

# The Road to Bethlehem

Dec. 24

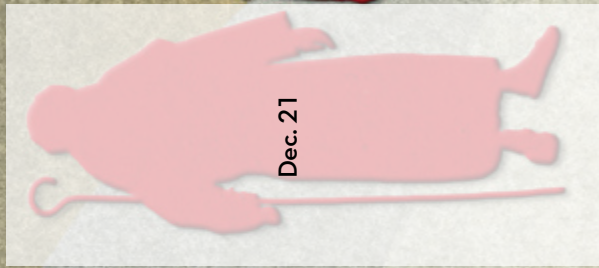
Dec. 20

Dec. 22

Dec. 19

Dec. 23





Dec. 21



Find the  
cutouts on  
page 47.

Dec. 14



Dec. 15



Dec. 17



Dec. 16



Dec. 18

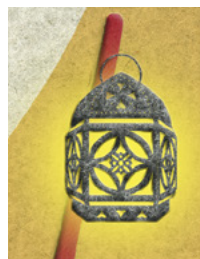




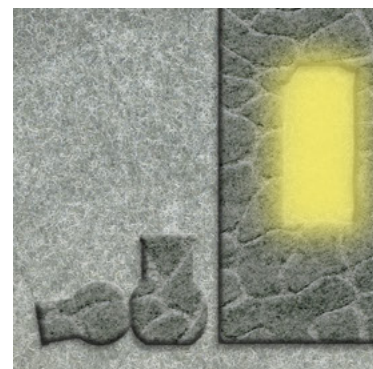
# The Road to Bethlehem



Dec. 23



Dec. 14



Dec. 19



Dec. 17

*Cut out and paste  
these figures on the  
advent calendar on  
pages 24–25.*



Dec. 22



Dec. 24



Dec. 20



Dec. 21



Dec. 18



Dec. 15



Dec. 16



# The Road to Bethlehem

DECEMBER  
14

By Jennifer Maddy

**T**his Christmas season take a journey on “The Road to Bethlehem.” Along the way you’ll meet Mary, Joseph, and others from the Christmas story. Start on December 14th. Read each page, cut out the picture from page 47 that goes with it, and tape or glue it to the nativity scene on pages 24–25. Turn the page to get started!



## SHARE THE LIGHT

This lantern will help light the way on your journey to Bethlehem. Just like a lantern, the Light of Christ helps show the way on your pathway through life. As you learn about the Savior’s birth, His Light will grow in you. Let it shine this Christmas season! Who can you share His Light with?



# The Way to Bethlehem

DECEMBER

15

Gently ♩ = 112-120

Words by Jan Pinborough  
Music by Rachel P. Mohlman

C F C G7 C F C G7 C

1. Shep-herds, shep-herds,  
2. Wise Men, look up  
3. See how Mar-y

F C Am F G7 C F C

leave your lambs And find the way to Beth-le-hem, For the Ba-by sleep-ing there  
to the sky For one bright star to trav-el by. Bring your gold and prec-ious things.  
holds her Son, Je-sus Christ, the Ho-ly One. Jo-seph guards with ten-der care.

Am G7 C F C C7 F G7

Is your Sav-ior good and fair.  
Kneel be-fore the King of kings.  
Peace and glad-ness fill the air. Stars and an-gels

Em Am F C G7 1,2. C 3. Am Em

shine His light. Find the way to Beth-le-hem to-night. night.

F C Dm7 C G7 C F C

Find your way this ho-ly Christ-mas night.

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# Mary

*“And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a **virgin**—espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary” (Luke 1:26-27).*

a virtuous  
young woman

**M**ary was a **righteous** young woman who lived long ago in a city called Nazareth. She was preparing to marry a good man named Joseph when, one day, the angel Gabriel appeared to her. The angel told Mary that she was blessed and **highly favored** of God. Then he told her that a wonderful thing would happen—she would have a baby who would be the Son of God! Mary was confused, but the angel told her to not fear and to have faith.

following  
God and  
having faith  
in Him

chosen because  
of obedience

Mary had faith. She believed the angel, and she believed in God. Her baby would be named Jesus.

