

*Christmas Scripture
Advent Countdown
for Children*



Christmas Scripture Story Advent for Children

Each day in December leading up to Christmas a small part of the Christmas story is presented as told in the four Gospels of the New Testament, particularly Matthew and Luke. Some days a name by which Christ is known is discussed.

Every day read the scriptures first. Then use the rest of the guide to expand on the story told in the scriptures. There may be a link to a bible video online, or a craft idea, or an activity to do. These are all optional but will enhance your child's understanding. I intentionally kept it very simple as this advent is geared towards children.

My 13 year old daughter illustrated each of the figures. These can be used in a variety of ways: as ornaments for an Advent Tree, printed on iron-on paper then transferred to white flannel to be used as flannel board figures, or decoupaged to blocks of wood for a child's Nativity set.

May your Christmas season truly be Christ-filled as you help your children seek Him even as the Wise Men did and as you bear testimony to your children of the divinity of Jesus Christ just as the angels, shepherds, Simeon, and Anna testified.

Montserrat @ [Chocolate on my Cranium](#)

December 01 - The Annunciation

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38



Mary was a beautiful young woman who had been taught to believe in God and in the words of the prophets. One day the Lord sent the angel Gabriel to Mary with this message: "Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women."

Mary was troubled because she was not sure what the angel meant.

"Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God," the angel continued.

"And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS."

Mary was still puzzled and asked the angel how she could possibly have this baby, for she was not yet married.

"With God nothing shall be impossible," the angel answered. Then he explained that Mary's child was to be God's Only Begotten Son.

This was startling news, but because of Mary's faith and humility, she believed everything the angel told her. Her heart was filled with joy. No other daughter of God had ever been so blessed. In her gentle way Mary replied, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." Mary wanted more than anything else to do the will of her Father in Heaven. (The Birth of Jesus, The Friend, Dec. 1982)

Watch the Bible Video: [An Angel Foretells Christ's Birth to Mary](#)

Activity: Mary was willing to do what God asked her to do. What are some things God asks you to do? Make a list of at least three things to work on today such as obeying your parents, being kind, or sharing.

December 02 ~ Mary Visits Elisabeth

Scripture: Luke 1: 39-56

The angel Gabriel told Mary that her cousin Elisabeth was going to have a son even though Elisabeth was old and barren, meaning she couldn't have children. "For with God nothing shall be impossible."

Mary went to visit Elisabeth. When she heard Mary's voice, Elisabeth's "babe leaped in her womb" and she was filled with the Holy Ghost, which blessed her to know that Mary was pregnant with the Son of God. Mary's reply to Elisabeth is called the Magnificat. It is Mary's testimony of the goodness and mercy of God.

Watch the Bible video: [Mary and Elisabeth Rejoice Together](#)

Activity: Both Mary and Elisabeth shared their testimonies of the Lord. Write down your testimony of Jesus Christ (or draw a picture for younger children), roll it into a scroll, tie with ribbon, and hang it as an ornament on your Christmas tree.

December 03 ~ Joseph

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25



Joseph was a carpenter, which means he worked with wood. He was a noble and kind man. He and Mary had entered into an agreement to be married. Joseph loved Mary and wanted her to be his wife, but when he found she was going to have a baby, he decided to quietly call off their marriage.

However, the angel Gabriel visited Joseph in a dream and said, "Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost." (Matthew 1:20)

Joseph understood then and took Mary to be his wife. He was happy that the long-foretold coming of the Savior was at hand and that Mary, whom he loved, was to be the mother of the Savior. Joseph was to help Mary raise Jesus. What a great responsibility Joseph and Mary had!

Activity: [Make the donkey](#) Mary rode and Joseph led to Bethlehem.

Activity: Joseph and Mary had a big responsibility to care for Jesus and teach him. Your parents also have the duty to teach and care for you. Draw a picture or write a thank you note to your parents.

December 04 - Bethlehem

Scripture: Luke 2: 1-5

In the spring of the year, Caesar Augustus, ruler of the Roman Empire, sent out a decree that every man in the empire must return to the city of his ancestors to pay a tax. Joseph had to go to Bethlehem.

