

HomeWord
For Parents

Mary was a young, simple Jewish woman who recognized herself as a maidservant of the Lord and willingly accepted God's plan for her (Luke 1:38). What was that plan? She would be the mother of Jesus!

And so it was. In the little town of Bethlehem, Mary brought forth her firstborn Son, wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him—not with kings and royalty—but in a manger used to feed animals, because there were no other rooms for them to stay in (Luke 2:7). His birth was announced to simple shepherds staying out in the nearby fields (Luke 2:8). And the announcement was spectacular. First, an angel of God appeared to the shepherds with the glory of the Lord shining all around. The angel announced that a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, was born. The shepherds then witnessed a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:9–14). Immediately, the shepherds made their way to Bethlehem

and found Mary, Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger just as the angel had said (Luke 2:15–16).

This was a humble, earthly beginning for the great Redeemer King—the incarnate God Himself—unlikely for the Creator of the universe! Yet Scripture assures us in many places that this humble babe was in fact God. The Apostle John, by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, revealed Jesus Christ as God. And John tells us in his Gospel that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father" (John 1:14). The Word was God and the Word became flesh. The Word was Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah and Savior.

Jesus was fully God and fully man. Though He was God, He willingly gave up the heavenly honor, glory, and rights that were His. He took the form of a bondservant and came to earth as a man. He lived in humility and finally humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death on the Cross (Philippians 2:6–8).

Go to the Online Resource Page for more information.

Birth of Christ

KEY THEME

• Jesus is God in the flesh.

KEY PASSAGES

- Luke 2:1–20
- John 1:1, 1:14, 5:18, 10:30, 10:33, 20:28



What You **HEARD** in the **WORD**

- Jesus was born in Bethlehem and laid in a manger. Angels announced His birth to shepherds out in the fields tending their sheep.
- Jesus's humble birth is surprising because Jesus IS God!

Answer these questions from today's lesson.

- 1 Where did Mary lay Jesus after He was born?
- 2 Who did God announce Jesus's birth to?
- 3 Why did the Jews want to kill Jesus? Who did He say He was?



OutWord For Family Discussion

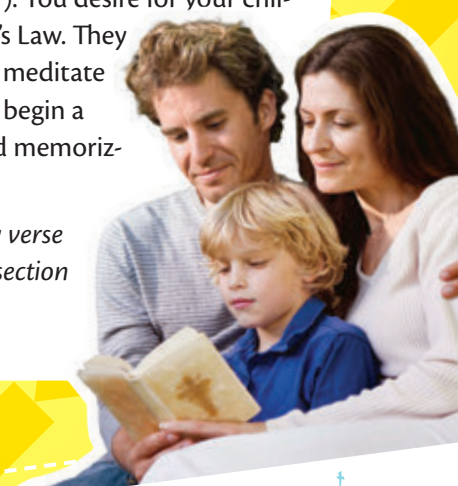
Suppose your friend tells you that he does believe the Bible, but he also believes what he reads in all the Christian books. After all, they are Christians, too. And they must read the Bible. **What would you say?**

We need to be very careful who we listen to and where we go for the truth. There are a lot of people who write books and teach about God, but that doesn't mean that everything they say is right! We need to be sure we read the Bible for ourselves and know that what we believe comes from the Bible. Only God and His Word are perfect; men make mistakes all the time. We should trust our pastors and teachers, for sure, but God has the final say. If something we see or hear doesn't seem right, we are responsible to find out what God says in His Word and believe that.

inWord For Family Study

"Oh, how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day" (Psalm 119:97). You desire for your children to truly love God's Law. They must know it well and meditate on it often. Help them begin a lifetime of learning and memorizing God's Word!

Begin with the memory verse in the Learn the Word section inside this handout.



Read the Word

Monday {John 1:3}
What was made through Jesus Christ?

Tuesday {Matthew 1:21}
Why did Jesus come to earth?

Wednesday {John 1:4}
What was in Jesus?

Thursday {Matthew 1:23}
Who was named Immanuel? What does the name Immanuel mean?

Friday {John 10:30}
What did Jesus say about Himself?

Saturday {Philippians 2:8}
Jesus was obedient even to _____.
(Your Memory Verse)

Learn the Word

Write the letter that comes before each letter in the box below it.

And being found in

b	q	q	f	b	f	b	o	d	f

 as a man,

He

i	v	n	c	m	f	e

 Himself and

became obedient to the

q	p	j	o	u

of death, even the

e	f	b	u	i

 of

the cross. **Philippians 2:8**

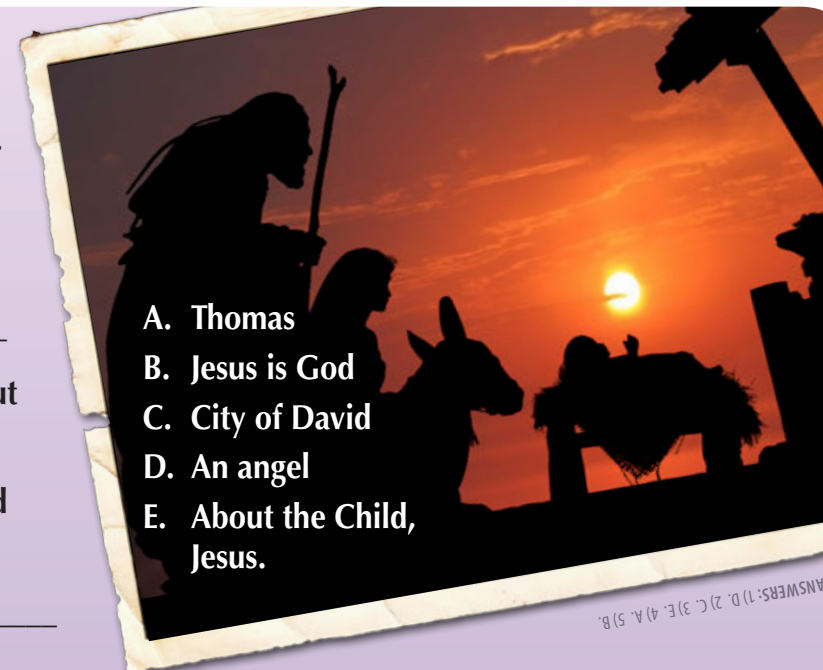
ANSWERS: Appearance, Humble, Pain, Death.

