REFERENCES: LUKE 2:1-20; MATTHEW 2:1-12; THE DESIRE OF AGES, PP. 43-49, 59-67.

Baby Jesus Is Born

Memory Verse:

"I love you, Lord." PSALM 18:1, NIV.

The Message:

We love Jesus.

Parents:

By the end of the month you can help your child

Know that we worship Jesus.

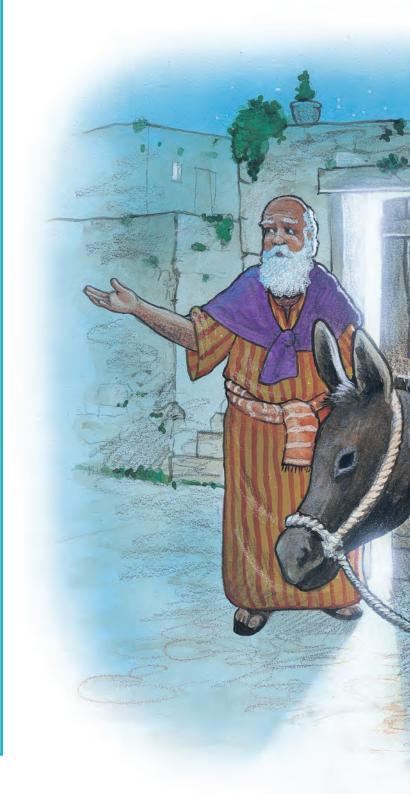
Feel love for Jesus.

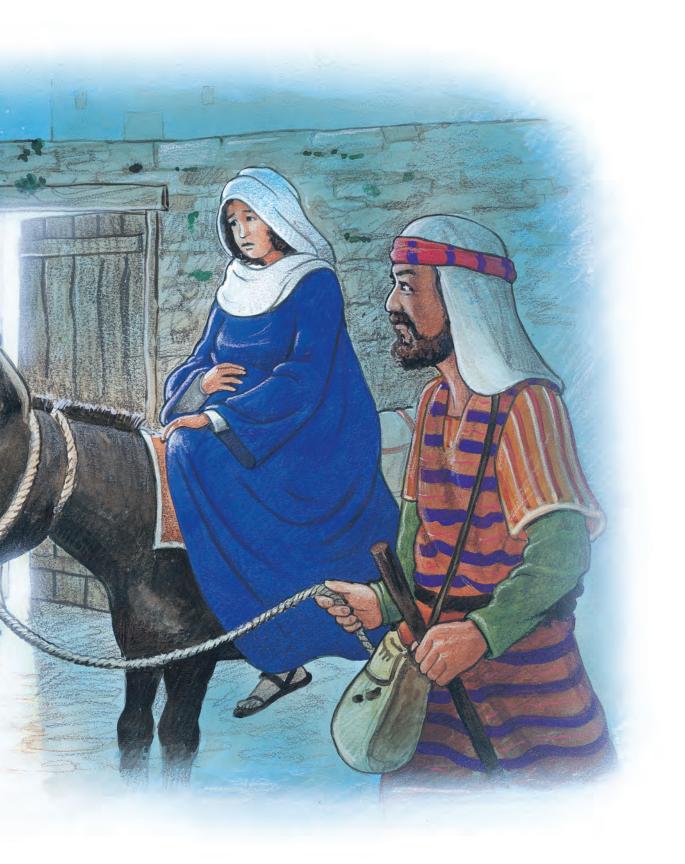
Respond by worshipping Jesus.



See the mother with her new baby. New babies are so special.

ee Joseph and Mary. They have traveled a long way. They want to rest. "I'm sorry," says the man (Point to the innkeeper.), "all my rooms are full." "But we have come a long way," Joseph says. (Point to Joseph, then Mary.) "And my wife will soon have a baby." "Well, you could stay in the stable," answers the kind man. "I have some animals there, but it's warm and dry."









ee the animals. (Point to and name the animals.) See the manger. (Point to the manger.) The hay in the manger is soft. It will make a nice bed for a baby. The stable will be a good place to stay for a while. After a while, Baby Jesus was born.

