

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

An Advent, Christmas & Epiphany Activity Book
for Children and all the Family



BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our Journey to Bethlehem

The Nativity season is a special time in the life of the Church and in our homes. It begins with Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas, filled with anticipation and hope. Christmas itself is a time of reflection and celebration, followed by the Epiphany, a joyful moment recognising the revelation of Christ to the world.

This season invites families to come together, slow down from the busyness of everyday life, and focus on what truly matters: faith, hope, love and peace. Through traditions like lighting candles on the Advent wreath, sharing daily devotions, and spending meaningful time together, families can deepen their connection with one another and with the story of Christ's coming.

This Activity Book has been designed to help you and your children engage with the story of Christmas. With Scripture readings for each session, word puzzles, colouring pages, and simple reflections, it offers a hands-on way to journey through the season together.

We hope this book helps you enter into the spirit of the Nativity with joy and peace.

Wishing you God's blessings and the joy of the season!

The Parish Team

FREE DOWNLOAD

The complete book is also available free of charge at thesower.net.

SESSION 1

The Journey

Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem

Our journey through the book



Read together

Open your Bible to Luke 2:1-5, or read the passage at the back of this book. What do you notice about Mary and Joseph's journey?

Think about it

What might Mary and Joseph have hoped for as they travelled?

Draw their road to Bethlehem

The Nativity Session 1 - THE JOURNEY

Luke 2: 1-5

Read the Scripture passage in your Bible.
Then fill in the gaps (_____).

"In those days a _____ went out from _____ Augustus that all the world should be _____. This was the first enrollment, when _____ was _____ of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own _____. And _____ also went up from Galilee, from the city of _____, to Judea, to the city of _____, which is called _____, because he was of the house and _____ of David, to be enrolled with _____ his betrothed, who was with child."



Name _____

School _____

Date

/ /

The Nativity Session 1 - THE JOURNEY



DECREE
CITY
ENROLLED
BETHLEHEM

GOVERNOR
CAESAR
JOSEPH
NAZARETH

DAVID
QUIRINIUS
LINEAGE
MARY

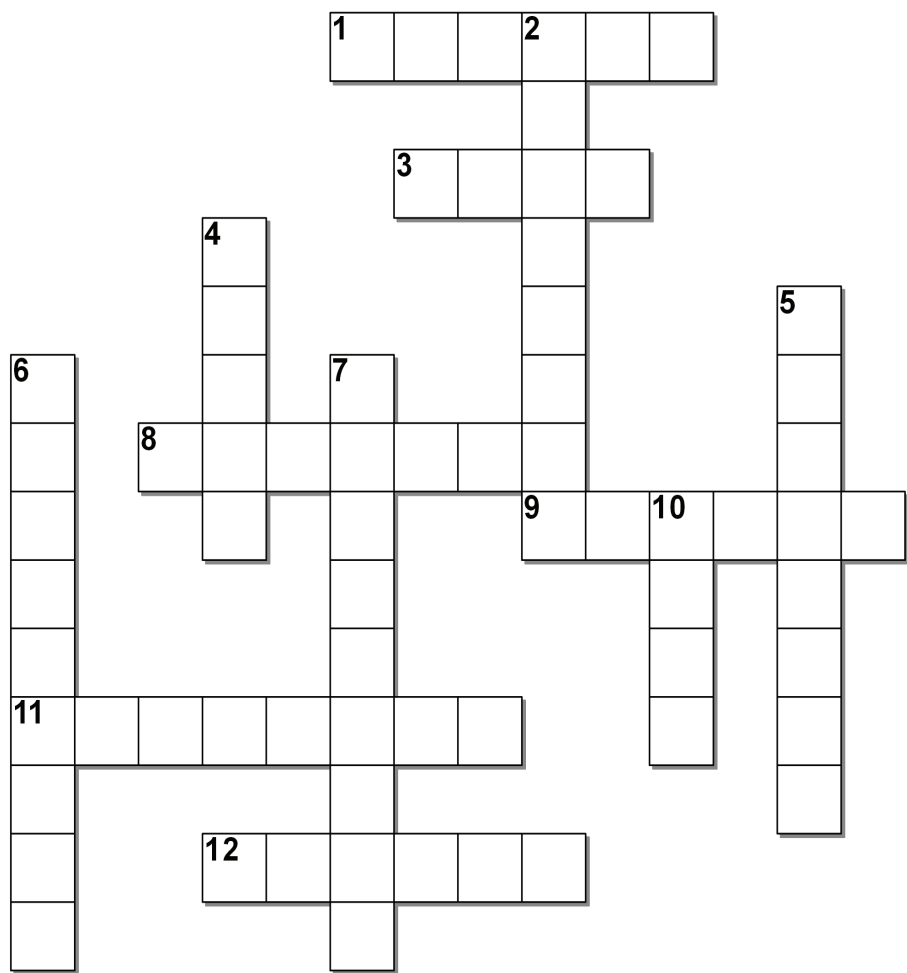
Name

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Date

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The Nativity Session 1 - THE JOURNEY