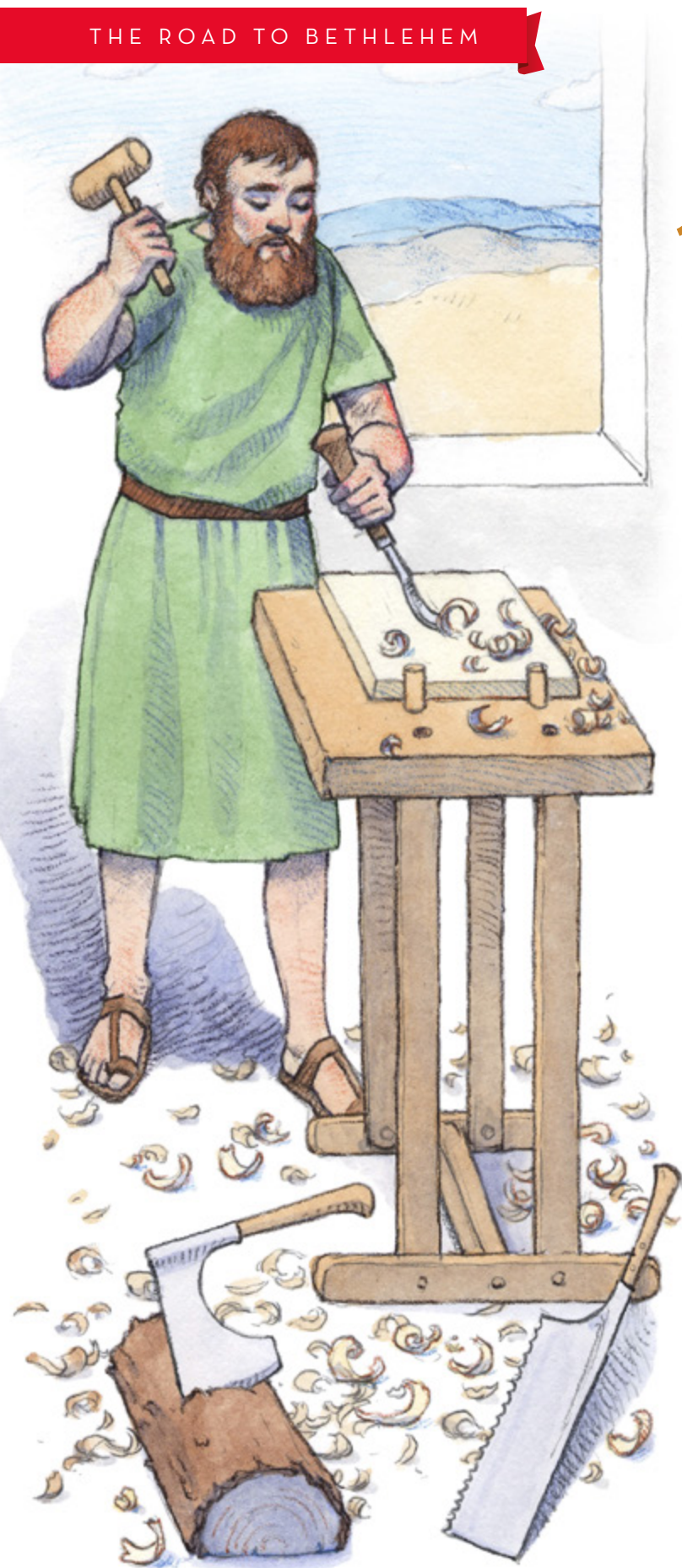


## SHARE THE LIGHT

Even though Mary was probably worried by what the angel told her, she had the faith to accept God’s will. She said, “My spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour” (Luke 1:47). Have you ever been afraid because you thought something was too hard to do? Remember, God loves you and will help you! To read more about the angel’s visit to Mary, read [Luke 1:26-38](#).







# Joseph

*"Behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife" (Matthew 1:20).*

Joseph was a good man. He was a **carpenter**. He worked hard. Soon he was going to be married to a young woman named Mary.

a person who  
builds things

But before the wedding, Joseph found out that Mary was going to have a baby. He was worried. People would be shocked because he and Mary weren't married yet. And the law said that Mary could be punished. Joseph didn't want that to happen. He was a **just** man.

does what is  
fair and right

As Joseph thought about what to do, an angel came to him. The angel told him not to be afraid to have Mary be his wife. Joseph was amazed to hear that Mary's baby would become the Savior of the world.

Joseph knew Mary's baby would need a good father on earth. He trusted the angel. He knew everything would be all right.



## SHARE THE LIGHT

Joseph might have worried about what people would think about Mary. Sometimes you might worry about what people think or say about you. But what matters most are the things you say and think about others, and how you treat them. Try to be like Joseph and treat others the way Heavenly Father wants you to—with love and kindness. To read more about Joseph, read [Matthew 1:18-24](#).



# The Journey

*"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. . . and all went to be taxed, every one into his own city" (Luke 2:1, 3).*

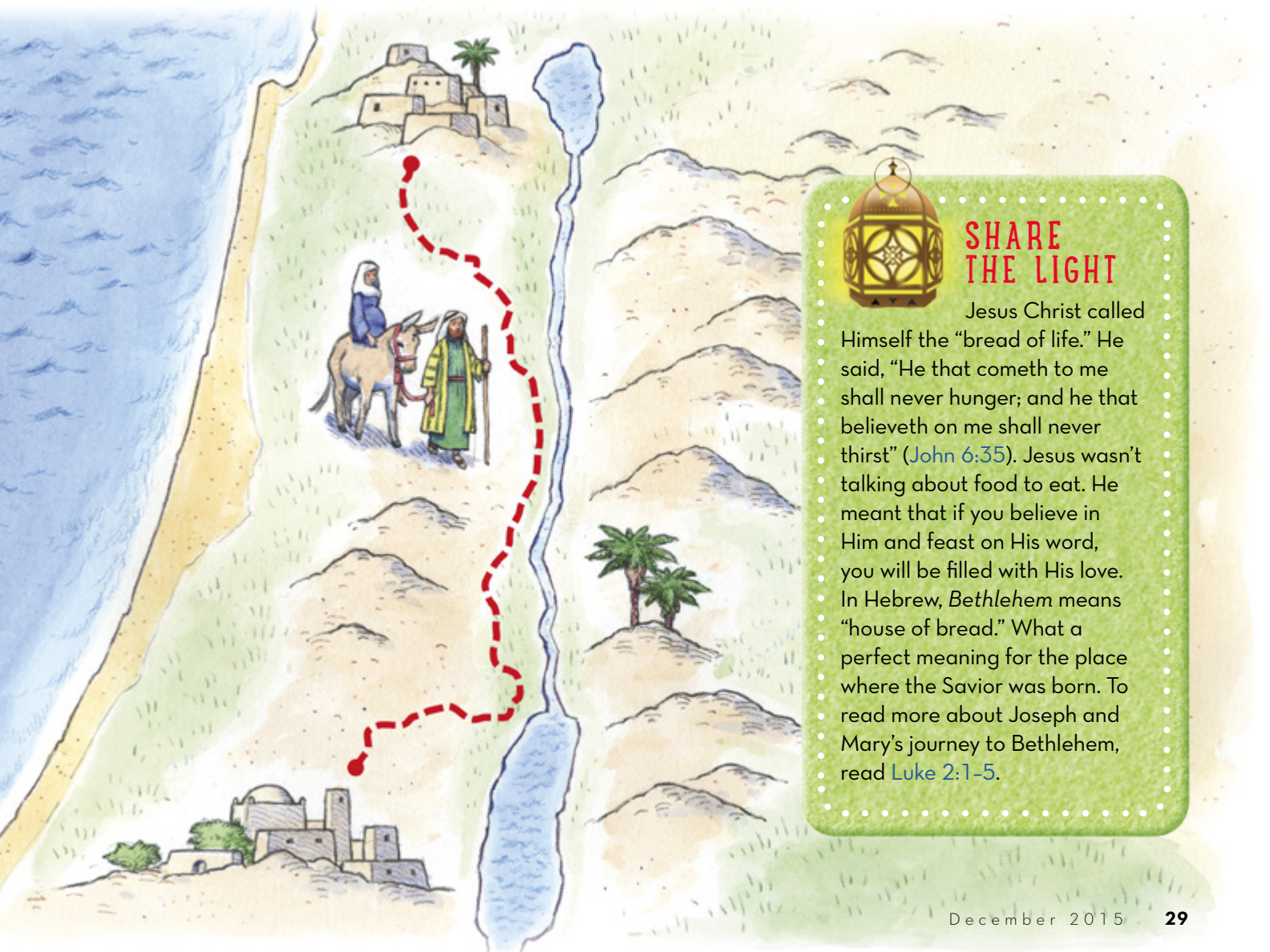
Joseph and Mary lived in the city of Nazareth. The ruler of the land made a **decree**. He said that everyone needed to be counted in a **census**. To be counted, the people had to go to the city where their ancestors were from. Joseph's ancestors were from a town called Bethlehem.

