

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## **Birth of Jesus**

2000 years ago there was a carpenter named Joseph. He was going to marry a young woman named Mary. Before he married her, an angel came to Joseph. The angel said not to be afraid to marry Mary and that she would have a son. The angel told Joseph he was to name the child Jesus because he would save their people from their sins.

Joseph had to pay taxes in a far away city named Bethlehem. He took Mary with him to Bethlehem. When they got there, they couldn't find a place to stay, so they stayed in a stable where animals were. Mary had a baby boy, and they named him Jesus.

Nearby there were shepherds taking care of their sheep at night and an angel came unto them. The angel said: "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." The shepherds were astonished, and decided to go find this baby. They found him and were so happy.

Some time after this, wise men from the east came to find Jesus. They thought he would be King of the Jews because they saw a special star in the east.

When Herod the king heard these things, he was troubled. He wanted to be king, not someone else. He called the wise men, and told them to search for the young child and to be sure to let the king know so he could go and worship him.

The wise men departed and the special star guided them to Jesus. They saw Jesus and the wise men gave him wonderful gifts of that day: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The wise men left to go back and tell King Herod, but they were warned by God in a dream not to do it, so they went home a different way.

After the Magi left, what happened to Jesus?

When the Magi departed, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel told Joseph to take Jesus and his mother, Mary, to Egypt and to stay there until he would tell Joseph it was safe. The angel told Joseph it was dangerous in Israel because of King Herod.

So Joseph took Jesus and Mary and departed by night to go to Egypt.

When Herod heard that the wise men went home a different way instead of reporting back to him, Herod was very angry. Herod gave orders to kill all the children two years old and younger who were in Bethlehem and those who lived on the coasts in that area.

But when Herod was dead, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph. The angel told Joseph to go back to Israel because it was now safe.

And Joseph took Jesus and Mary back to Israel to a town named Nazareth. Jesus grew up in Nazareth.

Contributed by Lynn Smith  
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