ACROSS

- 1. Mary's husband
- 3. Mother of Jesus
- 8. Family line
- 9. Order
- 11. Joseph's hometown
- 12. Roman emperor

DOWN

- 2. Registered
- 4. Ancestor of Jesus
- 5. Roman administrator
- 6. Governor's name
- 7. City of David
- 10. Large town

Name	School	Date
		/ /

SESSION 1

Take the journey home

Family activity

Take a short walk together. As you walk, imagine Mary and Joseph making their way to Bethlehem. Talk about someone who may need help or kindness on their journey this Advent.

Choose one small act of kindness to do together this week.

Our act of kindness

Prayer

Loving God,
you travelled with Mary and Joseph on the road to Bethlehem.
Be with our family as we journey through Advent.
Help us to notice people who need our kindness.
Lead us closer to Jesus. Amen.

Next stop: Meet the Shepherds

SESSION 2

Meet the Shepherds

The shepherds hear joyful news

Our journey through the book



Read together

Open your Bible to Luke 2:8-11, or read the passage at the back of this book. What good news did the angel bring?

Think about it

How might the shepherds have felt when they heard the angel?

Draw the shepherds under the night sky

The Nativity Session 2

MEET THE SHEPHERDS

Luke 2: 8-11

Read the Scripture passage in your Bible.
Then fill in the gaps (_ _ _ _ _).

"And in that region there were _ _ _ _ _ out in the field, keeping _ _ _ _ _
over their _ _ _ _ _ by night. And an _ _ _ _ _ of the Lord _ _ _ _ _ to them,
and the _ _ _ _ _ of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with _ _ _ _ _ .
And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good _ _ _ _ _ of
a great _ _ _ _ _ which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the
_ _ _ _ _ of _ _ _ _ _ a Savior, who is _ _ _ _ _ the Lord."



Name

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The Nativity Session 2

MEET THE SHEPHERDS



GLORY
FLOCK
NEWS
SHEPHERDS

APPEARED
ANGEL
WATCH
CITY

FEAR
JOY
CHRIST
DAVID

Name

School

Date

/ /

The Nativity Session 2

MEET THE SHEPHERDS

The answers to the clues are all scrambled up. Can you rearrange the letters to give the right answers?

NSEW	_____	Information
GLNAE	_____	Messenger
RAPEPEAD	_____	Made present
GYROL	_____	Majesty
ERSEDPHHS	_____	Minders of sheep
KCLOF	_____	Herd
HACWT	_____	Guard
RCITHS	_____	Anointed
ADDIV	_____	King
YJO	_____	Happiness
CYTI	_____	Large Town
EARF	_____	Fright

Name	School	Date
		/ /

SESSION 2

Take the journey home

Family activity

Share the news for the coming birth of Jesus. Listen for good news from the people in your family.

Our act of kindness

Prayer

Loving God,

Lord, help us to hear your joyful news and share it with others. Amen.

Next stop: The Star

SESSION 3

The Star

The wise men look for the newborn king

Our journey through the book



Read together

Open your Bible to Matthew 2:2-6, or read the passage at the back of this book. What were the wise men looking for?

Think about it

What helps you find your way when you are unsure?

Draw a star lighting the way

The Nativity Session 3 - THE STAR

Matthew 2: 2-6

Read the Scripture passage in your Bible.
Then fill in the gaps (_____).

"Where is he who has been born king of the _____ ? For we have seen his _____ in the East, and have come to _____ him." When _____ the king heard this, he was _____, and all _____ with him; and _____ all the chief priests and _____ of the people, he _____ of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is _____ by the _____:

'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people _____."



