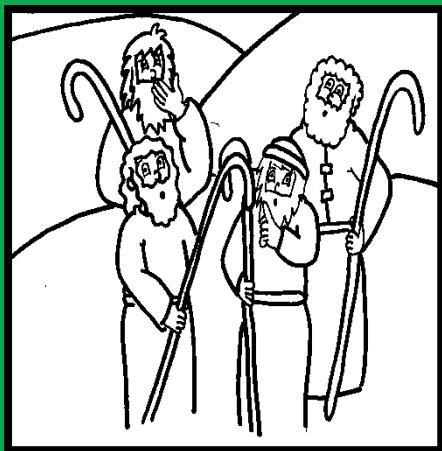


Christmas Stories with Jolly

by Jill Crowder

Shepherds Visit Jesus



For grades 3-5

Shepherds Visit Jesus

A long time ago in the city of Bethlehem, a very special baby was born. This baby had a mother named Mary. Mary was to be married to man name Joesph, but Joseph was not the baby's father. This baby's father was God. God had placed this very special baby in Mary's tummy, and he was going to save the whole world from their sins and bring them closer to God. This baby was the Messiah.

Mary and Joseph were visiting a town called Bethlehem when it was time for Mary to have her very special baby. They were traveling to pay their taxes and be counted. The city was full of other people doing the same thing. When they tried to find a room in the inn, the inn was full. They were forced to stay in a stable for the night. That very night, in the stable, Mary gave birth to her very special baby. She named her precious baby boy "Jesus". She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger.

While Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus were staying in the stable for the night, there were also shepherds tending their flocks nearby. While they were taking care of their sheep, something wonderful happened. They saw a bright light in the sky. When they looked up, they saw it was an angel. This scared them because they had never seen an angel before. The angel told them not to be afraid because he was coming to give them very good news. The angel told the shepherds the Messiah had just been born in Bethlehem. The shepherds had heard of the Messiah. Their

people had been waiting for the Messiah for a very long time. They knew this was wonderful news.

The angel told them the baby would be wrapped in swaddling clothes and laying in a manger. Then the sky filled with lots of angels, and they started singing and praising God. The shepherds knew something very special was happening.

After the angels left, the shepherds decided to go look for the baby. They searched through Bethlehem until they found a baby lying in a manger just as the angel had said. When they found baby Jesus and his parents, they praised Him and praised God for sending him. When they left and started telling everyone about this very special baby. Then they returned to their flocks and praised God for all the wonderful things they had seen.

1. What town did Mary and Joseph go to so they could be counted?
2. Where did Mary and Joseph have to stay because there was no room in the inn?
3. What happened that night?
4. What was the baby's name?
5. What was so special about this baby?
6. What were the shepherds doing that night?
7. What did they see in the sky?
8. What news did the angel give them?
9. What did the shepherds do after the angels left?
10. What did the shepherds do after they visited baby Jesus?

Look it Up! (All answers are KJV specific.)

Luke 2:8-20

⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their _____ by night. ⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the _____ of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good _____ of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a _____, which is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this *shall be* a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in _____ clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a _____ of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth _____, good will toward men. ¹⁵And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto _____, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. ¹⁶And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a _____. ¹⁷And when they had seen *it*, they made known _____ the saying which was told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all they that heard *it* wondered at those things which were told them by the _____. ¹⁹But Mary kept all these things, and pondered *them* in her _____. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and _____ God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

S	Q	W	E	R	T	I	D	I	N	G	S	T	Y	U
H	W	M	F	G	H	J	K	L	M	P	A	O	I	M
E	D	A	S	A	Z	X	C	E	V	B	V	N	P	U
P	U	N	D	Y	T	R	H	E	W	Q	I	M	R	L
H	I	G	O	D	P	E	L	K	J	H	O	G	A	T
E	B	E	V	C	L	X	Z	A	S	D	U	F	I	I
R	N	R	M	H	Q	I	W	E	R	F	R	Y	S	T
D	P	J	T	K	H	L	N	P	O	L	I	U	I	U
S	H	E	G	F	D	E	S	G	L	O	R	Y	N	D
J	B	K	A	B	R	O	A	D	L	C	M	N	G	E
U	Y	T	R	C	E	W	Q	R	Z	K	X	C	V	B
I	O	P	A	S	E	D	F	G	T	S	J	K	L	M

In My World

God sent His angel to tell the shepherds the Messiah had been born. These shepherds weren't related to Mary or Joseph. These shepherds weren't important religious people of this time. In fact, these shepherds were probably looked at by other people in Bethlehem as being very unimportant. The bible doesn't tell us why, of all the people in the world at that time, God chose the shepherds to give the good news of Jesus' birth, but He did. The shepherds rushed to see the Messiah and then they went on telling everyone what they had seen. They had a job to do. Their job had nothing to do with sheep that night. Their job was to worship, rejoice, praise, and tell, and that's just what they did. Sometimes God calls people that don't seem to be the right choice in our minds, but He always has a reason for His calling.

