

We Celebrate the Birth of Jesus our Savior

Dear Father in Heaven, please use this lesson to help the children appreciate the greatest, most loving present that you have given to us, your Son Jesus.

Select activities that fit your plans and local customs.

1. Sing songs about Jesus' birth.

Some believers sing songs in front of friends' houses during the Christmas season.

2. Copy or color this picture of a manger.

- Jesus' first bed was a manger, a box that holds hay for cattle and sheep to eat.
- Some children might like to copy or colour the picture found at the end of this lesson.



- Let the children show their pictures to the adults during the Christmas celebration.
- Let the children explain to the adults that the manger reminds us how Jesus was born in a very poor place. People did not yet recognize him as the Son of God

3. Tell the children the account of Jesus' birth, in Luke 1:26–38 and Luke 2:1–20.

- Let an older child or teacher read this story of the Birth of Jesus, the Son of God.
- Explain that God's Son was born as a human, not in a king's palace but in a barn where animals were kept.

Ask these questions. *Answers follow each question.*

- a) How did Mary feel when she saw the angel? *See Luke 1:29.*
- b) What promises did the angel make about Jesus? *See Luke 1:32–33*
- c) How did Mary respond to the angel's message? *See Luke 1:38*
- d) Why did Joseph and Mary have to go to Bethlehem? *See Luke 2:1–3*
(*The Roman Emperor made people go to the city of their birth to be counted.*)
- e) Where did Mary lay the newborn baby? *See Luke 2:7*

- f) Why were the shepherds terrified that night? *See Luke 2:8–10*
- g) How would the shepherds know which baby was Jesus? *See Luke 2:11–12*
- h) What did the shepherds do after they saw Jesus? *See Luke 2:20*

4. Let the children dramatize Jesus' birth for the adults.

Arrange this drama with the worship leaders. If possible, start preparing several weeks ahead.

- If time is limited, then skip less important parts of the drama.
- If there are too few children, then ask adults or neighbors' children to play easy roles.
- Prepare: put hay or grass in a large box, to be the manger.
- Children need not memorize lines: read them; the aim is to relive the event, not to perform.
- Older children or adults play these parts:

Narrator. Rehearse summarizing the story. Help children recall what to say and do.

Mary. Have a doll representing Jesus, and a towel or large cloth to wrap him in.

Joseph

Angel Gabriel. Wear a white robe if possible. A white bed sheet may serve as a robe.

Younger children play these parts:

Innkeeper

Cattle

Shepherds: Hold shepherds' staffs (long sticks)

Sheep

Narrator	<i>Read or tell the first part of the story, about Mary and the Angel Gabriel, by memory, from Luke 1:26–38. Then say,</i> "Hear what the angel Gabriel says."
Gabriel	<i>(Speak loudly)</i> "Greetings, Mary. Do not be afraid. You are going to have a child who will be Jesus, the Son of the Most High. He will be King."
Mary	"But I have no husband."
Gabriel	"God will give you the child."
Mary	"I am God's servant. I will do as you say."
Narrator	<i>Read or tell the second part of the story about Mary, Joseph, Shepherds, Innkeeper and Cattle, from Luke 2:1–7. Then say,</i> "Hear what Joseph says."
Joseph	"Mary, we must go to Bethlehem to register. The Emperor has ordered a census."
Mary	"But the baby is about to be born."
Joseph	<i>Take Mary's arm and walk with her to one side and back (if local culture permits).</i> f
Mary	"Hurry, Joseph, the baby is coming now. Look. Here is an inn."
Joseph	<i>Walk to where the Innkeeper is standing. Pretend to knock on a door.</i> "Knock! Knock! Knock!" <i>(Shout)</i> "Innkeeper, do you have a room for us?"
Innkeeper	"No. There is no room in the inn, but you can sleep in the barn with the cows."
Joseph	<i>Take Mary by the arm and walk to the manger.</i>

Cattle	<i>On hands and knees, go around Mary and moo like cows.</i>
Mary	<i>Wrap the doll in the cloth. Lay it in the box and say, "Jesus is born!"</i>
Narrator	<i>Read or tell by memory the third part of the story, shepherds and sheep, from Luke 2:8–20. Then say, "Hear what the Shepherds say."</i>
Shepherds	<i>(Some say) "It is quiet tonight." (Others say) "The stars are bright." (Others say) "The sheep are content."</i>
Sheep	<i>Move around the Shepherds on hands and knees. Make noises like sheep (Baa).</i>
Angels	<i>Go stand near the Shepherds. Hold arms out like wings.</i>
Shepherds	<i>(Some say) "Angels!" (Others say) "Help! Help!" (All Shepherds fall to the ground)</i>
Angels	<i>"Shepherds! Do not be afraid. We bring you good news. A baby is born. He is Christ, the Lord. You will find him wrapped up in a cloth and lying in a manger in Bethlehem."</i>
Shepherds	<i>(Some say) "Let's go see!" (Others say) "Hurry!" (All shepherds: Run to where Jesus is. Look in the box and kneel. After a few moments rise.)</i>
Shepherds	<i>(Some say) "Praise God." (Others say) His anointed one, the Christ, is born." (Others say) "The Lord is with us!"</i>
Narrator	<i>Thank the children and everyone who helped prepare the drama.</i>

5. Children ask the adults the questions listed under #1 above.

6. Memorize Luke 2:14:

"You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth."

