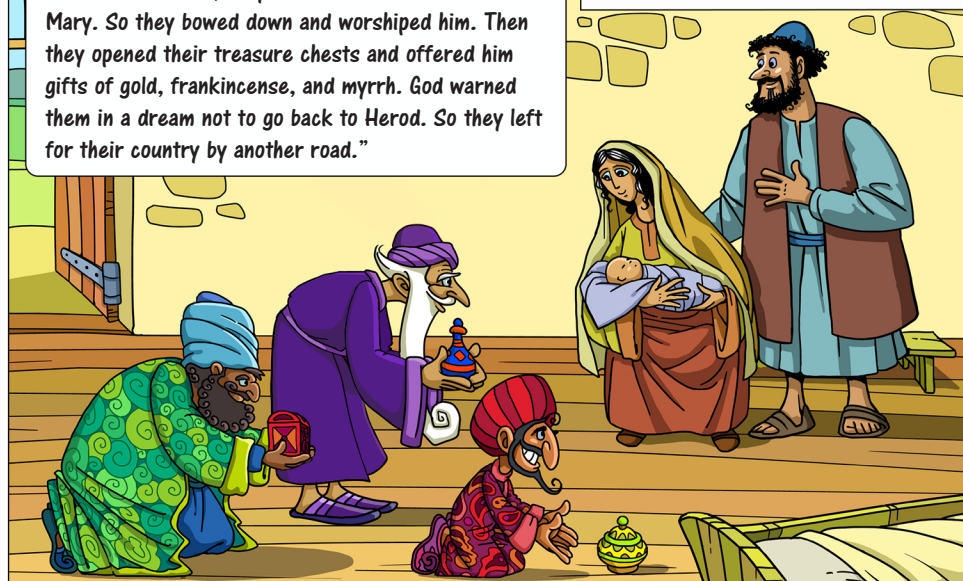


"When King Herod and all Jerusalem heard about this, they became disturbed. He called together all the chief priests and the experts in the Scriptures and tried to find out from them where the Messiah was supposed to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem in Judea. The prophet wrote about this: Bethlehem in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah. A leader will come from you. He will shepherd my people Israel.'"

"Then Herod secretly called the wise men and found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. As he sent them to Bethlehem, he said, 'Go and search carefully for the child. When you have found him, report to me so that I may go and worship him too.'"

"After they had heard the king, they started out. The star they had seen rising led them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were overwhelmed with joy to see the star. When they entered the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary. So they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they left for their country by another road."



We celebrate Christmas because it is about the birth of Jesus! This baby became a man who loved everyone and taught us how God wants us to live. He gave His life to pay for our sins, and was raised to life three days later. Jesus wants to give us the greatest gift of all, eternal life! We can read in the Bible about how we can accept Jesus as our Savior, and receive the best Christmas present ever!



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THE



presents...

# CHRISTMAS STORY

## Have you ever wondered why we celebrate Christmas?

The Christmas story is about the birth of Jesus. Sometimes we get confused and think that it is about getting toys and games. However, the Christmas story is much more. It is the story about when God came to our world and was born as a baby. God loved us so much that He sent Jesus to save us from our sin.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The town of Bethlehem still exists today and is located just south of the city of Jerusalem, in the country of Israel. Many people travel there each year to celebrate the birth of Jesus.



Let's read the story from the Bible. The Bible is God's Word. In the Bible are two books called the Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of Luke. In these books, we read the exciting story about the birth of Jesus. His mother's name was Mary, and the name of His earthly father was Joseph.



# JESUS IS BORN (Luke 2:1-18)

One day, the emperor of the Roman Empire, a man named Caesar Augustus, sent out an order to everyone who lived in his empire. He ordered everyone to return to their hometown so they could be counted in a census. Our story begins in the Bible, in Luke chapter 2.

"Joseph went from Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to a Judean city called Bethlehem. Joseph, a descendant of King David, went to Bethlehem because David had been born there. Joseph went there to register with Mary. She had been promised to him in marriage and was pregnant."



"While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have her child. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger because there wasn't any room for them in the inn."



Why did Mary and Joseph leave Nazareth to go to Bethlehem?

## Pop Quiz!

Where was Jesus born?

What did the shepherds do after the angels told them about Jesus?

Why did the wise men come?

"Shepherds were in the fields near Bethlehem. They were taking turns watching their flock during the night. An angel from the Lord suddenly appeared to them. The glory of the Lord filled the area with light, and they were terrified. The angel said to them, 'Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, a message that will fill everyone with joy. Today your Savior, Christ the Lord, was born in David's city. This is how you will recognize him: You will find an infant wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.'"



"Suddenly, a large army of angels appeared with the angel. They were praising God by saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those who have his good will!' The angels left them and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see what the Lord has told us about.' They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph with the baby, who was lying in a manger. When they saw the child, they repeated what they had been told about him. Everyone who heard the shepherds' story was amazed."

## THE WISE MEN VISIT JESUS (Matthew 2:1-12)

"Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea when Herod was king. After Jesus' birth wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem. They asked, 'Where is the one who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star rising and have come to worship him.'"

