

LESSON 16

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 2:1-2,11

It is always an exciting time when a baby is born. This lesson is about the time when a very special baby, God's son, Jesus, was born.

Mary and Joseph lived in a town called Nazareth. One day, they had to travel to Bethlehem to be counted. It was a long way to Bethlehem.

When Mary and Joseph arrived, they asked the innkeeper if he had a room where they could rest, but no rooms were left. So the innkeeper said that they could sleep on the soft hay in the stable. That night, baby Jesus was born in the stable. Mary, his mother, wrapped him up, and laid him in a manger, a container for the animals' food.

In the fields, shepherds were looking after their sheep. A bright light shone around them, and the angel told them that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The shepherds decided to go and find this baby. There in a stable, they found Mary and Joseph with baby Jesus lying in the manger. They praised God because He had sent Jesus.

Later, God put a bright star in the sky. Wise men followed the star and brought presents to baby Jesus.

ACTIVITY

Mark the pathway that the shepherds must take to see baby Jesus, by colouring or sprinkling it with glitter. Colour the rest of the picture, and paste cotton wool on the lamb.

FURTHER SUGGESTIONS

Make a collage picture of the manger. Use pop sticks, toothpicks, straw, etc.

Glitter a star and thread it onto a ribbon or cord to wear as a necklace. Alternatively, make a star mobile.

Use a matchbox for the manger. Line with tissue paper or a small piece of material and find a picture of a baby to place inside. Make a cover for the baby.

Make sheep out of cardboard covered with cotton wool, using the pattern at the back of the book. Make pipe cleaner shepherds to watch over them.

Act out the final part of the story, when the wise men come with presents to visit baby Jesus, after making pretend presents.

Shepherds came to visit the Baby Jesus.