a royal order

counting the  
number of people

It was almost time for Mary to have her baby when she and Joseph prepared for the trip. Bethlehem was 70–80 miles (112–128 km) from Nazareth. It usually took four or five days to make the journey, but it might have taken Joseph and Mary longer so Mary could rest along the way.

After a long and tiring journey, Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem.



## SHARE THE LIGHT

Jesus Christ called Himself the "bread of life." He said, "He that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst" ([John 6:35](#)). Jesus wasn't talking about food to eat. He meant that if you believe in Him and feast on His word, you will be filled with His love. In Hebrew, *Bethlehem* means "house of bread." What a perfect meaning for the place where the Savior was born. To read more about Joseph and Mary's journey to Bethlehem, read [Luke 2:1-5](#).



# The Inn

*“And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And . . . there was no room for them in the inn” (Luke 2:6–7).*

Noise echoed through the narrow streets of Bethlehem. Coins jangled as people shopped for food and supplies. Animals **bleated** and **brayed** as their owners led them along. Bethlehem was crowded! Many people had come to be counted for the census.

Some travelers stayed with relatives. Many travelers stayed at inns and guest rooms. These places had open areas that everyone shared. But they would not be the best place for a baby to be born. Besides, they were all full of people. There was no room for Mary and Joseph.

It was time for Mary to have her baby. Where could the baby be born?

the sound of sheep  
and donkeys

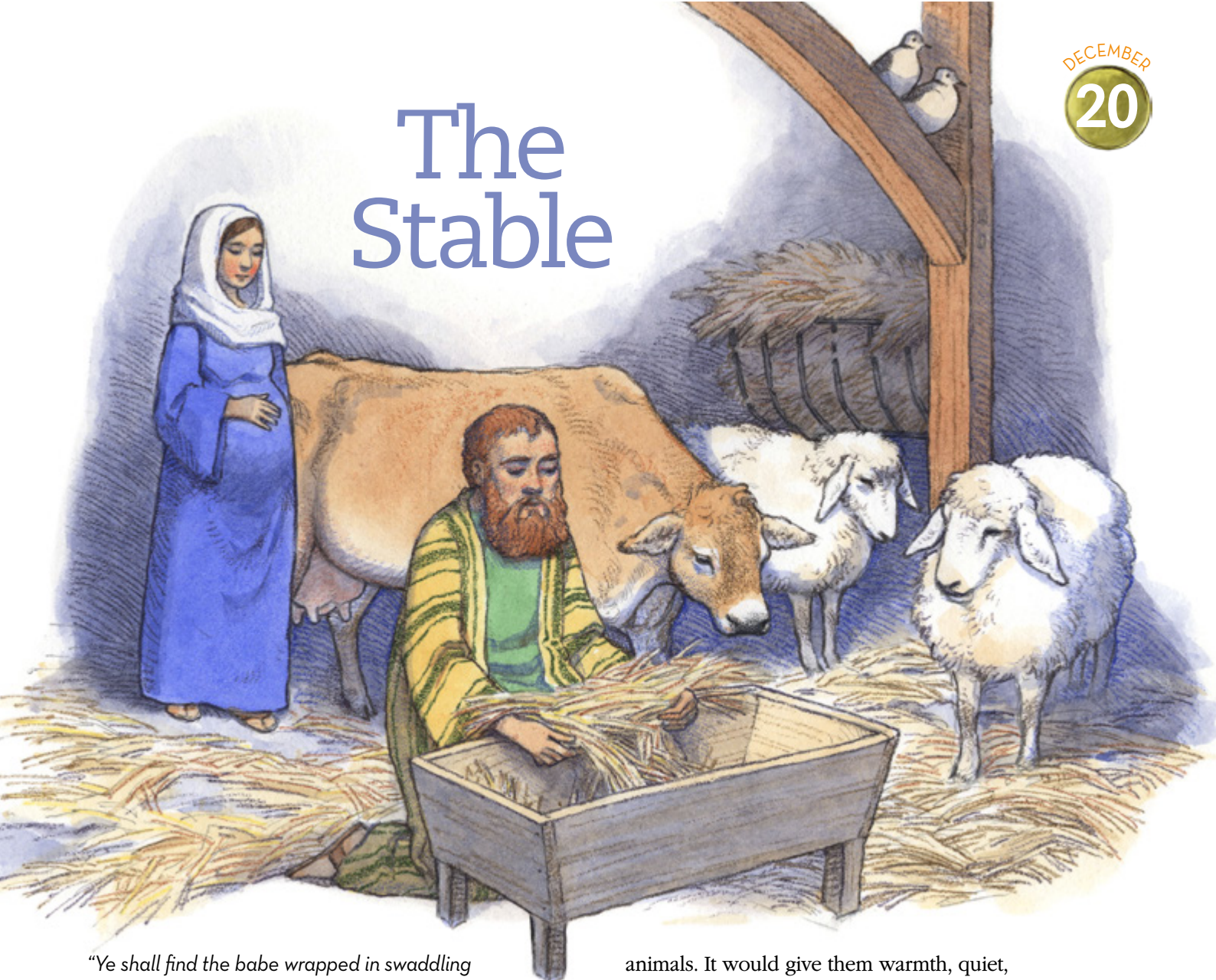


## SHARE THE LIGHT

There are so many things that keep you busy—school, family time, sports, and music or dance lessons! Sometimes there doesn't seem to be enough time in the day to do everything. The inn was so crowded that there wasn't room inside for Jesus to be born. How can you make room in your day to feel close to Christ? Study the scriptures, pray, and serve others. Jesus Christ will always make room for you!



