

## HOW CAN YOU RECEIVE GOD'S GIFT?

To accept God's gift, you need to:

- Admit to God that you have sinned.
- Believe that Jesus is God's Son and accept God's gift of forgiveness from sin.
- Repent from your sin. Repent means to turn or go the opposite way. Repent means to stop choosing my way and to start choosing God's way.
- Tell God you believe Jesus is your Savior and you want to start doing what God wants. When you choose to live the way God wants, you are letting Jesus be your Lord.
- Tell others Jesus is your Savior and you hope they will accept God's gift too.

If you want to accept God's gift of salvation, talk to God in prayer. Tell God you know you have sinned, you believe Jesus is God's Son, and that you are thankful He died on the cross for your sins. Tell God you want to turn from your sins and start doing what He wants you to do. Then, tell someone about your good news!

This is a very important decision. You may have some questions before you accept God's gift.

Print your name and date in the box below and choose the sentence that best describes you. Then, share your decision with a parent, grandparent, an adult at church, or an adult where you received the backpack. They can help you know what to do next!

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ Today's date is \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I prayed today and asked Jesus to be my Savior and Lord.
- ☐ I have some questions about what asking Jesus to be my Savior and Lord means.
- ☐ I'm not ready to trust Jesus as my Savior and Lord today.
- ☐ I have already trusted Jesus as my Savior and Lord before today and want to know what to do next.

# THE CHRISTMAS STORY



The Christmas Story is a true story found in the Bible. The Bible is God's message to us. The Bible is one big book made up of 66 smaller books. One of those books is called the Gospel of Luke. Gospel means **GOOD NEWS**.

Chapter 2 in the Gospel of Luke tells us God loved the world so much that he sent His Son, Jesus, to earth as a baby. This is **GOOD NEWS!**



The baby's mother's name was Mary and his earthly father's name was Joseph. Before Jesus was born, the emperor of Rome wanted a list of all the people in the land. He sent out an order for everyone to go back to their hometown to be counted. Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem, the City of David, because Joseph was a descendant of King David.

When Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem, they couldn't find a room to stay in because so many people had come to be counted. They finally found a place where animals were kept, which is where Jesus was born. Mary wrapped baby Jesus in a cloth. Then she placed him in a manger, which is used for feeding animals.

Some shepherds were out in fields watching their sheep, making sure they stayed safe through the night. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord stood in front of them. A bright light surrounded the shepherds, and they were afraid! The angel told the shepherds not to be afraid because the angel had **GOOD NEWS!** The angel said a baby had been born for them that day "in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." The angel then told them they would know it was Jesus when they found a baby wrapped in cloth, lying in a manger. Suddenly there were many more angels saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

The shepherds left right away to go to Bethlehem, where they found Mary and Joseph with the baby in the manger. After the shepherds saw the baby, they left and began telling others about the baby Jesus. Everyone was amazed at what the shepherds told them. The shepherds went back to the fields, praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as the angel had told them.

## WHY WAS JESUS BORN?

It is important to know that Jesus was born, but it is even more important to know why Jesus was born! Hearing that a baby has been born is always good news, but there was something about Jesus that was different than any other baby. Jesus is God's Son!

The **GOOD NEWS** is God loved you so much that He sent Jesus to die on the cross so you wouldn't have to be punished for your sins. But it gets better! Jesus did not stay dead. God brought Him back to life!

You may be wondering... "What is sin?"

## LET'S SEE WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS!

Romans is the name of another book in the Bible. Here are some things that we can know by reading the Book of Romans.

Romans, Chapter 3, Verse 23 tells us that every person has sinned. When you choose to do things your way instead of God's way, this is sin. Sin separates us from God.

Can you think of some times when you chose to do what you wanted instead of what God wants?

Romans, Chapter 6, Verse 23 tells us that because of our sin, we deserve the punishment of death. That means not living with Jesus in Heaven when we die.

But wait! There is **GOOD NEWS!**

Romans, Chapter 5, Verse 8 reminds us that Jesus took our punishment by dying on a cross for our sins. Because Jesus died for us, we can live forever with Jesus! This is God's gift to us!

