The Special Christmas Gift

Key Word: **Joy**

Key Verse: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" *Luke 2:14*

Matty was very excited. There was a huge pile of presents under the Christmas tree, and Matty was handing them out, because he was the youngest. He gave them all out until there was only one gift left. It was wrapped in gold paper, and had been carefully placed in the middle of the Christmas tree.

"What about that one, Matty?" asked his dad.

Matty shook his head. "That's not for any of us."

"Don't be stupid," began his brother, and pulled the gift out of the tree. " 'To God, with love from Matty,' " he read on the label, and burst out laughing. "You can't give a present to *God*, you silly baby!" he exclaimed.

Matty felt tears spring into his eyes, but his mother put her arm round him. "Of course you can!" she declared. "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."

"What's in it?" asked Matty's sister.

They all looked at Matty. Then his mother said gently, "Should we open it for God, Matty? After all, God can only use our hands and feet now. But if you want, we could take it to church and lay it on the altar."

Matty thought for a bit, then he said, "You can open it for God, if you like."

Matty's mom eased off the sticky tape and undid the gold paper very carefully. Inside was an empty tissue box.

Matty's brother made a face. "It's just an empty box," he said in disgust. "What would God want with that?"

But Matty said, "It's not empty. I filled it with all my hopes and dreams, to give them to God. God can see them, even if you can't."

There was a sudden silence, while everybody thought of God. Matty was sure the room filled with light, and he felt happier than he'd ever felt before. Afterwards his mom and dad said the angels were passing by, and Matty knew then that God had received his gift, and that God loved it. And that was all that mattered.

Questions

What was the news of great joy that the angels brought to the shepherds?

Why do we give each other presents at Christmas?

Answers

Picture Differences

1. Jesus on wall
2. Different nails on post
3. Bull horn
4. Donkey eye
5. Donkey beard
6. Duck bill
7. Bird eye
8. Sheep hoof
9. Cradle leg

Make Words

Some of the over 125 possible words:

ANGEL HEDGE
DEGREE LODGE
DETAIL NIGHT
EIGHT REIGN
EVENT SHINE
GLOVE STEEL
GREED TESTY
HAGGLE THREAD
HEART TRASH
HEAVY VAST

Crossword Puzzle

Across
4. Bethlehem
6. Night
7. Angel
8. Peace
10. Register
11. Good
13. Afraid

Down
1. Messiah
2. Fields
3. Shepherds
5. Manger
9. Cloth
11. Glory
12. Mary

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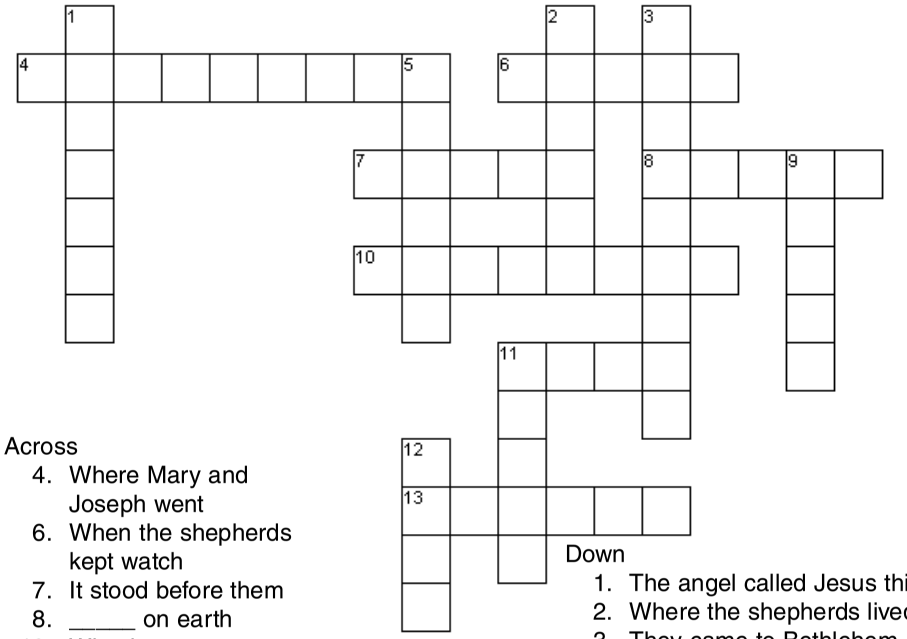
Gospel Grams 2

Today's Gospel Story is from **Luke 2:1-20**

Crossword Puzzle

Complete this crossword puzzle, using the clues from today's Gospel story, Luke 2:1-20. Read the clues. Then fill in the squares below with the answers to the questions.



