

Getting ready for Christmas

Joyful Shepherds

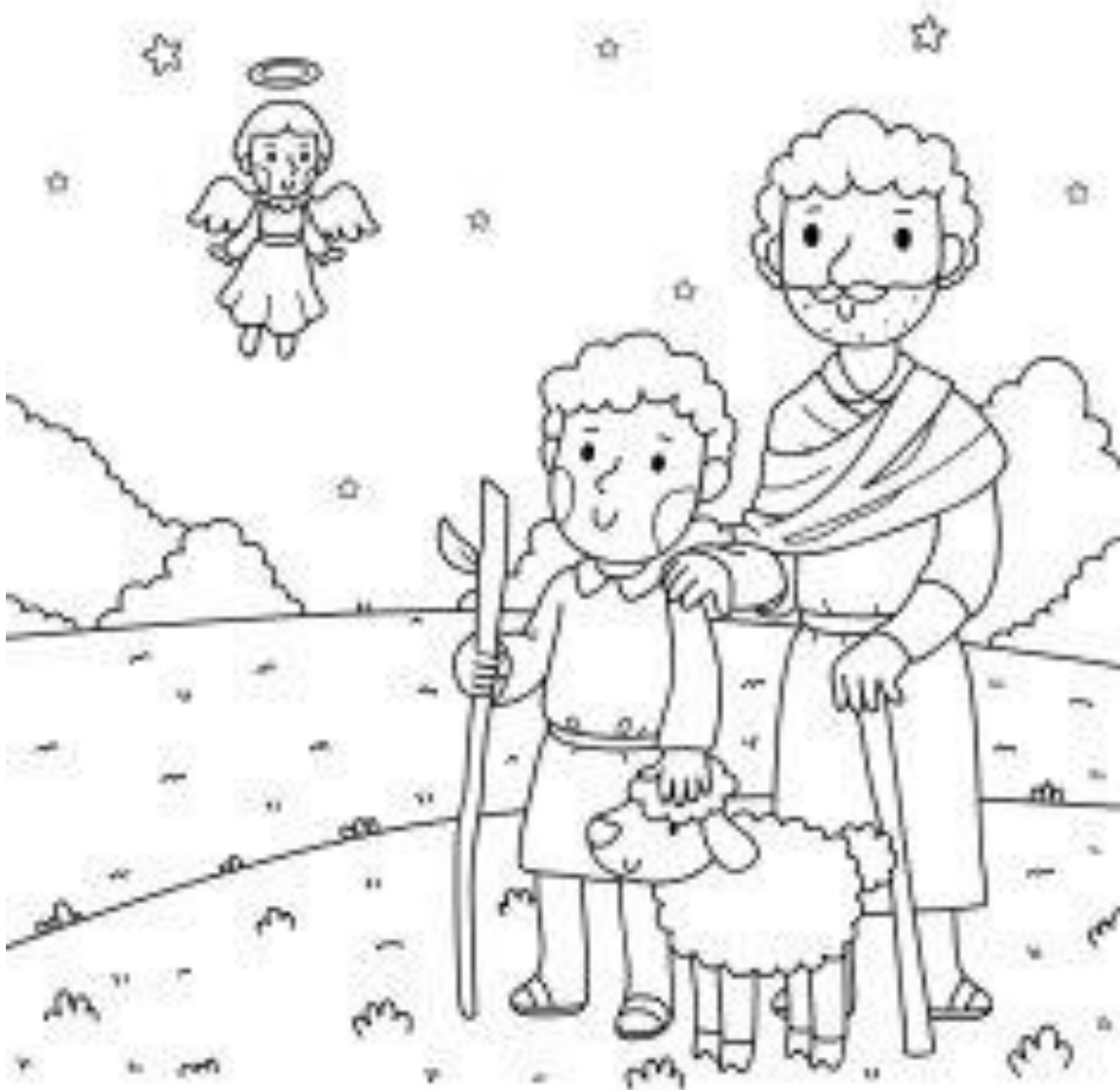


Image: www.rootsontheweb.com

You can colour this picture.



From the Bible

In those days, Caesar Augustus made a law. It required that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world. It was the first time a list was made of the people while Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone went to their own town to be listed.

So Joseph went also. He went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea. That is where Bethlehem, the town of David, was. Joseph went there because he belonged to the family line of David. He went there with Mary to be listed. Mary was engaged to him. She was expecting a baby. While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger. That's because there was no guest room where they could stay.

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger." Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said,

"May glory be given to God in the highest heaven!

