

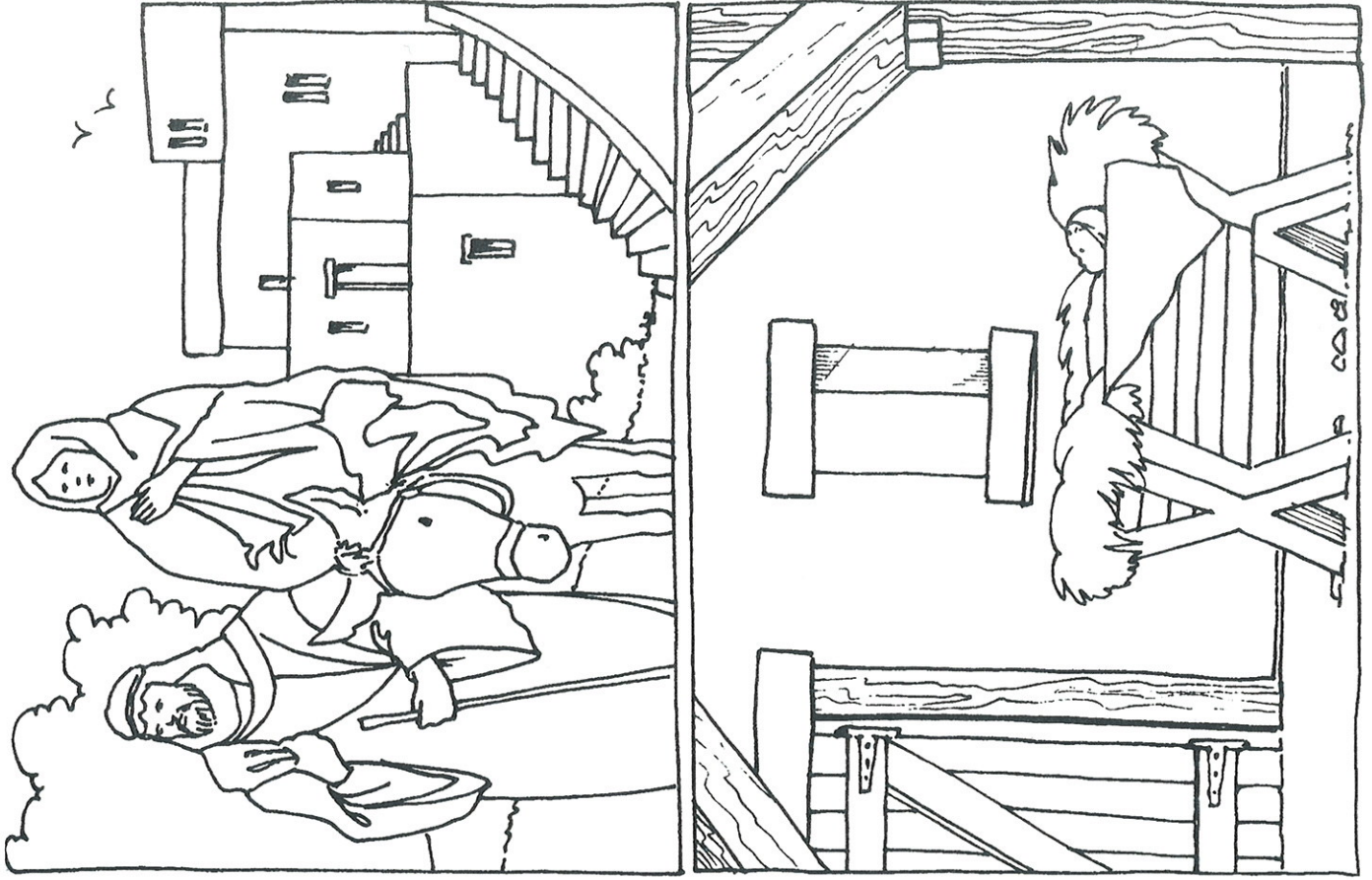
The Lord Jesus is born (Matthew 1:18-25)

Bethlehem is overcrowded. There is no place to sleep. Desperate and exhausted after the long journey Mary and Joseph wander through the city. Soon their first child will be born, and there is no room for them anywhere in town. It is dark outside. Joseph keeps asking and searching: "You can stay in my stable", says an innkeeper. Mary and Joseph accept the offer.

That same night Mary's child is born. It is a special child, Jesus, the Son of God, and the Saviour of the world. He was not born in a palace. There is no golden crib or a pretty bed ready for him, wearing only a diaper he is laying in a feeding trough. Did God plan it like this? Yes! The prophet Micah had foretold it many years ago. In Bethlehem the Son of God will be born. He will be the one who brings the peace of God to all the people.

Up until now though, nobody knows who has been born in this stable in Bethlehem. But the angels who serve God in heaven know what a big thing has happened. In a big choir they sing: "Glory to God in the highest!"

- 1) Where do Mary and Joseph find a place to stay?
- 2) Where is Baby Jesus sleeping?
- 3) Why is the Lord Jesus born?



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