

**GOD'S SON
JESUS**

God loved the world so much he sent his Son. But what was he like?

Did you ever wish you had been at the manger in Bethlehem? Or in the boat when Jesus calmed the stormy sea?

Here's your chance to walk beside Jesus.

As you color these stories, you'll explore the life of Jesus from his birth as a helpless baby to the day he rose to heaven and left his followers to tell the Good News.

These are no ordinary stories to color. These stories come from God's Word, the Bible. They're full of things that seem too wonderful to be true because they're about God's Son. He came to earth to live as a real man in our real world so he could show us the way to God.

These stories aren't just about Jesus. They're about you. Jesus knows that it's hard to understand someone as amazing and loving as God. That's why he walked this earth—so people could see with their own eyes what God is like.

Jesus knew that pain and suffering would be part of his journey. But he came anyway. For you. He even talked about you before he went back to heaven! The disciple Thomas had a hard time believing that Jesus had risen from the dead until he saw Jesus with his own eyes. Here's what Jesus said to Thomas—about you!

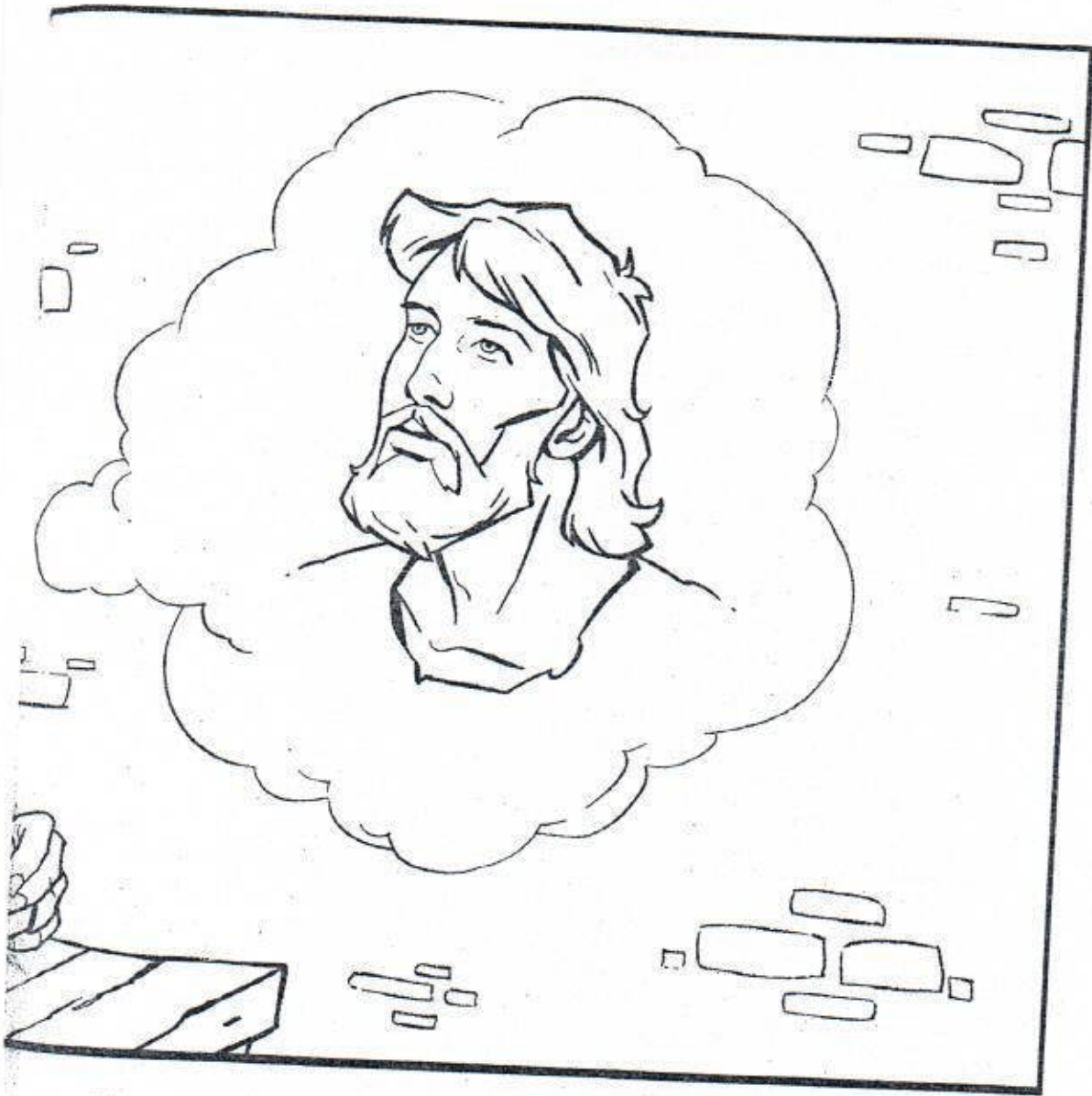
**"BECAUSE YOU HAVE SEEN ME, YOU HAVE BELIEVED;
BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN
AND YET HAVE BELIEVED."**

JOHN 20:29



God is full of surprises! Just when we think we have things figured out, God puts a surprise in the story and shows us that his plans are greater than anything we could ever dream up.

