



THE BIRTH OF JESUS

THE ROAD TO BETHLEHEM



Hello Explorers! My name is Zelli and I am your faithful guide for your adventure today. You have collected your first Hope Gem, there are 9 more to go! Keep up the good work.

Today we will be exploring the Road to Bethlehem on our Adventure Map. We will see how Jesus, our God, was born in the little town of Bethlehem. Now the Sign of the Cross might make more sense to us. Our God is the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Today we will learn about the beautiful day when God left heaven to become human. We call this day Christmas! We celebrate that God chose to be just like us so that we can be better friends.

PRACTICE YOUR PRAYERS

Let's get our Prayer Guide and practice our prayers! See if you can pray the Sign of the Cross all by yourself to collect your first Faith Gem! (Be sure to check it off on the map!).

The Sign of the Cross (Use Your Right Hand)

In the name of the Father (Touch your head)

And of the Son (Touch your Heart)

And of the Holy (Touch your left shoulder) Spirit. (Touch your right shoulder) Amen.

Remember, the more we pray, the more we will get to know God!

The emperor made a rule that everyone in the land had to be counted. This meant that Mary and Joseph had to travel to Joseph's home town of Bethlehem. Mary had Jesus in her womb and the time was near for him to be born.

There were many people traveling the roads because they also had to be counted in their home town. When Joseph and Mary arrived it was time for her to have the Baby Jesus. When Joseph went to the Inn they were told that there was no room for them. The innkeeper allowed them to use the shelter where the animals were kept. This is where our Bible Story starts today!

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While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were very afraid. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. The angel said, "You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

Suddenly many other angels appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."



SHARE YOUR IDEAS

When Jesus was born it meant that God was with us. Not only was God with us, God was one of us. God did this so that we can be friends with Jesus. This is such a special thing that happened that we not only celebrate Christmas, but we start getting ready for 4 weeks! This season is called "Advent." This is when we light candles to show that the time is getting close.



1. Why did Jesus come all the way down from Heaven to be live on earth?
2. Jesus was born in a barn, do you think he cared about being rich or poor?
3. The angels were so happy on Christmas that they sang and danced in the sky, what are some ways that you celebrate Christmas?
4. By doing kind things to others, we do them for Jesus, what kind things can you do today?

SPECIAL PROJECT

It is time to complete our special project for the day and then we can collect our Hope Gem by checking it off on our Adventure Map. Find the special project with the number 2 label and follow the instructions inside! Great job Explorer!