Name _____

School _____

Date

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The Nativity Session 3

THE STAR



WRITTEN
STAR
TROUBLED
ISRAEL

WORSHIP
JERUSALEM
ASSEMBLING
SCRIBES

INQUIRED
JEWS
PROPHET
HEROD

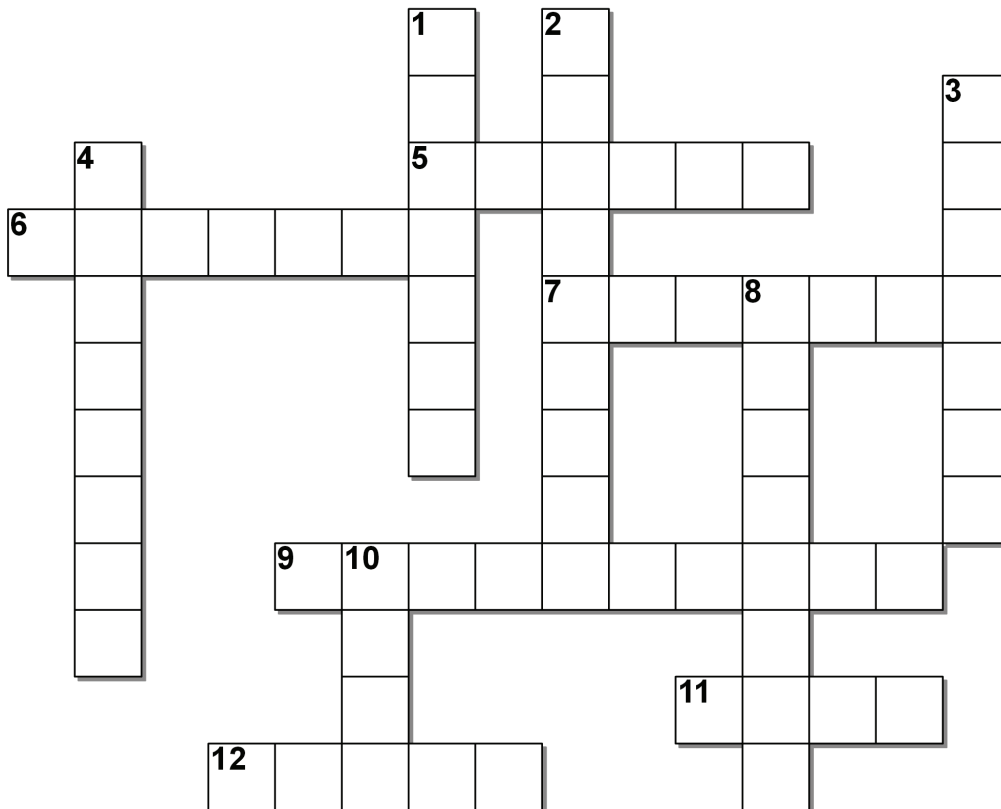
Name

School

Date

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The Nativity Session 3 - THE STAR



ACROSS

- 5. Strong with God
- 6. God's messenger
- 7. Writers, scholars
- 9. Gathering
- 11. God's chosen people
- 12. King of Jews

DOWN

- 1. Put down on paper
- 2. Holy city
- 3. Adore
- 4. Disturbed
- 8. Asked
- 10. Leading light

Name

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Date

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SESSION 3

Take the journey home

Family activity

Go outside on a clear evening and look up at the sky together. Gaze at the stars and the beauty of creation. Talk about the people who guide and encourage you.

Our act of kindness

Prayer

Loving God,

You send us many bright stars to help lead us towards your Son. Help us, by our actions, to be a light for others. Amen.

Next stop: The Arrival

SESSION 4

The Arrival

Mary and Joseph reach Bethlehem

Our journey through the book



Read together

Open your Bible to Luke 2:6-7, or read the passage at the back of this book. Where did Mary lay her newborn son?

Think about it

How can we make room for someone who feels left out?

Draw a welcoming place for the baby Jesus

The Nativity Session 4

THE ARRIVAL

Luke 2: 6-7

Read the Scripture passage in your Bible.
Then fill in the gaps (_____).

"And while they were there, the _____ came for her to be _____. And _____ gave _____ to her _____-born _____ and _____ him in _____ cloths, and _____ him in a _____, because there was no _____ for them in the _____."



Name _____

School _____

Date

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The Nativity Session 4

THE ARRIVAL

B	T	Y	O	Y	S	Y	R	B	S	B	J	C	Q	L	I	G	O
I	S	N	G	Y	X	T	L	M	N	N	U	O	W	A	N	X	D
T	R	B	G	X	H	U	W	Y	E	P	P	P	T	I	N	X	P
D	F	S	Z	I	X	Y	P	R	W	A	U	I	L	D	E	A	I
D	R	Z	Z	P	Y	V	B	E	T	B	O	D	R	A	P	J	G
O	I	R	Z	C	Q	P	F	I	O	F	D	Z	A	W	C	H	E
G	I	M	C	T	D	W	M	W	R	A	P	P	E	D	C	E	C
E	P	E	R	Z	A	E	X	X	W	T	H	R	F	B	P	E	Y
E	L	N	X	N	X	H	L	S	X	G	H	J	L	A	O	X	P
E	I	J	C	E	Y	E	F	I	R	S	T	L	N	K	S	L	F
G	C	Q	V	K	G	P	H	M	V	S	D	G	P	X	M	W	C
T	Z	L	J	S	C	D	O	S	H	E	Q	T	U	T	Q	F	L
V	C	M	F	A	I	T	V	D	O	C	R	O	N	I	F	Z	R
E	S	F	E	F	B	G	Y	M	A	N	G	E	R	H	Z	M	T
Z	N	O	C	K	I	Q	C	X	Y	U	Y	B	D	C	G	I	C
P	E	S	E	H	L	I	H	I	I	B	K	T	Q	E	D	U	J
F	J	E	I	Y	D	T	P	I	B	G	V	C	C	E	V	P	C
V	X	O	A	Q	L	L	F	B	V	V	O	B	A	K	S	R	M