When God's people were defeated and discouraged, the prophet Isaiah told them about a King God would send one day.



The King would be great and wise. He would come from the family of David. He would bring peace that would last forever.

God's people longed for the King Isaiah spoke of. They waited for years—700 years! But they weren't prepared for how and when he came.



The big surprise began with an old man and an old lady named Zechariah and Elizabeth. They had always wanted to have children, but none ever came.

Zechariah served as a priest in the temple. One day an angel appeared and told the man he would have a son. Zechariah wished he could believe the angel, but it was tough. Because he didn't believe, the angel told him he wouldn't be able to speak until the child was born.



The whole town was amazed to hear that an old woman like Elizabeth was pregnant. Then the miracle baby was born. Folks said he should be named after his father. That's when Zechariah's voice came back.

"His name is John," Zechariah said, for that's what the angel had told him.



The next person in for a big shock was Mary. Out of the blue an angel appeared before her. She was scared out of her wits. The angel told her not to be afraid and said she was very special to God.

Mary didn't know what to think of that. She didn't feel special at all. He explained that she would have a Son who would be great and rule on the throne of David.



Mary was still scared and confused. "I'm not married," she said.

The angel explained that the child would come from God. To help her see that God was up to amazing things, he told her that her old cousin Elizabeth was having a baby too. Nothing is impossible with God!

Mary took a deep breath and said, "I am the Lord's servant."



Mary was engaged to Joseph. He didn't know what to think when he found out she was going to have a baby. Then an angel told him that Mary's child was from God.

Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem to pay taxes. Mary was about to have the baby, so the trip was uncomfortable. When they got there, the rooms were sold out. The tired couple ended up in a stable. That's where Jesus was born.



In the meantime, God's angels were busy spreading the good news about Jesus' birth. Shepherds on a hillside got the shock of their lives when an angel appeared and told them the Christ child had been born. They were scared and shaken. Then a whole chorus of angels praised God.

As soon as the angels left, the shepherds set off for Bethlehem to find this special child the angels had told them about.



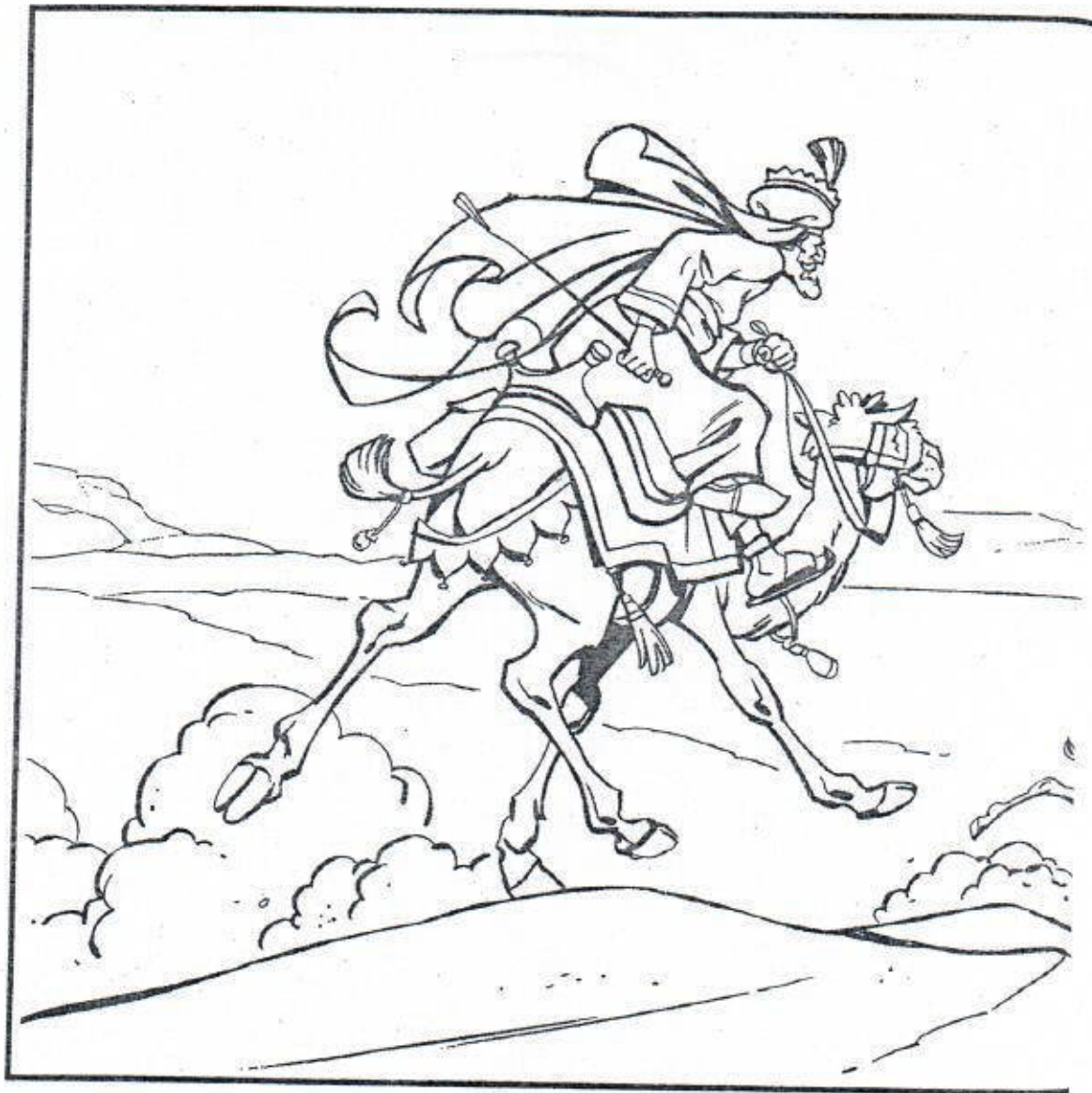
The shepherds found baby Jesus in the quiet stable. Mary and Joseph looked tired but happy. And the baby was wrapped up warmly, all snug in a manger, just as the angel had said.

