

Name: _____

Date: _____

Religious Studies

Celebrating Christmas

Journey to Bethlehem



Read the story. Then answer the following questions.

Mary, who was a young woman gentle and good, lived in the town of **Nazareth**. She was soon to marry a carpenter named Joseph. She was visited by an angel named **Gabriel** who told her that she would have a son and that she should name him **Jesus**. He is the one God has sent to save us. He said the Holy Spirit would be with her and the child would be the **Son of God**.

The great **Augustus**, emperor of Rome, ordered that all subjects be counted in a census. Every Jewish man had to report to his hometown to ensure that his name was added to the electoral roll.

Joseph had to go to **Bethlehem**, and he took his wife, Mary with him. It was not possible for Mary and Joseph to be given housing in the **inn**. The innkeeper provided space in an outdoor shed called a **stable**. When Jesus was born in a stable, Mary wrapped Him up, as mothers did in those days, with long, bandage-strips of cloth, to keep his small legs and arms firm and safe. They had no cradle, so Joseph laid Him to sleep in the manger, the feeding trough for the animals' hay.

Jesus was born in a lowly and humble place, yet He became the Saviour of the whole world. He can identify with the poorest and weakest among us. Jesus is the King of Kings and could have been born in a palace. Instead, He chose the path of humility, lowliness, and simplicity.

Answer the following questions.

1. What is the name of the female mentioned in the story? (1)

2. What is the name of the angel? (1)

3. What was the message he had for the woman? (2)

4. Who ordered that the people be counted? (1)

- (a) Gabriel
- (b) Joseph
- (c) Augustus

5. What is a census? (2)

6. Which town did Joseph and his wife go to in order to vote? (1)

- (a) Bethlehem
- (b) Nassau
- (c) Nazareth

7. Where did Joseph and his wife stay? (1)

8. Where did the woman put the baby? (1)

9. 10. What is another name by which Jesus is called? (1)

10. Why do we celebrate Christmas? (2)