INN
DELIVERED
LAID
BIRTH

FIRST
PLACE
WRAPPED
SWADDLING

SHE
MANGER
SON
TIME

Name

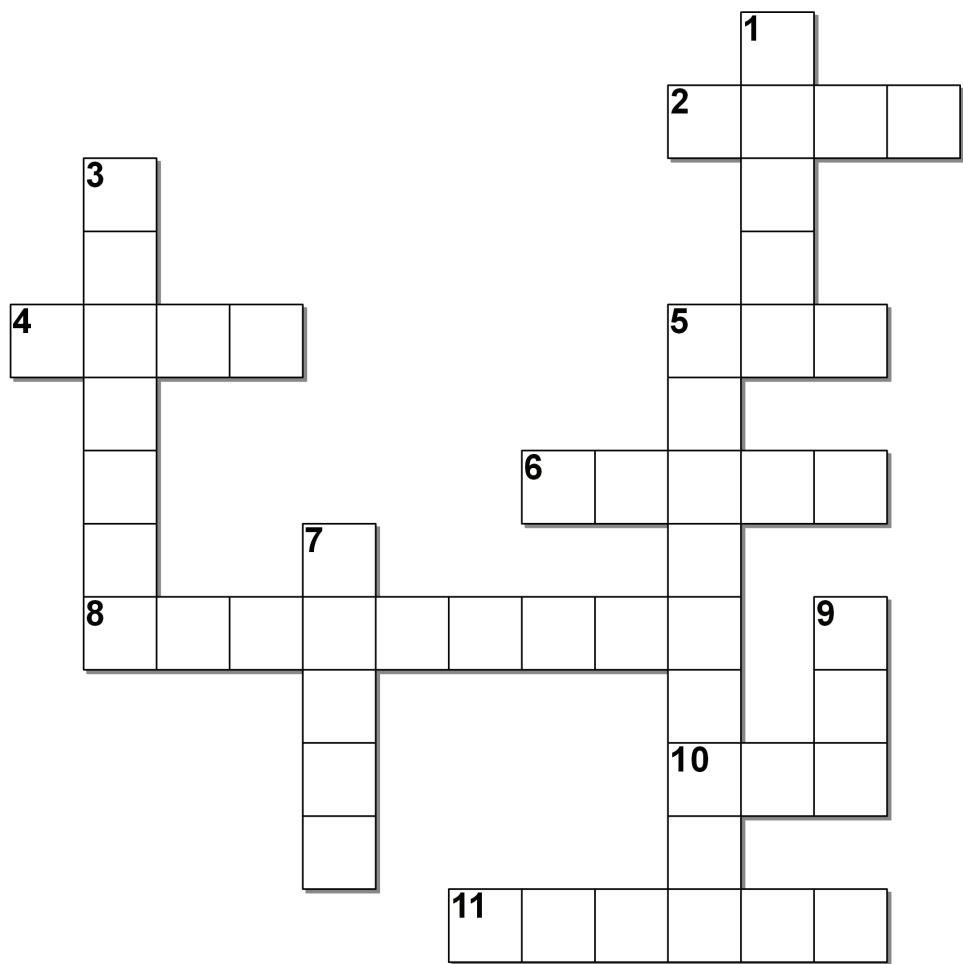
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The Nativity Session 4