The shepherds bowed to baby Jesus. They couldn't believe they got to see something so wonderful. The Savior, the King their nation had been waiting for lay right before their eyes, just as the angel had said.



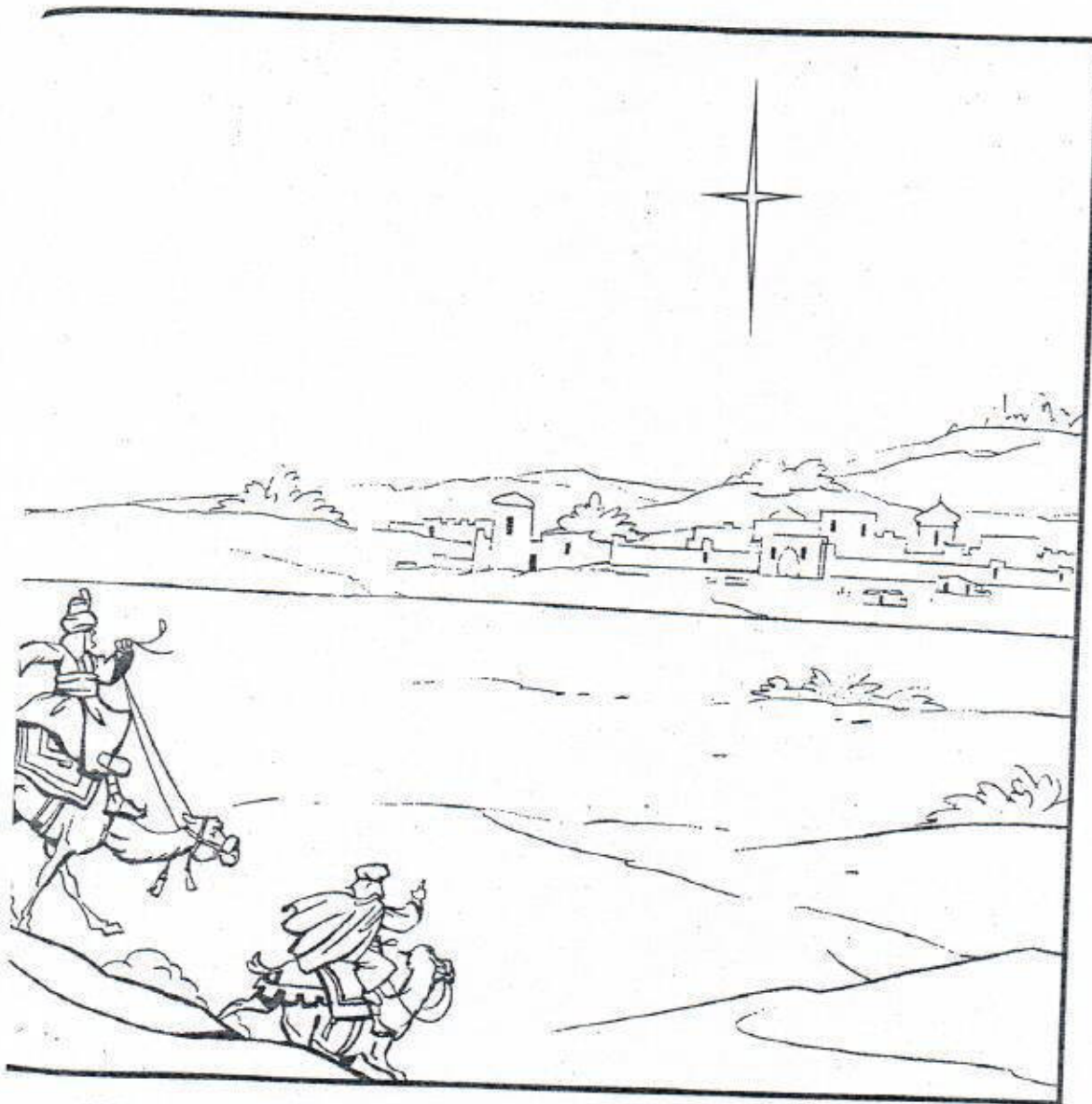
The shepherds just had to tell Mary and Joseph about how the angels had come to them on the hillside to tell about Jesus' birth. Mary glowed with quiet joy.