Across
4. Where Mary and Joseph went
6. When the shepherds kept watch
7. It stood before them
8. _____ on earth
10. Why they went to Bethlehem
11. The angel brought this kind of news
13. Do not be _____

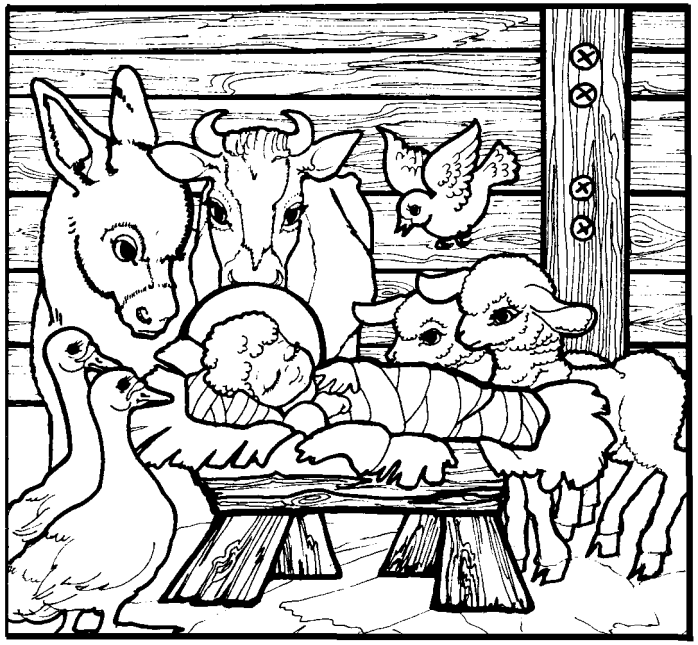
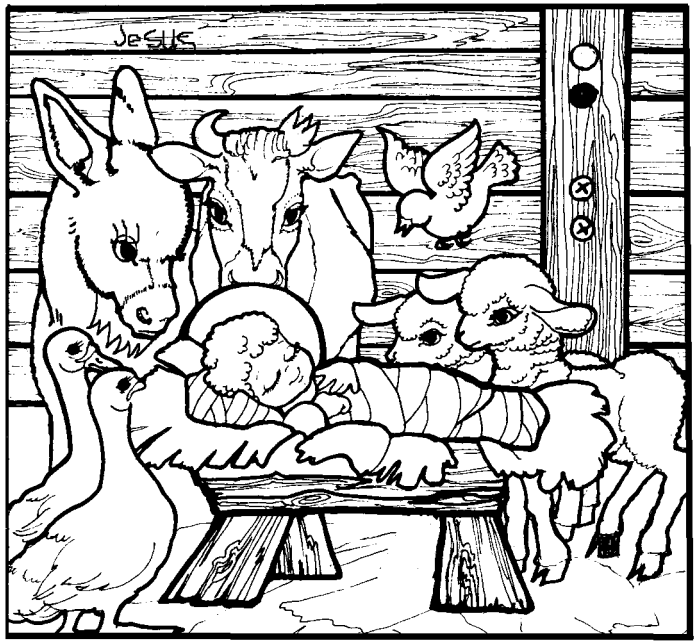
Down
1. The angel called Jesus this
2. Where the shepherds lived
3. They came to Bethlehem
5. They laid the baby here
9. The baby was wrapped in bands of ____
11. ____ to God
12. ____ and Joseph

Make Words

Using the letters in the phrase below, see how many words you can make from this phrase from our Gospel story today. You may use each letter only as many times as it appears in the phrase.

"Glory to God in the highest heaven"

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6 _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____

Picture Differences

Below are two drawings. There are 9 differences in these drawings. How many can you find? Circle the differences in each drawing then check the answers on the back.