



**A Joyous Christmas!**



**The Bible Story of the Birthday of Jesus!**



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Jesus!*



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Jesus as told in the Bible.*

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A young lady named Mary was chosen by God to be the mother of a very special child—someone who would come to show people on Earth God's love.

An important messenger was sent from God to tell Mary about the baby God was giving her.



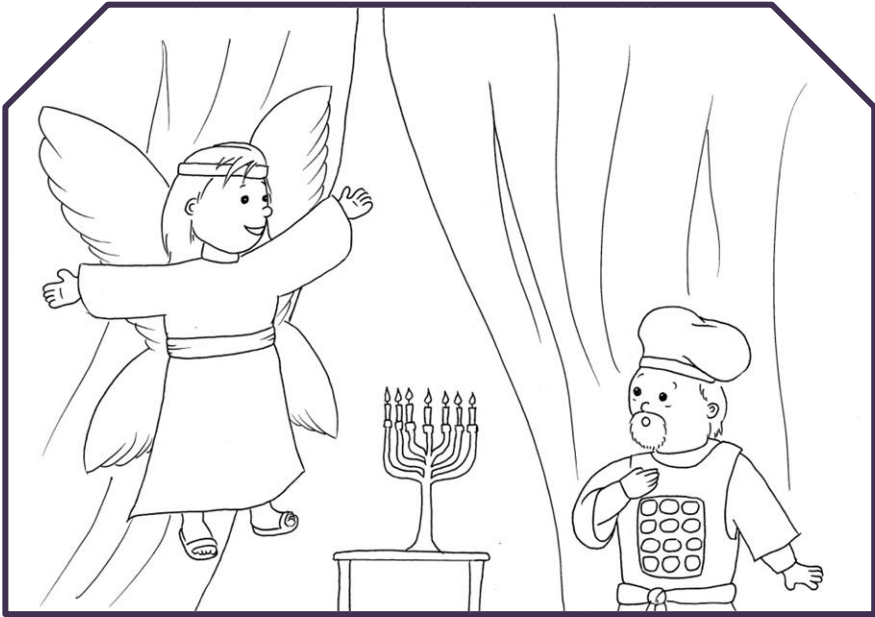
The archangel Gabriel told Mary that all things were possible with God, and that the baby she would have was to be called Jesus.

He was God's Son. Mary believed what Gabriel told her, and she said "Yes" to God's plan for her life.



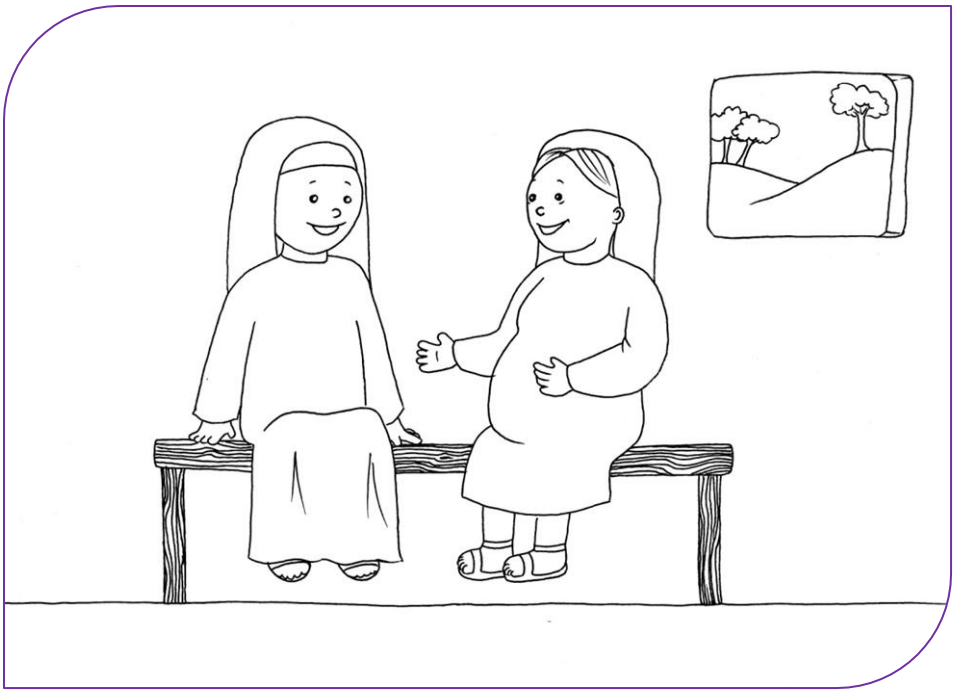
Joseph, who was a carpenter, loved Mary and wanted to marry her. They lived in a place called Nazareth.

