

Message from an Angel

Mary could hardly believe her eyes! She had thought she was alone as she worked. Then suddenly, there was an angel standing before her! He greeted her and began his message. He told Mary God was with her, and she was the most blessed of all women.

Mary did not understand what this meant. She knew God was always with her, but this sounded different. Was He to be even closer? And to call her blessed! What could this mean? She was still a young lady, and she was afraid.

The angel told her not to be afraid. He said God was very pleased with

her. But the next words he spoke seemed to echo around her.

“Thou shalt . . . bring forth a son . . . He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest. . . .”

Mary knew that this really was an angel sent by God. The message he had brought was amazing, but since it was from God it had to be true. Still, she wondered . . . how could this thing be? How could it possibly be?

The angel had said that her baby would be the Son of God! She loved God, but her family was just ordinary. They had no special place of honor in the city. Surely, if God was going to

send His Son to earth, He would want Him to be born into a royal family. Surely, God would choose a queen to be the mother of His Son. Mary had never had a child before. How could she be trusted to raise God's own Son?

As the angel spoke to her and explained what was to happen, Mary's fear began to go away. If this was what God wanted, she was willing to do her part. God would give her the strength and wisdom she needed.

As she thought about the angel's message, her wonder and amazement grew. A baby boy! She was going to have a tiny baby boy to hold and love and care for. Her son would be God's

Son, Jesus. Then she said, from the bottom of her heart, "I belong to You, God. Whatever You say, I will do."

Soon after that, the angel of the Lord visited Joseph in a dream. He told him that God was going to give Mary a special baby, God's Son. Joseph was to be the baby's earthly father. They were to name the baby Jesus, because He would save His people from their sins.

When Joseph awoke he knew that his dream had been true. He did as the angel had told him to do. Mary and he were soon married. When the baby was born, Joseph called Him Jesus, just as the angel had said he should.

What's the Word?

Circle the correct words to complete each sentence.
Then write those words on the empty lines.

1. God sent an _____ to talk to Mary.
a. angel b. friend c. teacher
2. Mary was _____ when the angel came.
a. too busy b. afraid c. happy
3. The angel told Mary to name the baby _____.
a. John b. Solomon c. Jesus
4. _____ talked to Joseph about the baby.
a. The angel b. The king c. The priest
5. God sent baby Jesus because He loves _____.
a. flowers b. all people c. hamburgers

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

As the Christmas season approaches, begin an ongoing project with your child that reinforces the true meaning of the holiday. A Christmas mural might be one idea. Make a large background of construction paper, and let your child draw and cut out characters to add each week to coincide with the part of the story being studied. Begin this week by drawing the angel who made the announcement to Mary. (The angel can be used in succeeding weeks as one of the heavenly host.)

As you mail out Christmas cards and begin to receive them, share this pleasure with your child. Recall together the message of the angel, and pick out cards which reflect that message and the true meaning of Christmas.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Matthew 1:21
MONDAY: Luke 1:26
TUESDAY: Luke 1:28
WEDNESDAY: Luke 1:30
THURSDAY: Luke 1:35
FRIDAY: Luke 1:38
SATURDAY: Matthew 1:20



Bible Text

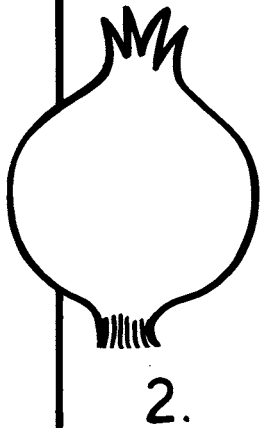
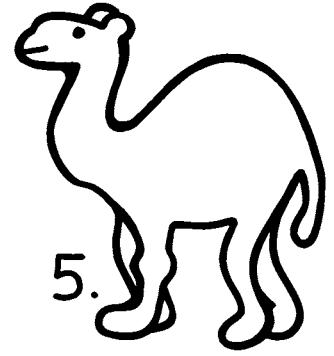
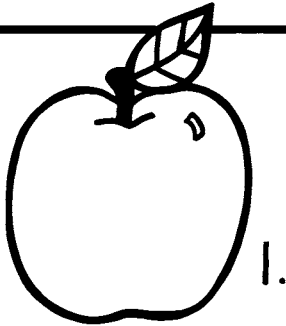
Luke 1:26-38
Matthew 1:18-25

Memory Verse

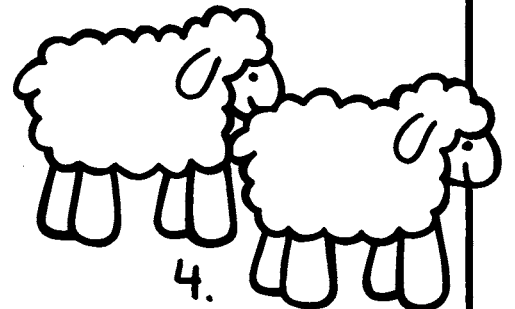
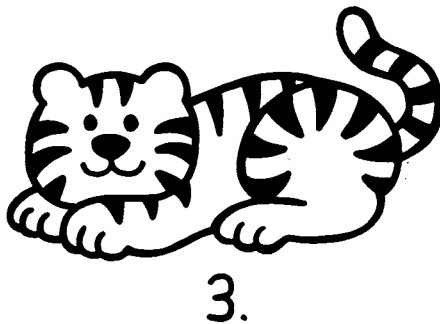
Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. — Matthew 1:21