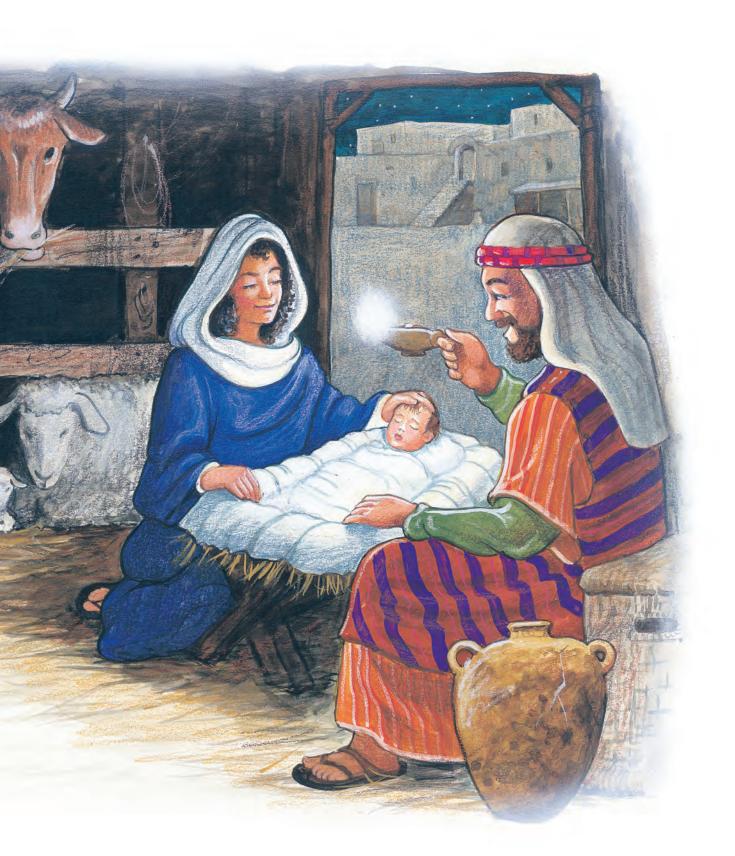
et's put our baby on the soft hay in the manger," says Joseph. "You should rest a while." (Point to Joseph, then to Mary.)

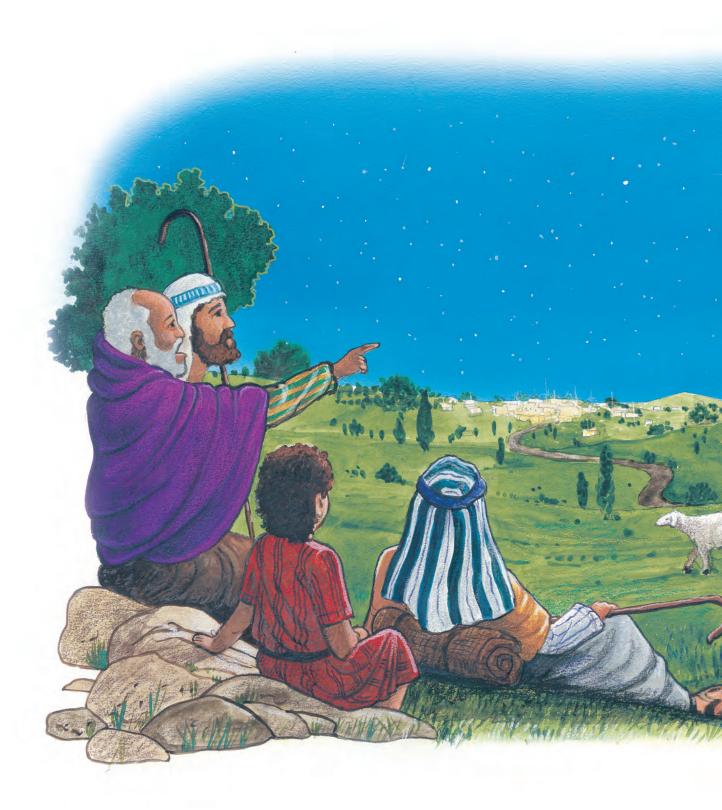
Mother Mary looks at her new baby boy. She touches His curly, dark hair and His tiny ears. (Touch your child's hair and an ear.) She loves him so much!

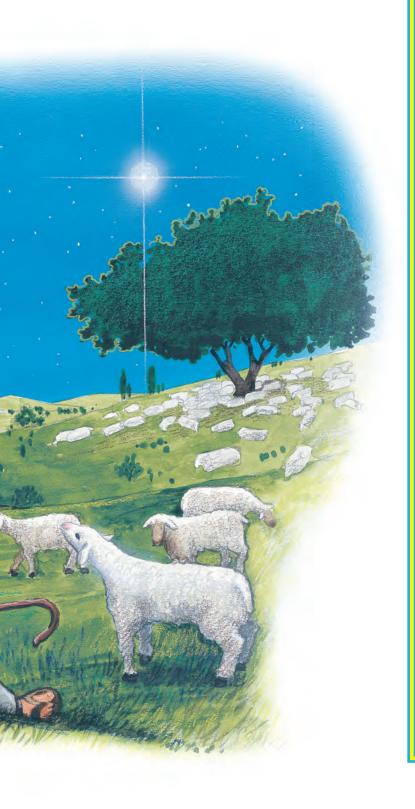
"Come," says Joseph. "Come and rest now."







