

A is for the **ANGEL**, Gabriel, who began the story with a greeting:

“Good morning! You’re beautiful with God’s beauty,
Beautiful inside and out! God be with you!”

B is for **BETHLEHEM**, where our story takes place. People traveled from far and wide to arrive in the city; it was a very busy place.

C is for **CENSUS** (that’s a counting of all people)—it’s the reason so many people filled the city of Bethlehem.

D is for the **DONKEY** that carried the Mary and Joseph on their long journey to Bethlehem to be counted.

E is for **EXHAUSTED**—that’s how everyone felt when they arrived—they were so tired from all the travelling.

F is for **FAMILY**: the holy family—Mary, Joseph and their new baby Jesus, who was born that night in Bethlehem.

G is for the **GOOD NEWS** about to be shared with all the earth.
This is what was said:

“Do not be afraid. I bring you Good news of great joy for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord!”

H is for **HERDS**, all the animals that were present in the stable, and the flocks of sheep in the field with the shepherds when they heard this good news!

I is for our **IMAGINATIONS**, stirred by this story!

J is for **JOY**—the excitement and happiness that a new baby, and now, this special celebration brings.

K is for **KINDNESS**, shown by the innkeeper that night, allowing a tired family to stay in the stable when there was no room in the inn.

L is for the **LOVE** God has given to each of us and the love we share with one another all through the year.

M is for the **MANGER**, a place used to hold food for animals, but on that special night it held the baby Jesus because he had no crib.

N is for **NOEL**—this is another word for Christmas. It means “new birth,” a special baby born that night and in our hearts each year.

O is for **OFFERING**—the wisemen brought gifts for the baby; we share ours each day when we help each other and show kindness. We also bring our offerings to worship, which we will share now.

P is for **PRAYER** and **PRAISE** and **PONDERING**, all different ways that people reacted to the amazing thing that happened that special night. Today we pray and praise and ponder together.

Q is for **QUIET**, the deep peace that Christmas brings, the quiet in our hearts, knowing that God is always with us.

R is for **REVELATION**, God showing us who God is, Love coming to earth born in a little baby that Holy, special night.

S is for the **SPECIAL STAR** that shone bright in the night showing wise ones the way to Jesus.

T is for **TRUST** and the confidence we have in God; God is always with us.

U is for **UNITY**, the Good News is for ALL people and the Good News brings us all together, united, to celebrate God's love!

V is for **VULNERABLE**—the baby Jesus was born to protect and care for the vulnerable in our world. Jesus calls us to do the same!

W is for **WONDER**—our amazement at the awesomeness of how much God loves us.

X is for **XMAS**—the X actually is a symbol for Christ—it is the first letter of the Greek word.

Y is for **YOU!** You, here to worship and celebrate! You, loved by God!

Z is for **ZEAL**, the passion with which we are called to share the Good News of God's greatest gift—Jesus!