A Special Messenger

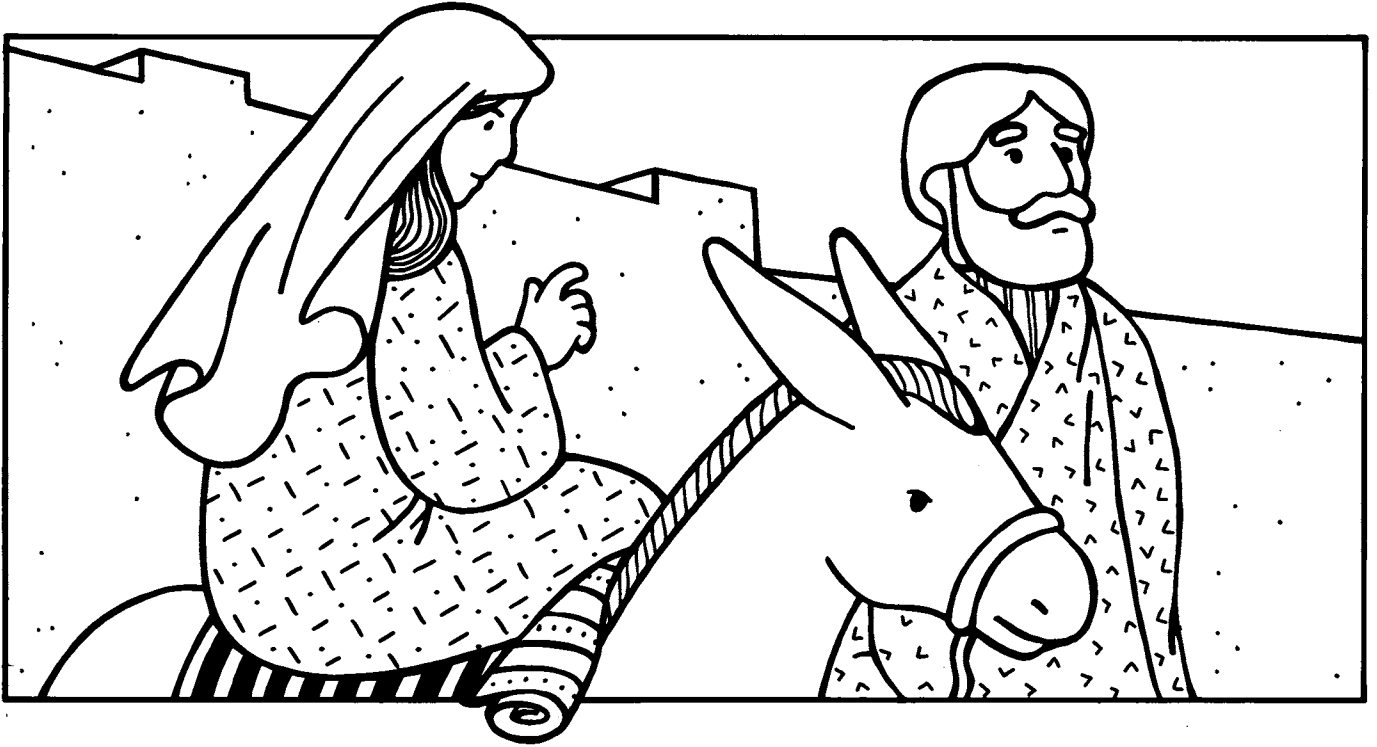
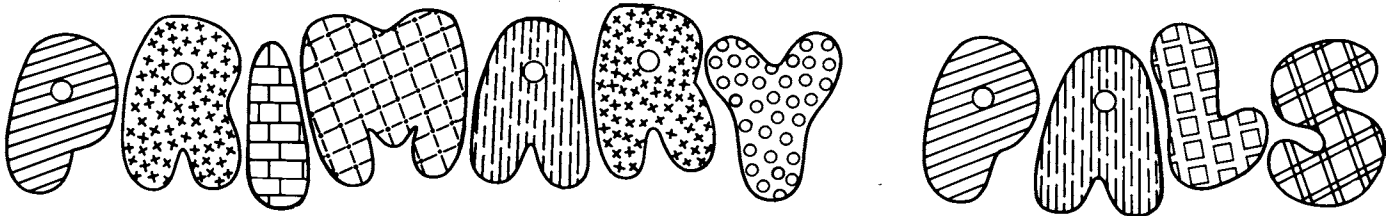
Match the numbers and write the correct words in the squares. Color the starred boxes. You will find a word from today's lesson.



1.	★				
2.		★			
3.			★		
4.				★	
5.					★



Name: _____



A Special Birth

Clip, clop, clip, clop. The dust-covered donkey plodded steadily on, not knowing what a precious burden it carried on its back.

The journey had been long and Mary was very tired. But at last they arrived in Bethlehem. She rested on the donkey as Joseph looked for a place where they could stay. Oh, how good to have the traveling behind them for now and just sit still in the evening air.

“Mary . . .” Joseph gently touched his wife. Her weary eyes opened. “Mary, I have found a place.” His low voice could not hide his relief. “It is true, every inn in all of Bethlehem is

full. But the innkeeper here says we may use the stable in the back.” He gathered up the reins of the donkey.

“It is well, Joseph,” Mary answered him softly.

Something in her voice made Joseph stop. He looked closely at her sweet face. “Mary, is it time?”

She nodded. “Yes, Joseph. The child will soon be born.”

