



Christmas time is here! All of the shopping, meal planning and making arrangements for travels or for guests coming to stay are in full motion—somewhere in the middle of making all our lists and checking them twice, we can easily forget that Christmas is about Jesus.

“Did you get anything for Jesus this year? Was He on your Christmas list? You know it is His birthday we are celebrating. What could we give Him? We ALL seem to struggle with this at Christmas and end up overlooking Jesus on the very day we celebrate His coming. We get busy at church or in the kitchen or under the tree, and we fail to consider our Lord and Savior. We don’t mean to or choose to or want to. But we get so busy with the celebration itself that we sometimes forget whom we are celebrating. This year, what can we give Jesus? What would He want?” -Adrian Rogers

This interactive Nativity is meant for the family to worship and celebrate the greatest gift ever given at Christmas—and that was JESUS!

DIRECTIONS FOR THIS PRINTABLE INTERACTIVE NATIVITY:

1. First, gather your family together around the table. The only supplies needed are some crayons/colored pencils, a pair of child scissors and a children’s Bible.
2. Parent(s) color the stable scene and kids color the characters. If you have multiple children, then give each child(ren) a few characters. (If children are old enough—have them cut out.)
3. While you are coloring and cutting everything out together, talk to your kids about why you all are taking the time to do this activity. (What is Christmas is really all about?—JESUS! Why do we give gifts to each other?—to celebrate JESUS was the greatest gift!)
4. Now that everything is completed, it’s time for the Nativity story! Attached we have a kid-friendly version of the story written out of Luke 1 & 2 or use Children’s Bible for the reading.
5. Divide characters evenly between children participating. Have them be in charge of placing their characters into the stable nativity scene when they come up in the story. (Characters are numbered to help in our kid-friendly version of the story.)
6. Once all characters are placed and the story is read—ask for any questions they might have or let them retell you the story. Have fun!

MORE CREATIVE SUGGESTIONS TO DO WITH THIS ACTIVITY:

1. The colored nativity can be used multiple times if you started early in the Christmas season and save the pieces. A great time to use it again is on Christmas Eve when reading the Christmas story with the entire family to help the child(ren) pay more attention and feel like they are more a part of the Bible reading.
2. Pair this activity with a “Happy Birthday Jesus Party!” Kids really respond to this because they identify with birthdays being a BIG deal in their own lives. Celebrating Jesus in this way, will help them understand that Christmas really is a day for JESUS! Use this activity as the craft and interactive Bible story portion of the party and pair with some sort of cake or dessert to share in singing happy birthday to Jesus. Do as much or as little as you like with a few suggestions: use a candle for the dessert for kids to blow out, have the kids help you bake, invite neighbors or friends over to come share in the celebration, have the kids do the decorations, etc.

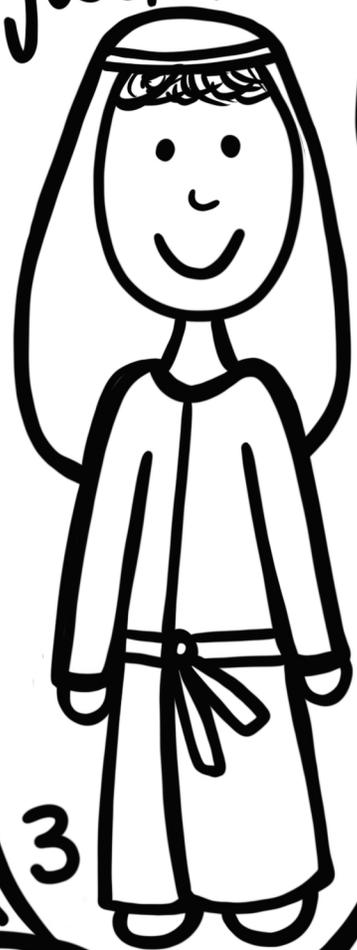
Just have fun together and celebrate the birth of JESUS, and your kids will not forget it!
Please visit our new ministry faithful31moms.com for family encouragement & weekly podcasts.



Mary



Joseph



Shepherd



Angel



2



Sheep

3

7



Donkey

5

4



Baby Jesus

1



This interactive Nativity is meant for the family to worship and celebrate the greatest gift ever given at Christmas—and that was **JESUS!** Tell this to your kids!

The Kid-Version Christmas Story based on Luke 1-2.

- This Christmas story begins when God sent His angel, named Gabriel, to see a girl named, Mary. (Insert characters #1 & #2) I'm sure this took Mary by surprise when the angel Gabriel said to her, *“Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!”* Having an angel talk to you for the first time could be a scary thing. ...So, Gabriel said to Mary, *“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.”* He told her that God had picked her out special to be the mommy to God's son, and she was to name Him Jesus. Now Mary was engaged to be married to a boy named Joseph, and she was not sure how to tell him about this news that the angel had told her about having baby Jesus. But you know what Mary did even though she might have been scared and had questions? Mary trusted. Mary trusted God and what His angel Gabriel was telling her.
- The angel also told Joseph (Insert #3) in a dream that Mary was going to have God's son and they were to name him Jesus. Joseph also trusted in the Lord and knew God's plans are always the best plans, even when they are different from our own.
- After Gabriel told Mary and Joseph the news about having baby Jesus, they found out they needed to take a trip. All the people had to return home to the cities that they grew up in to be counted and see how many people lived in their country. (This is called a census.) So, Mary and Joseph set out on a long trip from their home in Galilee to a city called Bethlehem. They didn't have cars back then, so they probably had to walk the whole way while Mary still had baby Jesus in her tummy.
- Bethlehem was really busy because of all of the people traveling in to be counted, so when Mary and Joseph tried to find a hotel to stay in, there were not any rooms left. This was a BIG problem because it was time for Mary to have baby Jesus! With no room and no hospital, what were they going to do?! But God had a plan...He always has a plan, and His plans are perfect!
- One of the hotel owners offered his stable, where the animals slept and ate their meals. It probably wasn't what Mary had in mind, but it was time to have baby Jesus. So, they stayed in a stable with the animals and baby Jesus was born. (Insert #4) *“She wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger.”* What is a manger you might ask? Well a manger is a place where animals eat their hay, but on this special night it became a baby bed with a mattress of hay. If I had to guess, even the donkeys, sheep and other stable animals there that night, knew this was a special baby! (Insert #5 & #6)
- In a field nearby there were *“shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.”* (Insert #7) I'm sure a bunch of angels in the sky would come as a surprise and scared both the shepherds and their sheep. The angel told them, *“Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to ALL people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”* The angels said, *“Glory to God in the highest,”* and they told the shepherds how to go and find this new Savior named Jesus. How would they know it was Him? Well, He was to be in a stable, lying in a manger for a baby bed. So, the shepherds went to find Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus, and they bowed down and worshipped this newborn King Jesus! The shepherds praised God for what they had seen and went to tell everyone about the Savior, named Jesus, that had been born—the greatest gift ever given to ALL people at Christmas—and we still celebrate His arrival today!