



Day		
1	Watch the video 	In today's video, we heard that God's people had been waiting a very long time for God's plan to become a reality. We are going to be finding out about this plan over Advent. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Have you ever had to wait a really long time for something? What did you do while you were waiting?
2		<p>God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee. Luke 1:26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where did the angel go? - Who sent him there? <p>Nazareth wasn't an important city, just a small town that nobody really cared about. It is a surprise to us that an angel was sent there.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What do you think the people living in Nazareth might have said if they had seen the angel in their town?
3		<p>The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God." Luke 1:30</p> <p>Mary was just an ordinary girl doing ordinary things at home, when suddenly an angel appeared!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How did Mary feel? - What did the angel say to her? <p>Mary was told that God was pleased with her and smiling down at her. He favoured her.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do you think it is surprising that God favours an ordinary person, just like you?



4



“You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.” Luke 1:31-32a

The angel told Mary that she was going to have a baby - and not just any baby, an incredibly special baby!

- What would Mary call this baby?
- Whose son would this baby be?
- Why do you think we are told that Jesus will be great?

5



“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her. Luke 1:38

Mary could have been worried because of what the angel had said, but instead Mary showed that she trusted God.

- Who did Mary say she served?
- Did Mary want to have this special baby?
- Do you find it easy or difficult to trust God’s word? Why?

6

Listen to Faith in KIDS podcast #123



Take some time out to listen to our first Christmas podcast episode and hear the whole of this week’s story told again. Listen out for the surprises - how many can you count?

7



If you have a printer, why not print off this sheet to colour or collage to remind you of the story (picture on p.9). Or if you prefer, design and make a “Congratulations, you are having a baby” card.

Here are some questions to think about:

- What was your favourite part of this week’s story? What was the most surprising?
- What can you remember about the special baby?
- Today, God still uses ordinary people to help with his amazing plan. How does that make you feel?



8

Watch the video



In today's video, we saw Mary and Joseph travelling a long way from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be counted. While they were there a very special thing happened.

- Have you ever been away from home when something special happened? What was that special thing?

9



In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to their own town to register. Luke 2:1, 3

- Who told everyone that they needed to be counted?
- Where did they have to go to register?

Caesar Augustus was the ruler of the whole Roman world. He wanted to count his people, so he made everyone travel to their family's home town. Caesar thought he was in charge. The Bible tells us that God is the "Most High", he is really the one in charge.

- When do you see people acting like they are in charge, not God? Do you ever act like you are in charge?

10



So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. Luke 2:4-5

- Who was Joseph going to marry?
- Which town did they have to travel to?

Mary and Joseph had to go on a long journey to Bethlehem, where a king called David lived a long time ago. Joseph was part of King David's family.

- King David was famous, so Joseph would have heard stories about his life. Do you know any stories about your grandparents or great-grandparents?



11



While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son. Luke 2:6-7

- Did Mary have a son or a daughter?
 - What was the name of the town where Jesus was born?
- Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God had promised that his king would be born in Bethlehem. God had kept his promise. God keeps all of his promises.
- Why do you think God wants us to know that he keeps his promises?

12

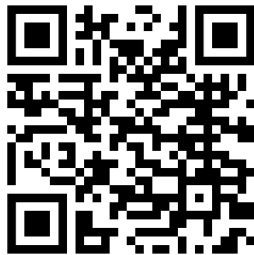


She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. Luke 2:7b

- What was Jesus wrapped in?
- A manger is a place where food is put for animals to eat. What a strange place to use as a bed for a baby!
- Why was Jesus put in a manger and not a cot?
 - God sent his king to a poor and simple place, what does this show us about Jesus?

13

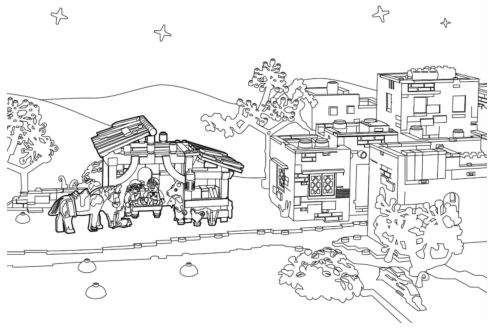
Listen to Faith in KIDS podcast #124



Have a listen to our second Christmas podcast, in your car, around the table or as you snuggle down in bed. The Emperor thought he was in charge of everything - can you spot who really was?