As Joseph led the donkey toward the stable, he thought about the reason they had made this long, hard journey. Caesar had said that everyone had to pay taxes. And to do that, they all had to go back to the city where their

families were from. That meant a lot of people had to travel a long way. But it had to be done. It was an order!

He thought back to the night when, in a dream, the angel had told him that Mary was to be the mother of God's Son, Jesus. Now it was time for this special Child to be born! But would He be born here, in a stable? He thought about these things as he helped Mary off the donkey.

They walked together into the stable. Mary found a comfortable place where she could lie down and rest. The hay smelled fresh and sweet. It felt soft and comforting to her after such a long ride.

Joseph stood looking at his wife, concern showing in his face.

"Do not be afraid, Joseph." Her voice held a note of wonder. "If Jesus is born in this place, then that is part of God's plan. We don't need to worry. God's ways are right."

So, in the still of the night, while the rest of the world was asleep, Baby Jesus was born.

Joseph looked with wonder at the tiny bundle he held in his arms.

The Son of God, he thought. Here in my arms is the living proof of God's love for man! His heart filled with joy as he wrapped the newborn baby and cradled Him gently in the manger.

Hidden Words

Find and circle the words hidden in the puzzle.

A word search puzzle consisting of a 10x10 grid of letters. To the left of the grid is a list of words to find, each with a small circle next to it. The words are: INN, MARY, JESUS, JOSEPH, MANGER, GALILEE, WRAPPED, BETHLEHEM, FIRSTBORN, and SWADDLING. The grid is enclosed in a decorative border with a dotted pattern.

B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	A
S	A	C	M	A	R	Y	C	B	F
F	W	L	K	B	G	F	Y	K	I
Y	R	A	J	C	A	I	K	J	R
J	A	K	D	K	L	A	N	S	S
O	P	B	Y	D	I	B	U	N	T
S	P	C	L	J	L	S	B	C	B
E	E	A	F	B	E	I	J	K	O
P	D	J	K	J	E	F	N	A	R
H	M	A	N	G	E	R	C	G	N

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

Christmas is a time for music, a time for singing about our Savior. Fill your home with the sounds of carols, and take time to make sure your child understands their meanings. Sing together the songs he has been learning for the Sunday school Christmas program.

Help your child make a musical "instrument" that can be jingled to the rhythms of the Christmas carols. Tie jingle bells onto a paper plate with pieces of yarn. Let your child decorate the center of the plate with pictures cut from cards or wrapping paper. Staple or tape a loop of heavy paper to the back for a handle.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Luke 2:7