And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!"

The angels left and went into heaven. Then the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger. After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over. The shepherds returned. They gave glory and praise to God. Everything they had seen and heard was just as they had been told.

Luke chapter 2 verses 1-20 (New International Reader's Version)

Ask the person who is looking after you today to let you watch this video on the computer <https://youtu.be/bg-D-KoWTKY>

? To think about

I wonder if you've ever felt so happy you've wanted to tell everyone your news like the shepherds?

I wonder why Mary kept these events as treasures in her heart?

What good memories do you have as your treasures?

How do good memories help you?



Craft Activity

Stained glass windows

You will need:

- Thick paper or card
- Coloured tissue paper or the cellophane wrappers off certain sweets
- Glue
- Scissors
- **Battery operated** tea lights (optional)

Cut a square or rectangle shape out of your card. Then gently fold it in half and make a snip in the fold. When you unfold it you have a cut in the middle which will let you easily cut the inside of your shape out to give you a 'window' frame. Now use the glue to stick pieces of coloured tissue or cellophane over the window. If you're feeling artistic you could cut some silhouettes out of the middle piece of card and stick them in your window. Place the **battery operated** tea light behind you window or hang your stained glass in your real window to catch the sunshine. (**Never** use a candle with a real flame near paper or cellophane.)



Craft Activity

Jesus in Manger

You will need:

- Templates on back page
- Glue stick
- Scissors
- Pens/colouring pencils
- Yellow paper or tissue
- Some long strips of paper

Cut out the templates on the back page and colour in. Roll it round into a tube and stick the edges together. For the manger fold along the edges of the centre square and then cut along the lines around the edges. Use the long strips of paper to weave around the sides of the manger. Fill the manger with yellow paper or tissue for the hay and place Jesus inside.



Outdoor Activity Suggestions

Guiding sheep

Play this game somewhere safe with a person you trust.

Shepherds look after and guide their sheep to keep them safe. Jesus said he looks after each one of us like a good shepherd.

Create a course in the garden or the park. Take it in turns to cover your eyes and be the 'sheep'. Ask a grown up or a friend to be the 'shepherd' and guide you through the course keeping you safe all the way along.



Building Challenge

Can you build a marble maze? There's lots of ideas on Pinterest. You could draw the stable in the middle of the maze and the shepherds at the start and help them find their way to Jesus in the manger.

Song

Oh What a Glorious Night

Ask the person who is looking after you today to let you sing along to this song on the computer. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V0h-Qjiyc24>

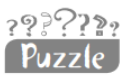


Prayer

Father God,
Thank you for the joy of the shepherds who told people the good news.
Help us to tell others the good news of Jesus too.
Amen.

(Amen just means 'I agree' in the language that Jesus spoke.)

? Puzzle



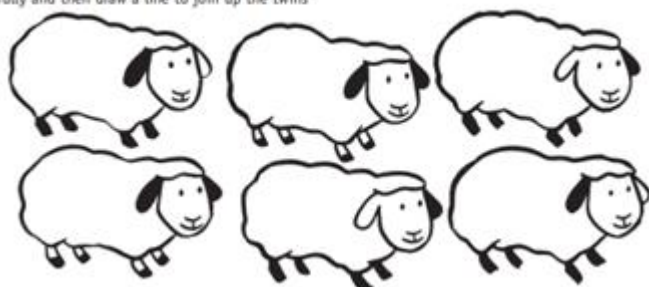
Work out the clues to find three other words connected with JOY.

Clues across:

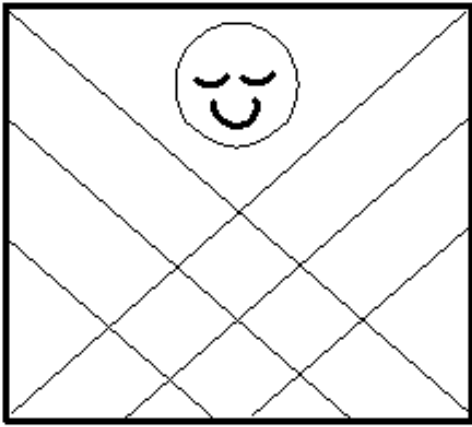
- To celebrate or be glad.
- To take delight or pleasure in.
- To be full of joy.

1		J				
2		O				
3		Y				

The shepherds were looking after their sheep when they saw an angel. Here are three sets of twins. Look at them carefully and then draw a line to join up the twins.



Jesus template



Manger template

