

Long ago, around 2,000 years, a baby was born
in a small town called Bethlehem.

This was no ordinary baby.

Who was he?



The baby's name was **Jesus**. He was different from any other baby that's ever been born.

The birth of Jesus had been written about **hundreds of years before he was actually born**

Prophets had written in the ancient Jewish scriptures that one day a very special baby would be born in Bethlehem.

*"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him **Immanuel**, which means 'God with us'"*

Born of a virgin

Jesus' mother was Mary, a girl possibly in her teens from the town of Nazareth. Mary was engaged to Joseph, a local carpenter. When Joseph found out that Mary was having a baby, he planned to break off their engagement as he thought Mary had been unfaithful to him.

An angel from God told Joseph that he did not need to split up with Mary. **The baby growing inside her was not of another man, but given by God's Holy Spirit.**



Gold for a king



Frankincense for worship



Myrrh for death



HOW?

Angels from heaven

Imagine an angel appearing, glowing in the sky with a message for you. It must be amazing and terrifying all at once.

That's what happened to some shepherds looking after their sheep on a hillside on the night Jesus was born. The angel had great news for the shepherds - that very day a **Saviour** had been born in Bethlehem.

Suddenly millions of angels filled the sky singing praises to God. The shepherds rushed off to find the baby. He must be something special.



Wise men from the East

In a country far away wise men were studying the stars. They noticed a bright new star shining in the sky and knew what it meant - a very special baby had been born.

So they set off with their servants and riches and followed the star, travelling for many months until at last they reached Bethlehem. There they found Jesus and worshipped him, giving him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

King Herod - jealous of a baby

At the time Jesus was born, King Herod ruled over the Jewish people. The king was a brutal leader - he wouldn't let anyone get in his way. So when he heard from the wise men that a baby had been born who was **King of the Jews**, Herod was ruthless. He ordered his soldiers to kill all the boys in Bethlehem two years old or under to make sure Jesus died amongst them. Herod didn't know that Jesus had escaped safely to Egypt.

JESUS

Saviour of the world

The angels proclaimed that this baby was our 'Saviour' - but what does that mean? Jesus wasn't big and strong like a super hero. How could he save the world?

Jesus grew up and did many wonderful things. And finally, one day, he died on a cross and rose again from the dead so we can be saved from our sin.

The Bible tells us we have all done and said wrong things which displease God. This is called sin and it separates us, every one of us, from God.

Jesus was born to save us from our sin. If we turn from our sin and trust in Jesus, God will forgive us so we can be friends with him.

That's why, 2,000 years later, his birth is celebrated at Christmas all over the world.



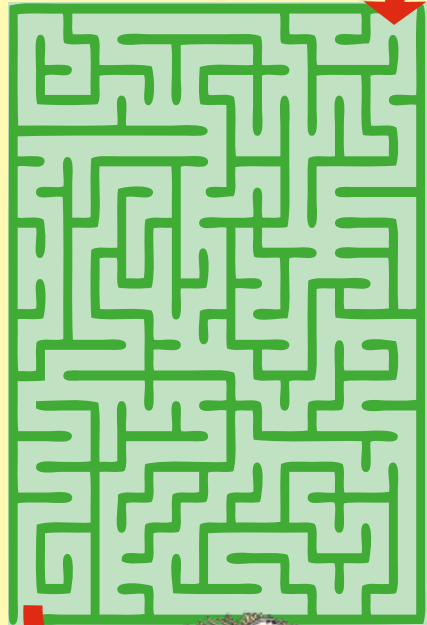
CHRISTMAS WORDSEARCH

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| WORLD | ANGELS |
| SAVIOUR | GOLD |
| BETHLEHEM | KING |
| BABY | HEROD |
| IMMANUEL | FRANKINCENSE |
| MARY | STAR |

MAZE

Help the wise men find Jesus



SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Find the 12 differences as Herod orders all the boys to be killed

