

# Stations of the Stable - A Journey to Christmas 2020

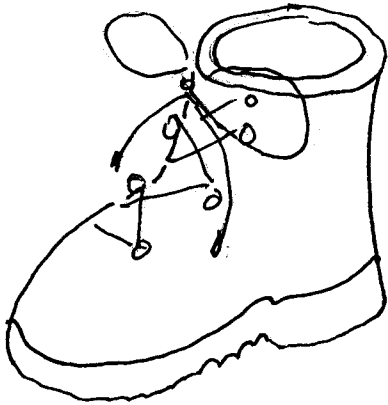
**Here's how** to create a Stations of the Stable journey in your home, and some ideas to make each Station extra special:

- **Print** these next six Station sheets, and set them up in different places in your home.
- **Colours and Shapes:** For each Station page in our journey, colour the letters, box at the top of the page, and characters. Use colours and shapes that show the feelings you have when you hear that part of the story.
- **Story Tableau:** If you have toys or creche figures that can represent the people and animals in the story, move them with you and set them up at each Station to show what's happening at that part of the story. Take a photo at each Station.
- **Music:** Each Station has special Christmas music, too! Launch the music by opening your camera app on your device and pointing it at the QR code on the lower right corner of each Station page.
- **Read the "I Wonder..." questions** at each Station, and talk about your ideas with your family.
- **Scan this QR** code to see more ways to experience the Stations of the Stable:



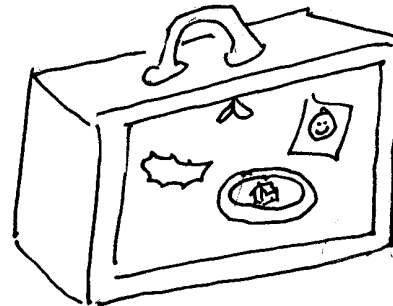
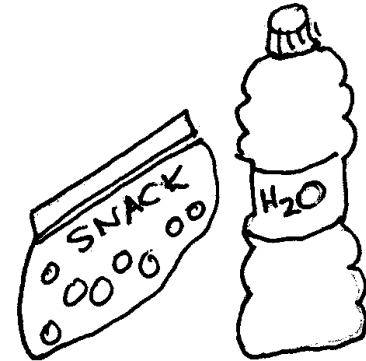
Colour me!

# 1. Our Journey Begins



Welcome to our journey through the special story of Christmas. During this Advent time of waiting, we prepare, like the people of Israel did long ago for the arrival of a King. This was no ordinary king. This King had no army, no great house, and no riches. This King was a baby who was born in a stable. This King was Our Saviour. And we await his coming still.

Let's journey to Bethlehem, and look for the shepherds, the angels, the Holy Family, and the Magi on their journey long ago. We will find the mystery and wonder of Christmas, as we experience the story and enjoy carol music together.



**I wonder...**

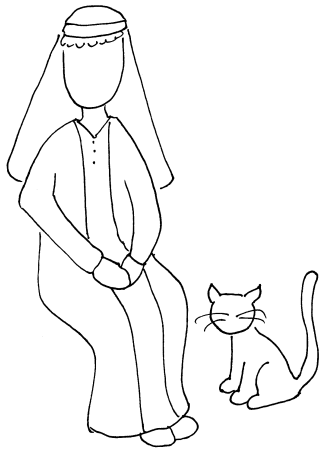
- What will happen on this journey?
- When was a time you had to wait for something? Was it hard or easy for you?
- Is travelling the only way we journey? Are there other ways?



"Midwinter"

Colour me!

## 2. Surprising News From An Angel



Long, long ago in a land far away, where the weather was warm during the day and cool in the evening, there lived a young woman named Mary. She was engaged to Joseph, a carpenter. One day while Mary was sitting in the garden, she was unexpectedly surrounded by a brilliant light. Through the glow she heard the voice of the angel, Gabriel.

“Mary! Mary, do not be frightened,” Gabriel said. “You have been chosen by God to have a very special baby boy, whom you will call Jesus. He will grow up and people will call him the Son of the Most High. He will be a great King, whose kingdom will never end.”

But Mary was confused and frightened because she was not yet married. Gabriel told her not to be afraid and that the Holy Spirit would come to her, and she would have a holy baby, the Son of God.

Mary bowed her head and prayed “I am a servant of the Lord and I will bear God’s son because God has chosen me. May it happen just as Gabriel has said.”



**I wonder...**

- What is the most surprising news you have received? How did you feel at that moment?
- What helps you when you are asked to do something that seems very difficult?

