

GOSPEL

Today a Savior has been born for you.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke 2:1-14

Emperor Augustus gave orders for the names of all the people
to be listed in record books.

These first records were made when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

Everyone had to go to their own hometown to be listed.

So Joseph had to leave Nazareth in Galilee and go to Bethlehem in Judea.

Long ago Bethlehem had been King David's hometown,

and Joseph went there because he was from David's family.

Mary was engaged to Joseph and traveled with him to Bethlehem.

She was soon going to have a baby,

and while they were there,

she gave birth to her first-born son.

She dressed him in baby clothes and laid him in a manger,

because there was no room for them in the inn.

That night in the fields near Bethlehem

some shepherds were guarding their sheep.

All at once an angel came down to them from the Lord,

and the brightness of the Lord's glory flashed around them.

The shepherds were frightened.

But the angel said, "Don't be afraid!

I have good news for you, which will make everyone happy.

This very day in King David's hometown a Savior was born for you.

He is Christ the Lord.

You will know who he is,

because you will find him dressed in baby clothes

and lying in a manger."

Suddenly many other angels came down from heaven

and joined in praising God.

They said: "Praise God in heaven!

Peace on earth to everyone who pleases God."

The gospel of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

Hebrews 1:1-2

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
now God speaks to us through the Son.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

The shepherds found Mary and Joseph, and the baby
lying in the manger... When the eighth day came
they gave him the name Jesus.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke

2:16-21

The shepherds hurried off and found Mary and Joseph,
and they saw the baby lying in the manger.

When the shepherds saw Jesus,
they told his parents what the angel had said about him.
Everyone listened and was surprised.
But Mary kept thinking about all this and wondering what it meant.

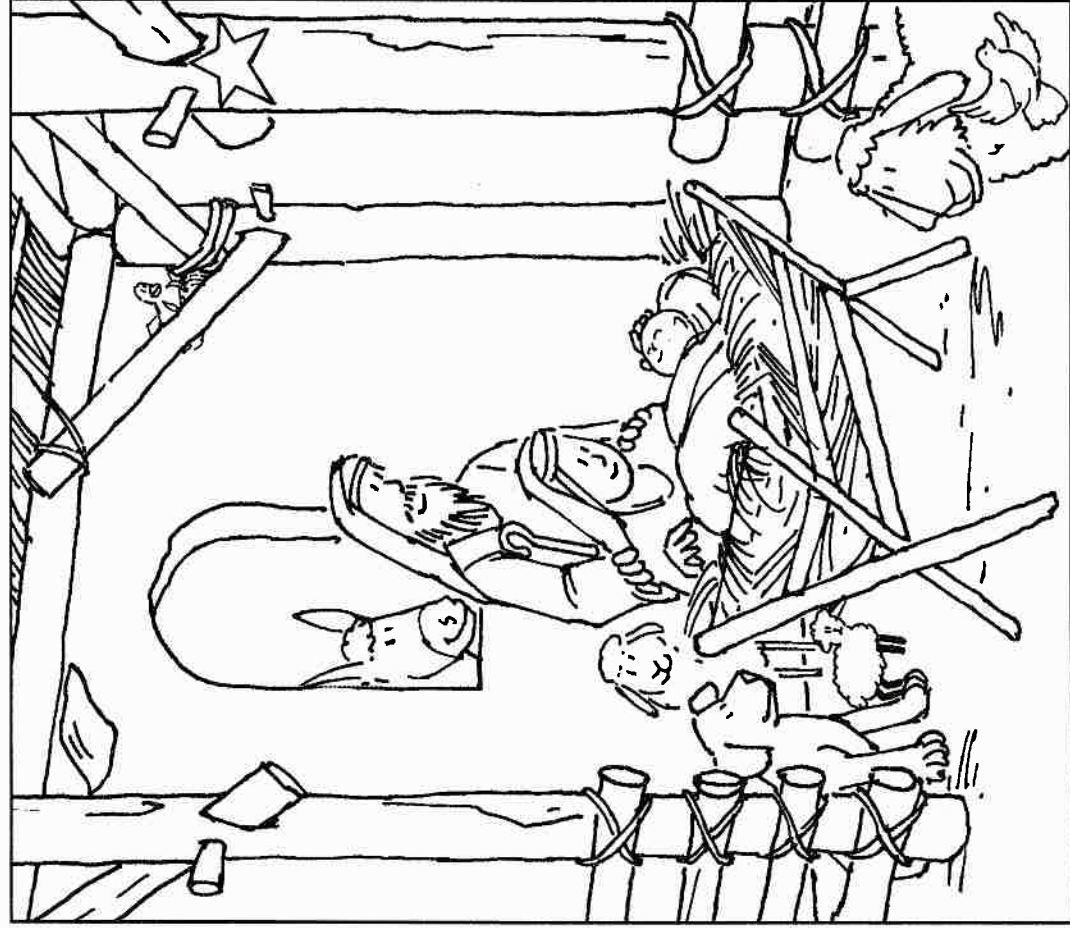
As the shepherds returned to their sheep,
they were praising God and saying wonderful things about him.
Everything they had seen and heard was just as the angel had said.

