



The Dove Comes Back



Baby in the Manger



Three Gifts

Baby in the Manger

He was born.

Mary wrapped him in strips of cloth, round and round. That was how newborns were cared for then, to keep them warm and help them sleep. Then she laid him in a manger.

A manger is a feeding trough for animals, carved from stone or made of wood. There was probably straw in it.

It became the most famous bed in the world.

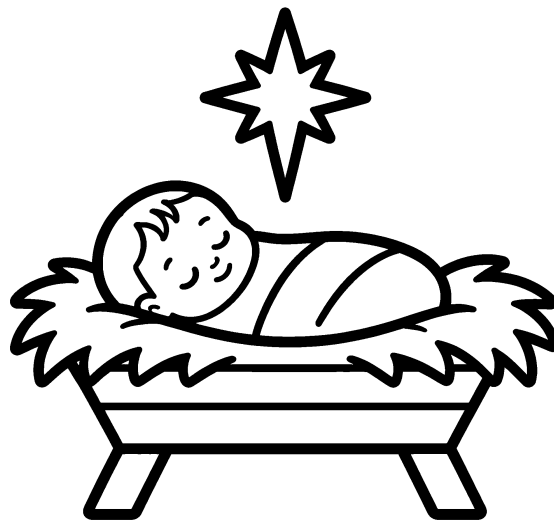
His first breaths probably smelled of hay and animals. That night most of Bethlehem was asleep. No one knew what had happened.

The baby was named Jesus. Matthew, who wrote down this part of the story, remembered something the prophet Isaiah had said more than seven hundred years earlier: a virgin will have a son, and they will call him Immanuel.

Immanuel means God with us. Matthew translated it on purpose, so readers who didn't know Hebrew would understand.

If God wanted to come, He could have chosen a palace, or an army, or something no one could ignore. He chose a baby who needed holding and feeding, who cried and got cold.

Anyone can come near a baby. Shepherds could. Foreigners could. So can you.



Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Matthew 1:22–23