14



If you have a printer, why not print off this sheet to colour or collage to remind you of the story (picture on p10). Or if you prefer, try to make your own manger. You could do some junk modelling, or use Lego or other bricks. Please send us a photo of your make-do manger! (info@faithinkids.org)

Here are some questions to think about as you go:

- What was your favourite part of this week's story? What was the most surprising?
- God showed that he was in charge - he had said the king would be born in Bethlehem, and he was. God is still in charge today, how does that make you feel?
- Do you think it is good that Jesus was born in a poor and simple place? Why or why not?

15

Watch the video



In today's video we met some shepherds who were out on the hillside looking after their flock of sheep. Suddenly the sky was filled with a bright light and they saw more angels than they could count, who told them some amazing news.

- What is the best news that you have ever been told? Why was it so good?

16



And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. Luke 2:8-9

- Who appeared to the shepherds?
- How did the shepherds feel when they saw the angel? Shepherds were often smelly as they lived with their sheep. Most people didn't want to be friends with them and they weren't very important. But that night, an angel appeared to them.
- Who would you expect an important angel to appear to? Why do you think God sent an angel to some shepherds?



17



But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11

The angels had an amazing message for the shepherds. The Messiah, God’s king who would save his people, had been born just as God had promised!

- Who is the good news for?
- Where would the shepherds find this baby who is their Messiah and Saviour?
- How would you feel if you were given this news? Why would you feel like that?

18



When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. Luke 2:15-16

- What did the shepherds decide to do?
 - How quickly did the shepherds go to Bethlehem?
- The shepherds found that everything the angels had said was true. God’s word is totally trustworthy, then and today.
- Are there times when you find it hard to trust that God’s word is true?



19



When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. Luke 2:17-18

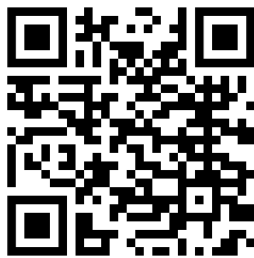
- What did the shepherds do on their way back to the fields?
- How did people react to the message they heard from the shepherds?

There are lots of different reactions to the Christmas story. Some people are amazed. Some people want to find out more. Some people don't believe it is true. Some people think it is only for other people.

- How do you feel about this good news of Jesus?

20

Listen to Faith in KIDS podcast #125



The race to the stable is on! Listen to our final Christmas podcast together for more Christmas surprises - and to find out who gets to the stable first!

21



If you have a printer, why not print off this sheet to colour or collage to remind you of the story (picture on p.11). Or if you prefer, why not make a sheep. You could use cotton wool, Lego bricks or anything else you can find. Send us a photo! (info@faithinkids.org)

Here are a few questions to think about as you go:

- What was your favourite part of this week's story? What was the most surprising?
- Can you remember why Jesus being born is good news?
- God wants everyone to know the good news about Jesus. Can you think of anybody you could tell, or invite to church to hear about it?



22

Watch the video



In today's video we watched the whole story of that very first Christmas. We saw so many surprises and reactions to the good news of Jesus.

- Which character in the story do you think had the biggest surprise? Why?

23



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We have spent a lot of time looking at what happened that very first Christmas. How much of the story can you remember? Can you retell the story to some grown-ups using things in your house? Little people, Lego figures, cuddly toys? Have fun!

- Jesus' birth is good news for all people. Does it feel like Jesus is good news for you? Why or why not?

24



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It's Christmas Eve! Are you excited? We are!

- What are you feeling excited about?
- The best gift we could ever have at Christmas is the gift God gave us - Jesus coming to be our king and to save us. Pause for a moment and pray to God, thanking him for loving us so much that he sent us Jesus, the best gift ever.