Because Mary was about to have the baby, she was very uncomfortable. The journey was long and hard for her. When she and Joseph reached Bethlehem, things were even worse. The city was so crowded with all the people who had come to pay their taxes that there was not one room left for Mary and Joseph. Every inn was full. Finally, they found shelter in a stable.

Watch the Bible video: [Mary and Joseph Travel to Bethlehem](#)

Activity: Bethlehem means *House of Bread*. Make this [Christmas Wreath Bread](#) but cut the dough in half before spreading with filling and rolling so you make two smaller wreaths, one for your family and one to share with someone else.

December 05 - Jesus was called the Bread of Life

Scripture: John 6:5-14, 32-25

After Jesus feed the 5,000 with five loaves of bread and two fish the people followed Him for the wrong reasons. They wanted Jesus to provide food for them again and again. Jesus tells them they need to seek for spiritual food which will give them eternal life. His life and the atonement that He made is the Bread of Life for us. When we come to Christ we are spiritually fed over and over again.

Watch the video: [The Bread of Life](#)

Activity: Bake some bread to take to your neighbors. This [French bread recipe](#) is easy to do.

December 06 - No Room in the Inn

Scripture: Luke 2:6-7

The city of Bethlehem was so crowded with all the people who had come to pay their taxes that there was not one room left for Mary and Joseph. Every inn was full. They had to find shelter in a stable.

Activity: Read this fictional story [One Night in Bethlehem](#) about a boy named Ezra who works for an innkeeper.

Activity: Elder Neal A. Maxwell stated, "Each of us is an innkeeper who decides if there is room for Jesus." Print off the poem found here at The Idea Room. Gather some old keys and give them as gifts with the poem attached.

Make a list of ways you can make more room for Jesus Christ in your life. Are there ways you can serve others? Can you find more time to read your scriptures and pray?

Watch the video: [The Coat: A Story of Charity](#) It is a true story about a boy who selflessly gives to another.

Watch this music video: [Do You Have Room](#)

December 07 - Baby Jesus

Scripture: Luke 2: 5-7



During this time, inns were rectangular with a courtyard in the center for animals. Because the rooms surrounding the courtyard were filled, Joseph may have cared for Mary's delivery in that center courtyard or stable. While they were staying in the stable, Mary's baby was born, and they called Him Jesus. Mary wrapped him in swaddling clothes.

When she looked at Him, she realized what a miracle He was. She was His mother, and God was His father. Every child is a spirit child of our Heavenly Father, but Jesus was also an earthly child of God. He was the Only Begotten Son of God, and He would be able to do the important work that God had called Him to do in this life.

Activity: Make this [Baby in the Manger](#) craft

Watch the video: [The Greatest Gift](#)

Watch the video: [What Child is This?](#) Sung by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir

December 08 - Manger

Scripture: Luke 2:7, 16



Straw was carefully arranged in a manger to make a bed for Him. Tenderly Mary wrapped her tiny Son in swaddling clothes (pieces of cloth for bundling a baby) and put Him in the manger probably filled with sweet straw. Many artists have shown the Christmas manger as a wooden trough. But it may also have been carved from rock.

Activity: Make an empty manger in which to lay the baby Jesus. Take a small wooden or cardboard box and paint it brown. Every time you do a good deed place a strip of yellow paper in the manger. By Christmas day it should be full, ready to lay the baby Jesus in. There are instructions for a simple cardstock manger here at [Serving Pink Lemonade](#).

Activity: Color this picture of [Mary, Joseph, and the Baby Jesus](#).

December 09 - Shepherds

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20



The night of Jesus' birth shepherds near Bethlehem were tending their sheep. Suddenly the skies became bright, "and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid." An angel appeared to them, saying, "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."

As the angel spoke, a multitude of the heavenly host appeared, praising God: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

After the angels left, the shepherds hurried to see this special baby. Just as the angel had said, they found Mary and Joseph in a stable and the Babe lying in a manger. Looking down at the newborn Child, they knew He was indeed the Christ, the One who would be the Savior of all mankind.