Then the shepherds rushed off to tell everyone that the Messiah had been born.



The shepherds weren't the only ones who had a special-delivery message from God about Jesus' birth.

In the East, probably the land of Persia, there lived wise men called Magi. They studied the stars, great books, and the thoughts of other wise people. An unusual star caught their attention. They were sure it was a sign of the birth of a great King.



They made plans to follow the star and find the King. That meant a dangerous trip across hundreds of miles of desert.

First they searched for Jesus in Jerusalem, thinking he would be born in a palace. Men who knew the Scriptures sent them to Bethlehem. There the star came to rest over the house where Mary, Joseph, and young Jesus were living.



The Magi could hardly contain their joy when they saw the young *Jesus*. Here was the One they'd traveled so far to find! A special King like no other!

The Magi bowed low and worshiped the little boy. Then they presented him with gifts fit for a king: gold, expensive spices, and fragrant oil used for special times.



The young family accepted these treasures with awe. They were an ordinary carpenter's family. Receiving these rich gifts reminded them of God's care and his promise that this Child would grow to be the Savior of the world.

The Magi returned to their land by a different route so they wouldn't have to talk with King Herod in Jerusalem. They had a bad feeling about him.



When Jesus was old enough, Mary and Joseph took him to Jerusalem to present him at the temple. It was tradition to give a pair of birds as an offering to dedicate a child to the Lord. It turned out to be an eventful day!

First an old man named Simeon, who had hoped to see the Messiah before he died, got a look at Jesus. He took Jesus in his arms.



"Lord, you have let me see the child who will bring salvation!"

Just moments later an old, old woman named Anna came up to Mary and Joseph. Her face glowed with love as she thanked God for baby Jesus and told everyone nearby that this was a special child from God. Mary and Joseph felt so proud of the little One God had given to them.



While Mary, Joseph, and little Jesus were living in Bethlehem, God sent an angel to Joseph again. This time the news wasn't good.

King Herod ruled in Jerusalem. He was one really nasty guy. The angel warned Joseph that King Herod was about to hunt down Jesus and kill him. Herod had gotten word that Jesus was to be a special King. That was enough to send



Herod into a fit of jealousy. He wouldn't be happy until Jesus was dead. The angel told Joseph to pack up and leave for Egypt right away.

Right then, in the middle of the night, the little family sneaked out of town and headed for Egypt. They lived there until an angel came again and said it was safe to return because evil old Herod was dead.



When Mary, Joseph, and Jesus moved back to Bethlehem, Joseph opened his carpenter shop. Jesus probably worked right beside him, making tables and tools from wood. Working with wood wasn't easy, especially since there were no power tools. But it's such a good feeling to make something and know that you've done a good job and that it will serve someone well.



During his growing years, Jesus probably did nearly the same things as other boys. He would have gone to school to learn the Scriptures. He would have been obedient and respectful to his family.



In Jesus' time there was one really neat thing about turning twelve years old (besides having a birthday). It meant that you were old enough to take a man's role in life. Twelve-year-old boys got to visit the temple with the adults.

During Passover, people packed Jerusalem for the holy feast days. Jesus' family hiked from Nazareth with a bunch of friends and family.



Jesus must have kept thinking about what it would be like to go into his Father's house for the first time. Just think how close he would be to the ark of the covenant! Of course, it was in an inner room where only one priest went just once a year—but still, he would be close.

Twelve-year-old Jesus had the time of his life at the temple. The priests were amazed at his wisdom.



When the people from *Nazareth* started the hike back home, *Joseph* and *Mary* assumed that *Jesus* was walking with his friends. At the end of the day, they searched but didn't find *Jesus* anywhere. It made them worry.