THE ARRIVAL



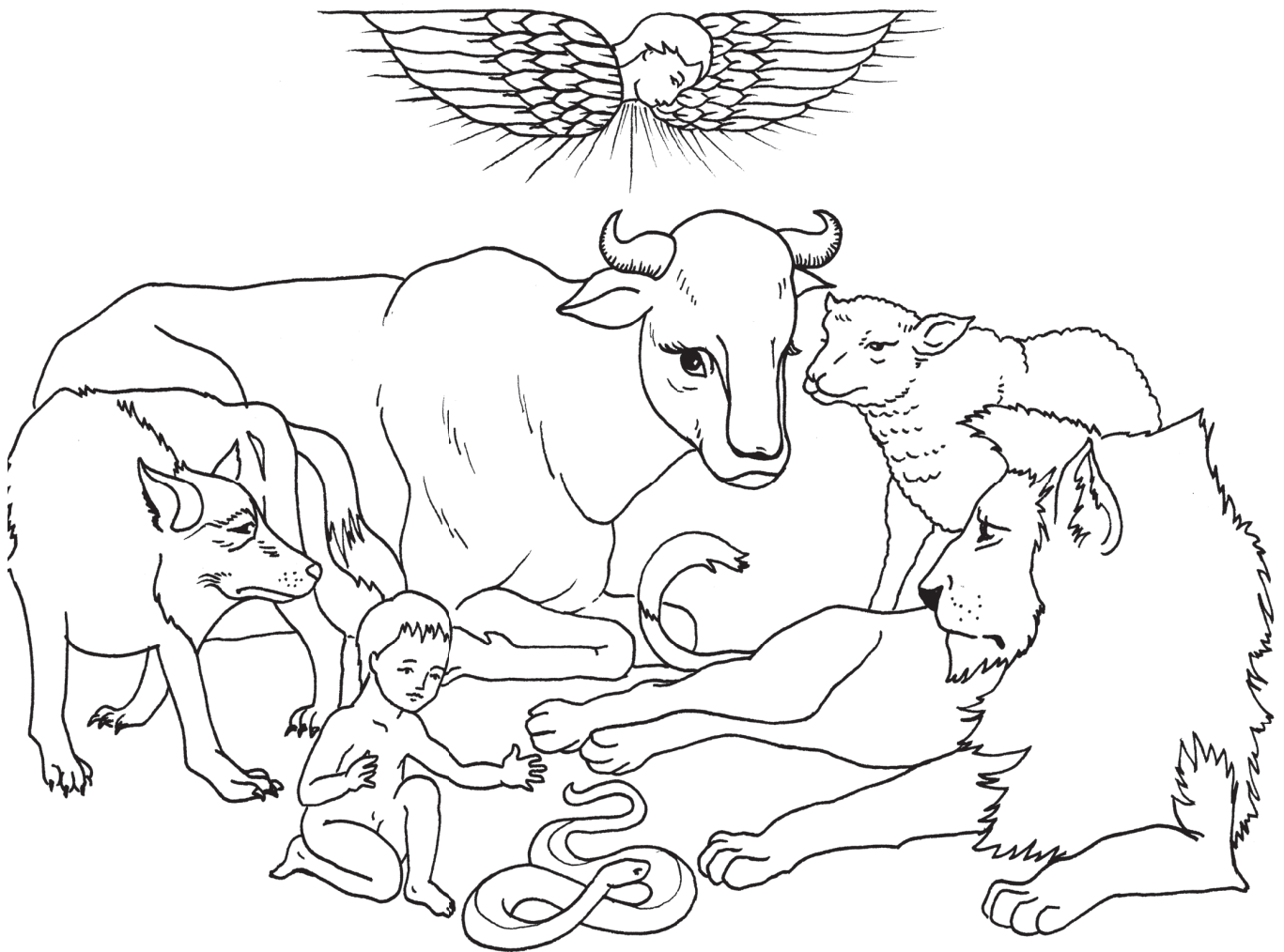
- ACROSS
- 2. Hour
 - 4. Put down gently
 - 5. Referring to Mary
 - 6. Space
 - 8. Born
 - 10. Hotel
 - 11. Feeding trough

- DOWN
- 1. New life
 - 3. Covered
 - 5. Wrapping
 - 7. Primary
 - 9. Male child

Name	School	Date
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The Nativity Session 4

THE ARRIVAL



Read Isaiah 11:1-10 then Color in drawing.

Name

School

Date

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SESSION 4

Take the journey home

Family activity

Create a welcoming space at home. Prepare a crib. If you don't have one, maybe you could make one together and have it for the following years. Choose a small way to welcome or help someone this Advent.

Our act of kindness

Prayer

Loving God,

During all the excitement of Christmas, help us take time to welcome your Son and to welcome others who are around us. Amen.

Next stop: The Birth of Christ

SESSION 5

The Birth of Christ

The shepherds visit the child

Our journey through the book



Read together

Open your Bible to Luke 2:9-18, or read the passage at the back of this book. What did the shepherds find when they went to Bethlehem?

Think about it

Why do you think the shepherds hurried to see Jesus?