Mary and Joseph would take good care of Jesus, God's Son, while He was growing up on Earth.



The archangel Gabriel appeared to a priest called Zacharias when he was praying, and told him that he and his wife Elizabeth would finally have a baby!

Zacharias was very surprised to see the angel, and was amazed to hear the message from the angel. Even though they were elderly, God would do the miracle of giving them a baby.



Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth. When Elizabeth's baby heard Mary saying hello, he jumped and wiggled around inside his mother.

The baby was so excited to hear the voice of the mother of God's Son.



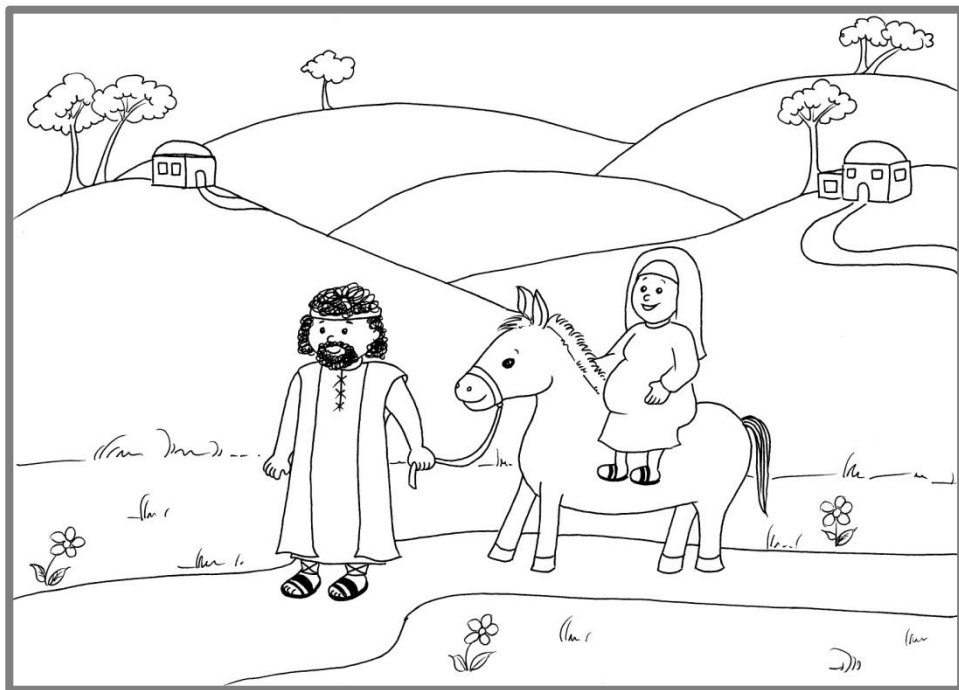
Soon Zacharias and Elizabeth's baby was born, and his name was called John, just as the angel had said.

When John grew up his job would be to tell people about Jesus, God's Son. He would tell the people to prepare for this wonderful event.

