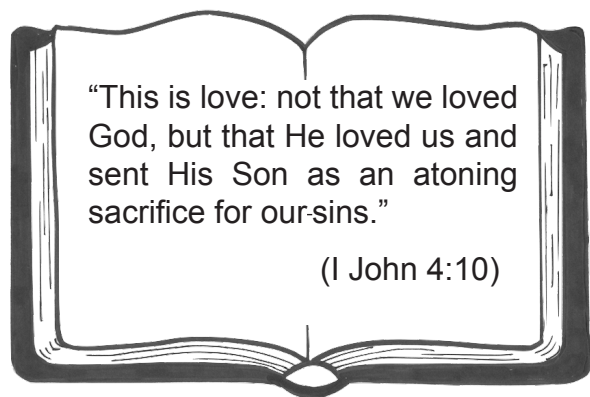




## Preparing our Hearts for the Coming King



2nd Sunday: Dec. 6

### TRUTH SEEKER



### ACTIVITY

Written & Illustrated  
by Anita Brandon

## “Teachable Moments”

**OBJECTIVE:** This lesson will focus on the second week of ADVENT with the lighting of the second candle (purple) and scripture and songs about JESUS' coming to earth, born in the humble village of Bethlehem; revealing GOD'S heart.

☀ **Simple Truths:** Notice that the four truths for this lesson deal with GOD'S love expressed in the INCARNATION by each member of the GOD-Head. Truth No. 4 is a great time to focus on the personal response to this love with each of your children.

☀ **Activity Pages:** The Parent pages (Simple Truths, Suggested Advent Activities) will help you navigate these learning times, but the actual activity pages for your children contain a lot of information as well. Remember, this is just a beginning; in your reading of God's Word you will no doubt find additional info to include in future years. Don't forget to continue the advent wreath coloring from the previous lesson, and add another page (LOVE) and more purple chain to the wall-art.

#1 - PRAYER TIME

STORY TIME: The Heart of Christmas

#2 - Planning for the Incarnation

#3 - I Wonder --questions to ponder & discuss

#4 - Christmas Advent Crossword

☀ **Enjoy singing together:** *O Come to My Heart*  
*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

☀ **Memory Verse: 1 John 4:10** This verse helps us focus on the heart of GOD. His love for us compelled Him to send His Son, not just to be born as baby, but to redeem us from our sin and reign as the King of Kings forever and ever.

(Permission granted to make extra copies of coloring or game pages for other children in the family as needed.)

# Simple Truths

1

## The FATHER'S Love Revealed to us

### How did GOD (the FATHER) show us His Love?

--He **PROMISED** a Savior (MESSIAH) to His people through many prophets. (See the last lesson for more details.)

--The FATHER **SENT** His Son (as prophesied)

*"This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." (1 John 4:10)*

--The FATHER **revealed His PURPOSE** for the INCARNATION before the event actually happened.

*"... what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She **will** give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name JESUS, because He **will save** His people from their sins." (Matt. 1:20-21)*

### How did God prepare for His Plan?

--GOD chose the exact time in history.

*"But **when the time had fully come**, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons." (Gal.4:4)*

--GOD chose the place of Christ's birth: Bethlehem

*"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, **out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel**, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." (Micah 5:2)*

--GOD chose a special person to give birth to JESUS: Mary.

*"... Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus." (Luke 1:30-31)*

--GOD chose a special person to care for Mary and baby JESUS: Joseph

*"... an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. . . . When he woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord commanded him . . ." (Matt. 1:20 & 24)*

--GOD chose a special person to help prepare for the ministry of the Messiah.

*"And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, to give his people the knowledge of salvation . . . ." (John 1:76 & 77).*

2

## The SON'S Obedience: He Came

### Why is His coming so important?

--He demonstrates obedience to His Father by coming into the world He made.

*"**He came** to that which was his own . . ." (John 1:11)*

--He demonstrates obedience to His Father by obeying and completing God's purpose .