7. Let three children each recite verses from Mary's prayer, Luke 1:46–55.

8. Let an older child lead the other children in this prayer.

Read each phrase, and have the other children repeat it after you.

"Glory to God in the highest." (Children repeat)

"We praise you, Lord, for giving to us your Son." (Children repeat)

"You did not provide a rich palace for your Son." (Children repeat)

"You sent him to the poor and helpless." (Children repeat)

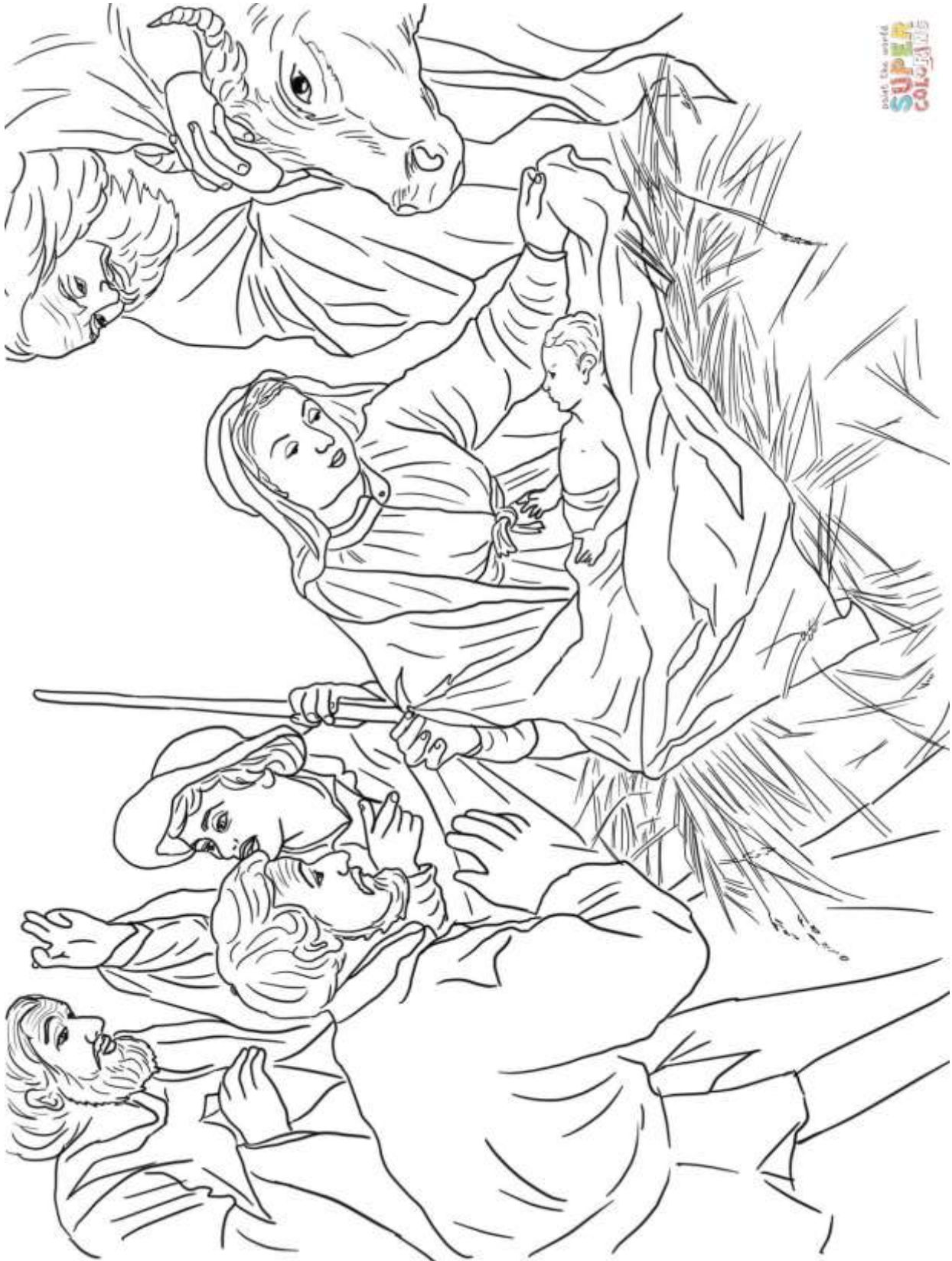
"You sent him to save us from all evil and pain." (Children repeat)

"We joyfully celebrate his birth like the shepherds and angels did." (Children repeat)

"In Jesus' name, Amen." (Children repeat)

A more detailed drama dealing with the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ:

<http://biblestoryskits.com/001-angels-announce-jesus-birth-5/>



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