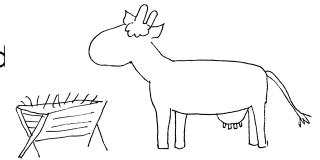


“The Angel Gabriel”

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# 3. No Room In The Inn

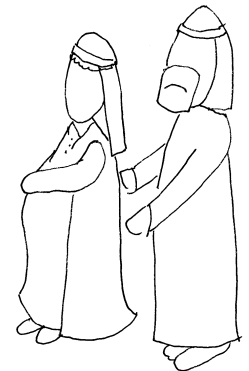
During this time, the Roman Emperor, Caesar Augustus, issued a decree that everyone throughout the empire should be taxed. All citizens were ordered to go back to their own hometowns to be counted, even if they lived far away. It was an uncertain time and people were anxious. Joseph went up from Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be enrolled for taxes, together with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was pregnant.



When Mary and Joseph finally arrived in Bethlehem, they discovered that there was no room for them *anywhere* in the town. They felt very lonely and afraid. Joseph pleaded with the innkeeper to help them because Mary was about to have her baby very soon. The innkeeper took pity on them and found Mary and Joseph a place to stay in his stable with the animals to keep them warm.



And there in the stable, Mary gave birth to a baby boy, wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger just as the angel had said. But before we find the baby Jesus, let's find out who else had heard about his coming.



**I wonder...**

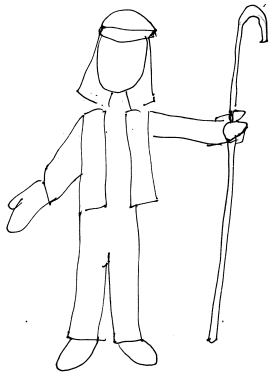
- When have you felt worried? Who helps you, when you're worried?
- What are ways that we can help others who are in need? In our hometown? Around the world?



"'Twas In the Moon of  
Wintertime"

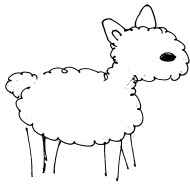
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# 4. Shepherds Hear Good News

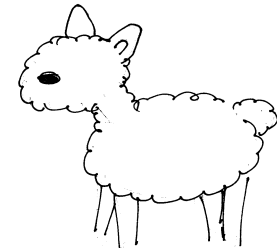


Also nearby, there were shepherds living in the fields, guarding their sheep. They were so cold and sleepy on this quiet night. Suddenly, they were awakened by a bright light and the angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them...and they were *terrified*. But the angel said to them, "Gentle shepherds do not be afraid, for I am here to bring you great news for all people. Today in the City of David, a Saviour has been born! The Messiah, who is Christ the Lord! You will find this baby, wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

And suddenly, there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to all people on earth!"



The shepherds were so overcome with hope and joy that they hurried to Bethlehem, sharing the news with everyone on the way. Next, we will also go and find Mary, Joseph and the baby in the stable, just as the angel had said.



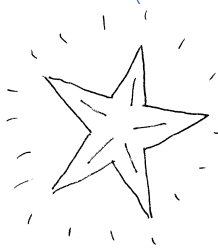
## I wonder...

- Have you ever gone camping and looked up at the stars? Have you seen a shooting star?
- What is the best news you have heard this year?
- Who is the first person you tell, when you have exciting news to share?



"Hark The Herald  
Angels Sing"

Colour me!



## 5. Away In A Manger

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in the days of Herod the king, some wise men came from the Far East to Jerusalem. They knew many things... but mostly they knew about the stars. When they saw such an extraordinary star in the sky, not found on any of their star maps, they took notice and remembered the ancient prophecies about the birth of a new king.

They followed the star all the way to Bethlehem. They brought very special and symbolic gifts to honour this baby king! They gave him the gift of gold, to show that he would be a great King here on earth. They gave him the gift of frankincense, because he is God come to be among us. And they gave him the gift of myrrh, knowing that he would one day die to save us all.



**I wonder...**

- What is one of the most memorable gifts you have ever received? Why was it special?
- Do you think Mary and Joseph were surprised to see these visitors? Why or why not?
- Have you ever seen or held a newborn baby? What did you notice?



"One Star"

Colour me!

## 6. Our Journey Continues... With Hope



What a wondrous sight! Set all your story characters up in a special way, and take a quiet moment to reflect on all we have seen and heard.

This part of our story has come to a wonderful end. The shepherds will return home, glorifying and praising God for all they'd heard and seen. The wise men will travel back, too, but they will take a different route home. And Mary will watch all these things and remember them in her heart, just as we remember them today.

Jesus was God's gift of love and peace to us all...the best gift of all. **Merry Christmas!**

**I wonder...**

- How will Christmas be different, this year? How will it be the same?
- What special memories will you treasure, this year?
- What are you most hopeful for?



"Silent Night"