"And when they had seen [the Babe], they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child." Then the shepherds returned to their flocks, glorifying and praising God for the wonderful things they had seen and heard. Happiness and joy filled their hearts because they had seen and could testify of the Christ.

Watch the Bible Video: [Shepherds Learn of the Birth of Christ](#)

Activity: Make a [shepherd out of a toilet paper tube](#).

Activity: There are several lessons we can learn from the shepherds. First, they went with haste to find the baby Jesus. They didn't wait around for a better time or when they were less busy. Second, "the shepherds said *one to another*, Let us now go..." (Luke 2:15 emphasis added). They had surrounded themselves with good friends who encouraged each other to seek the Savior. Third, they shared their testimonies with all. They didn't keep the joy they felt to themselves. Instead, the shepherds wanted to spread that joy to everyone.

Make these Shepherd's Staff Cookies and take them to friends or neighbors. Remember to share your testimony of the Savior with them when you deliver the cookies.

Shepherd's Staff (Candy Cane) Cookies

1 cup sugar
1 cup butter or margarine, softened
1/2 cup milk
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 teaspoon peppermint extract
1 egg

3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon red food color
2 tablespoons finely crushed peppermint candies
2 tablespoons sugar

Stir together 1 cup sugar, the butter, milk, vanilla, peppermint extract and egg in large bowl. Stir in flour, baking powder and salt. Divide dough in half. Stir food color into 1 half. Cover and refrigerate at least 4 hours.

Heat oven to 375°F. Stir together peppermint candy and 2 tablespoon sugar; set aside.

For each candy cane, shape 1 rounded teaspoon dough from each half into 4-inch rope by rolling back and forth on floured surface. Place 1 red and white rope side by side; press together lightly and twist. Place on ungreased cookie sheet; curve top of cookie down to form handle of cane.

Bake 9 to 12 minutes or until set and very light brown. Immediately sprinkle candy mixture over cookies. Remove from cookie sheet to wire rack. Cool completely, about 30 minutes. Makes 4 1/2 dozen cookies

December 10 - The Good Shepherd

Scripture: John 10:14

"A shepherd watches over his sheep. He keeps them safe in a place where nothing can harm them. He takes them to pastures where there is good food and water. The sheep know their shepherd's voice and follow him. A good shepherd would give his life to protect his sheep from danger; he leads them to safety. Jesus is the Good Shepherd because He watches over us and shows us the way to go. We hear His voice as we study His words in the scriptures and as we follow His chosen leaders. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, has given His life for us, and He will lead us safely back to Heavenly Father. We are like His sheep when we listen to His voice, follow Him, and remember Him." (Ann Jamison, Friend, Apr 2000, 37)

Activity: Print out the flannel board figures and story for [The Good Shepherd](#).

Activity: Print and color this picture of [Jesus, The Good Shepherd](#).

Watch the video: [Jesus Christ, The Good Shepherd](#)

December 11 ~ The Lamb of God

Scripture: John 1:29; Isaiah 53:7



Jesus is also known as the Lamb of God. In ancient Jewish times a lamb was sacrificed as a sin offering. This sacrifice “point[ed] to that great and last sacrifice [of] ... the Son of God, yea, infinite and eternal” (Alma 34:14). “Jesus Christ endured incomprehensible suffering to make Himself a sacrifice for the sins of all. That sacrifice offered the ultimate good—the pure Lamb without blemish—for the ultimate measure of evil—the sins of the entire world. In the memorable words of Eliza R. Snow:

His precious blood he freely spilt;
His life he freely gave,
A sinless sacrifice for guilt,
A dying world to save.” (Dallin H. Oaks, Sacrifice, April 2012)

Jesus is the Lamb of God because he suffered and died for us. The atonement He made provides us the opportunity to repent and be cleansed of our sins. When you see lambs in a nativity scene they remind us the sacrifice Jesus will make at the end of His life.

Activity: Make this [Handprint Lamb](#) craft.

Activity: Make these [sheep salt dough ornaments](#).

December 12 ~ Angels

Scripture: Luke 2:9-14



On the night Jesus was born angels appeared to the shepherds. Suddenly the skies became bright, “and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.” An angel appeared to them, saying, “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.”