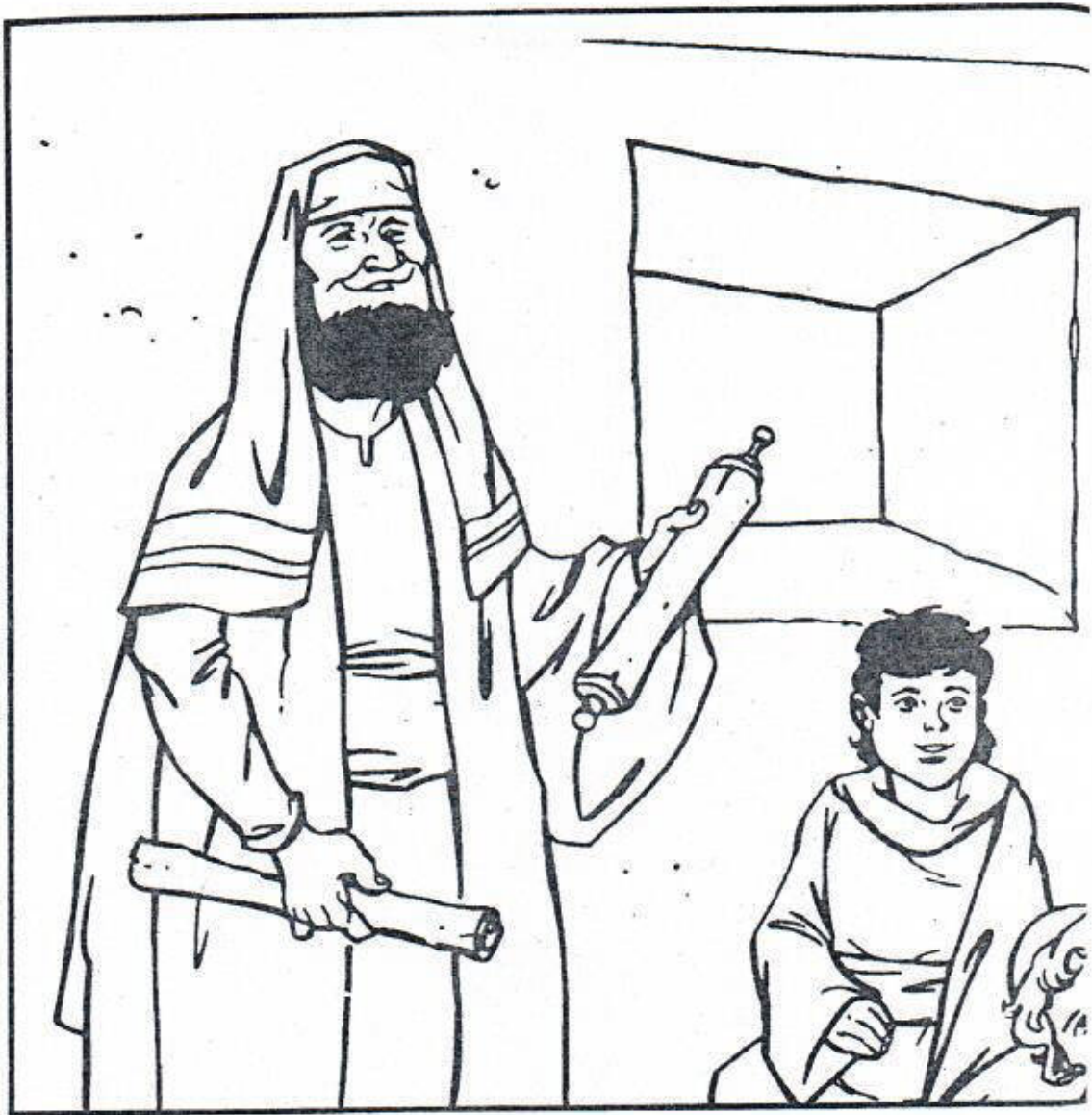
The next morning *Mary* and *Joseph* returned to *Jerusalem* to look for *Jesus*. They searched the city for three days! Finally they went back to the temple.



There he was, calmly talking with the teachers.

"Why did you treat us like this?" Mary asked. "We've been looking for you for three days!"

"Don't you see?" Jesus answered. "I had to be here in my Father's house."



Like other boys his age, Jesus went to synagogue school. The boys studied God's Word. Actually, they memorized it—chapters and chapters, even whole books!

When Jesus became a traveling teacher later in his life, he could quote Scriptures left and right. That's what the psalms call "hiding God's Word in your heart."

