



# LITCHARD NATIVITY TRAIL

ACTIVITY BOOK



# WELCOME TO THE LITCHARD NATIVITY TRAIL!



Follow the map and look out for the other 8 signs on the trail. To make sure you reach them in the right order check the stars in the corner!

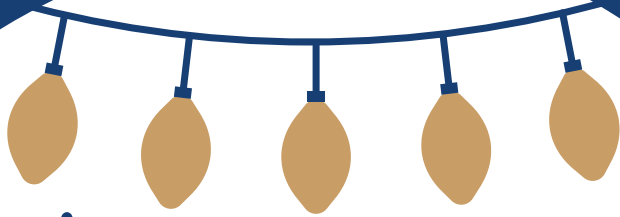


With each sign you'll learn more about the story of Christmas. Then you can find more information, questions and games in this book!



# WHAT CAN YOU SEE?

AS YOU WALK AROUND LITCHARD COUNT HOW  
MANY OF THESE YOU SEE!



Christmas  
Lights!

Snowmen!



Christmas  
Trees!

# 1 MARY

A long time ago, a young woman named Mary lived in a town called Nazareth. One day, an angel came to Mary's house with some very big news. He told her that she was going to have a baby - the Son of God! Mary didn't understand how this was possible, but the angel told her that "nothing is impossible for God." So Mary decided to trust God saying: "I am the Lord's servant. Let these things happen."



We know about the angel's visit to Mary thanks to Jesus' friend Luke who wrote it all down. Now we can read about it in the Bible, in the book of Luke. If you want to read about the angels visit to Mary, read Luke 1: 26-38. When the angel left Mary, she went to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Elizabeth understood that Mary's baby was special. She was so excited she cried out to Mary:

GOD HAS BLESSED YOU MORE THAN ANY OTHER WOMAN. AND GOD HAS BLESSED THE BABY WHICH YOU WILL GIVE BIRTH TO. YOU ARE THE MOTHER OF MY LORD, AND YOU HAVE COME TO ME! YOU ARE BLESSED BECAUSE YOU BELIEVED WHAT THE LORD SAID TO YOU WOULD REALLY HAPPEN.

Luke 1:39-56

WHERE DID MARY LIVE?

.....

WHO WAS MARY'S SON?

T \_ E  
S \_ N  
\_ \_  
G \_ D

WHERE CAN WE READ ABOUT MARY?

.....



# JOSEPH

2

Mary was engaged to a man called Joseph. When Joseph heard that Mary was going to have a baby, he decided to end their relationship in secret - he didn't know the baby was a miracle! Then, an angel spoke to Joseph in a dream. The angel explained that the baby was God's Son who would save his people from their sins. When Joseph woke up, he believed this was true, trusted God and married Mary.

Did you know that when the angel visited Joseph in his dream he told Joseph what to name the baby?  
The angel said:

“YOU WILL NAME THE SON JESUS. GIVE HIM THAT NAME  
BECAUSE HE WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS.”

He told Joseph that all of this was happening to fulfil a promise God gave to a prophet named Isaiah, hundreds and hundreds of years ago!  
This is what Isaiah said:

“THE VIRGIN WILL BE PREGNANT. SHE  
WILL HAVE A SON, AND THEY WILL  
NAME HIM IMMANUEL.”

The name Immanuel means "God with us".

## FUN FACT!

IN THE BIBLE JESUS IS  
GIVEN OVER 200  
DIFFERENT NAMES! THAT'S  
A LOT OF NAMES, BUT EACH  
NAME IS USED TO TEACH US  
ABOUT HIM.



# JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM



While Mary and Joseph were waiting for this special baby to arrive, they found out that they needed to go on a very long journey. Everyone had to go to their hometown to be counted for the Emperor of Rome, Caesar Augustus. Joseph's family were from a small town called Bethlehem - this was nearly 100 miles away from where Mary and Joseph lived!