Eight days later Jesus' parents did for him
what the Law of Moses commands.
And they named him Jesus,
just as the angel had told Mary
when he promised she would have a baby.

The gospel of the Lord.

She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Find these objects hidden in the picture.



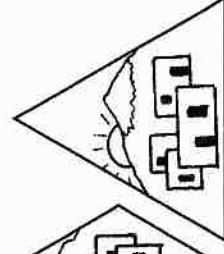
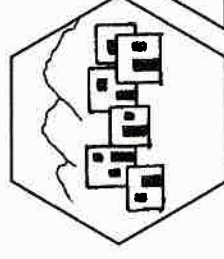
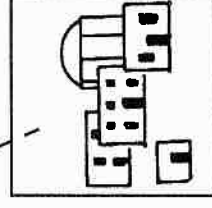
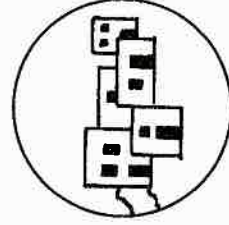
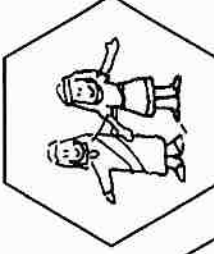
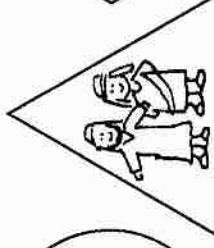
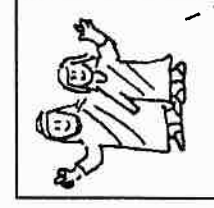
Ages 3+

December 6, 2020 • Luke 2:1-7

The Birth of Jesus

Caesar gave an order that all the people in the entire Roman world were to be counted. Everyone had to return to their own town to register.