# The Stable



*“Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger” (Luke 2:12).*

The stable was warm and quiet. A cow twitched its tail, shooing away a bug. A bell around a sheep’s neck jingled softly. A donkey—perhaps Joseph’s—watched bright-eyed as Joseph helped Mary get comfortable. The animals around them added warmth to the cool night.

People in Bethlehem often brought their animals into a front room to help heat the house. An inn might have had a bigger area to keep the travelers’ animals in. On this night in Bethlehem, all of the rooms for travelers were full. Someone suggested that Joseph and Mary could stay in the area with the

animals. It would give them warmth, quiet, and privacy.

Joseph filled a **manger** with clean, soft hay. Everything was ready for a special baby to be born.

a feed box  
for animals



## SHARE THE LIGHT

In some parts of the world, Christmas comes when it’s cold. Then people keep warm with blankets, sweaters, and hot cocoa! But what keeps you warm *inside*? Maybe it’s feeling your family’s love, or singing a favorite Primary song, or feeling the Holy Ghost. Knowing that Heavenly Father and Jesus love you will help keep your spirit warm on the coldest night. How can you help others feel this love too?



# The Shepherds

*"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night" (Luke 2:8).*

The shepherds waited and watched. Their **flocks** were nearby, grazing or dozing in the night. But the shepherds didn't sleep. They had an important job. They took care of their sheep and made sure the animals had food and water. They also kept the sheep safe. A shepherd always had to be wide awake and watching for danger.

groups of sheep  
and lambs

Then the shepherds saw something that frightened them, but it wasn't a thief or a wolf. It was an angel! The angel told them not to be afraid. He had wonderful news for them. Jesus Christ, the Savior, had been born! The angel told the shepherds they would find the baby lying in a manger in the city of Bethlehem. Suddenly the sky was filled with angels singing and praising God. What an amazing sight!

The shepherds didn't wait. They hurried to Bethlehem to see the baby Jesus.



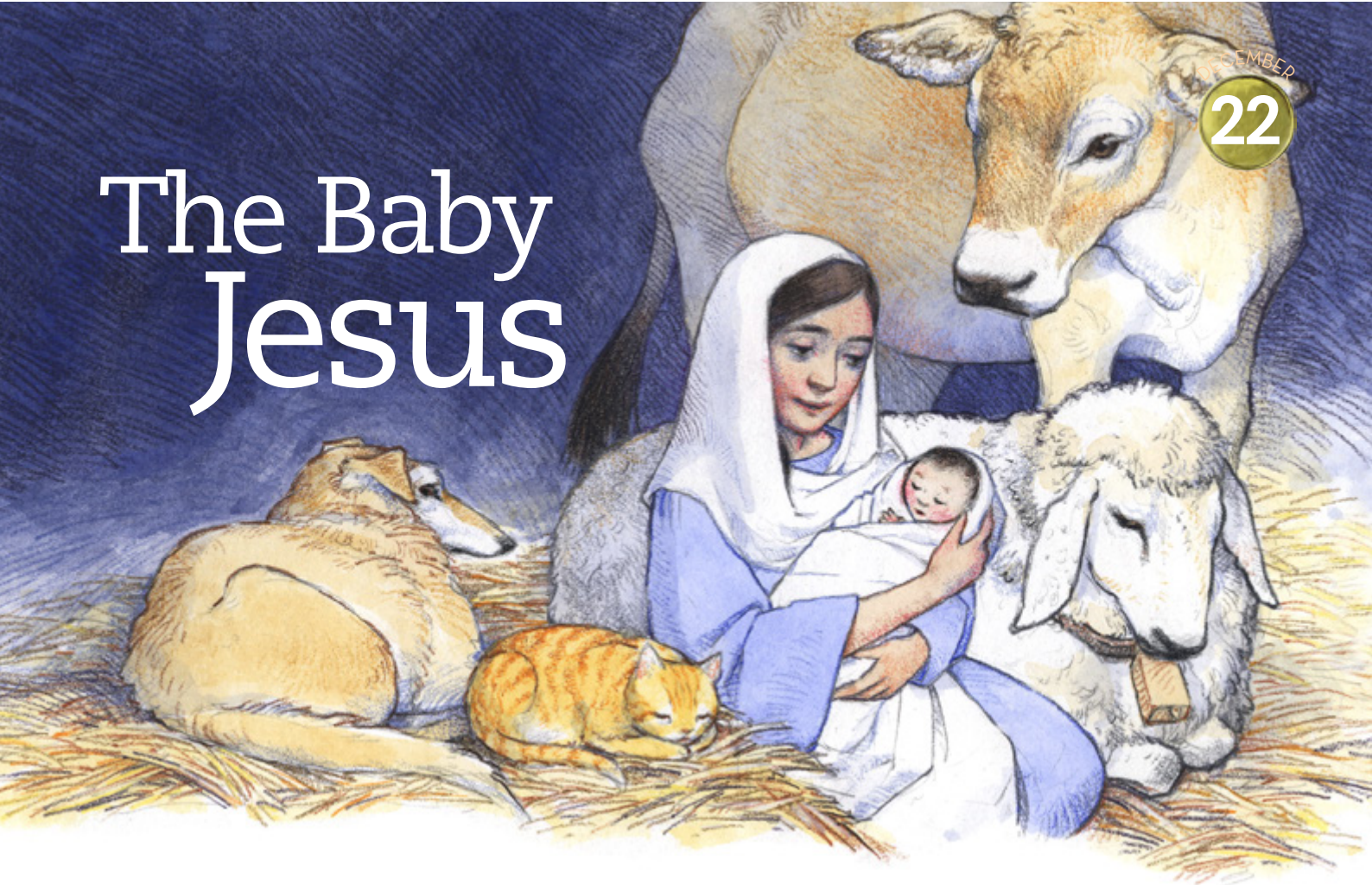
## SHARE THE LIGHT

Sheep learn to trust their shepherd, and they go to him when he calls. Each sheep is important to its shepherd. Jesus Christ called Himself the Good Shepherd. You are a sheep in His flock, and He loves you and wants to bless and protect you. Have you ever noticed that a candy cane is the same shape as a shepherd's crook? When you see candy canes this Christmas, think about how Jesus is the Good Shepherd. What can you do to follow Him? To read more about the shepherds, read [Luke 2:8-18](#).