As the angel spoke, a multitude of the heavenly host appeared, praising God: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

Activity: Make [paper plate angels](#).

Watch the video: [Angels From the Realms of Glory](#) by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir

December 13 - Temple

Scripture: Luke 2:21-24

When the Savior was just eight days old, Mary and Joseph gave Him the name Jesus, as the angel Gabriel had instructed them. A short time later they took Jesus to the temple “to offer a sacrifice according to ... the law of the Lord, A pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons.” Mary and Joseph were careful to observe all the commandments that had been given them. The temple was the center of Jewish worship. There sacrifices were made according to the Law of Moses.

Activity: Make [sugar cube temples](#).

December 14 - Simeon

Scripture: Luke 2:25-35



A devout man named Simeon had been promised through the power of the Holy Ghost that he would not die until he had seen the Christ. When Simeon “came by the spirit into the temple,” he saw Mary and Joseph and the baby. Happily he reached out and took the baby into his arms “and blessed God,” knowing at last that the Savior had come. Simeon also prophesied that Jesus would be a blessing to all people. Then he blessed Mary and Joseph and told Mary of the terrible suffering she would endure because of the way Jesus would be treated.

Watch the Bible Video: [The Christ Child is Presented at the Temple](#)

Activity: Simeon longed to know the Lord. He went to the temple often. Because of the good life Simeon lived he recognized the baby Jesus and expressed gratitude immediately. Do you recognize the good things in your life, the blessings that come from the Lord? Make a list of things you are thankful for.

December 15 - Anna

Scripture: Luke 2:36-38



Also in the temple that day was Anna, an aged prophetess. When she saw the baby Jesus, the Spirit of the Lord bore testimony within her that the child she beheld was the promised Messiah. Anna thanked the Lord for her knowledge of this wonderful event, and she hastened to tell all who would listen of its importance. Like the shepherds, Anna could not contain the good news!

Watch the video: [Kids and Christmas](#) Children tell the story of Jesus’s birth

Watch the video: [Christmas Spirit](#)

December 16 - The Wise Men

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12



Joseph and Mary returned with the baby Jesus to their home. There Mary cared for Him just as every mother cares for her child. She loved Jesus very much.

At this time King Herod ruled over the people of Palestine and the lands around it. He was a cruel and greedy man, and he had put many people to death because he did not want anyone to take his place as king.

One day certain wise men from the East who had seen the bright new star in the heavens came to Jerusalem. They knew that the star was a sign that the Messiah had been born. “Where is he that is born King of the Jews?” they asked, “for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.”

When Herod heard about a new king of the Jews, he became very upset. He called all the learned men of his kingdom together and asked them where the promised Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem of Judea:” they answered, “for thus it is written by the prophet [Micah].”

King Herod was very clever as well as very cruel. He pretended to be excited about the Messiah and told the Wise Men, “Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.”

The Wise Men left and, guided by the star, soon came to the house where Mary, Joseph, and the Child were staying. There they “fell down, and worshipped [Jesus]: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.”

God warned the Wise Men in a dream not to return to Herod, so they traveled back to their own country by a different route.

Watch the Bible Video: [The Wise Men Seek Jesus](#)

Watch the video: [Wise Men Still Seek Him](#)

Activity: Make crowns out of paper plates as seen [in this video](#).

December 17 - King of Kings

Scripture: Isaiah 43:15

Jesus Christ is the King of Kings. He is above all earthly rulers. He is our Heavenly King. We worship Him and give Him all the glory.

Activity: Color the [K is for King of Kings](#) coloring page.

December 18 - Star

Scripture: Matthew 2:2, 9-10

After the birth of Jesus a bright new star appeared in the heavens. The Wise Men saw the star and knew it was a sign that Jesus had been born. They followed the star to where Jesus could be found.

Activity: Play follow the leader. The leader should be holding a star.

Activity: Make these [paper pinwheel stars](#).

December 19 - Bright and Morning Star

Scripture: Revelation 22:16

Jesus called himself the Bright and Morning Star.

Activity: Create [these paper stars](#) (be sure to click through the slide show on the upper left of the article to see the examples) and write different [names of Christ](#) on them.

