

# THE BIRTH OF JESUS THE MESSIAH

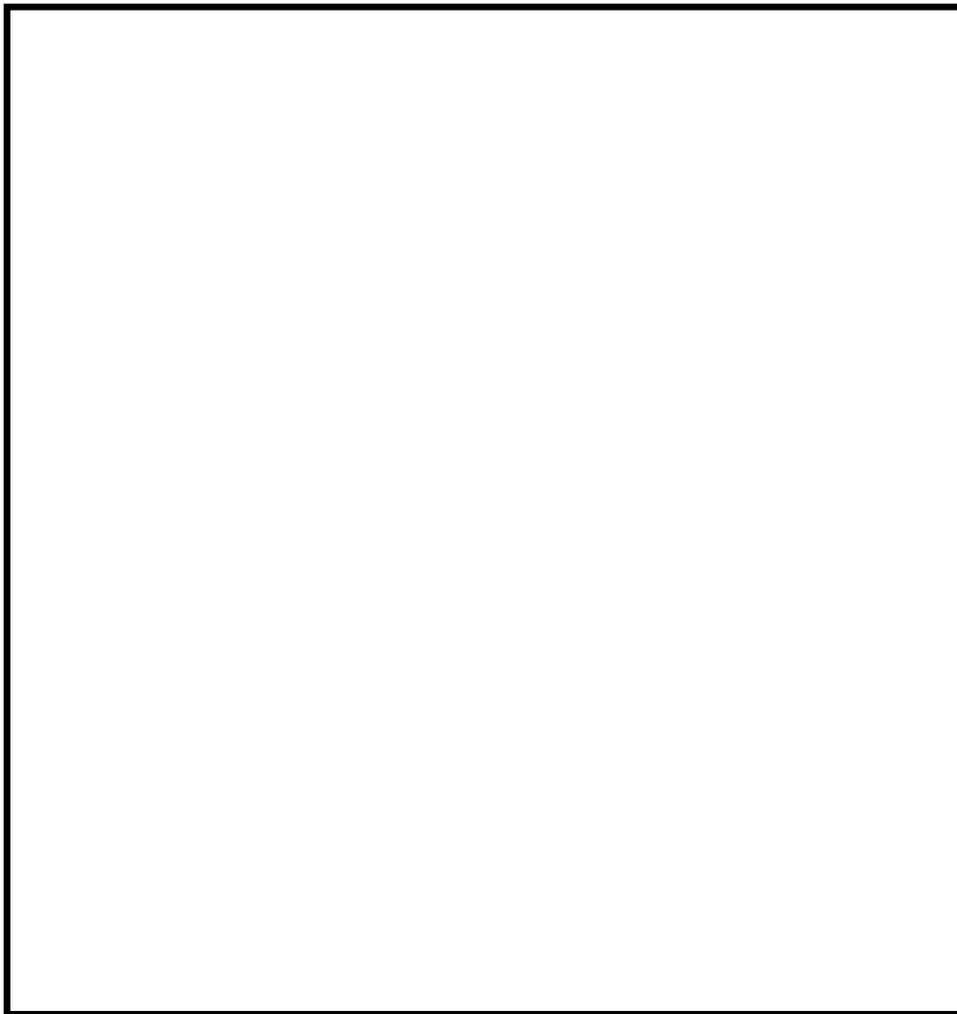
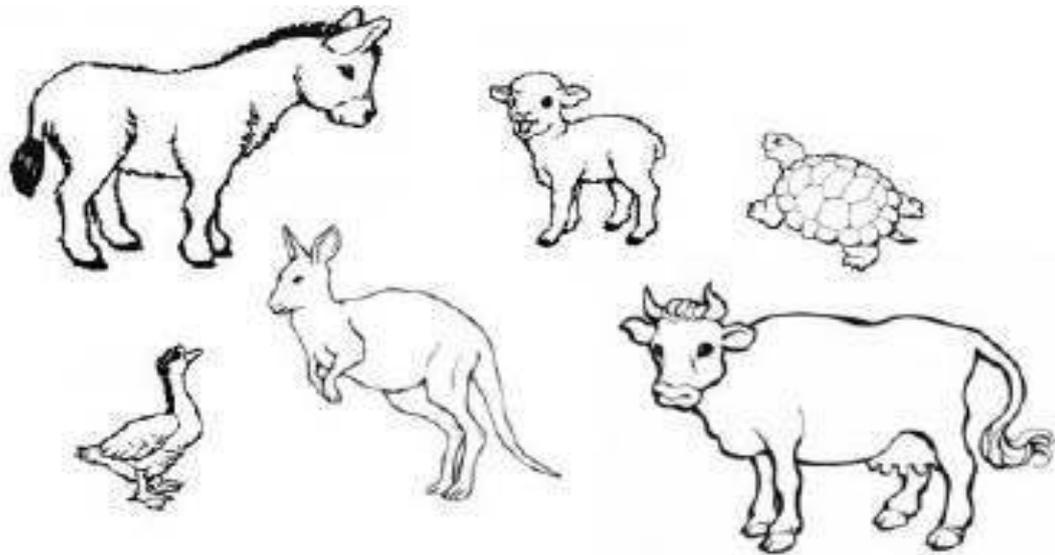
Joseph and Mary left the village of Nazareth in Galilee and went to Bethlehem, because the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. Mary was pregnant and it was the time for her baby to be born. There, in Bethlehem “she gave birth to her firstborn, a son, she wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger.”