Draw the scene at the manger

The Nativity Session 5

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST



PEACE
FILLED
LYING
HEAVEN

SIGN
MULTITUDE
HOST
SHONE

CLOTHS
HASTE
CHILD
WONDERED

Name

School

Date

/ /

The Nativity Session 5

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

ILYGN	Resting
DLUIEUTMT	Many
SHTO	Body
SNGI	Indication
EPEAC	Absence of fear
LOCHTS	Woven material
EAVHNE	Paradise
OREWDDNE	Contemplated
ETSAH	Speed
EDIFLL	Full of
NSEOH	Lit up
LHCID	Infant

The answers to the clues are all scrambled up.

Can you rearrange the letters to give the right answers?

Name

School

Date

/ /

SESSION 5

Take the journey home

Family activity

While gathered around your Nativity scene, let each person say one thing for which they are thankful.

Our act of kindness

Prayer

Loving God,

We thank you for your Son. Fill our home with peace and joy. Amen.

Next stop: Epiphany

SESSION 6

Epiphany

The visitors follow the star

Our journey through the book



Read together

Open your Bible to Matthew 2:9-12, or read the passage at the back of this book. What gifts did the visitors bring to Jesus?

Think about it

What gift of kindness could you offer someone?

Draw the star above the house

The Nativity Session 6

EPIPHANY

Matthew 2: 9-12

Read the Scripture passage in your Bible.

Then fill in the gaps (_ _ _ _ _).

“When they had _ _ _ _ _ the king they went their way; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to _ _ _ _ _ over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they _ _ _ _ _ exceedingly with great _ _ _ ; and going into the _ _ _ _ _ they saw the child with Mary his _ _ _ _ _ , and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their _ _ _ _ _ , they _ _ _ _ _ him _ _ _ _ _ , gold and frankincense and _ _ _ _ _ . And being warned in a _ _ _ _ _ not to return to Herod, they _ _ _ _ _ to their own country by another way.”



Name	School	Date
		/ /

The Nativity Session 6

EPIPHANY

M	A	D	S	U	M	B	B	Q	D	E	R	O	L	G	C	E	V
Y	R	O	R	H	K	X	T	B	G	Q	G	Z	U	R	C	X	W
R	V	T	Q	E	W	C	Y	G	Y	D	R	A	A	U	Z	R	X
R	Q	M	B	Q	A	C	M	O	T	H	E	R	J	U	E	Q	J
H	Q	E	D	I	W	M	K	S	U	Y	I	W	O	J	P	Q	E
C	W	H	R	O	C	L	L	C	W	U	S	K	Y	L	R	O	X
N	R	T	A	Q	S	F	K	Q	Z	T	L	N	S	V	C	S	A
W	S	E	E	Y	H	D	M	J	G	M	S	G	I	F	R	E	J
E	O	M	H	T	E	E	R	V	Y	E	L	H	O	Z	O	S	T
F	B	E	O	R	S	E	P	S	E	M	X	P	K	Z	E	Q	P
R	N	G	E	Y	S	R	R	W	J	K	M	M	D	R	V	Y	O
J	S	F	N	T	G	Z	C	C	K	P	N	E	U	F	U	I	B
T	F	V	O	W	K	N	Z	D	J	J	C	S	J	O	G	O	G
O	D	E	P	A	R	T	E	D	W	I	A	S	R	W	S	V	X
A	F	H	R	D	N	E	J	X	O	E	X	E	A	G	V	G	N
E	U	S	J	K	F	V	L	J	R	G	B	H	O	U	S	E	P
L	H	X	Y	Z	Y	L	E	T	S	A	J	I	P	X	I	P	J
Y	X	M	A	T	U	R	G	Z	H	S	T	F	I	G	O	F	K