MONDAY: Luke 2:11

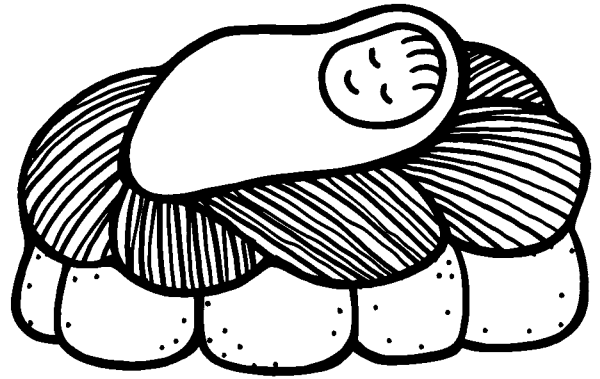
TUESDAY: Micah 5:2

WEDNESDAY: Galatians 4:4,5

THURSDAY: Isaiah 9:6

FRIDAY: Matthew 1:22,23

SATURDAY: Luke 1:32



Bible Text

Luke 2:1-7

Memory Verse

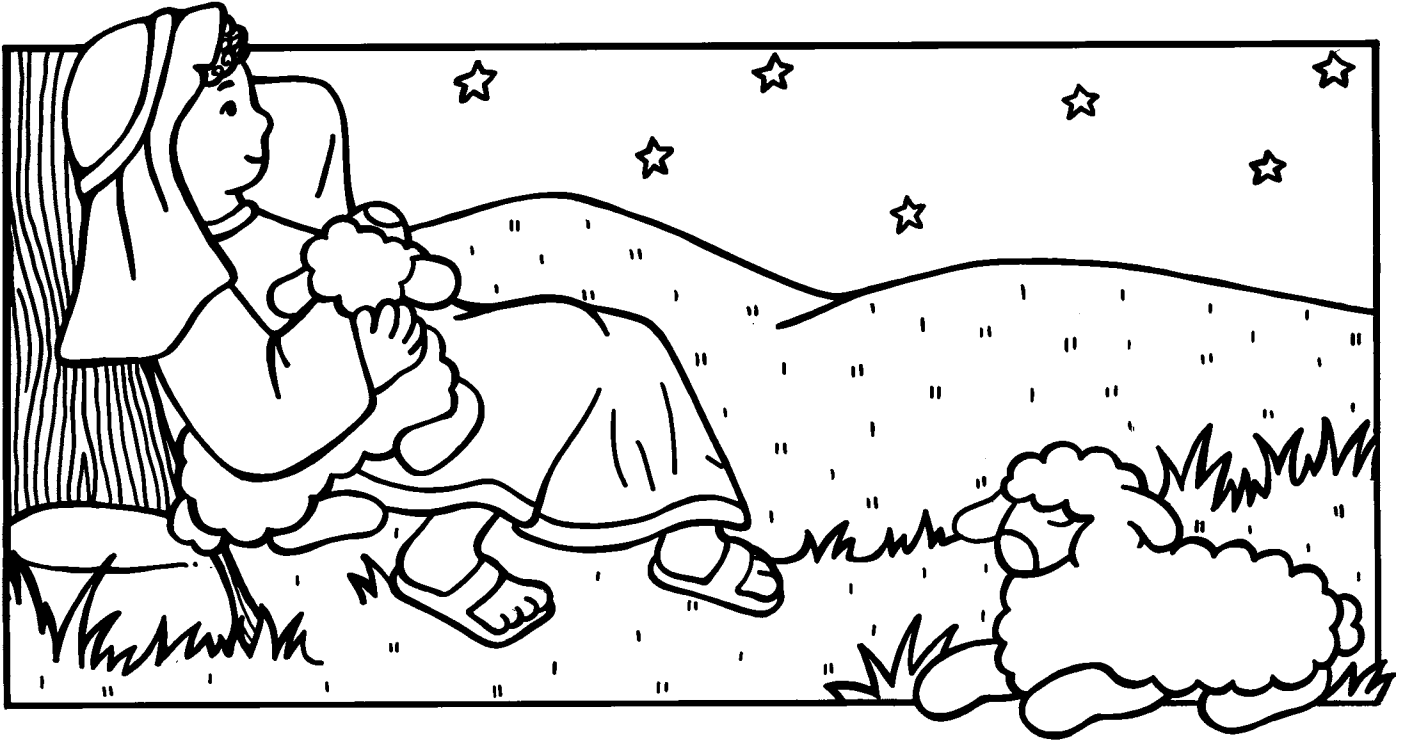
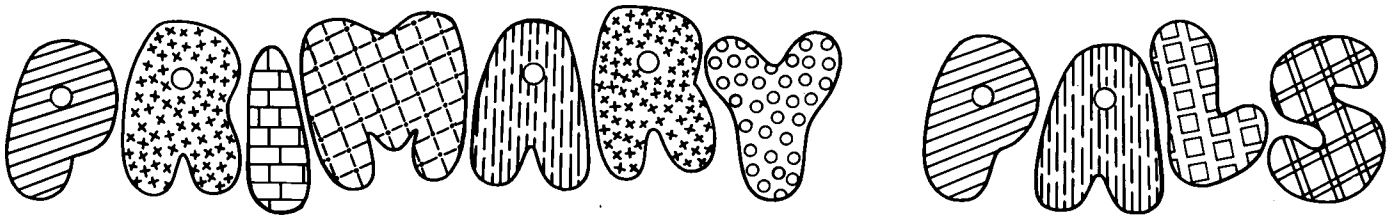
She brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. — Luke 2:7

Her Firstborn Son

Unscramble the letters in the stars to find the three hidden words. Write them on the lines below.

U J S I S O
S N R
E B

Name: _____



A Heavenly Announcement

Look at all the stars! Joel thought to himself as he lay on the quiet Judean hillside. There must be a million of them, he guessed. They looked like tiny lights sparkling in the heavens.

The other shepherds were gathered around a small campfire, quietly talking as their sheep rested contentedly nearby.

Joel closed his eyes. The night was so peaceful. He slept for a few moments; then suddenly became wide awake and sat up instantly!

His heart was pounding so hard he thought it would burst from his body! Could he be dreaming? Just moments ago he had been looking at a sky full of

twinkling stars. And now, the sky above was filled with light.

As he stared in fear, the light shifted and a shining form became clear. Surely this was an angel!

Even as that thought went through Joel's mind, a beautiful voice spoke out, "Fear not!"

Joel's fear left as quickly as it had come. In its place there was a feeling of wonder. God Himself was sending a message to man and he was hearing it!

"Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour . . ."

That city was Bethlehem! That's where I live, thought Joel. He didn't move as the angel went on to tell them

that the baby would be found wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

Suddenly, the whole sky was filled with angels praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." The sound was so beautiful!

As the shepherds listened, their hearts filled with joy. They were excited at the wonderful news they had heard.

Soon the angels were gone, and all was quiet once again. For many moments, Joel and the other shepherds sat in silence. They could hardly believe the things they had just seen and heard.

Then they said to one another, "Let's

go to Bethlehem and find the baby. The angel said we would know it was Him because He would be wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

"Hurry! Let's go!"

"Yes!" Joel said excitedly, "Let's go!"

They headed for Bethlehem and soon found the stable. Quietly they walked inside and knew right away they had found Baby Jesus. There was a man, with a young woman nearby, gazing down into a manger of hay. The shepherds saw the tiny baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, fast asleep.

As they knelt quietly beside the manger, the shepherds worshiped the newborn King. Their Savior had come at last.

Hidden Angels

Can you find the six angels like this



in the picture?



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

Discuss with your child how the shepherds must have felt the night they heard the heavenly choir sing about Christ's birth. Make a paper chain of angels to help him learn this week's memory verse. Accordion pleat a long strip of paper, making eight sections approximately three inches wide. On the top section, draw a simple outline of an angel, making sure wing tips and sides of skirt touch both sides of the folded paper. Help your child cut out the shape, leaving the parts on the fold uncut. When unfolded, write the words of the memory verse on the skirts of the angels.