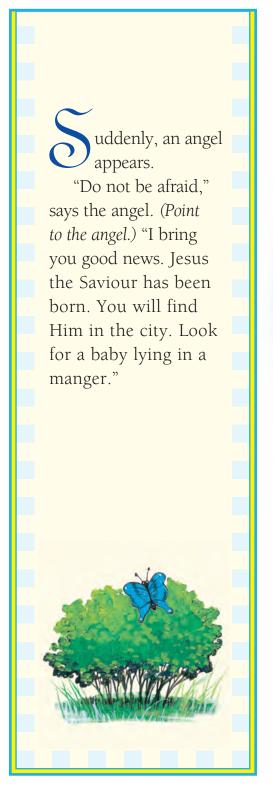




ome shepherds watch their sheep on a nearby hillside. (Point to shepherds, then sheep.) They have heard that Jesus will come to earth. When will He come? they wonder. Will He come soon? God's Word says He will.

The shepherds see a bright, shining star. (*Point to the star.*)

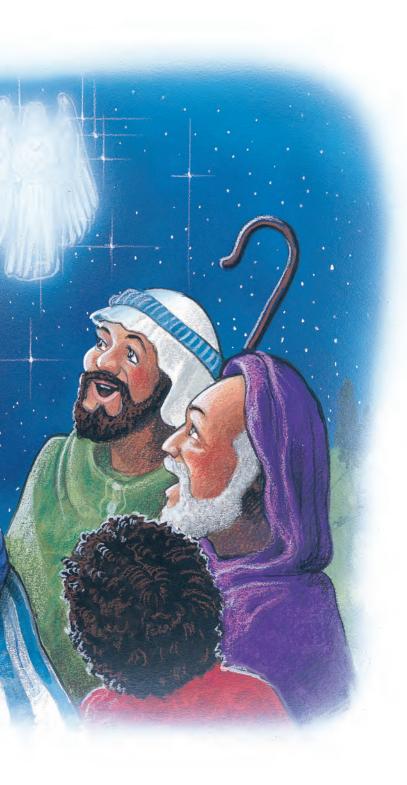
Where did that star come from? they wonder.









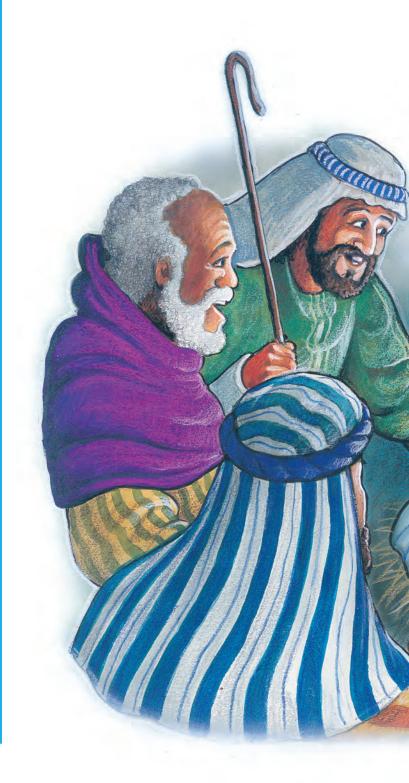


any more angels come. So many angels! (Point to the angels.) The angels praise God. Glory to God in the highest. And on earth peace to everyone. "We must go," the shepherds say to one another. "We must go to the city and look for this baby."

hank You, God," the shepherds pray. "Thank You for sending Your Son to this earth. Thank You for sending Jesus to be our Saviour. We will tell everyone we meet about Him."

We can thank God too. (Pray a simple prayer, such as the following.) Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to love us, to save us, and to care for us. We love Him, and we love You too.







Roll both ends of a piece of paper together to look like a scroll. Decorate it and write "Follow the star. A Saviour has been born." Talk to your child about the shepherds.

Make paper or elastic headbands for the family. Attach paper or felt animal ears—cow, donkey, sheep, etc. Sing "Away in a Manger." Say

tudy these suggestions for something to do each day with your child. Select those that are appropriate for your child's developmental stage and repeat them often.

Arrange stuffed toy animals in a corner. Count them and talk to your child about Jesus' birth.

Provide a "donkey ride" on your back for your older toddler. Talk to him or her about Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

Allow your child to ride on a rocking horse.
Talk to him/ her about Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.



Shine a flashlight on the ceiling of a darkened room. Show your child how to follow the "star" to find Baby Jesus. Wrap up a baby doll in strips of cloth. Sing a song about Baby Jesus. Thank God for Jesus. Roll out cookie dough and use a star-shaped cookie cutter. Have your child help you decorate with yellow icing and sprinkles. Stuff a white sock with cloth scraps and glue cotton balls to it. Draw a sheep's face and ears. Talk to your child about the shepherds who worshipped Jesus.

Buy plaster ornaments of the Nativity scene—stars, or shepherds—and, with your child, paint them with finger paints.

Visit a Nativity scene and look at the straw. Have your child touch it if possible.

Use blocks or pillows to make a stable. Place toy animals inside it. Sing "Away in a Manger."

Make a manger by shredding newspaper and putting it in a box. Use a doll for Baby Jesus. Sing "Away in a Manger." Make a cardboard crown and decorate it. Write "Jesus Is King" on the front.

Have a party for
Jesus. Sing songs of
praise to Him. Talk
about a gift
your child
might give
to Jesus.