HEARD

GIFTS

MOTHER

REJOICED

DREAM

OFFERED

HOUSE

REST

MYRRH

TREASURES

JOY

DEPARTED

Name

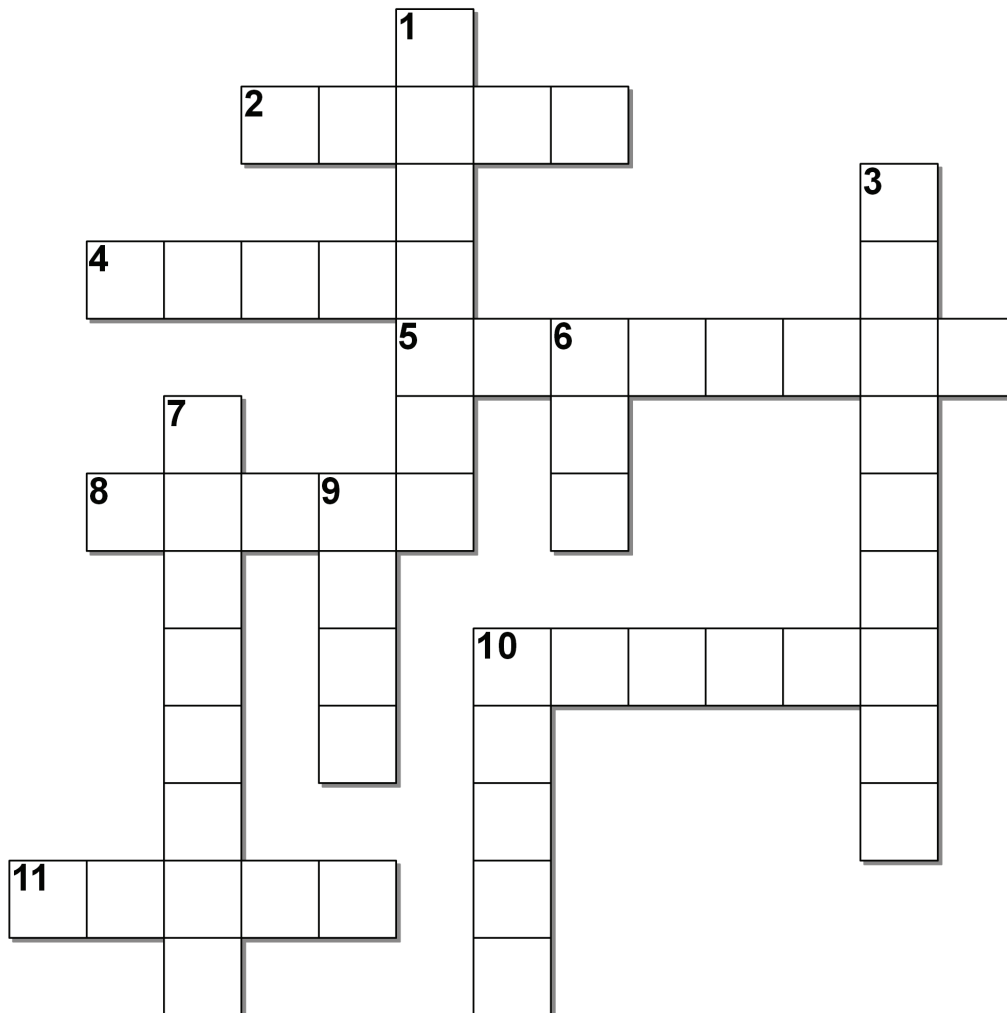
School

Date

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The Nativity Session 6

EPIPHANY



ACROSS

- 2. Presents
- 4. Living place
- 5. Celebrated
- 8. Listened to
- 10. Mary
- 11. Vision

DOWN

- 1. Presented
- 3. Items of great value
- 6. Happiness
- 7. Left
- 9. Settle
- 10. Ointment

Name

School

Date

/ /

SESSION 6

Take the journey home

Family activity

Choose a gift of time or kindness for your neighbour or someone you know who would enjoy a visit. Talk about what the visitors teach us about seeking Jesus.

Our act of kindness

Prayer

Loving God,

Lord Jesus, lead us by your light and help us offer you our love. The birth of your Son, Jesus, brings Good News for all the world. May Jesus live in our family this coming year. Amen.

Next stop: Scripture and Answers

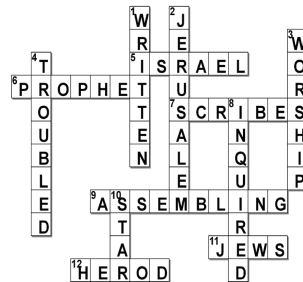
SESSION 3 THE STAR

Matthew 2:2-6

“Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is written by the prophet: ‘And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my people Israel.’”



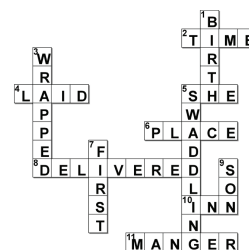
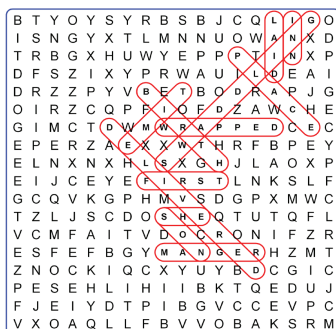
NSEW	<u>N E W S</u>
	Information
GLNAE	<u>A N G E L</u>
	Messenger
RAPEPAD	<u>A P P R E A R E D</u>
	Made present
GYROL	<u>G L O R Y</u>
	Glory
ERSEDPHHS	<u>S H E P H E R D S</u>
	Shepherds of sheep
KCLOF	<u>F L O C K</u>
	Flock
HACWT	<u>W A T C H</u>
	Guard
RCITHS	<u>C H R I S T</u>
	Christ
ADDIV	<u>D A V I D</u>
	King
YJO	<u>J O Y</u>
	Joy
CYTI	<u>C I T Y</u>
	City
EARF	<u>F E A R</u>
	Fear



SESSION 4 THE ARRIVAL

Luke 2:6-7

And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.



