



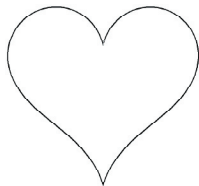
Fill in the blanks below, using the pictures as clues.

For God \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_

so much that He gave His only \_\_\_\_\_

so that whoever believes in \_\_\_\_\_

may not be lost but have eternal life.



You may check your answer by looking up John 3:16.

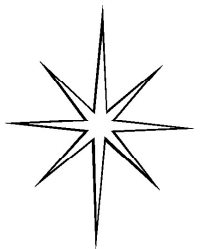
# GOD SENT HIS SON TO BE MY FRIEND

## LESSON 2 Coming To Be With Us



What is Christmas all about?

Circle the pictures below that show the *true* meaning of Christmas.





**Read the real story of Christmas in Luke 2 in your Bible. But first, let's look at the events that led up to the first Christmas.**

About 2000 years ago, there was a young woman named Mary. She loved God very much and was looking forward to the coming Messiah just like all the other Hebrew girls her age.

One day . . .



*Mary, don't be afraid. God is with you. You are going to have a baby boy. His name will be Jesus.*



*How can this happen? I am not even married! But I am willing because God knows best.*

Read their conversation in Luke 1:26-38



Circle the statements below that the angel told Mary.  
Cross out the ones that are not in the Bible.

**Your son will be a king.**

**Hang up your stockings by the fire.**

**Your baby will be named Santa Claus.**

**He will rule forever.**

**Fix a special Christmas dinner.**

**You should decorate a tree.**

In Bethlehem the shepherds found the baby, just as the angel had told them. They were so excited to be His first visitors. They knelt down and worshipped Baby Jesus.

Micah, a prophet, had written hundreds of years before Baby Jesus was born that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. And it had come true, just as God had said!



God was right on schedule. He had sent His Son as a baby with a human body to save human beings and be their friend.

How hard it must have been for God. Would people treat His Son well? Not so far. Nobody was expecting Him or had room for Him.



*God must love us  
A LOT!*

Outside the town of Bethlehem, some shepherds were in the fields with their animals. Suddenly they were frightened by a bright light!



*Do not be afraid. I have great news!  
The Messiah has been born. You will  
find Him lying in a manger.*

*What a  
strange  
bed for a  
Baby King!*

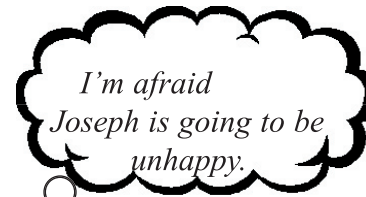
*Let's go find Him!*



Then a large group of angels sang a song of praise.  
"Glory to God in heaven and on earth  
Let there be peace  
For the people who please God."



The shepherds hurried into the town of Bethlehem. Somewhere there was a Baby King . . . lying in a manger.



*I'm afraid  
Joseph is going to be  
unhappy.*



And he was. Joseph did not understand what had happened, or how Mary could be pregnant.

Where they lived, if a woman got pregnant from someone other than her husband, she was punished by stoning. People threw rocks at her until she was dead.

Joseph loved Mary and did not want to see her killed. He decided to divorce her quietly and keep the whole thing a secret.

Then, one night when Joseph was asleep . . .

*Joseph, don't be afraid to marry  
Mary. Her baby is from God. You  
should name Him Jesus. He will save  
people from their sins.*



You can read this story  
in Matthew 1:19-21.

Joseph felt much better. He believed the angel and married Mary, but they did not get a chance to live happily ever after . . .





Far away in Rome, the Emperor Caesar Augustus made a law that everyone in the world had to go back to the town where they were born to register and pay taxes.

Joseph had been born in Bethlelem, a long way from Nazareth.

It was not a good time for making a trip. Mary's baby was going to come soon.

Still, they had no choice. It was the law!



When they got to Bethlehem, there was more bad news . . .

*I have no room in my inn, but I suppose you could sleep with my animals.*



*Oh Joseph! What are we going to do? The baby is coming soon!*

That night Baby Jesus was born. His mother wrapped Him tightly in a cloth (the kind of baby clothes used back then) and placed Him in the animals' feed box because there was nowhere else to put Him. God's Son, the King of the universe, was born among the animals and slept in a feeding trough!



*It makes me feel sad that there was no room for Jesus when He came to earth.*

*We can't change what happened back then, but we can make room in our hearts for Him today.*



Do you have room in your heart for Jesus?



Color the heart with your answer in it.