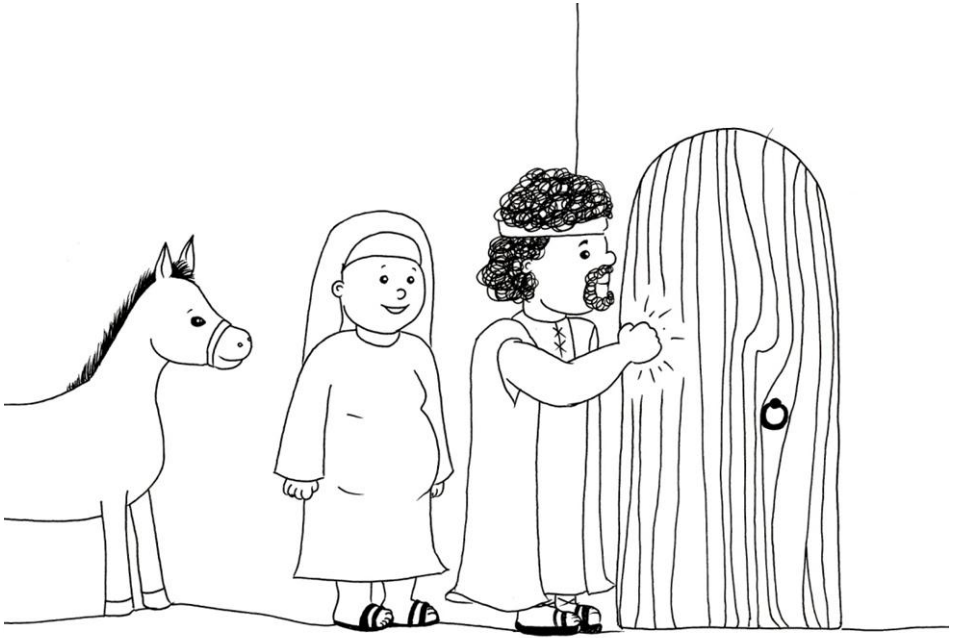




An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. He explained that the new baby Mary had inside of her was God's Son Jesus. He told Joseph to take good care of Mary and the baby.



Around the time when Baby Jesus would be born, a new law announced that everyone was to return to their home town to pay taxes and be counted. So Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem.



When they arrived in Bethlehem they tried to find a place to sleep, but all the rooms at the inn were full.

The only place for them to stay was in a stable—the place where animals were kept.



Joseph and Mary were glad to have at least somewhere to be, and it was just what God had planned—a humble place for His Son to be born.

Even though Baby Jesus wasn't going to be born in a fancy palace, God was taking good care of Him, watching over this humble family that loved and obeyed Him.



Jesus was born in the stable that night! Joseph did his best to help Mary and the new baby feel comfortable. He took good care of them, and made a little bed of straw in the manger for Baby Jesus to rest in.

Jesus was God's Christmas gift to everyone—a baby who would grow up to show and tell everyone about God's love.



The night Baby Jesus was born was the very first Christmas, ever! The angels from Heaven had planned a show and a song to announce the great news that Jesus, God's Son, had been born.

Some shepherds, who were on a hillside near the town of Bethlehem, had a great surprise!



An angel of the Lord appeared to them and told them the great news—that God's Son, Jesus, had been born in a stable and was sleeping in a manger!



Then many angels also appeared and sang, "Glory to God in the highest! Peace on Earth to men of good will!"

The shepherds were so happy to hear the good news, and when the angels disappeared, they went to find Baby Jesus.