# The Baby Jesus



*"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger" (Luke 2:7).*

**T**he baby cried out softly, and His mother, Mary, held Him close. She kissed His cheek and hummed a sweet song. The sleepy baby closed His eyes. Joseph and Mary watched the baby sleep, amazed at the miracle that He was. Months earlier an angel had told them that Mary's baby would be Jesus Christ—the Son of God. And now, here He was, a tiny baby asleep in Mary's arms.

Mary had wrapped baby Jesus in **swaddling clothes** to keep him warm and safe. Now she placed Him in the manger so she could rest.

strips of cloth wrapped snugly around a baby



## SHARE THE LIGHT

The prophet Isaiah said, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given" (Isaiah 9:6). Isaiah didn't say, "unto Mary and Joseph" or "unto the people in Bethlehem." He said, "unto us." Jesus Christ was born to bless everyone. He was born to bless you. What does this mean to you?

When you see a Nativity scene this Christmas, look at the baby in the manger and remember that He was born for you. To read about the Savior's birth, read [Luke 2:6-19](#) or see page 35.

Hundreds of years before this night, prophets of God had written of the birth of Jesus Christ. The prophet Isaiah called Jesus "Wonderful, **Counsellor**, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). All of those important names describe the Savior. But on this night in Bethlehem, He was also a baby boy, loved by His mother and father.

someone who gives advice or guidance



# The Wise Men

*"There came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him" (Matthew 2:1-2).*

One star shone more brightly than the rest, and the Wise Men followed it like a compass. They had been watching for the star, and they knew it would lead them to a new king.

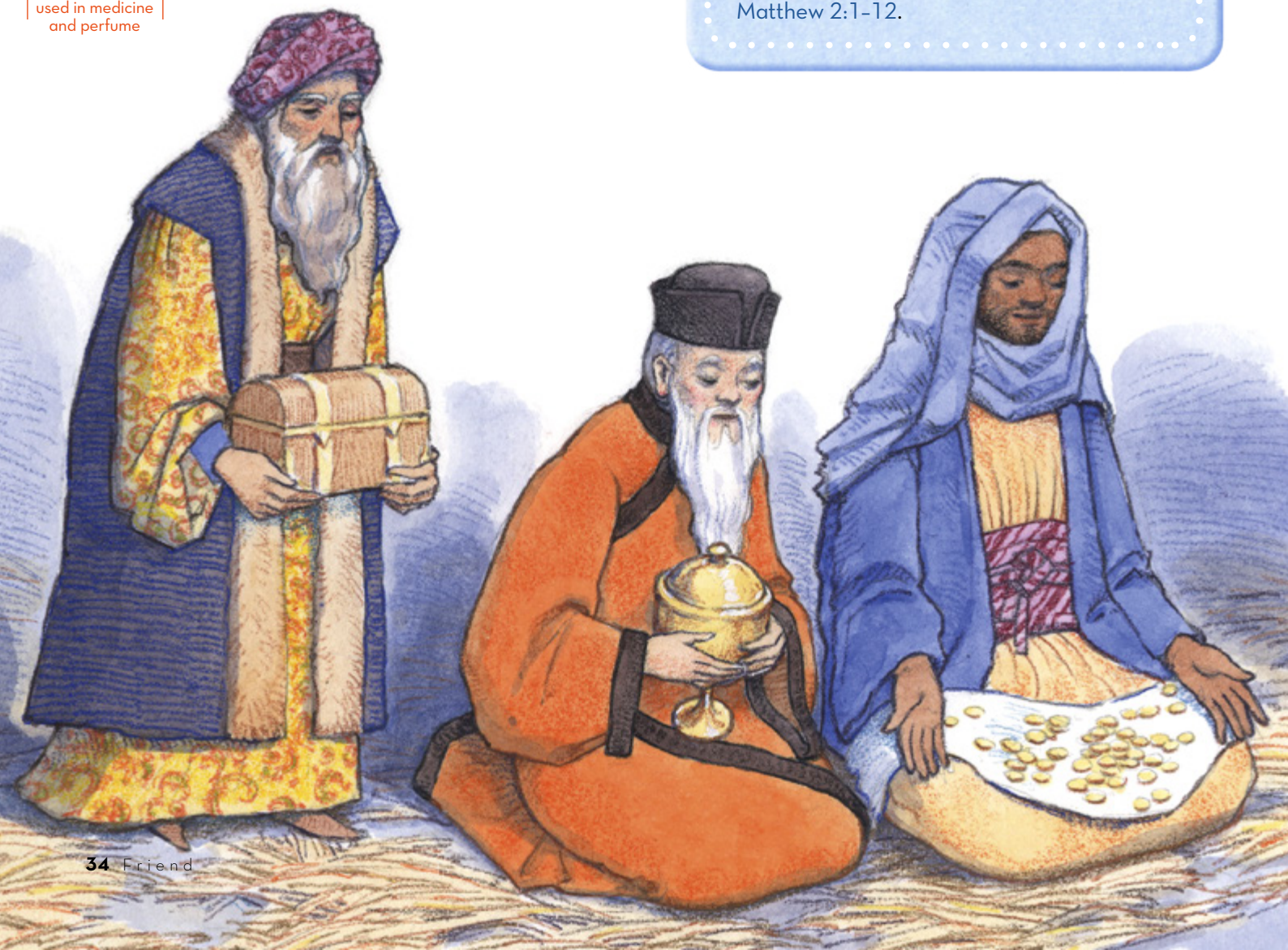
In Bethlehem they found Joseph, Mary, and Jesus. Here was the new king! The Wise Men knelt down to worship Jesus. They gave Him gifts of gold, **frankincense, and myrrh**—gifts fit for a king. The baby Jesus would grow up to be the Savior of the world.

