



THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

(Luke 2: 1-20)

King Augustus wants to count all the people in his kingdom. Mary and Joseph have to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be counted. They have to make this long trip, even though Mary is soon to give birth. There are many people in Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph cannot find any place to stay. They finally find a place in a stable to spend the night. This place is normally just for the animals. This is where Jesus is born. After Mary wraps the Baby, she lays Him in a manger. That night, shepherds are in the fields tending their flocks. All of a sudden, there is a great light and the shepherds are afraid. Angels appear to them. One of the angels says: "Fear not, I bring you good tidings of great joy. For unto you is born this day the Saviour." As the angels ascend to heaven, the shepherds set off on a journey to find the Child. They find Mary and Joseph, and the Baby who is in a manger. There is much happiness over the birth of this special Child. The shepherds praise God and go to tell all the people of their experience that night.

The children learn how our Saviour, Jesus Christ, was born.

- ▶ The children can learn about the story using single pictures or from pictures in a book.
- ▶ The children can make all the people in the story using plasticine or Play-Doh® and use grass and leaves and other things from nature to create the nativity scene.
- VIII. 3 ▶ The children can make and color stars that can be displayed on a board or by making window decorations. They could make the big star of Bethlehem using shiny paper.
- ▶ The children can use their bodies separately or as a group to represent a star. (e.g. stand back to back with arms out, or hold hands in a circle).