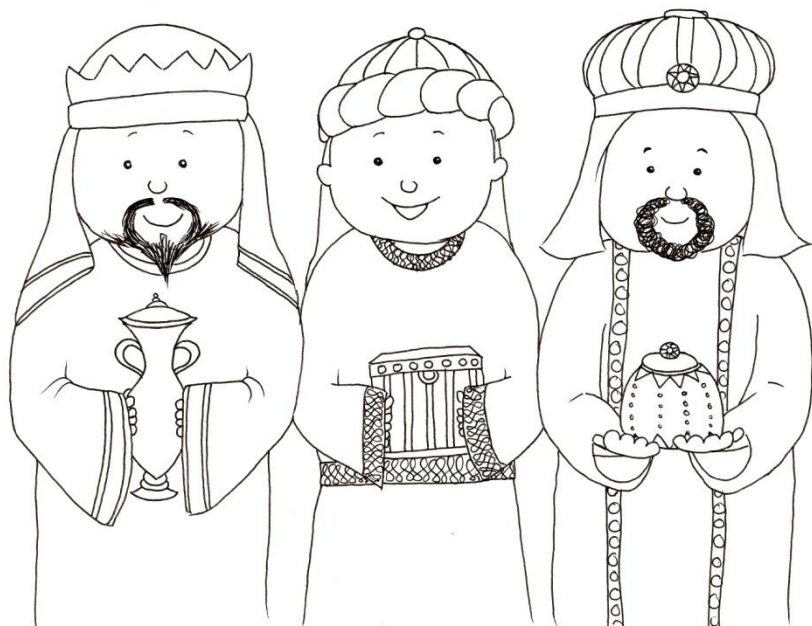


They knelt down by Baby Jesus, giving Him respect and honour, and praised God for sending His Son to the world.

Then the shepherds told people all around that Jesus had been born! Everyone was amazed to hear about it!



Far away there were wise kings who were studying the stars. One day they noticed a special star that meant a new king—a special king—had been born.

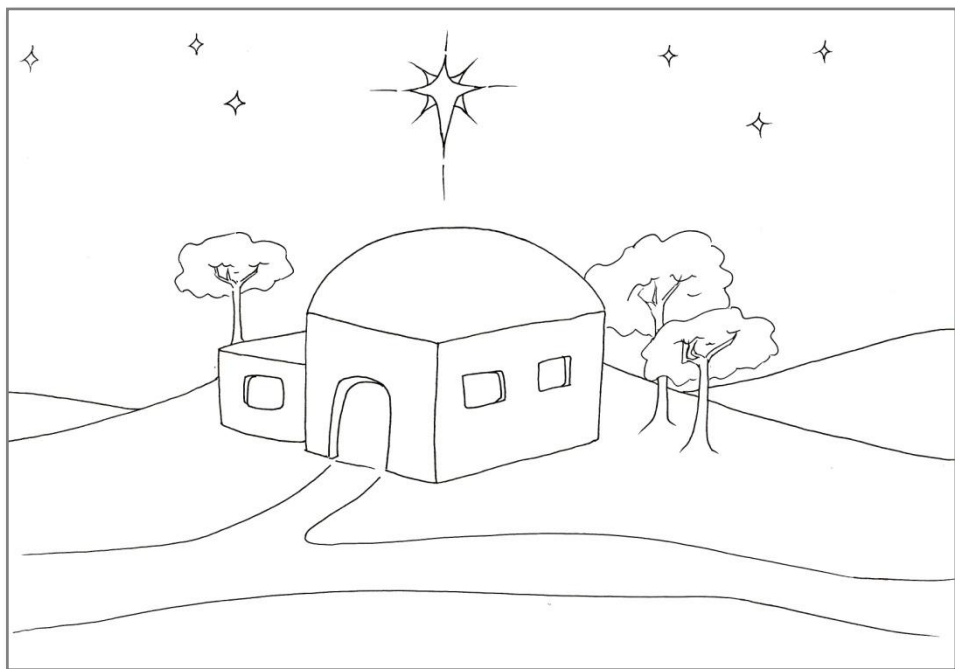


These kings wanted to show their respect to the best King of all, and chose the best gifts they could find.

They packed up and left everything else behind to go on a long journey to find Baby King Jesus.



They were determined to find where Jesus was, and so on and on they travelled to find Him. The special star in the sky led them to the right place.



The star appeared above the place where Mary, Joseph, and young Jesus were living.

The kings rejoiced to see it! They had found Jesus at last.



The wise kings entered the house and knelt down to honour God's Son. They presented Him with the gifts they had brought: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.



Today we can give Jesus the best gift of all, sharing His love with others.

Telling others the story of the first Christmas, about Jesus coming to Earth to save and forgive us so we can go to Heaven one day, makes Jesus very happy!



Say a little prayer to receive Jesus' gift of eternal life with Him forever! He loves you!

*Dear Jesus,*

*Thank You for coming to Earth long ago, so that You could bring us love and forgiveness. I want You to forgive me for the wrong things that I have done.*

*Please fill my heart with Your love, and help me to do the things that make You happy. I'm so glad that You will love me for eternity—and that because I believe in You, I will live forever in Heaven with You!*