December 20 - Light of the World

Scripture: John 8:12

This is another name that Jesus gave to himself. Why do you think Jesus calls himself the light of the world? He is the perfect example for us to follow. When we do as Jesus does we are sharing His light with others. When we see the sun rise each day to give light to our world, we can remember Jesus Christ's shining example. He always chose the right. When we follow the example of Jesus and choose the right, we are following His light and we remember Him.

"If we are to [be] an ensign to the nations and a light to the world, we must take on more of the luster of the life of Christ." (Gordon B. Hinckley, "An Ensign to the Nations, a Light to the World," Ensign, Nov 2003, 82)

Activity: Gather your family in a circle in the evening. Have everyone hold a candle (or if children are too little place candles on a table in candle holders). Light one candle then turn off the lights. Take turns lighting your candle and share one way you followed Jesus today.

December 21 - Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh

Scripture: Matthew 2:11



The Bible doesn't say why the Wise Men brought these particular gifts, but all three gifts had practical value and perhaps symbolic meaning for the Son of God and His earthly parents.

Gold

Practical use: For a young couple who would soon have the expense of traveling to Egypt to avoid the wrath of Herod, the gold would be an invaluable gift.

Symbolic meaning: Gold is the typical gift for kings (see 1 Kings 9:14, 28) because it symbolizes kingship and royalty—a fitting gift for the “King of kings” (1 Timothy 6:15).

Frankincense

Practical use: Aside from its considerable monetary value, frankincense was used as a sweet-smelling incense and perfume.

Symbolic meaning: Frankincense comes from a sweet tree resin and was used in priesthood ordinances, in burnt offerings (see Leviticus 2:1), and in oil for anointing priests. Thus, it can represent the Lord's priesthood and His role as the Lamb of God to be sacrificed on our behalf (see John 1:29).

Myrrh

Practical use: Myrrh, a bitter oil from a tree resin, was also economically valuable but probably more beneficial to Mary and Joseph for its medicinal uses.

Symbolic meaning: In the New Testament, myrrh is usually associated with embalming and burial because of its preservative qualities (see John 19:39–40). Myrrh's medicinal uses can symbolize Christ's role as the Master Healer, and its use in burials can symbolize “the bitter cup” He would drink when He suffered for our sins (see D&C 19:18–19).

Activity: Use [this tutorial to make tiny gift boxes](#). Write on strips of paper gifts you can give to the Christ child. Place the paper strips in the boxes and hang them on your Christmas tree.

Watch the video: [What Shall We Give](#) sung by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir

December 22 - Jesus as a child

Scripture: Luke 2:40, 52; Matthew 2:13-23



Not everyone was happy about the Savior's birth. King Herod heard that a child had been born who would be the king of the Jews. Herod did not want any other kings in his land. He ordered that all the babies born near Bethlehem in the past two years be killed! An angel came to Joseph in a dream to warn him about Herod's plan. Joseph and Mary fled in the night. They took Jesus to live in the land of Egypt, where He would be safe.

After King Herod died, Jesus's family moved to the town of Nazareth. Joseph worked as a carpenter. Mary took care of the household.

Jesus learned to work beside Joseph. Like all Jewish boys, He studied the scriptures and Jewish laws. Joseph and Mary obeyed the commandments, and Jesus learned from His earthly parents. Jesus "grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him" (Luke 2:40).

Activity: What things are important for you to learn as you grow up? What goals have you set? What can you do to learn more about the gospel? Write on a piece of paper two goals that will help you learn more about the gospel this year. Keep the paper where you can see it often.

Activity: Sing Jesus Once Was a Little Child. If you do not know the tune at least read the words:

Jesus once was a little child,
A little child like me;
And he was pure and meek and mild,
As a little child should be.

He played as little children play
The pleasant games of youth;
But he never got vexed if the game went wrong,
And he always spoke the truth.

So, little children,
Let's you and I
Try to be like him,
Try, try, try.

