



Christmas



You may have seen a nativity play or been in one yourself.
What do you remember about the story?

Find out what the Bible has to say about Jesus' birth here or read it for yourself in the New Testament, Matthew, Chapter 2 and Luke Chapters 1-2



Mary lived in Nazareth. She was going to get married to Joseph.

One day Angel Gabriel visited her and told her she was going to have a special baby. The baby would be called Jesus and he would be God's son.



When Joseph found out about the baby, he was not very happy. But an angel spoke to him in a dream. They told Joseph not to be afraid because the baby was from God and he would do very special things. So Joseph married Mary.





Some months later, Joseph and Mary had to go on a long journey to Bethlehem. The Roman Emperor, Augustus had ordered that a census be taken so Bethlehem was busy with people returning home and there were no places left for Mary and Joseph to stay. This was a big problem because Mary was going to have her baby soon.



Mary and Joseph had to stay in a place where animals were kept. Jesus was born there. Mary wrapped him up and laid him to sleep in the animals' feeding trough.



That night, some shepherds were looking after their sheep in the fields outside Bethlehem. The sky was suddenly filled with bright light. An angel!



The shepherds were scared, but the angel had good news. They told the shepherds all about Jesus and how he was God's son. So the shepherds ran to Bethlehem to see the new-born baby Jesus.



In a distant country there were some very clever Magi (wise men) who studied stars. They saw a new star in the sky and believed it was a sign that a king had been born.



They followed the star to Jerusalem. There they went to the palace to find the new king



The King in Jerusalem was called Herod. When he heard that a new King had been born, he was troubled and cross. Herod asked the wise men where the baby was. He commanded the wise men to find the baby and to come back and tell him.



The wise men saw the star again and followed it. It stopped at the place where Joseph, Mary and Jesus were staying. When they saw Jesus, they worshipped him and gave him their gifts - gold, frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, so they went home a different way.



The story does not end there. The Bible tells how Jesus Christ grew up and did amazing things: helping blind people see again, making sick people well and even bringing people who had died back to life. He taught people about God's love for everyone and told them to follow him and his commands.

Christians believe that 3 days after Jesus died, he came back to life again . This is celebrated at **Easter**.



Who were the first people to visit Jesus?

Why was Jesus born in a stable?

Why did God choose to come to Earth as a little baby, instead of a man or King?

How might Mary have felt when the Angel appeared?

Why was Herod angry when he heard about a new King?

What do you like about the story?

Do you have any questions about the Christmas story?