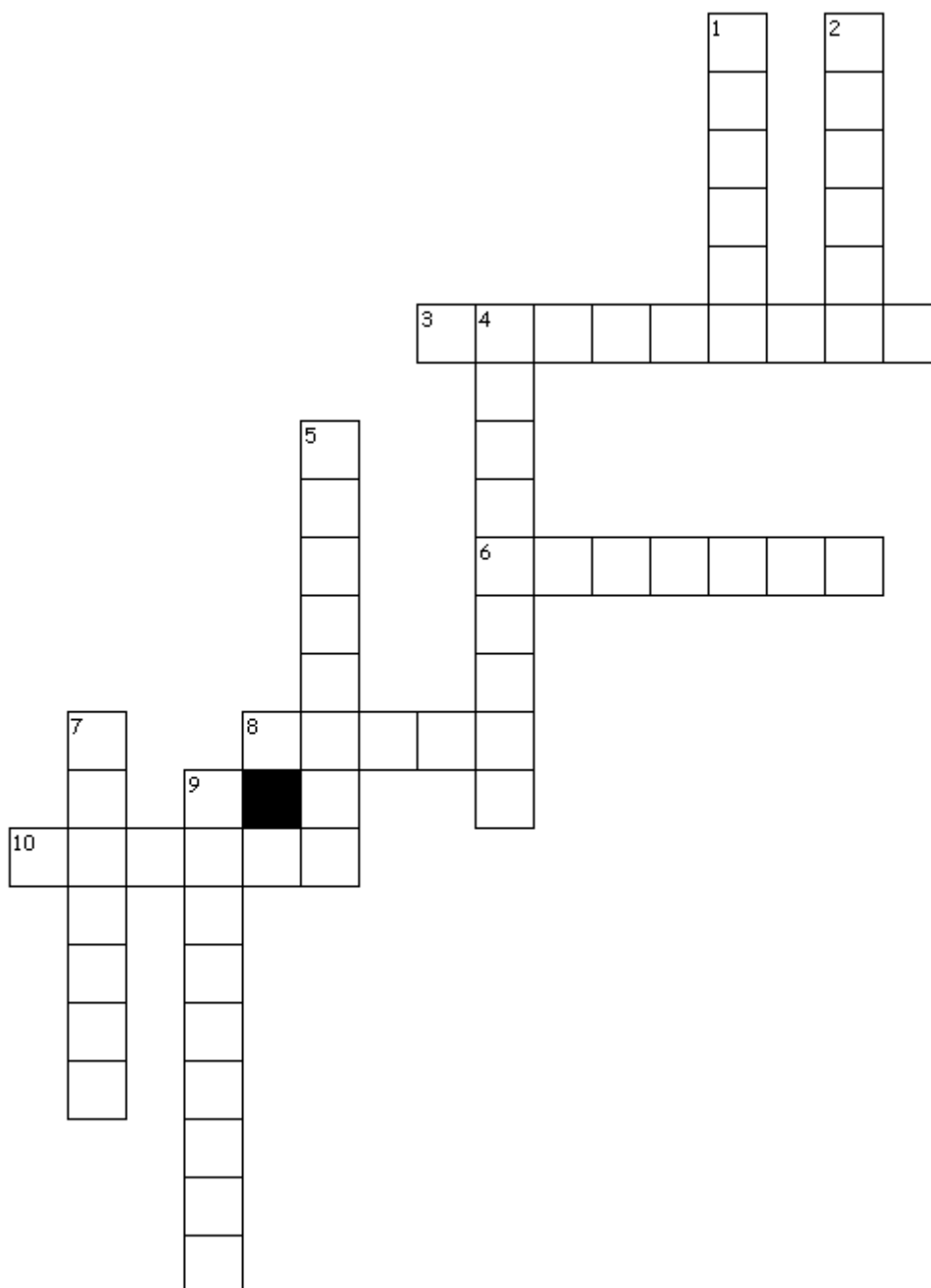
- **Simeon:** _____

- **Anna:** _____

How have YOU responded to Jesus?

Are you still celebrating His birth?

Puzzle Page



Across

3. The baby was worshipped by ____
6. The name of the angel who visited Mary
8. The angel told her to name the baby ____
10. Man Mary was engaged to

Down

1. She gave birth in a ____
2. The angel told Mary to not be ____
4. The ____ overshadowed Mary
5. City where Mary lived
7. The birth of Jesus fulfilled God's ____ to us
9. City Mary and Joseph traveled to