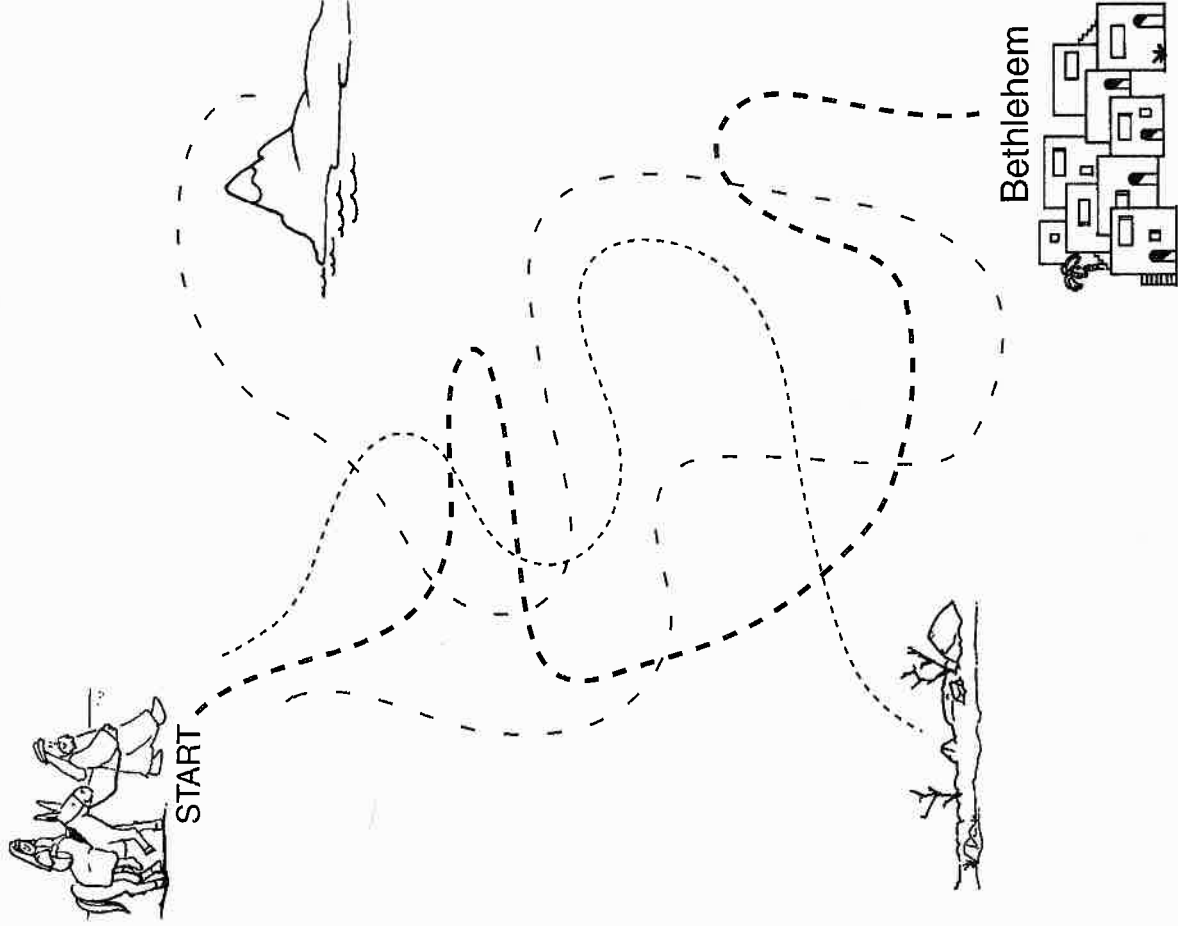
Match the shapes to get each person to their hometown.



Fourteen Holy Helpers
Faith Formation
1345 Indian Church Road
West Seneca, New York

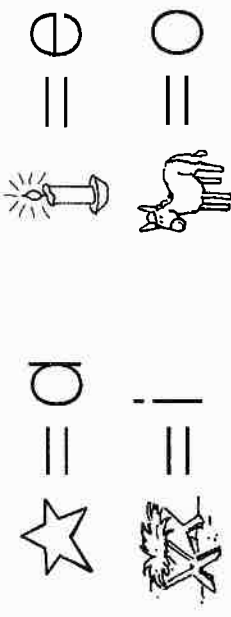
Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth ... to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

Follow the line of David to Bethlehem.



He went there to register with Mary, who was ... expecting a child.

Use the code to write the letters on the blanks.

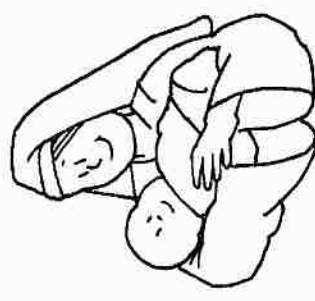


While they were there,
the time came for the Baby to be born.

M _ r y g _ v _ b _ r t h

t _ h _ r _ f _ r s t b _ r n ,

_ _ s _ n .