Help your child hang the strip of angels above a mirror or across the top of a doorway.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Luke 2:10

MONDAY: Luke 2:8

TUESDAY: Luke 2:9

WEDNESDAY: Luke 2:11

THURSDAY: Luke 2:15

FRIDAY: Luke 2:16,17

SATURDAY: Luke 2:20



Bible Text

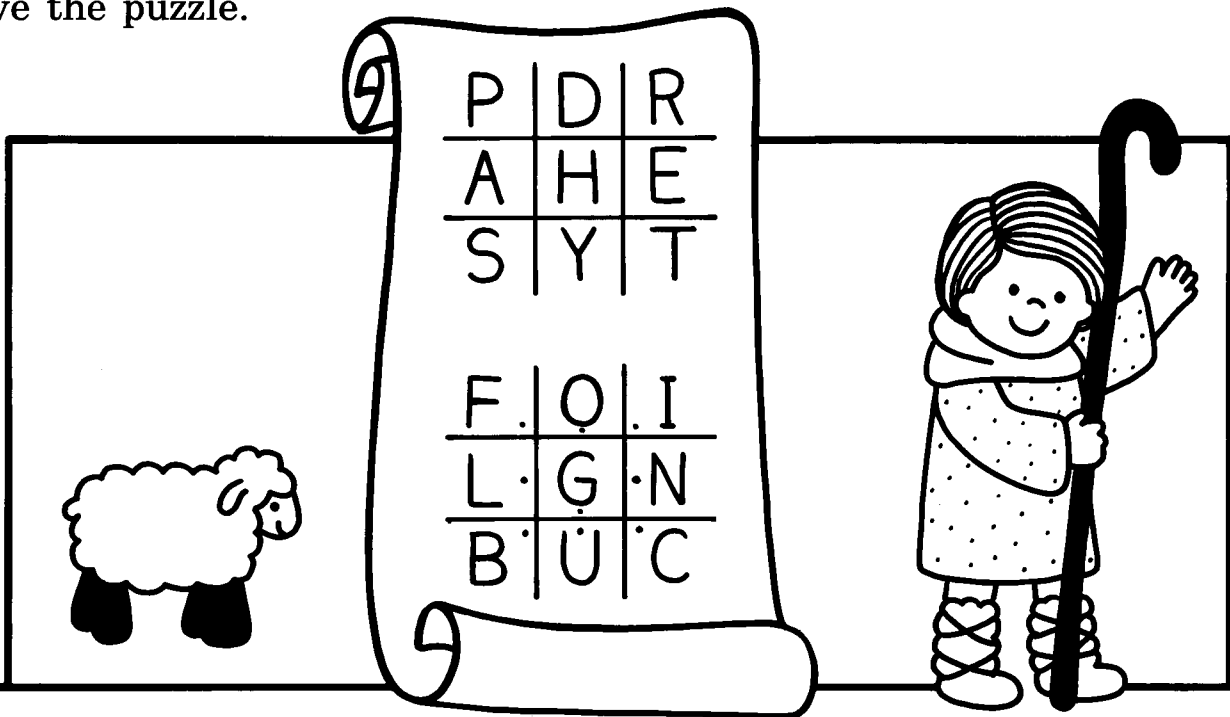
Luke 2:8-20

Memory Verse

Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,
which shall be to all people. — Luke 2:10

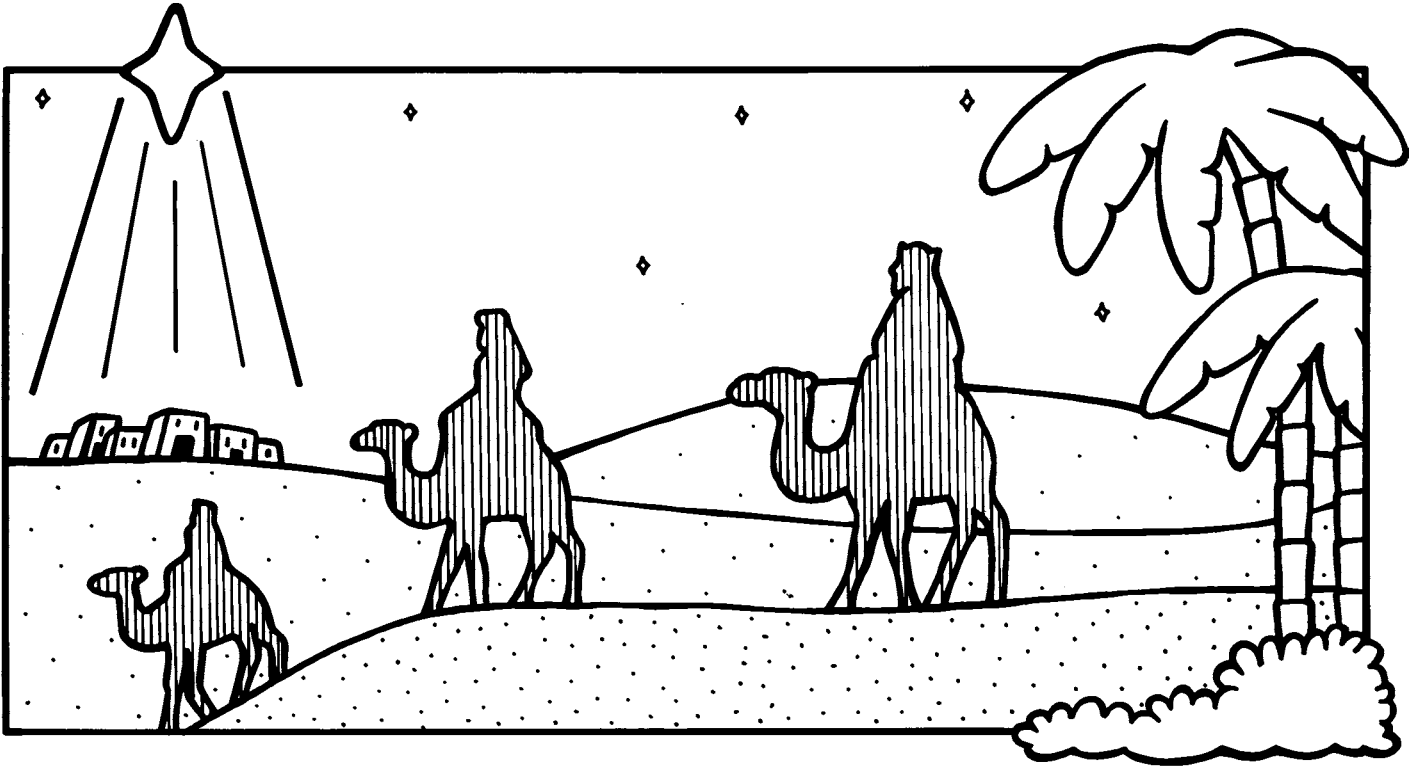
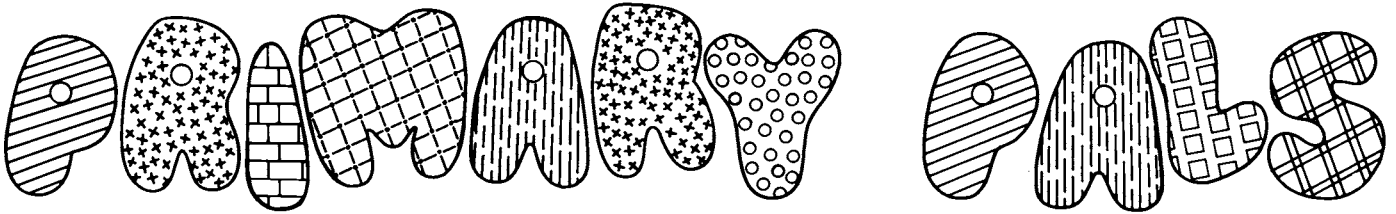
Great Joy