“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”

Luke 2:11

Circle the animals which do not usually stay in a stable.



Draw here the kind of bed you would have offered Jesus.



## **Lesson 4**

### **The Birth of Jesus**

**Bible text:** Luke 2:1-20 and Matthew 2:1-18

**Key verse:** Luke 2:11

**Purpose:** Children will understand this story and obey the word of God with joy.

#### **Please note!**

Plan suitable activities for your group of children. The following activities can be adapted depending on the group's size, age, ability, the amount of time available, etc.

### **LESSON AND ACTIVITIES**

#### **I. Lesson**

Present this lesson through dramatization. Involve the whole group or just a few children from the group to do a simple drama.

Use the text from Luke 2:1-20 and Matthew 2:1-18.

Choose a narrator (a child or the teacher) who will read the text that is a part of the story.

Choose children to play the roles of Mary, Joseph, shepherds, angels, magi, Herod, etc.

Dramatization:

- Read the Bible passages according to the different roles or do a simple skit with larger groups.
- Make up a skit, using the children as actors (older groups) or use puppets made out of paper for younger groups. These puppets can be drawn by hand or taken from a book of images about the birth of the Lord Jesus.

#### **II. Activities**

##### **1. Key verse**

a. Read aloud the key verse. "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11

b. Explain the meaning of the key verse using some of the following questions:

- Who was David (2 Samuel 5:3-4)
- What is the relationship between David and the Lord Jesus (Matthew 1:1; Luke 3:31)
- What was the "city of David"? (Luke 2:4)
- Who is the Savior? (Luke 2:11)
- For whom was the Savior born? (John 3:16)

*Suggestion:* The children can respond to these questions to help them to better understand Luke 2:11

c. Help the children memorize the key verse using different methods.

*Suggestion:*

Here is a game that can help the children better memorize the verse. Take a large sheet of paper, and write the verse with a large marker. Then the teacher covers one word with a piece of paper while the children repeat the verse. The children must say the missing word. They will repeat the verse this way many times and will learn it easier through this method.

**2. Key questions for review:**

- Who was the Roman ruler when Jesus was born?
- What did Joseph and Mary leave Nazareth and go to Bethlehem?
- Where was the Messiah born?
- How did the shepherds find the child?
- What does the word *Magi* mean?
- From where did the magi come from and what gifts did they bring the child?
- Who was Herod?
- Was Herod glad that Jesus was born?
- What is a Savior?
- Why did the Savior need to come to earth?

**III. Conclusion**

God sent his son to earth in the most humble way. Jesus was born for the poor (he knew poverty even from his birth) and for the rich (at his birth he received expensive gifts like a king). God loves you very much. Jesus wants to be your friend. This Christmas do you want to make Jesus your friend and invite him to enter your life as Savior?