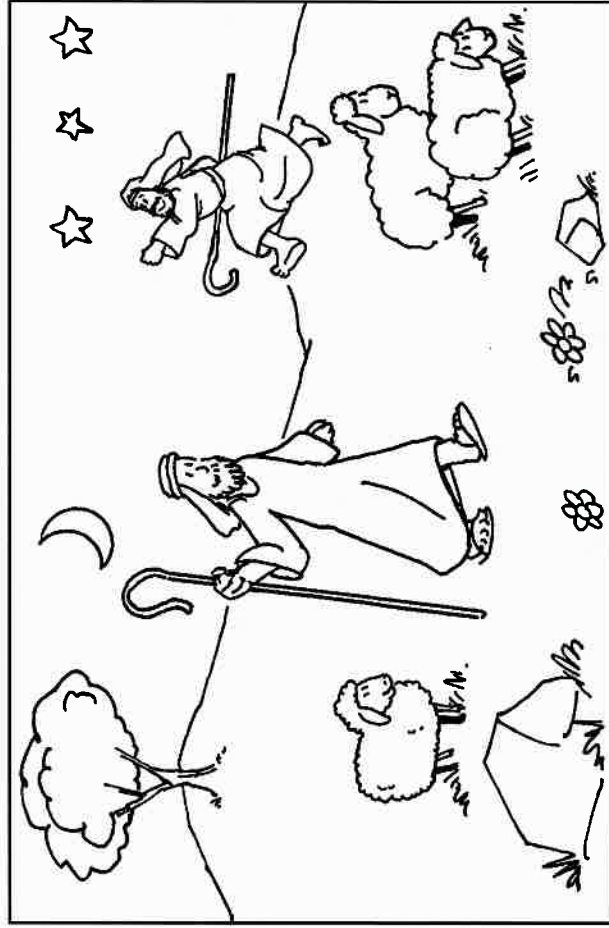
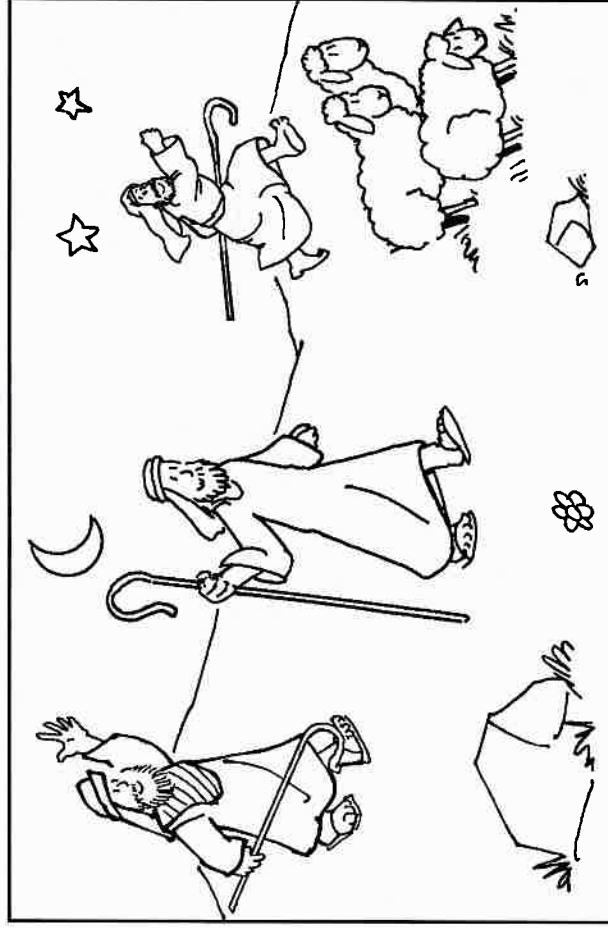


Ages 3+

December 6, 2020 • Luke 2:15-21

The shepherds went home, praising God!

