

Book Introduction

At Christmas, many people set up a nativity (manger scene) as a reminder that Christmas is about Jesus.

Jesus is the Son of God who came to earth as a baby. Jesus came to save us from our sin. He made a way for us to come back into a right relationship with God, by dying on the cross to take the punishment for all our awful sin. This is the good news of the Gospel. Because of what Jesus did we can look forward to spending eternity in heaven with him.

Discussion Questions

Page 1: What is the nativity? Who was Jesus' mother? Who came to speak to her?

Page 2: What did Gabriel say to Mary? How did Mary respond to what he said?

Page 3: Who was Joseph? Why was he a good man? Why is Jesus called God's Son?

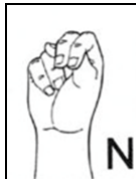
Page 4: What town did God choose as the birthplace of his son? How did Mary and Joseph get there? What happened when they arrived?

Page 5: Where was Jesus born? Where was he laid? What is God's law? What does God's law show us? How does Jesus fulfill God's law?

Page 6: Why is Jesus the greatest gift of all? Why did he come to earth?

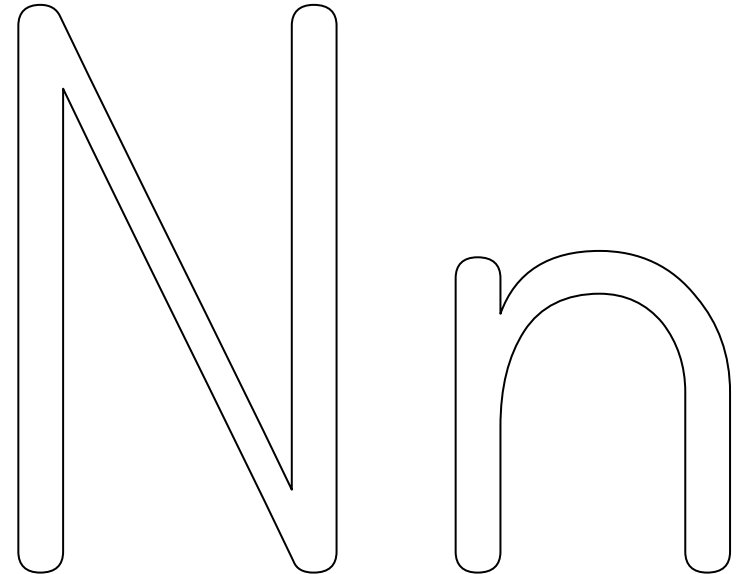
Lesson Rhyme

N—N	Make sign of N
Nativity	Manger—both hands come together with the fingers locking and palms facing up
The scene of Jesus' Birth	Make sign of Jesus
N—N—Nativity	Arms like rocking a baby
God's Son	Same as above
sent to earth	Arms in air
	Form arms into circle around head



Christmas 2

What is the nativity?



N—N—Nativity

The scene of Jesus' birth

N—N—Nativity

God's Son sent to earth

Day 1

Draw a picture of Jesus in the manger.

The nativity is the scene
of our precious Savior's birth
Jesus the Messiah
came to live upon the earth.
The humble, little baby
laying in the straw
Is the God of all the universe
we worship with great awe!

Day 6

Draw a picture of angels surrounding the manger.

To save us from our sin
Jesus came to live on earth,
The prophecy came to pass
through Jesus' humble birth.
The gift God gives through Jesus
is the greatest gift of all,
Coming as our Savior,
born in an animal stall.

Luke 1:26-28: ²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

John 3:16-17: ¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Day 5

Draw a picture of animals in the stable.

There in a little stable
where animals live and eat,
Mary bore a baby son
and wrapped him in a sheet.
And so God's Son came to earth
and lay upon the straw,
The baby in a manger,
the fulfillment of God's law.

Luke 2:6-7:⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Day 2

Draw a picture of Gabriel speaking to Marty

His mother was a virgin
who lived in Nazareth town.
To speak to her the Father
sent the angel Gabriel down.
Gabriel said that Mary
would have a special baby boy.
She would bear the Son of God
to bring all people joy.
Mary was quite frightened,
her heart was full of dread,
But she obeyed the Father's will
and trusted what he said.

Luke 1:29-31:²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God."³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

Day 3 Draw a picture of Mary and Joseph

She was pledged to marry Joseph
and be his loving bride
Even though the baby wasn't his,
he stayed right by her side.
An angel had told Joseph
to take Mary as his wife.
Because by the Holy Spirit
the child was given life.

Day 4 Draw a picture of Mary on a donkey.

God had chosen Bethlehem
as the birthplace of his Son,
So people of all nations
would know he was the One.
So Mary and Joseph traveled
on a donkey far away.
As they arrived in Bethlehem
they found no place to stay.

Matthew 1:18-20:¹⁸ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.

Luke 2:4-5:⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.