Reflection Questions

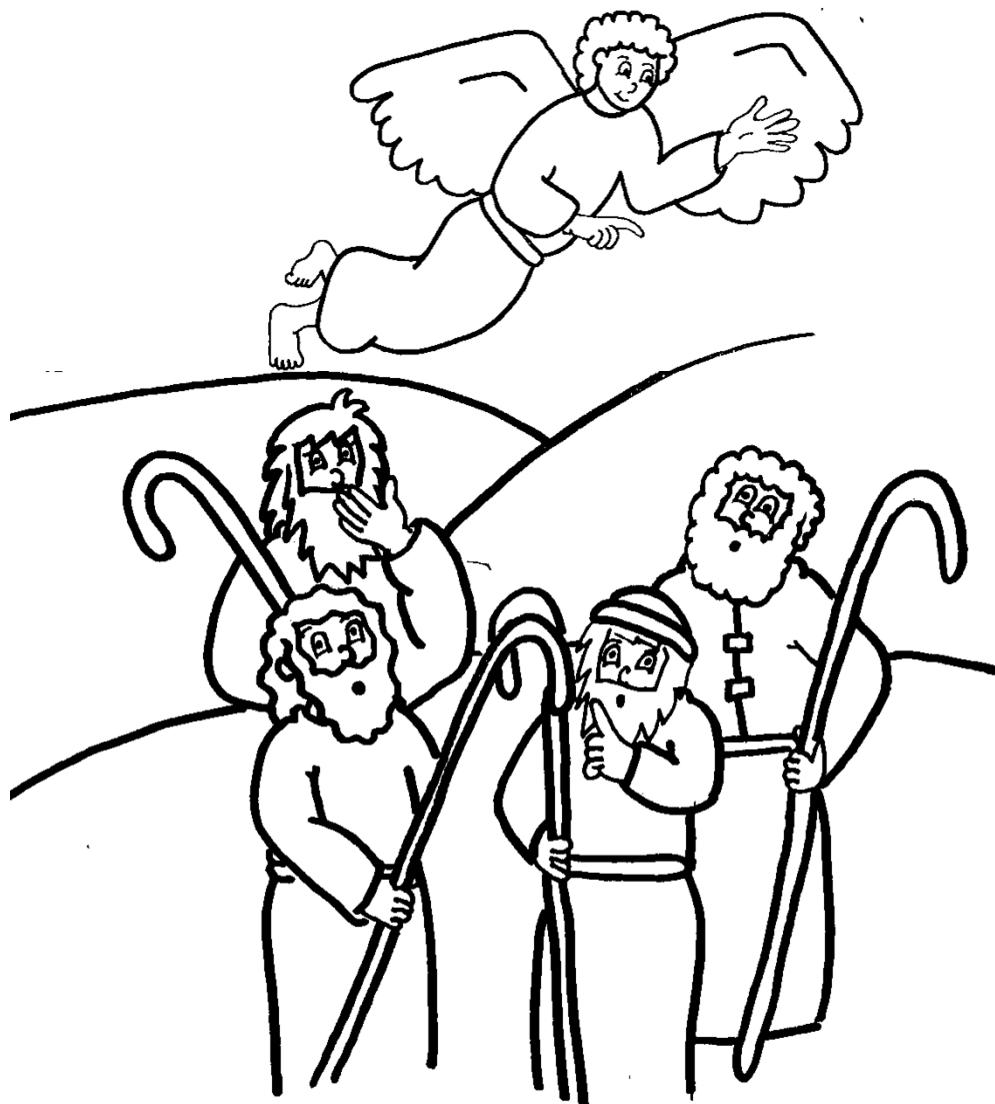
1. Have you ever felt unimportant?
2. Can you think of a time when you think God chose someone unimportant to do something very important?

My Prayer for You

My prayer for you is that you never see yourself as unimportant or not good enough. God has a very special plan and a purpose for you. He created you just the way you are to fulfill that very special purpose. Don't get discouraged when you realize you aren't fit for the purpose He has for others. Your time will come when you are exactly what you were meant to be to do exactly what God created you to do. When that day comes, do it! Until then, continue to grow in knowledge and faith and praise Him for being the wonderful, all-powerful God that He is.

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

Luke 2:14



full. They were forced to stay in a stable for the night.

Page 3

1. Bethlehem
2. In the stable
3. Mary had her baby
4. Jesus
5. He was the Messiah
6. Watching their sheep
7. An angel
8. The Messiah had been born in Bethlehem
9. Went to find Jesus
10. Told everyone what they had seen

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Luke 2:8-20

8. Flock
9. glory
10. tidings
11. Saviour
12. swaddling
- ¹³ Multitude
14. peace
15. Bethlehem
16. Manger
17. abroad
18. shepherds
19. heart
20. praising