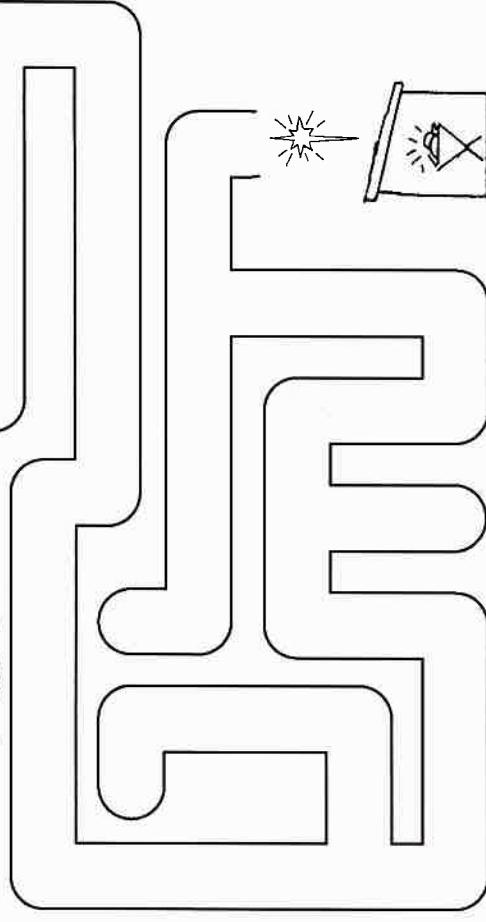
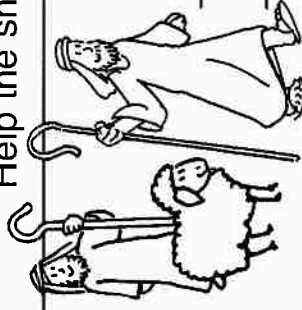
Circle 7 differences in the 2nd picture.



Shepherds Visit Baby Jesus

The shepherds said, "Let's go to Bethlehem to see the baby that the Lord has told us about."

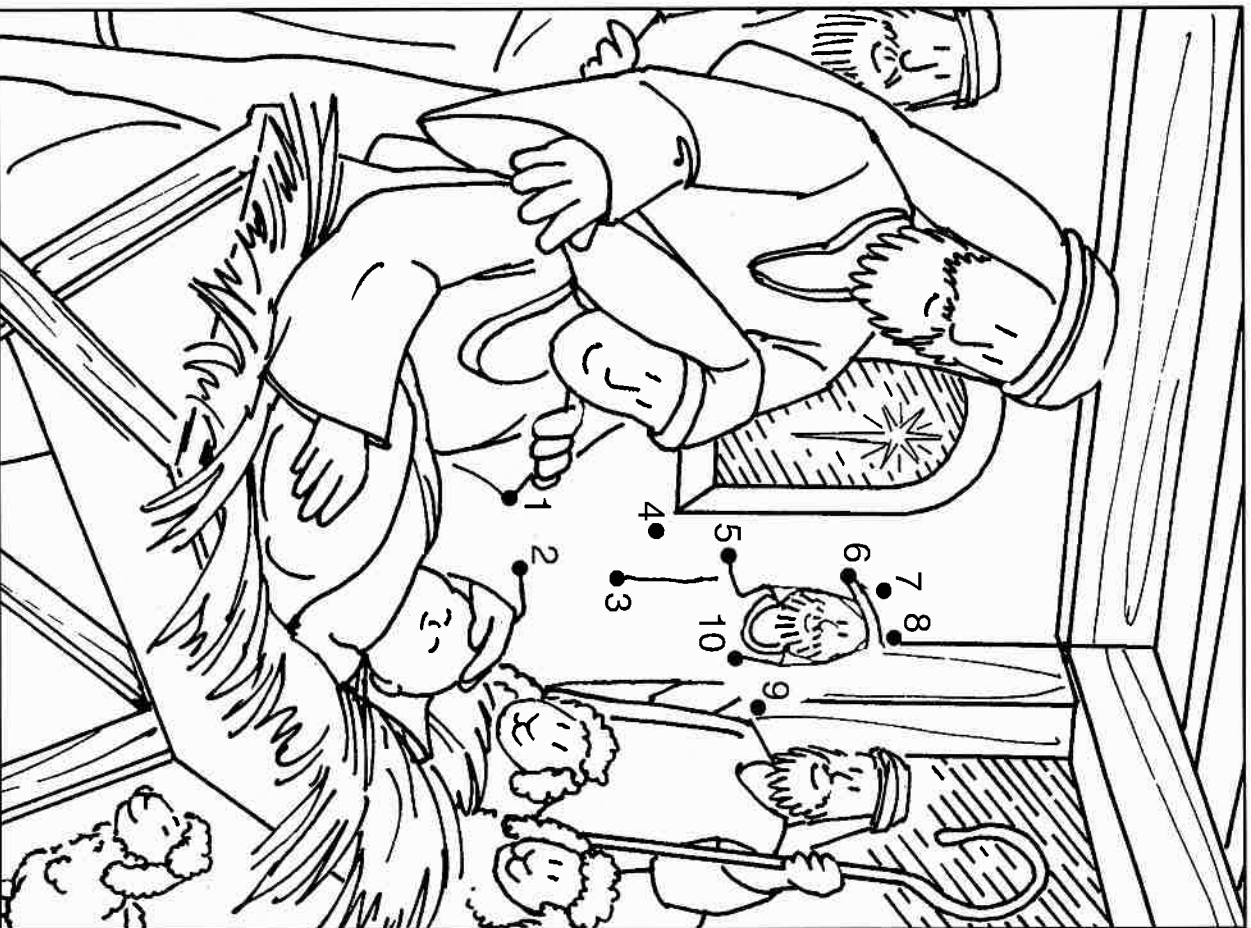
Help the shepherds get to baby Jesus.



