The Special Christmas Gift

Key Word: **Afraid**

Key Verse: "Look the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel." *Matthew 1:23*

Christmas was the best day in the year. The whole family would go to church, then after Christmas dinner everyone would sit by the tree and give out presents.

There was a huge pile of presents. Matty couldn't decide what to get for Grandma, so he'd made her a calendar. His brother and sister, who had bought presents for Grandma, had teased him. Mom had hugged him and told him Grandma would be delighted because he'd taken such care making his gift. There was one special gift, which he kept secret even from Mom, but he spent a long time wrapping it up.

Matty was allowed to give out the presents, because he was the youngest. All the presents were given out and unwrapped and all the family had a pile of gifts by their chairs. There was only one gift left. It was wrapped in gold paper.

"What about that one, Matty?" asked his Dad. Matty shook his head. "That's not for any of us."

His brother pulled the gift out. "To God, with love, from Matty," he read, and burst out laughing. "You can't give a present to *God*, you silly!"

Matty felt tears in his eyes, but his mother said, "Of course you can! I think it's a lovely idea. God gave us Jesus at Christmas, and that's why we give each other presents. I'm glad Matty wanted to give a present to God."

His mother said, "Should we open it for God, Matty? Or we could take it to church and lay it on the altar."

Matty thought, then he said, "God's with us here, isn't he? You can open it for him Mom." Mom undid the paper while the whole family watched. Inside was an empty box.

Matty's brother made a face. "It's just an old box," he said. "There's nothing in it! What would God want with that?" But Matty said, "It's not empty. I filled it with my hopes and dreams. God can see them, even if you can't."

There was silence while everybody thought of God. His parents said everyone was quiet because the angels were passing by. Matty knew that God had received his gift, and that he loved it. Mom hugged him. She knew in her heart that because of this special gift, his hopes and dreams would be kept safe forever.

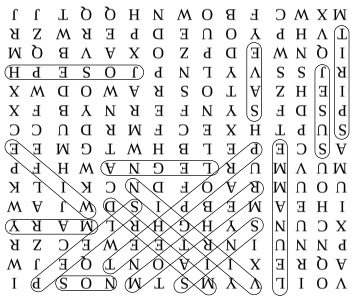
Questions

What special gift did Matty give God?

Would you be afraid if angels told you to change your mind about someone?

Answers

Word Find



Fallen Letter Puzzle

You are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

Picture Differences

1. Heart on post
2. Wedge on post
3. Ledge the saw rests on
4. Angel halo
5. Angel wing
6. Mouse
7. Hammer
8. Colored end on wood

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GoSpel GramS 2

Today's Gospel Story is from **Matthew 1:18-25**

Word Find

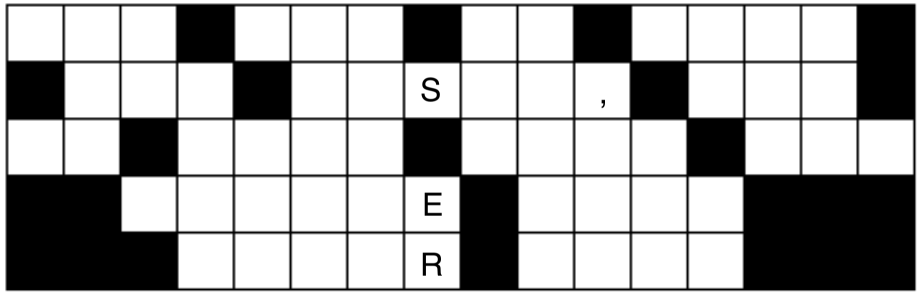
Here are thirteen words from today's Gospel story, Matthew 1:18-25. Some are printed upside down, backwards, or at an angle. One is done for you. How many others can you find?

Words to find:
ANGEL
DREAM
~~EMMANUEL~~
JESUS
JOSEPH
MARY
MOTHER
PROPHET
SAVE
SINS
SLEEP
SON
SPIRIT
VIRGIN
WIFE

V	O	I	L	V	Y	M	S	T	M	N	O	S	P	I
A	Q	R	E	X	I	I	A	O	N	T	Q	E	J	W
P	N	N	U	I	N	R	T	E	E	W	E	C	Z	R
X	C	U	N	S	Y	H	G	H	R	L	M	A	R	Y
I	H	E	A	M	E	B	P	I	S	D	W	J	A	W
U	O	U	M	R	A	O	F	D	N	C	K	I	L	K
M	U	V	M	U	R	L	E	G	N	A	W	H	F	P
A	S	C	E	P	E	L	B	H	W	T	G	M	E	E
S	U	P	T	H	X	E	C	F	M	R	D	U	C	C
P	S	D	F	S	Y	N	F	E	R	N	Y	B	F	X
I	E	H	Z	A	T	O	S	R	A	W	O	D	W	X
R	J	S	S	V	Y	L	N	P	J	O	S	E	P	H
I	Q	N	W	E	D	P	Z	O	X	A	V	B	Q	M
T	V	H	P	Y	O	U	E	D	P	E	R	W	Z	R
M	X	W	C	F	B	O	W	N	H	Q	Q	T	J	J

Fallen Letter Puzzle

Place one letter from each column into the spaces above to rebuild the words. The phrase is a verse in today's Gospel story, Matthew 1:18-25. One column has been done for you!



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			W	O	R	L			A		N	F		
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Y	E	I	E	A	L	E	~~E~~	U	S	R	N	A	H	I
H	O	U	T	I	P	I	~~S~~	S	S	I	O	S	O	R	S

Picture Differences

Below are two drawings. There are eight differences in these drawings. How many can you find? Circle the differences in each drawing then check the answers on the back.