Match Challenge

Write the letter of the answer next to the question it answers.

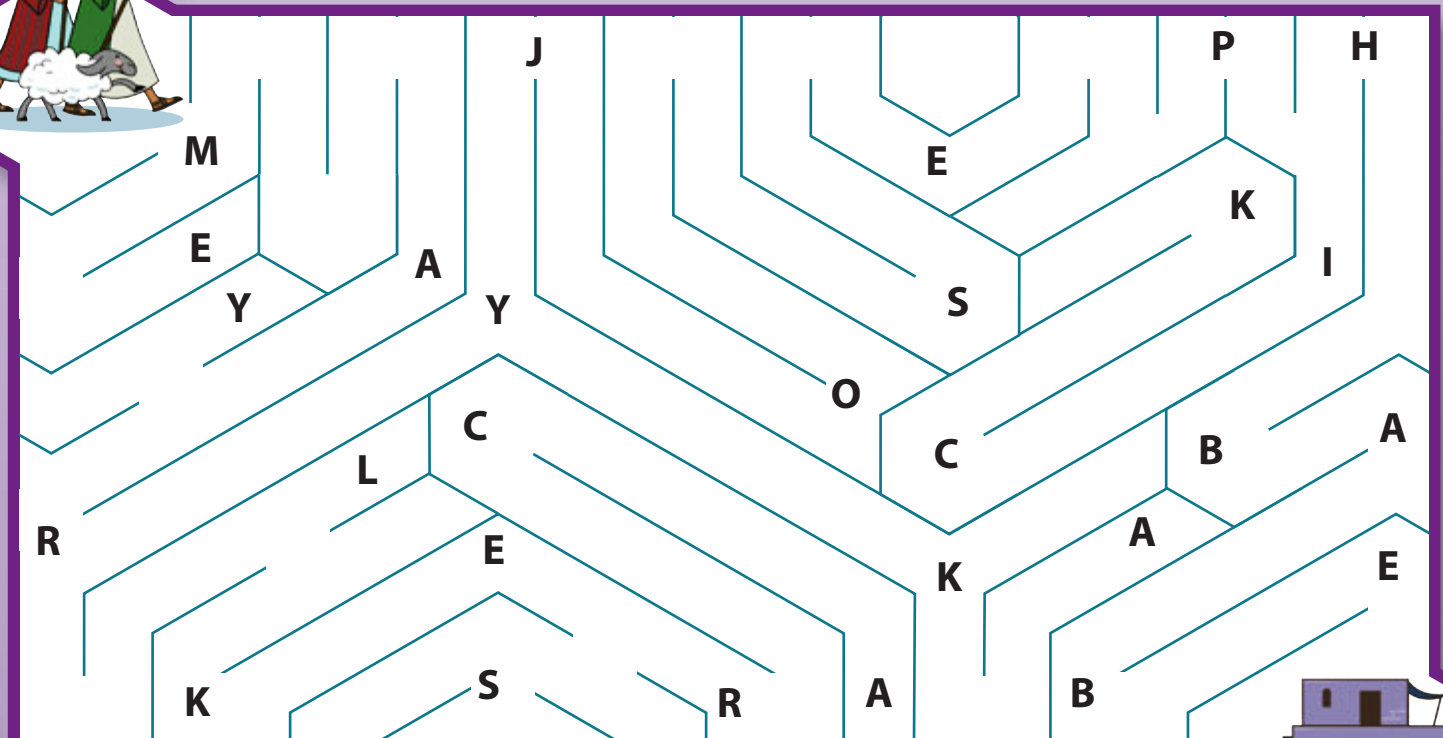
- Who announced Jesus's birth to the shepherds? _____
- What is another name for Bethlehem? _____
- What did the shepherds tell the people about after they had seen Jesus? _____
- Which disciple recognized Jesus as his "Lord and God?" (John 20:28) _____
- Why was Jesus's humble birth surprising? _____

- A. Thomas
- B. Jesus is God
- C. City of David
- D. An angel
- E. About the Child, Jesus.



They Came with Haste

Help the shepherds find their way from the countryside field to the simple Bethlehem home where Jesus was born. Pick up the letters along the path to find the answer to the question below.



ANSWER: Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Who did the shepherds see when they finally arrived in Bethlehem?

_____ and _____, and the
 _____ lying in a manger (Luke 2:16).

LIVE the Word

What if you heard your friends say Jesus wasn't God, He was only God's son? **What could you say?**

That can be very confusing. But if you study your Bible, you will find the answer! You see, the Bible DOES say Jesus is God's only begotten Son. That's true. But it also says that Jesus is God. God is three Persons—what we call the Trinity. There is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. When Jesus became a man, we see Him as God and the Son of God. Jesus Himself said that He and the Father are ONE! The Bible tells us that Jesus was in the beginning with God, and that Jesus IS God! Our minds may have trouble understanding that Jesus can be God AND God's Son. But if we believe the Bible, we must believe ALL of it. And the Bible tells us that Jesus is God, the Father is God, the Holy Spirit is God, and together they make one God.



When did the wise men come to see Jesus? Come next week to find out!