Fourteen Holy Helpers
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West Seneca, New York

They found the baby Jesus
lying in a manger.

Connect the dots.
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



The shepherds told everyone what they
had seen. Everyone was amazed!

Use the code below to fill in the missing letters.

 = B

 = H

 = S

 = N

 = R

A

AVIO



A



EE



O



I



ET



LE



EM.



CRACK THE CODE TO FIND THE MESSIAH!



What sign did the angel give the shepherds? The Bible verse below is written in code.
Use the chart at the bottom of the page to fill in the missing letters and break the code!

Hint: Read Luke 2:12 (ESV)



$\frac{A}{5}$ $\frac{14}{3}$ $\frac{21}{7}$ $\frac{12}{15}$ $\frac{S}{22}$ $\frac{W}{12}$ $\frac{26}{26}$ $\frac{2}{24}$ $\frac{E}{5}$ $\frac{A}{15}$ $\frac{S}{12}$ $\frac{8}{14}$ $\frac{6}{4}$ $\frac{20}{20}$

$\frac{23}{23}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ $:$ $\frac{23}{23}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{1}{1}$ $\frac{W}{22}$ $\frac{12}{12}$ $\frac{26}{26}$ $\frac{6}{6}$ $\frac{12}{12}$ $\frac{14}{14}$ $\frac{3}{3}$ $\frac{A}{5}$ $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{A}{5}$ $\frac{2}{2}$ $\frac{23}{23}$

$\frac{W}{22}$ $\frac{A}{20}$ $\frac{5}{5}$ $\frac{16}{16}$ $\frac{E}{24}$ $\frac{3}{3}$ $\frac{12}{12}$ $\frac{14}{14}$ $\frac{S}{15}$ $\frac{W}{22}$ $\frac{A}{5}$ $\frac{3}{3}$ $\frac{3}{3}$ $\frac{26}{26}$ $\frac{12}{12}$ $\frac{14}{14}$ $\frac{8}{8}$ $\frac{18}{18}$ $\frac{26}{26}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{21}{21}$ $\frac{7}{7}$ $\frac{S}{15}$

$\frac{A}{5}$ $\frac{14}{14}$ $\frac{3}{3}$ $\frac{26}{26}$ $\frac{23}{23}$ $\frac{12}{12}$ $\frac{14}{14}$ $\frac{8}{8}$ $\frac{12}{12}$ $\frac{14}{14}$ $\frac{A}{5}$ $\frac{9}{9}$ $\frac{A}{5}$ $\frac{14}{14}$ $\frac{8}{8}$ $\frac{E}{24}$ $\frac{20}{20}$