What did the shepherds do after they had seen Jesus? Use the code to solve the puzzle.



J E U T O C
 T O C J O C L U T
 L O T A L E O U
 O O U L L J N L O O
 J E U J L J L T L E O O O U U

Name: _____



Journey's End

The camels plodded majestically over the desert sand and up and down sloping hills. No sand was too hot, no hill too high for the Wise Men riding on the camels' backs. They were determined to find the newborn King. He truly must be a great King because they had seen His special star in the sky. It was beautiful, so brilliant and unlike any they had ever seen before. It seemed like a lantern lighting a dark pathway.

Finally, they told the camels to stop. They had entered the city of Jerusalem. We must be getting close, they thought. A King could easily be born in a city such as this.

They began to ask people where they

could find the child, born to be King of the Jews.

Someone told King Herod about the Wise Men questioning the people. He asked some priests and scribes if they knew where this new King was to be born. They told Herod of the prophecy that said Christ would be born in Bethlehem. Then he called the Wise Men to him and told them to search for the new King in Bethlehem.

So, they started out once again to look for the young child. And, again, the star was leading them.

When they came to the village called Bethlehem the star stopped and shone over a little house.

That was a surprise! No castle? No

royal palace? Still, this is where the star had led them. They climbed off their camels, carefully unpacked their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and went to knock on the door.

Joseph and Mary, inside the house, had no idea they were about to be visited by such great men. Joseph heard the knocking and opened the door. And there stood some of the most important looking men he had ever seen. Their clothing showed that they were rich. He knew they must be very great. Mary stood back and held Jesus in her arms, wondering what this was all about.

“Forgive us for disturbing you,” the men said to Joseph, “but is there a

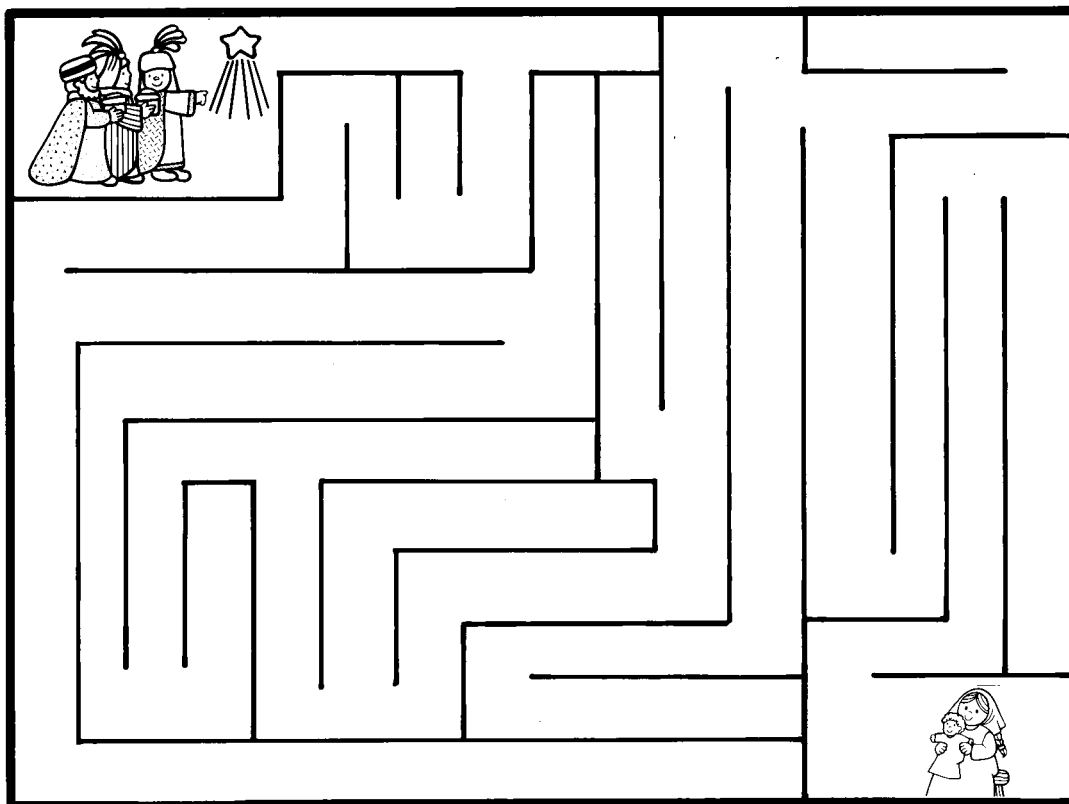
young child living here? We have been following a special star to find the child, born King of the Jews! The star is no longer moving so we think we must have found the place where He lives.”