Joseph's hometown was a little city called Bethlehem. This was because Joseph was from the family of King David, whose hometown was also Bethlehem.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem to fulfil two promises God gave to his people hundreds of years earlier. Here they are:

"BUT YOU, BETHLEHEM, ARE ONE OF THE SMALLEST TOWNS IN JUDAH. BUT FROM YOU WILL COME ONE WHO WILL RULE ISRAEL FOR ME." MICAH 5:2

"A BRANCH WILL GROW FROM A STUMP OF A TREE THAT WAS CUT DOWN. SO A NEW KING WILL COME FROM THE FAMILY OF JESSE. (KING DAVID'S DAD)" ISAIAH 11:1

How long do you think it would have taken Mary and Joseph to walk to Bethlehem from Nazareth?

a) 12-14 days

b) 8-10 days

c) 5-7 days



# JESUS IS BORN

4

While Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem, the time came for the baby to be born. But Bethlehem was so busy that the only place Mary and Joseph could find to stay in was a stable for animals! So, that night Jesus, the Son of God was born in a stable, surrounded by animals, using their feeding box as his cradle! This isn't how we would expect a King to be born. Instead of being born in a fancy palace, Jesus was born in a humble stable. Jesus didn't get special treatment on earth, instead he gave up lots of nice things to experience hard times - all because he loved us!

CAN YOU COLOUR IN THIS PICTURE OF MARY, JOSEPH AND JESUS IN THE STABLE?



# 5 THE ANGEL BRINGS GOOD NEWS!

On the hills outside Bethlehem, some shepherds were watching over their sheep. All of a sudden, the sky filled with light and an angel appeared. The shepherds were so scared!

But the angel said to them "Don't be afraid! Today a Saviour has been born. He is Christ the Lord. Go to Bethlehem and you will find him lying in a manger!"

After this the angel was joined by a huge army of angels - so many that they filled the sky! Together they praised God saying:



## FUN FACT!

SHEPHERDS WERE JUST NORMAL PEOPLE WITH NORMAL JOBS. ISN'T IT COOL THAT GOD CHOSE NORMAL PEOPLE LIKE US TO BE THE FIRST TO HEAR ABOUT JESUS' BIRTH?

GIVE GLORY TO GOD IN  
HEAVEN, AND ON EARTH  
LET THERE BE PEACE TO THE  
PEOPLE WHO PLEASE GOD!