used in medicine  
and perfume



## SHARE THE LIGHT

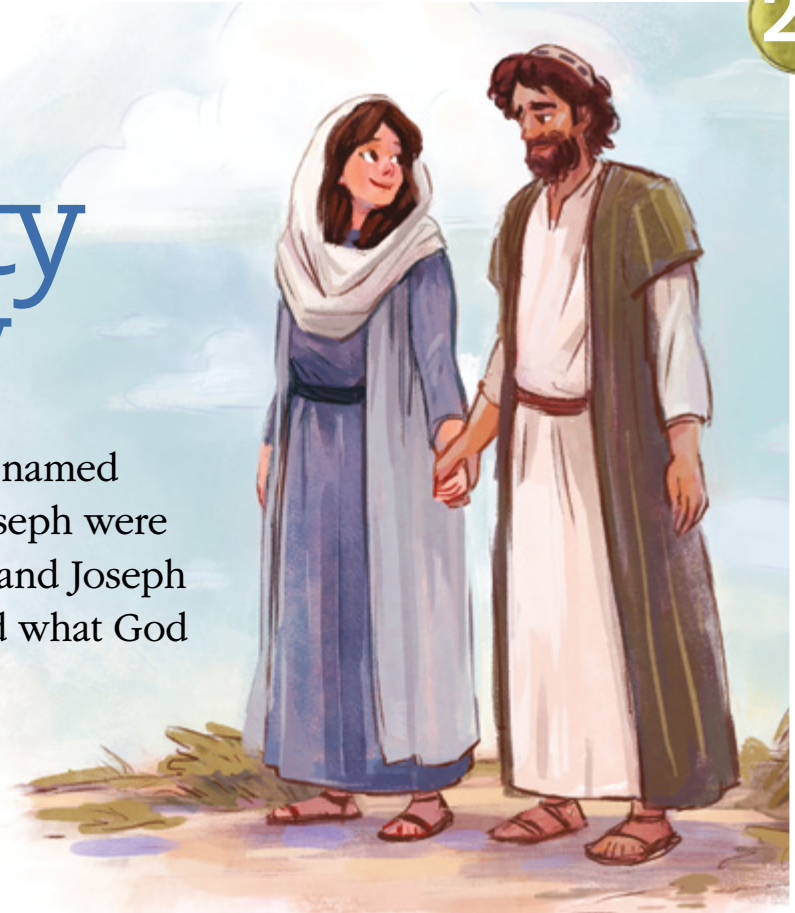
Your journey to Bethlehem has almost come to an end, but your pathway through life is just beginning. You can be like one of the Wise Men, who followed the light of the star to Jesus. Even though you will have challenges along the way, following the Light of Christ will lead you to happiness. You can't give Jesus a present, like the Wise Men did, but what gifts can you give Jesus? As you follow Christ, your light will help brighten the way for others. To read more about the Wise Men, read [Matthew 2:1-12](#).



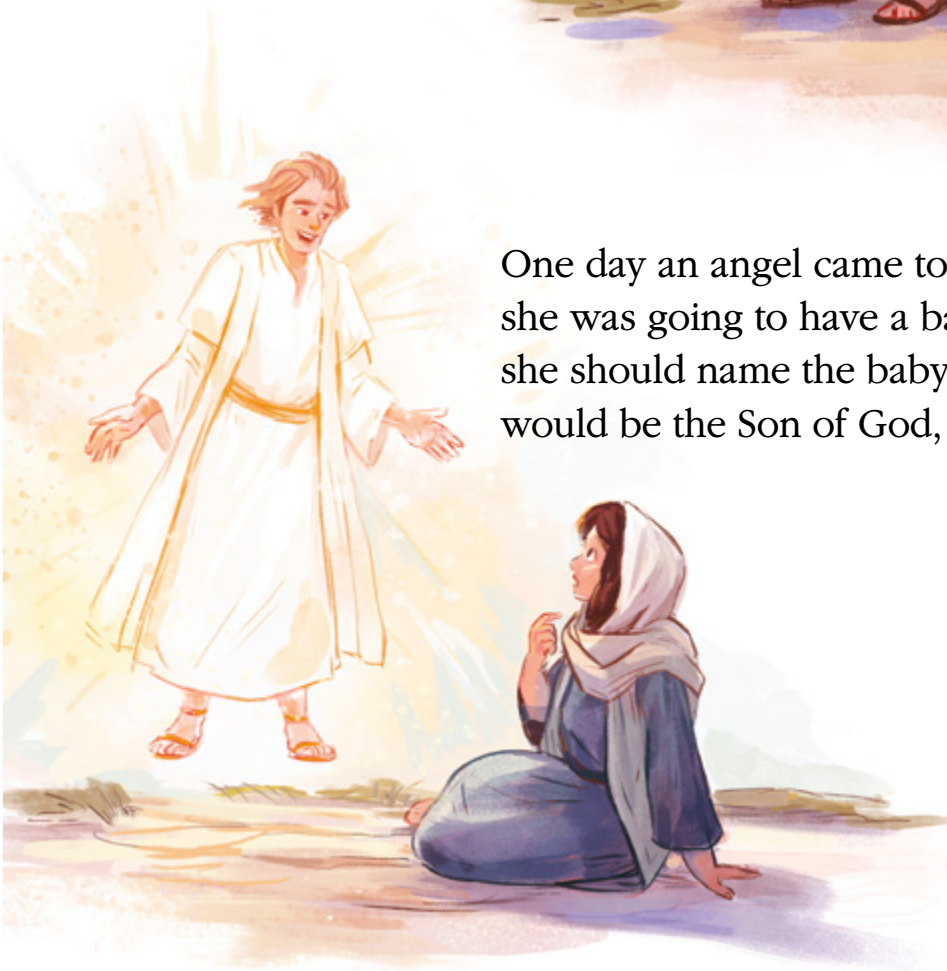


# The Nativity Story

A long time ago, a woman named Mary and a man named Joseph were going to be married. Mary and Joseph were good people who did what God wanted them to do.