*"Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet **not my will, but yours be done**." (Luke 22:42)*

3

## The HOLY SPIRIT: Provides God's Love

--In JESUS' birth.

*"... what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit." (Matt. 1:20)*

--In our NEW LIFE.

*"He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and **put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come**." (2 Cor. 1:22)*

4

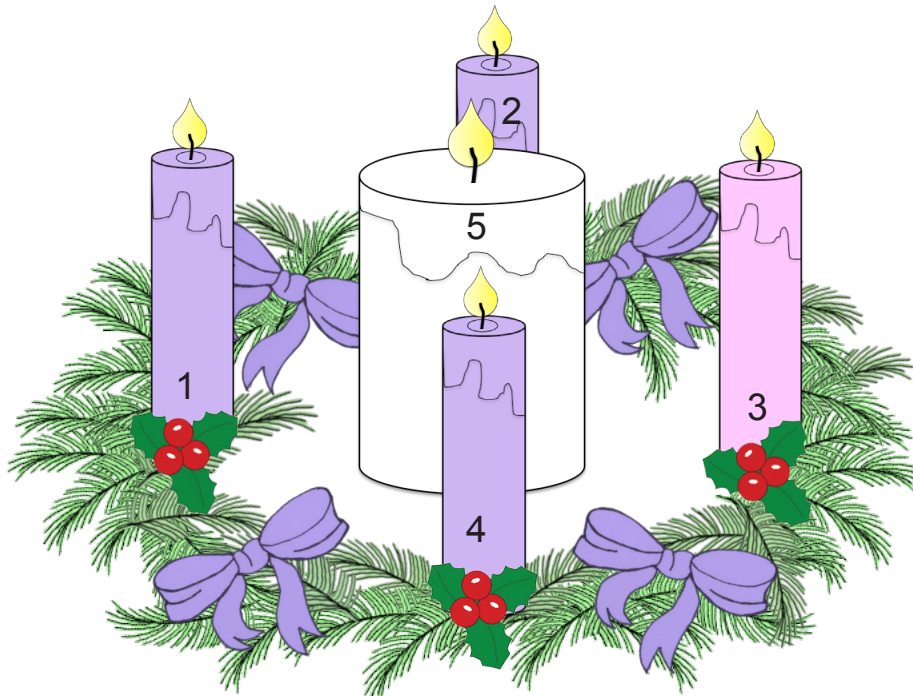
## Our Response to His Love

### Do you have room for JESUS?

--Some do and some do not.

*"He came to that which was his own but **his own did not receive him**. Yet to all who received Him, to those who **believed in His name, he gave the right to become children of God**." (John 1:11 & 12)*

# Suggested Activities for the ADVENT Celebration



The ADVENT WREATH is a circular garland of evergreens representing **eternity**. On that wreath are 4 or 5 candles typically arranged. Each represents an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the LORD, Jesus Christ. One candle is lit on each Sunday of advent, and the 5th candle on Christmas Eve.

With each week of ADVENT, you and your family can focus on the celebration elements mentioned here. Be as creative as you wish by adding other carols to sing, additional scriptures appropriate to the event represented by each candle, or invite another family to share with you in the celebration. The following lessons will focus on the subsequent candles and together you can prepare your hearts and minds to enjoy the true "Reason for the Season." May GOD be glorified!