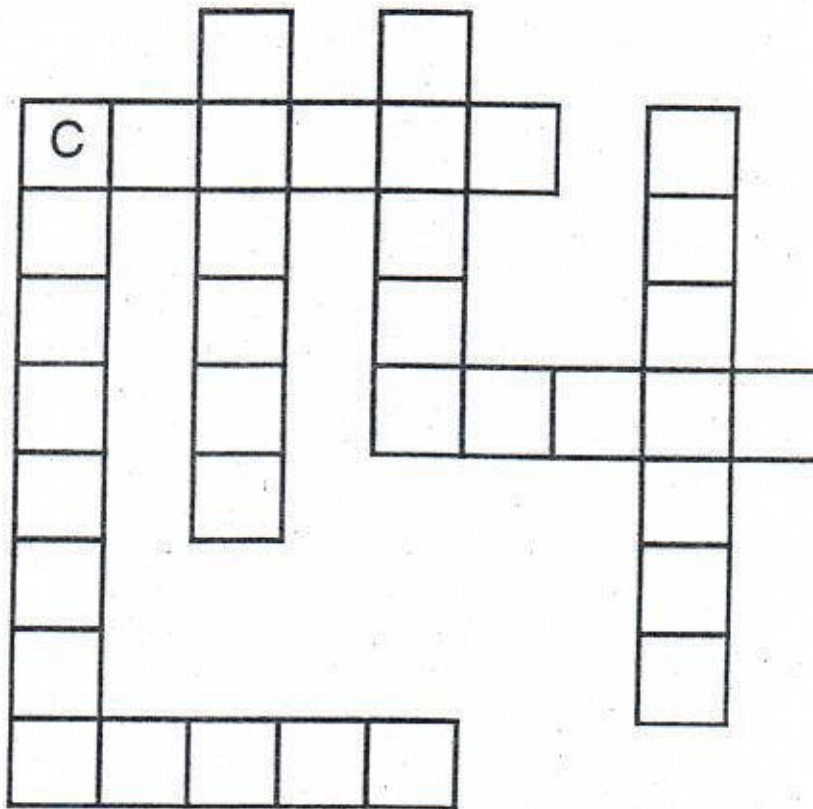


Day after day Jesus read and talked about Scriptures. It was like the words jumped off the scroll. Because he was God's Son, he understood them better than anyone else.

Jesus grew strong and wise. People loved him, and so did his heavenly Father.

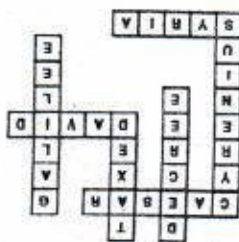
THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Read Luke 2:1-7 and find words that go in these blocks.



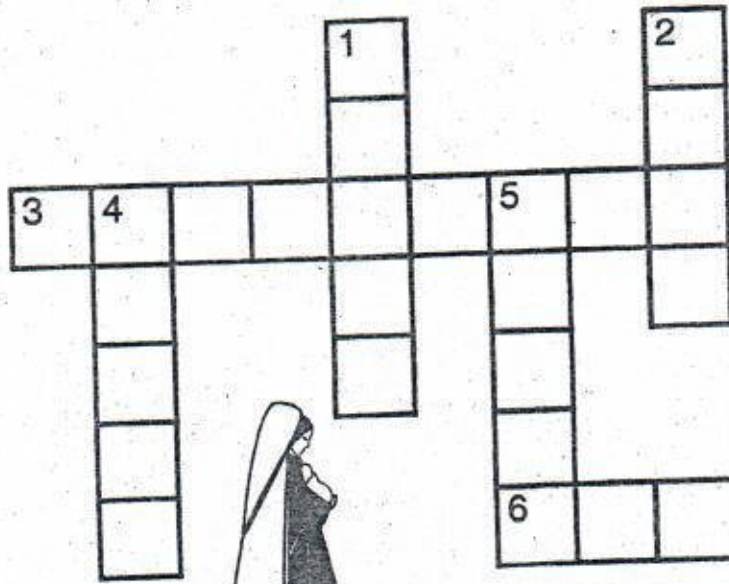
Hint: Here are the first letters of the words that go in the blocks:

D S C D T G



THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Hint: You'll find help in Matthew 1 & Luke 2