The Nativity Session 5 - THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and 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, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. (Luke 2: 9-18)



ILYGN	<u>L</u> <u>Y</u> <u>I</u> <u>N</u> <u>G</u>
	Resting
DLUIEUTMT	<u>M</u> <u>U</u> <u>L</u> <u>T</u> <u>I</u> <u>T</u> <u>U</u> <u>D</u> <u>E</u>
	Many
SHTO	<u>H</u> <u>O</u> <u>S</u> <u>T</u>
	Body
SNGI	<u>S</u> <u>I</u> <u>G</u> <u>N</u>
	Indication
EPEAC	<u>P</u> <u>E</u> <u>A</u> <u>C</u> <u>E</u>
	Absence of fear
LOCHTS	<u>C</u> <u>L</u> <u>O</u> <u>T</u> <u>H</u> <u>S</u>
	Woven material
EA/HNE	<u>H</u> <u>E</u> <u>A</u> <u>V</u> <u>E</u> <u>N</u>
	Paradise
OREWDDNE	<u>W</u> <u>O</u> <u>N</u> <u>D</u> <u>E</u> <u>R</u> <u>E</u> <u>D</u>
	Contemplated
ETSAH	<u>H</u> <u>A</u> <u>S</u> <u>T</u> <u>E</u>
	Speed
EDIFLL	<u>F</u> <u>I</u> <u>L</u> <u>L</u> <u>E</u> <u>D</u>
	Full of
NSEOH	<u>S</u> <u>H</u> <u>O</u> <u>N</u> <u>E</u>
	Lit up
LHCID	<u>C</u> <u>H</u> <u>I</u> <u>L</u> <u>D</u>
	Infant

The Nativity Session 6 - EPIPHANY

When they had heard the king they went their way; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way. (Matthew 2: 9-12)



OUR JOURNEY

Looking back together

We have travelled from the road to Bethlehem to the joy of Epiphany. Take a little time to remember what you discovered together.

Which part of the Christmas story will you remember most?

Who helped you notice joy, welcome or kindness?

How did you share good news with someone?

What would you like to carry into the coming year?

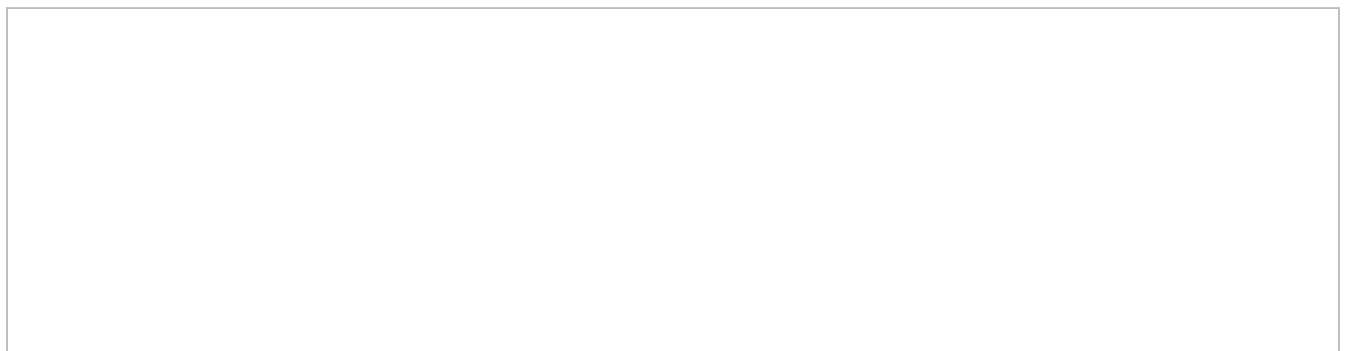
A FAMILY PRAYER

For the journey ahead

Loving God, thank you for walking with us through Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. As we remember Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the Magi, help us to welcome Jesus with open hearts. May our words bring good news and our actions bring kindness. Guide us by your light in the year ahead. Amen.

One way we can share the light of Christ:

Draw a star to remember your journey.





Isaiah 45:8 (adapted)

O heavens, rain from above,
O clouds, send us the Holy One.
O earth, open up, O earth,
and let the Saviour spring up.