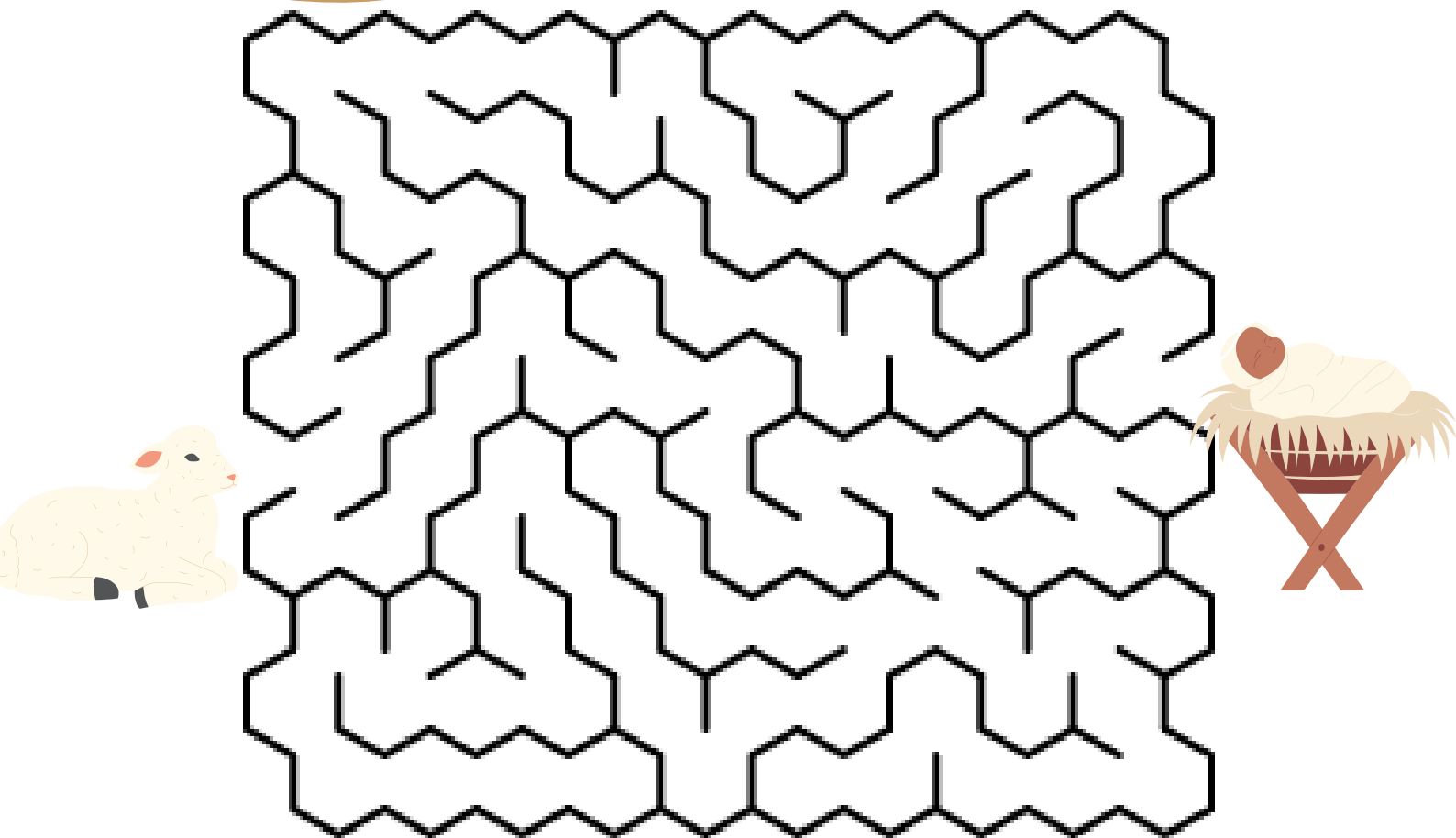
# THE SHEPHERDS



The shepherds were so excited by what the angels said that they ran into Bethlehem to find this baby - the Saviour of the World.

They found him just like the angels said and they were so happy! When they left the stable they told everyone they could about this baby and praised God for sending them his own Son!

CAN YOU HELP THE SHEPHERDS  
FIND JESUS LYING IN THE  
MANGER?





# THE WISE MEN



Far, far, away, some wise men saw a new star in the sky. They knew this meant that a new King had been born. Even though it would take them a very long time, they decided to follow the star so they could worship this new King!

THE WISE MEN BROUGHT GIFTS  
TO GIVE TO THIS NEW KING -  
HOW MANY GIFTS DID THEY  
BRING?

\_\_\_\_\_



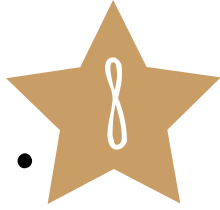
The wise men brought Jesus some gold, frankincense and myrrh. These were very expensive gifts to give to a baby, but perfect gifts for a king!

## FUN FACT!

THE WISE MEN LIVED SO FAR AWAY FROM BETHLEHEM THAT IT COULD HAVE TAKEN THEM YEARS TO FIND HIM!



# NOT THE END OF THE STORY...



The story of this special baby doesn't end in the stable. That special baby, Jesus God's own Son, grew up and later died on a cross. When he died, Jesus traded his perfection for our sinfulness. Now we don't have to be punished for our sins but can be friends with God instead! Just like the angels said, Jesus is the Saviour of the World!

## JOHN 3:16

FOR GOD LOVED THE \_\_\_\_\_ SO

MUCH THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY

\_\_\_\_\_. GOD GAVE HIS SON

SO THAT \_\_\_\_\_ BELIEVES IN

\_\_\_\_\_ MAY NOT BE LOST, BUT

HAVE ETERNAL \_\_\_\_\_.

When Jesus grew up, he taught us more about why he came to earth. Can you fill in the gaps to work out what he said in John chapter 3 verse 16?

LIFE  
WHOEVER  
SON  
WORLD  
HIM