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Joy to the World

No one in Bethlehem took much notice of the poor couple who moved into the stable behind the inn. Bethlehem was crowded with people who had come to be counted. Soldiers and officials rushed to get ready for the census. No one was interested in a newborn baby.

It was different in heaven. The angels watched closely. When Jesus was born, they began to sing praises. They shouted their songs with joy. Some shepherds sat on the hills overlooking Bethlehem. All was quiet. Their flocks of sheep and goats rested peacefully. The shepherds sat around a fire to keep warm. And they talked about their favorite subject, the promise of the Messiah. Yes, the Messiah! The one who would come and save them. Surely He must come soon. Suddenly a blazing light filled the sky. The shepherds held their hands up to protect their eyes. Then a beautiful voice said, "Don't be afraid. I have good news for everyone! Today in David's town (another name for Bethlehem) a baby has been born. This baby is the Lord, the Promised One of Israel! You will find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."



The shepherds gasped. Before they caught their breath, the sky was filled with angels. Joyful praises to God were sung: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests." Just as suddenly, the angels disappeared. The shepherds rubbed their eyes. Everything seemed so dark. As they looked at each other's faces, they knew

it was not a dream. They could still hear the angels' song echoing off the nearby hills.

Joy and happiness bubbled up inside them. They said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

The shepherds hurried down the hillside and into the town.



Finally they reached the stable. When they looked inside, they saw donkeys, camels, a cow, and some chickens. Then they saw the baby lying in the manger. Mary and Joseph were nearby. Quietly the shepherds came in, knelt by the manger, and worshipped the baby. And Mary wondered about these things in her heart.

The angels were the first to share the good news of Jesus' birth with others. God wants us to share that good news too. It is good news that everyone needs to hear, even though it happened long ago. Just as the angels praised God, we are also thankful for the greatest gift of all time, the birth of Jesus—the Son of God, the Promised One.

With whom will you share the good news today?



Joy to the World Questions

What happened in Heaven when Jesus was born?

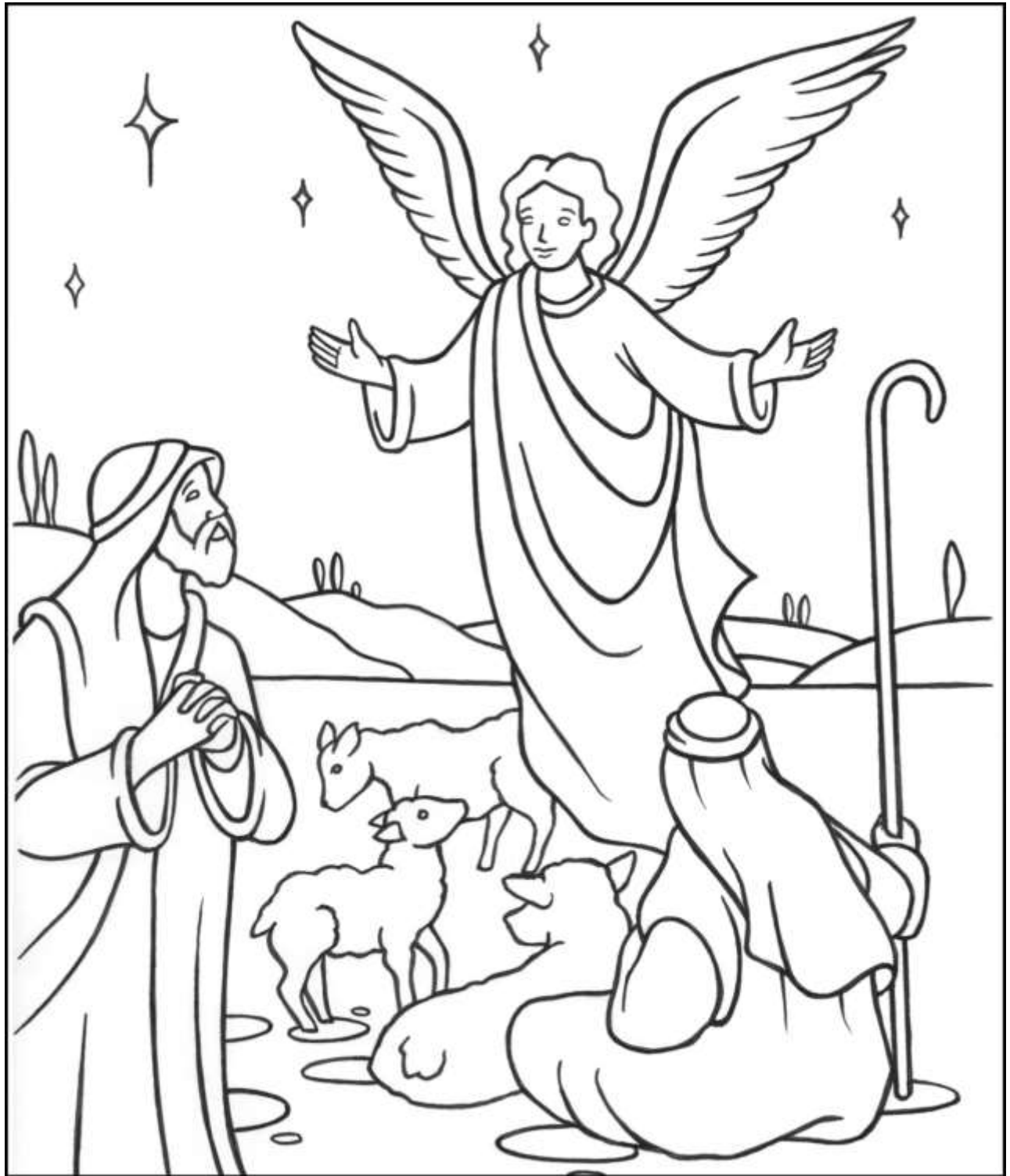
What did the shepherds do after the angel appeared to them?

What did the shepherds do when they reached the stable?

What does God want us to do? Explain



Joy to the World Coloring Page



Joy to the World Craft

Angel Craft



You will Need:

- A paper plates
- Scissors
- Glue
- Crayons
- Sharpie of different colors

Instructions:

1. Use the paper plates to cut out a triangle out as shown in the picture above!
2. Draw a circle (one small) for the angel's head.
3. Decorate the circle to add a face and the wings/body of the angel
4. Add any personal touches to decorate your angel as you choose.
5. Finally, hang your angel up as a reminder of the Joy to the World sang at Jesus's birth.
6. Enjoy sharing and reflecting on Jesus's birth with your family members.

Remember, this story encourages the celebration of Christ's birth, and him coming back to take us to live with him.

Enjoy!



Joy to the World Puzzle



Bible Pathway Adventures

WORD SEARCH

The Shepherds' Visit

F F H R P H U U B I S A N F W V L N S R
W M B S L E O S V W X Y A R P Y T X O A
O W A U Z L A V C Y E S H U A Y L S N P
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G E R G G A G R E B T Q L Q Z E O E F O
B M A A O E L C R U R P O C P R S E G I
F Z E P T Z R P D D I A N G E L Q P O N
U N P S Y A H W E H B A F S D G Y P D T
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Q U T M X B V Y R A T R U M P E T S V Z
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BIRTH
SHEPHERD
APPOINTED TIME
FIELD
SON OF GOD
TRIBE OF JUDAH

SHEEP
HEBREW
MESSENGER
BETHLEHEM
ISRAELITE
YAHWEH

MANGER
MARY
PEACE
TRUMPETS
ANGEL
YESHUA