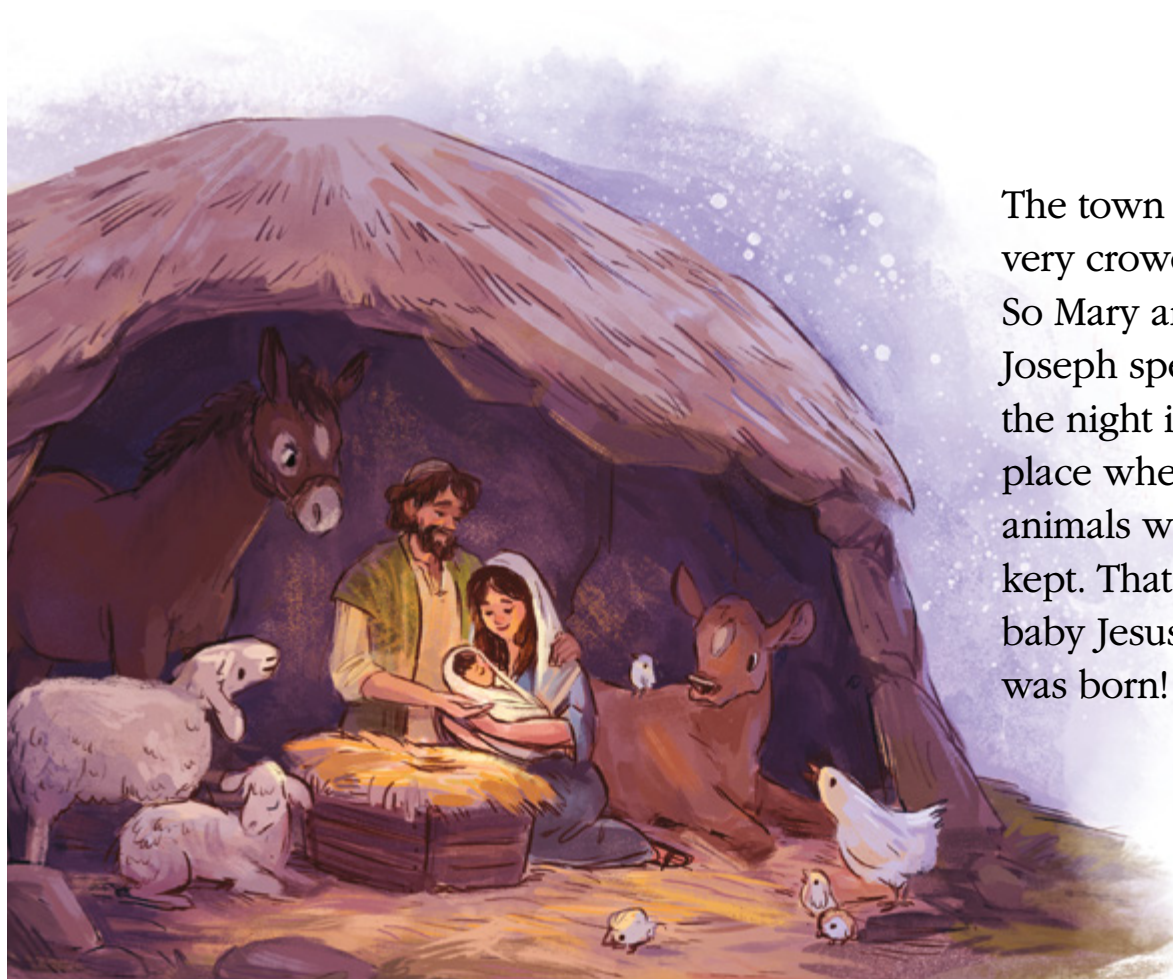
One day an angel came to Mary and told her she was going to have a baby! The angel said she should name the baby Jesus. The baby would be the Son of God, the Savior.







Mary and Joseph had to travel to a town called Bethlehem to pay taxes.