December 23 - Savior

Scripture: Luke 2:11; 1 John 4:14

Jesus is the **Savior**. Jesus loves us so much that He suffered and died for us. On the third day after His body was laid in the tomb, He arose—was resurrected. He said, “I have laid down my life, and have taken it up again; therefore repent, and come unto me ye ends of the earth, and be saved” (3 Ne. 9:22). We come unto Him when we remember Him and keep His commandments. Because He made it possible for us to be forgiven of our sins and be resurrected and return to live with Heavenly Father, Jesus is our Savior (see D&C 43:34).

Activity: We feel the Savior’s love everyday. We can show our love for Him by following His example. Print off and color this [Continue in My Love](#) booklet. Cut along the dotted lines. On the back of each picture, draw a picture of yourself doing an act of love similar to the one Jesus is doing. As you draw a picture or write a few sentences describing what you will do that is like what Jesus did, think of the people you can show love to.

December 24 - Jesus the Christ

Scripture: Isaiah 9:6

“Jesus, who is called Christ, is the firstborn of the Father in the spirit and the Only Begotten of the Father in the flesh. He is Jehovah, and was foreordained to his great calling in the Grand Councils before the world was. He was born of Mary at Bethlehem, lived a sinless life, and wrought out a perfect atonement for all mankind by the shedding of his blood and his death on the cross. He rose from the grave and brought to pass the bodily resurrection of every living thing and the salvation and exaltation of the faithful.

He is the greatest Being to be born on this earth—the perfect example—and all religious things should be done in his name. He is Lord of lords, King of kings, the Creator, the Savior, the God of the whole earth, the Captain of our salvation, the Bright and Morning Star. He is in all things, above all things, through all things, and round about all things; he is Alpha and Omega, the first and the last; his name is above every name, and is the only name under heaven by which we can be saved.

He will come again in power and glory to dwell on the earth, and will stand as Judge of all mankind at the last day.” *Bible Dictionary*

Watch the video: [This is the Christ](#) sung by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir

Watch the video: [Jesus Christ is the Way](#)

Activity: The Bible is a record of prophets bearing witness, or testifying, of Jesus Christ. The Old Testament in the Bible was written before Jesus was born. The New Testament tells about Jesus’ life and was written after He lived on the earth. These testaments give evidence that Jesus is the Son of God and that He is our Savior. Write in your journal your own testimony of Jesus Christ.

December 25 – Read [The Living Christ](#) with your family before opening any Christmas gifts.

Mary (use when Mary is introduced and again when the Wise Men visit the child Jesus)

