

# The Junior Observer

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A Good News Story

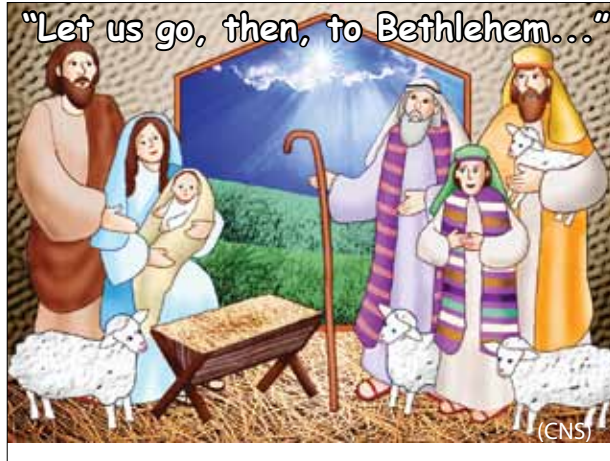
## Shepherds Find Baby Jesus in Manger

Catholic News Service

**O**n a night that seemed as normal as any other, shepherds were keeping watch over their sheep. The wind was calm; the only noises came from the sheep.

There did not appear to be any danger from wolves who may have wanted to attack the sheep. Suddenly a light as bright as the glory of the Lord shined on the men, and an angel appeared in front of them. The shepherds knelt down, shivering in fright.

“Do not be afraid,” said the angel, “for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For today in the city of David a Savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord. And this will be a sign for you: You will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and



### Q&A

What did the shepherds see in the bright light?

What did the shepherds do as they returned home?

Read more in Luke 2

lying in a manger.”

Immediately the sky was filled with angels who sang, “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” Then they returned to heaven.

The shepherds tried to recover from the fright they had experienced. They now felt peaceful. They knew they had seen and heard something wonderful, some-

thing miraculous. They said to one another, “Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”

They left their fields and headed for Bethlehem, the birthplace of David, the second king of Israel. They searched everywhere in the village until they found Mary and Joseph. The child, who was Jesus, was just as the angel had said he

would be. He was in a manger, a feeding trough for animals, which was being used as a crib.

Since Caesar Augustus had ordered a census, all men had to return to the places where they had been born to be counted. Joseph was a descendent of David, and he had been born in Bethlehem. By the time he got there with Mary, all of the rooms had been rented out. They had to stay with the animals. It was there that Jesus was born.

The shepherds told Mary and Joseph about the message the angel had given to them. Their story amazed everyone present. Mary promised herself silently that she would never forget this marvelous event. Then the shepherds returned to their homes. They praised God, because everything the angel said had come true.

## Bible Trivia

Who was the man who baptized Jesus?

## Puzzle

Circle the name or word that will make the following statements true, based on Luke 1 & 2.

1. (Herod, Homer) was king of Judea.
2. Zechariah was a (carpenter, priest).
3. The angel Gabriel appeared before (Mary, Sarah).
4. Mary was engaged to (Jeremiah, Joseph).
5. (John, Jeremiah) was Elizabeth's son.
6. Jesus was born in (Bethlehem, Jerusalem).
7. (Fishermen, shepherds) visited baby Jesus.

See answers on page 19.



Read the Gospel and Color