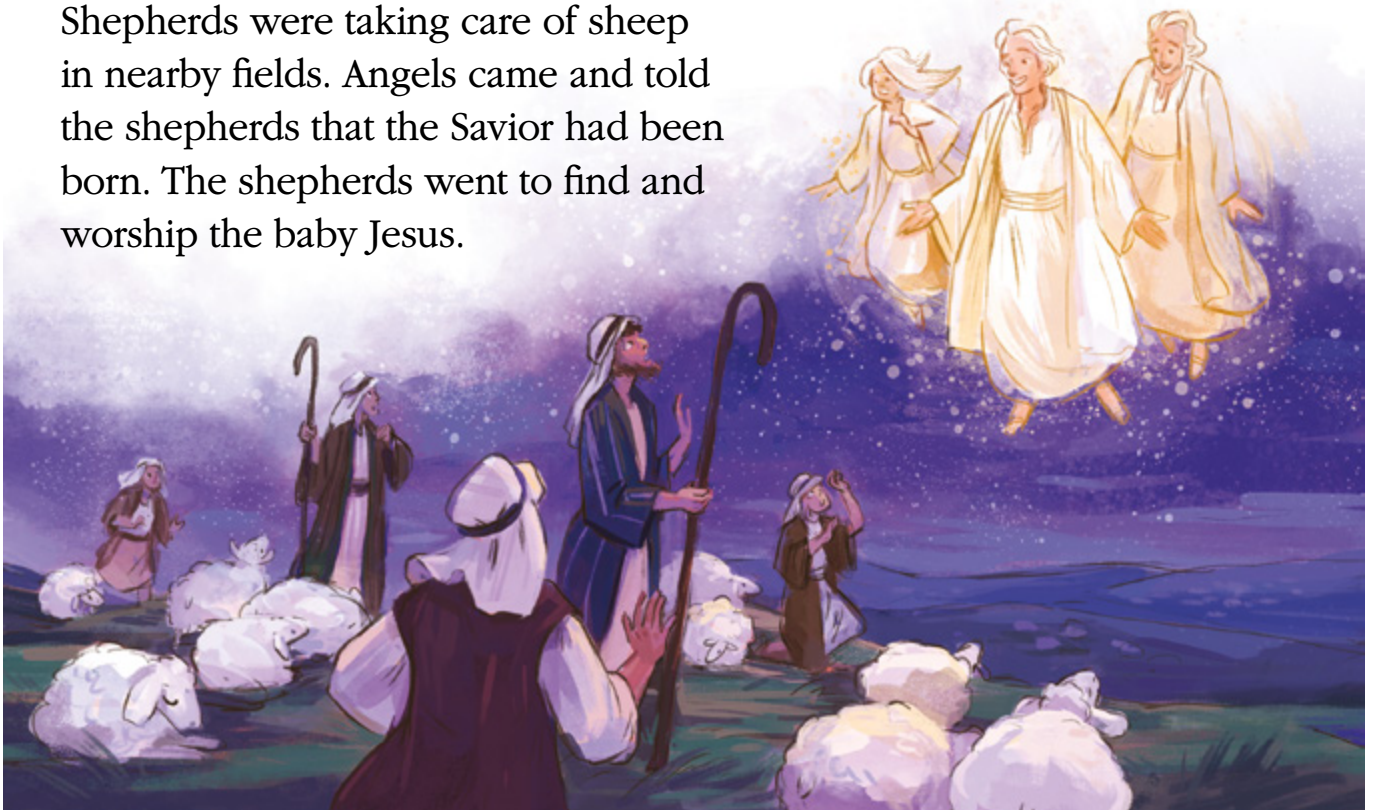
The town was very crowded. So Mary and Joseph spent the night in a place where animals were kept. That night baby Jesus was born!



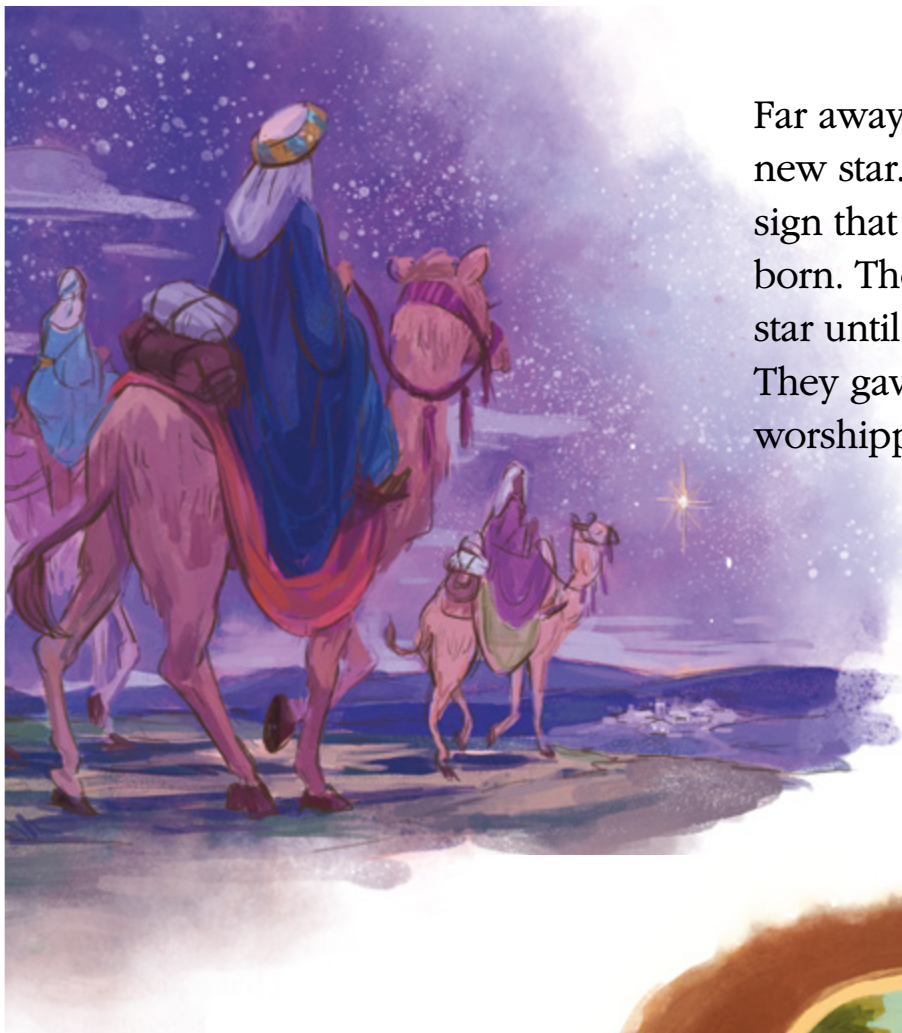


A new star appeared  
in the sky.

Shepherds were taking care of sheep  
in nearby fields. Angels came and told  
the shepherds that the Savior had been  
born. The shepherds went to find and  
worship the baby Jesus.







Far away, Wise Men saw the new star. They knew it was a sign that the Savior had been born. They followed the star until they found Jesus. They gave Him presents and worshipped Him.

Jesus grew up in a town called Nazareth. He learned to be helpful, kind, and obedient. He learned everything that He needed to learn to be our Savior. He always followed God's plan for Him. ◆





# I Can Follow Jesus



At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Point to the pictures of these people, who were part of the Nativity story.

We can be like **Mary and Joseph** by doing what God wants us to do.

We can be like the **shepherds** and **Wise Men** by following Jesus Christ.

We can be like the **angels** by telling others the real story of Christmas.

And we can be like **Jesus** by following His example!