Joseph did not seem to find the Wise Men’s words strange. He glanced at the gifts they held in their hands. Then he looked at their faces. “Yes, Jesus lives here,” he said as he opened the door wide and motioned for them to enter.

Then they saw Jesus in His mother’s arms. And, as they knelt to worship God’s Son, they knew that every long and weary mile of the journey had been rewarded!

Follow the Star

Follow through the maze to help the Wise Men find Baby Jesus.



Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

This week, direct your child's attention to the stars. If there is a clear night, bundle up and go out to view the many stars in the sky. Look at pictures of stars in books or an encyclopedia. Count how many stars you can find on the Christmas cards you have received. Do you put a star on your Christmas tree or wrap gifts in paper decorated with stars? Relate all of these to the miracle star followed by the Wise Men.

Cut out a large star, and on each point print one of the following references: Matthew 2:1,2; Luke 1:28; Luke 2:7; Luke 2:8; Luke 2:13. Stick a tack or pin through the middle of the star. Let your child spin the star, then draw a picture of the scene represented by the point that stops closest to him.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Matthew 2:10

MONDAY: Matthew 2:1,2

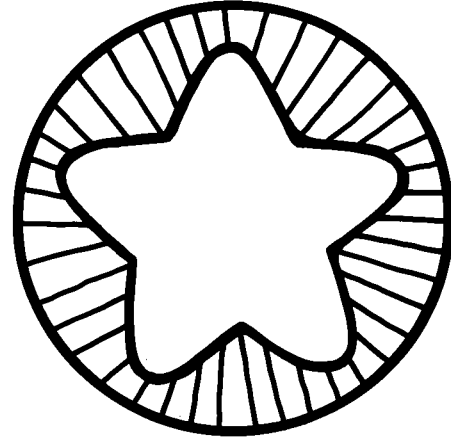
TUESDAY: Matthew 2:6

WEDNESDAY: Matthew 2:9

THURSDAY: Matthew 2:11

FRIDAY: Psalm 95:6

SATURDAY: Matthew 2:12



Bible Text

Matthew 2:1-12

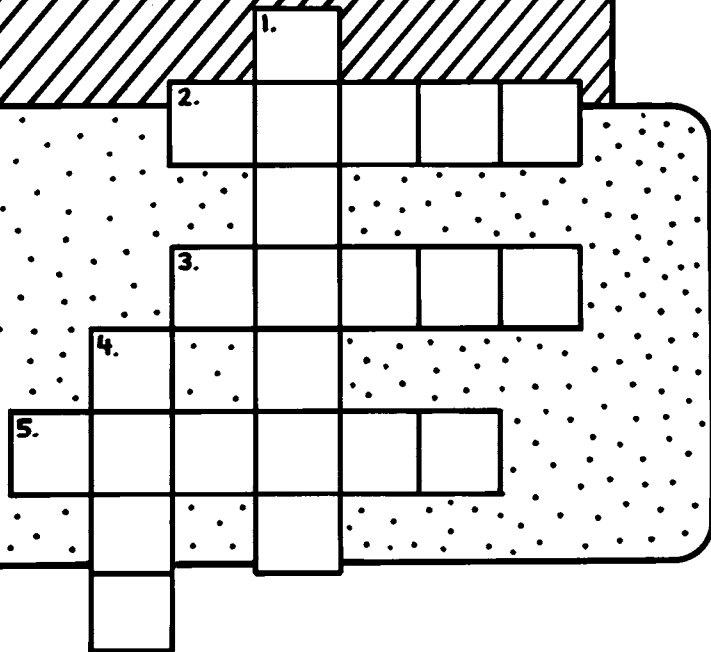
Memory Verse

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. — Matthew 2:10

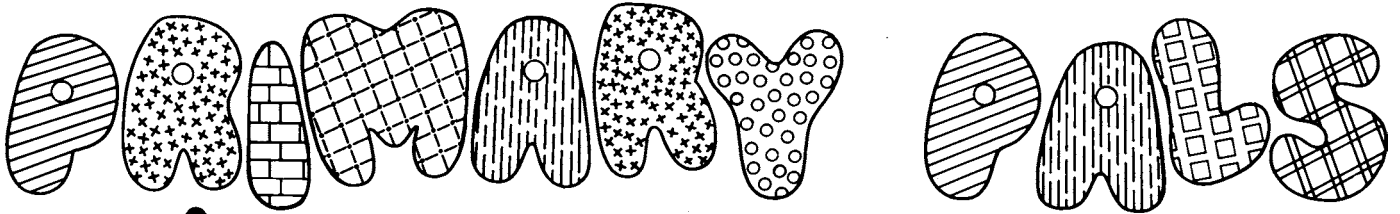
To Find the Newborn King

Fill in the missing words in the sentences. Then, write the words into the crossword puzzle.