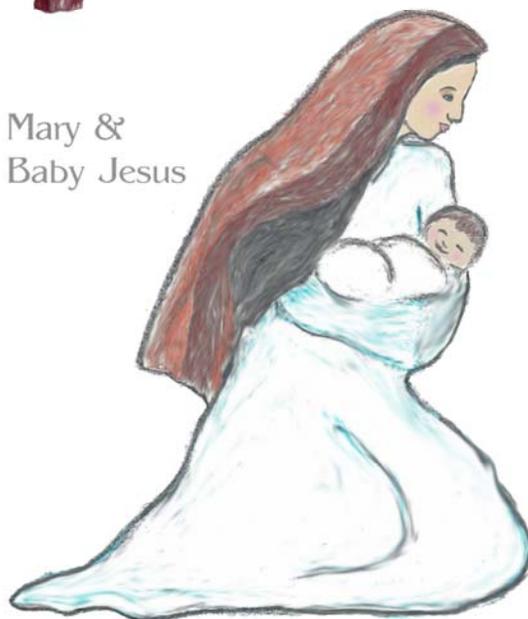


Manger



Child Jesus

Mary & Baby Jesus



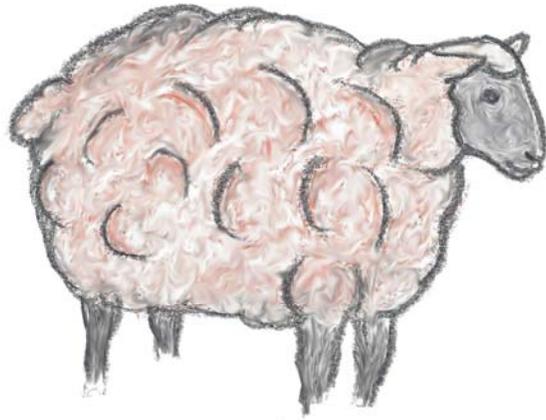
Joseph



Donkey



Sheep

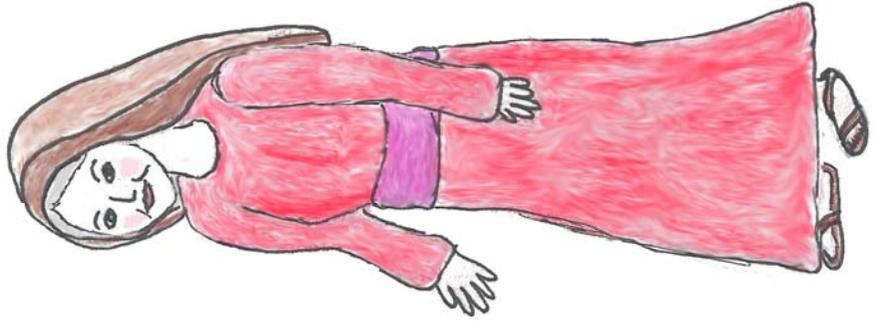


Shepherds





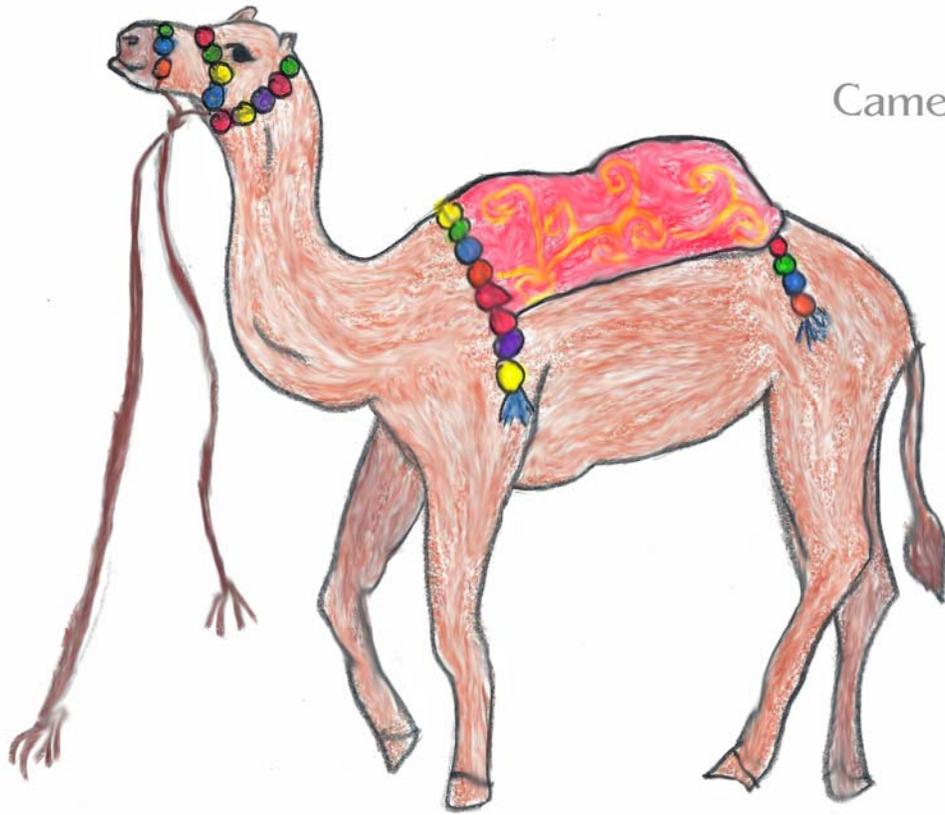
Angels



Anna

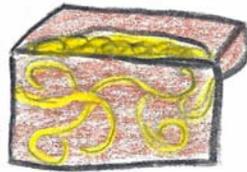


Simeon



Camel

Frankincense
Gold
Myrrh



Wise Men