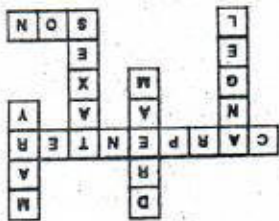


ACROSS

- 3 Joseph was a ____
- 6 Mary was to have a ____

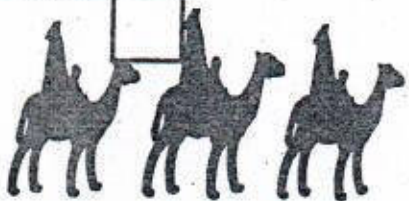
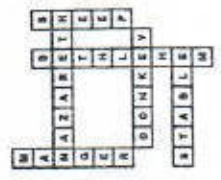
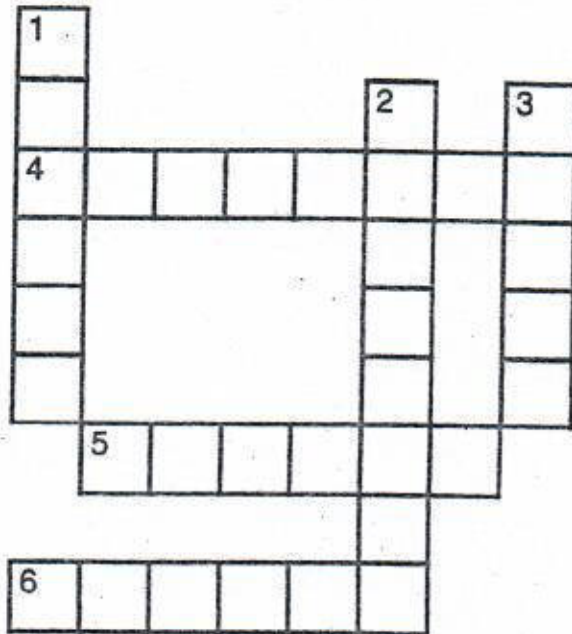
DOWN

- 1 Joseph had a ____ about Mary having a baby
- 2 ____ was betrothed to Joseph
- 4 An ____ appeared to Joseph in a dream
- 5 A census was to be taken so ____ could be collected from the people



THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Hint: You'll find help in Matthew 1 & Luke 2



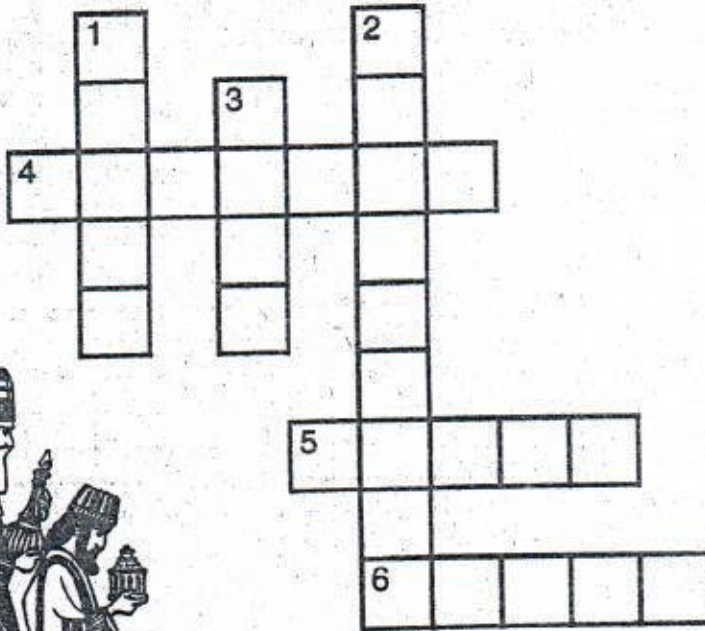
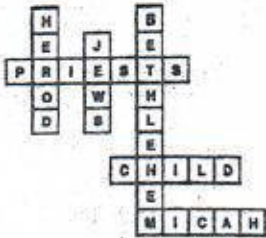
ACROSS

- 4 Joseph took his wife from _____
- 5 Mary rode on her journey on a _____
- 6 There was no room for Joseph and Mary so they stayed in a _____

DOWN

- 1 Mary placed the baby in a _____
- 2 Mary and Joseph traveled to _____ for the birth of their baby
- 3 In the nearby fields shepherds were tending their _____

JESUS & THE WISE MEN



ACROSS

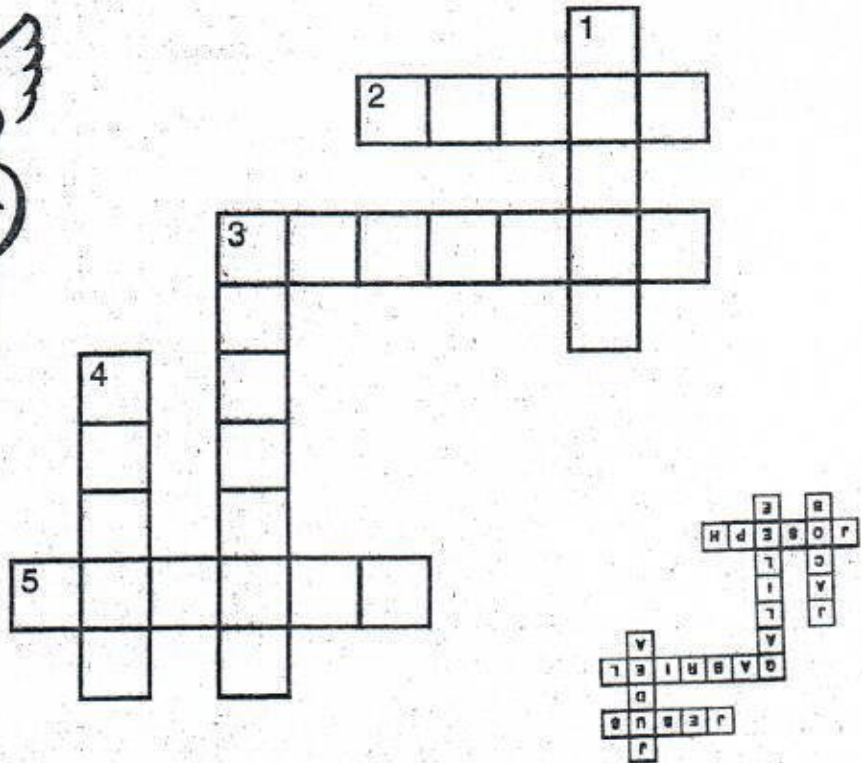
- 4 The king sent for his ___ and scribes
 5 The king sent the wise men to search for the ___
 6 ___ was a prophet