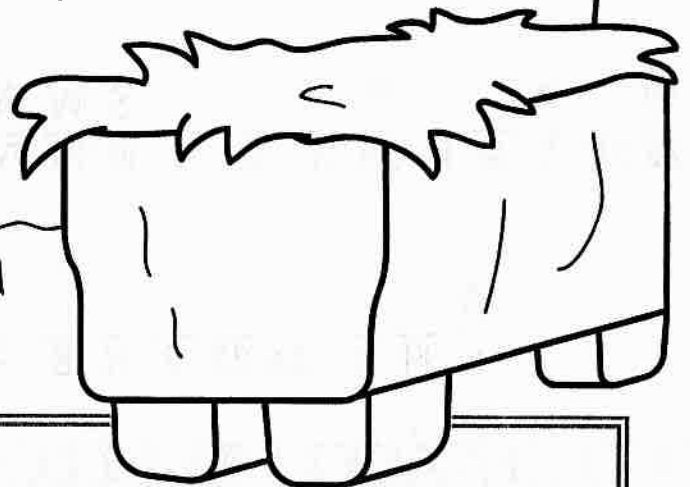


A 5	B	C	D	E 24	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
N	O	P	Q	R	S 15	T	U	V	W 22	X	Y	Z

THE MANGER

Where was the stone manger? In Hebrew peasant homes, it was very common for animals to stay inside with the family at night. This kept the animals safe from thieves and heated the house at the same time. Because of this, mangers were built into the floors of many homes. Anyone familiar with Hebrew culture who read the phrase “she laid him in a manger” would assume the birth took place in a private home where the animals lived alongside the family. The historian Gustaf Dalmann stated, “In the East today the dwelling place of man and animal is often in the same room. It is usual among peasants for the family to live, eat, and sleep on a kind of raised terrace in the one room of the house, while the cattle, particularly the donkeys and oxen, have their place below on the actual floor near the door. On this floor the mangers are fixed either to the floor or to the wall, or at the edge of the terrace.”

Color the
manger



Why did people keep their animals inside with them at night?

What do you think? Was the manger inside a house, or someplace else?



The Meaning of Christmas Decorations

Evergreen Tree

The evergreen tree points to Heaven.
Its needles remain green all year,
a symbol of God's gift of eternal LIFE,
and a reminder of Jesus' living presence.

(1 John 5:11-12)

Stars

Star ornaments and decorations symbolize
the star of Bethlehem. (Matthew 2:1-10)

Angels

Angels announced Jesus' birth to
Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. (Luke 1 & 2)

Lights & Candles

Jesus said He was the "Light of the world." (John 9:5)

Red Decorations

Red symbolizes God's LOVE and
the love of Jesus who died for us on the cross.

(Mark 8:31)

Gold Decorations

Gold symbolizes the Kingship of Jesus.

(Revelations 1:5)

Gifts under Tree

Gifts remind us of the gifts of the Wise Men,
and of the greatest gift of all—Jesus.

(Matthew 2:1-12)



JESUS vs. SANTA

Santa lives at the North Pole...

JESUS is everywhere.

Santa rides in a sleigh...

JESUS rides on the wind and walks on the water.

Santa comes but once a year...

JESUS is an ever present help.

Santa fills your stockings with goodies...

JESUS supplies all your needs.

Santa comes down your chimney uninvited...

JESUS stands at your door and knocks, and then enters your heart when invited.

You have to wait in line to see Santa...

JESUS is as close as the mention of His name.

Santa lets you sit on his lap...

JESUS lets you rest in His arms.

Santa doesn't know your name, all he can say is "Hi little boy or girl, what's your name?"...

JESUS knew our name before we were born. Not only does He know our name, He knows our address too. He knows our history and future and He even knows how many hairs are on our heads.

Santa has a belly like a bowl full of jelly...

JESUS has a heart full of love

All Santa can offer is HO HO HO...

JESUS offers health, help and hope.

Santa says "You better not cry"...

JESUS says "Cast all your cares on me for I care for you."

Santa's little helpers make toys...

JESUS makes new life, mends wounded hearts, repairs broken homes and builds mansions.

Santa may make you chuckle but...

JESUS gives you joy that is your strength.

While Santa puts gifts under your tree...

JESUS became our gift and died on a tree...the cross.

We need to put Christ back in CHRISTmas, Jesus is still the reason for the season.



for untous
a child is
born...
and his
name shall
be called
Wonderful!

Isaiah 9:6

