



Not long after this Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem. It was a very long journey.

When they arrived, Bethlehem was very full and there was nowhere for them to stay.

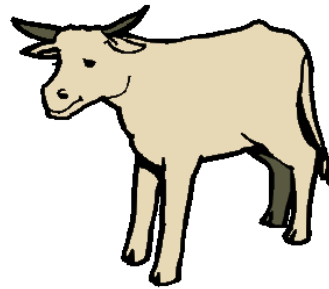
In the end the only place they could find to sleep was in a stable with some animals.



On a hillside nearby shepherds were watching their sheep. Angels appeared and told them not to be afraid because they had good news. They said that God's son had been born and that they would find him lying in a manger. The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem to see the baby, Jesus.



That night, in the stable, the baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger full of hay.



Far away in the East, wise men studied the stars. They saw a bright new star and knew that a great king had been born.

They followed the star all the way to the stable in Bethlehem. They brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.



God of love be born in our hearts this Christmas

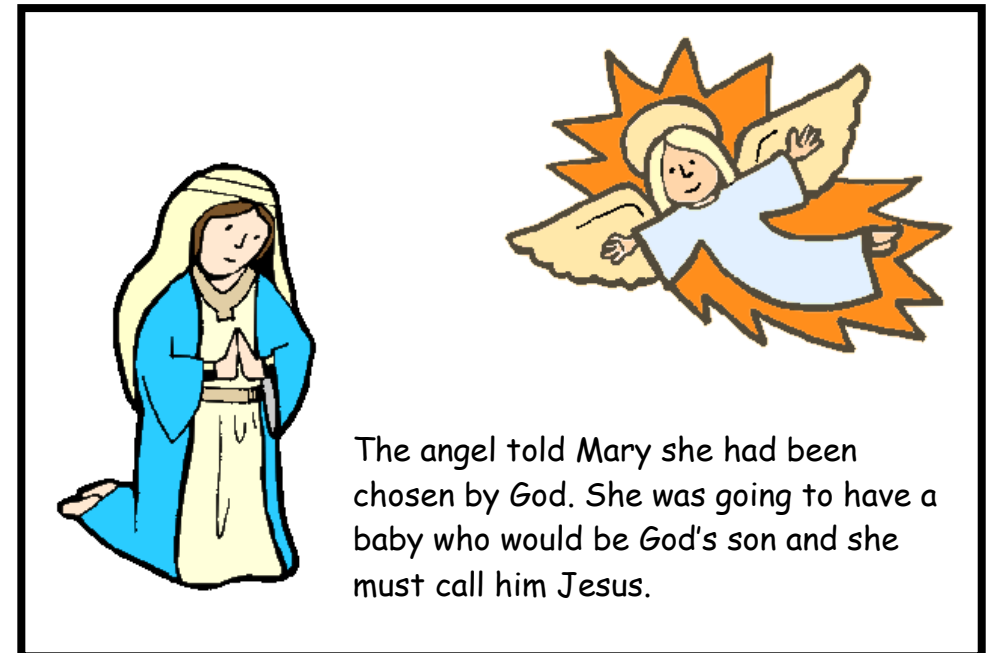
*We hope you enjoy reading this story with your child.
We pray that you will have a very joyful Christmas,
and a happy New Year.*



HOSPITALITY

FAITHFULNESS

WHOLENESS



The angel told Mary she had been chosen by God. She was going to have a baby who would be God's son and she must call him Jesus.