DOWN

- 1 The king was named ___
 2 ___ was in Judah
 3 Jesus was born to be king of the ___

THE ANGEL GABRIEL & MARY

Hint: You'll find help in Matthew 1 and Luke 1



ACROSS

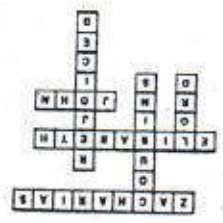
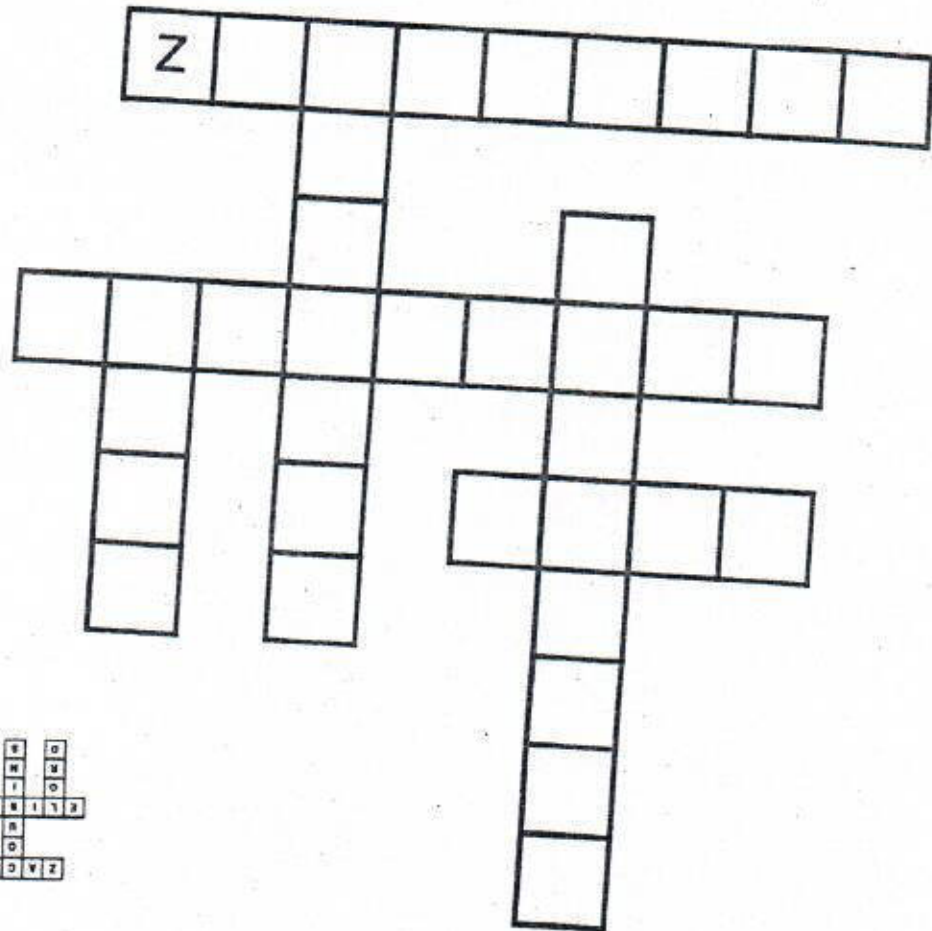
- 2 The angel told Mary she would have a son named ____
- 3 The angel ____ appeared to Mary
- 5 Mary was to marry ____

DOWN

- 1 Herod was king of ____
- 3 Mary lived in ____
- 4 The angel told Mary that Jesus would reign over the house of ____

THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Read Luke 1:57-60 and find words that go in these blocks.



Hint: Here are the first letters of the words that go in the blocks:



Z E J C L R