1. The _____ were led by a star.
a. teachers b. Wise Men c. neighbors
2. They brought _____ to the baby.
a. toys b. blankets c. gifts
3. The baby's name was _____ .
a. Jesus b. Paul c. Moses
4. The Wise Men came from the _____ .
a. south b. east c. north
5. They rode on _____ .
a. horses b. bikes c. camels



Name: _____



God Protects His Child

Pure gold! Wonderful-smelling frankincense and myrrh! What precious gifts the Wise Men had brought. Yes, it had really happened! Wise Men from the east had been in their home. Now, it was all over. The Wise Men were on their way home. These treasures and memories were the only things left to remind Joseph and Mary of that special visit.

The little family was tired from the excitement of the day. They settled down for a good night's rest.

Joseph awoke suddenly. He rubbed his eyes. Just moments ago an angel had visited Joseph in a dream. The message he gave was urgent. Joseph thought, There is no time to lose!

Quickly he lit the oil lamp and shook Mary from her sleep.

"Mary!" he whispered. "An angel came with a message from God. We must leave this city of Bethlehem right away. King Herod is going to try to kill our little Jesus."

Startled, Mary sat up. Her eyes were filled with fear. "Joseph, what can we do? Where can we go?"

"The angel said we must go to Egypt," Joseph replied. "We are to stay there until the angel brings us word that it is safe to return."

Mary quickly folded the covers from the bed and began gathering their few belongings.

Joseph helped her to wrap carefully

the gifts that they had received from the Wise Men. He thought of God's wonderful care. God knew they would need money for the journey and their stay in Egypt. How wonderfully He had provided—even ahead of time!

Walking to the open doorway, he looked out into the still night. Everything was quiet in the streets. No one would see them leave. Joseph did not know what would happen to them on this journey, but he was not afraid. God had always been very near to them.

Mary came to Joseph's side with the sleeping child in her arms. They were ready to go. Together they walked to

the donkey, and Mary once again settled herself on its back. She thought about the journey from Nazareth before Jesus was born.

Joseph gently laid Jesus into Mary's arms. Like the star guiding the Wise Men, God led the little family until, at last, they reached Egypt.

After they had lived in Egypt for a while, the angel visited them again. This time it was with the good news that it was safe for them to return to Israel. The wicked King Herod had died.

When they reached the land of Israel they went to live in the city of Nazareth. How happy they were to be home once again!

Hidden Words

Find and circle the words hidden in the puzzle.

F	B	D	C	H	I	L	D		
K	L	R	F	G	U	A	K		
E	U	E	C	O	B	N	C		
G	J	A	E	D	F	G	A		
Y	K	M	O	T	H	E	R		
P	C	F	J	U	K	L	I		
T	B	N	I	G	H	T	S		
J	O	S	E	P	H	B	E		

GOD CHILD NIGHT
 ANGEL DREAM JOSEPH
 ARISE EGYPT MOTHER

Preparing for This Bible Lesson

Parent's Corner

Set up a game with your child to illustrate the importance of listening to God and trusting Him to care for us. Pick out several objects which will stand for danger—a wastebasket, chair, pillow, etc. Blindfold your child and explain that you are going to place these objects at various places around the room. Then you will direct him verbally through the room, helping him not to touch any of the “danger spots.”

Talk about how you had to keep your eyes on him as you gave directions, and liken this to God’s watching over us at all times. Then discuss why it is important for your child to listen and obey.

Time Together for Family Devotions

Verses to help your child understand this Bible lesson.

SUNDAY: Matthew 2:13

MONDAY: Psalm 91:11

TUESDAY: Psalm 34:7

WEDNESDAY: Matthew 18:10

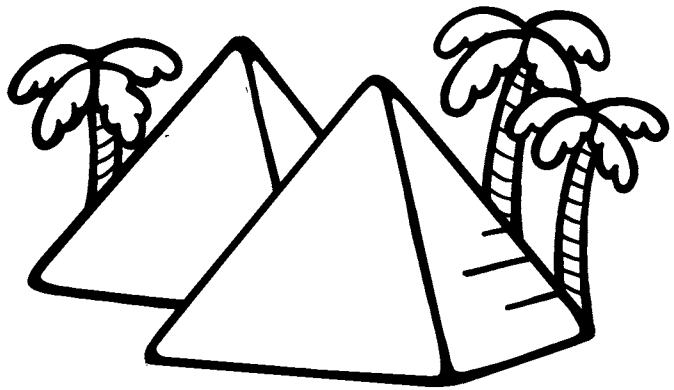
THURSDAY: Luke 12:7

FRIDAY: Psalm 91:4

SATURDAY: Psalm 125:2

Bible Text

Matthew 2:13-23















Memory Verse

Arise, and take the young child and his mother,
and flee into Egypt. — Matthew 2:13

A Long Journey

Circle the correct pictures to complete the story.

God sent an   to Joseph. God said King Herod was  . King Herod wanted to kill all the  . Joseph was to take his   and   away. They went to  . They stayed there until God said it was safe to return. **NO** **YES**

Name: _____