## Order of Candles



Sunday, NOV. 29: **"Prophet's Candle"**  
Focus: HOPE  
Scripture: Jere. 23:5 & 6; Isaiah 9:2,6 & 7  
Carol to sing: ***Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus***



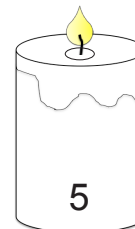
Sunday, DEC. 5: **"Bethlehem's Candle"**  
Focus: LOVE  
Scripture: Luke 1:26-31; Luke 2:1,3-5; Matt.1:20-24;  
Micah 5:2; Gal. 4:4; I John 4:10  
Carol to sing: ***O Come to My Heart***  
***O Little Town of Bethlehem***



Sunday, DEC. 12: **"Shepherd's Candle"**  
Focus: JOY  
Scripture:  
Carol to sing:



Sunday, DEC. 19: **"Angel's Candle"**  
Focus: PEACE  
Scripture:  
Carol to sing:



Christmas Eve - DEC. 24: **"Christ's Candle"**  
Focus: LIGHT & PURITY  
Scripture:  
Song to sing:

**This page will appear in subsequent lessons with information on songs and scripture, as well as activities for the rest of the candles of ADVENT.**

REMEMBER, TRUTH SEEKERS-----  
Ask God to guide your  
study and help you  
learn.



Prayer Time



STORY TIME

## The Heart of Christmas

Preparing our Hearts for the  
Christmas Season

As TRUTH SEEKERS, this season of the year gives us a chance to explore the heart of GOD and see His plan for His creation revealed in a very special way.

By lighting candles, reading from the Bible and singing popular carols of the season, we can remember how God shows His love for us. Remember. . . the center of GOD's big plan for all of His creation is the INCARNATION. Big word, right? It simply means--GOD becoming man. At Christmas

Activity Page #1

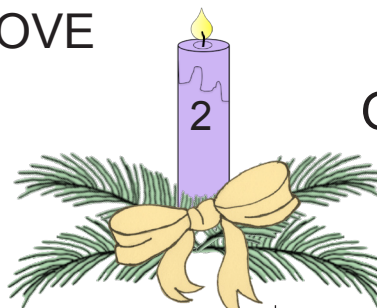
time, we celebrate the birth of JESUS, GOD'S Son. GOD, the Father, prepared a special way, a special place and a special time for all this to happen. Jesus was to be born as a baby, just like you were and He had a mother to care for Him, too.

Long before it ever happened, GOD planned for Baby JESUS to be born in the little village of Bethlehem. Remember, it was the prophets of long ago that told us this was going to happen. And it did!

GOD loves us so much and wants us to be a part of His family. He wants our hearts to be filled with thoughts about Him and love for Him.

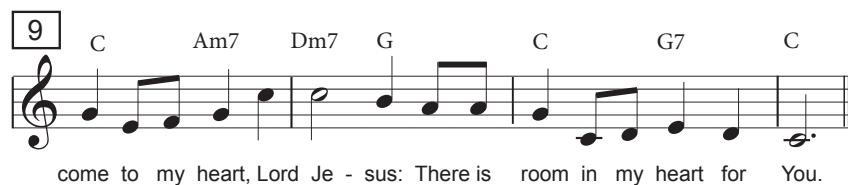
In future lessons we will learn more about why GOD sent His Son to live on this earth. Why did GOD make this big plan and then give it to you to read? He loves you so much and wants you to know Him.

# "Bethlehem's Candle" - LOVE



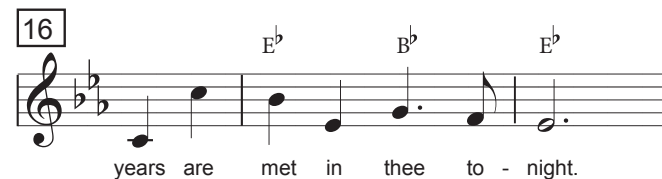
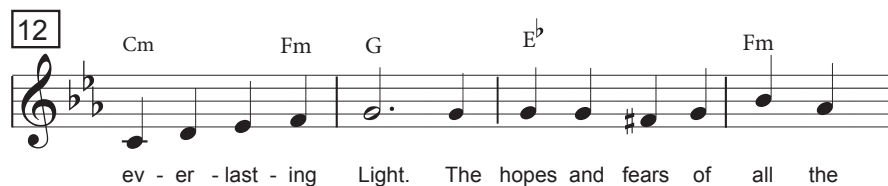
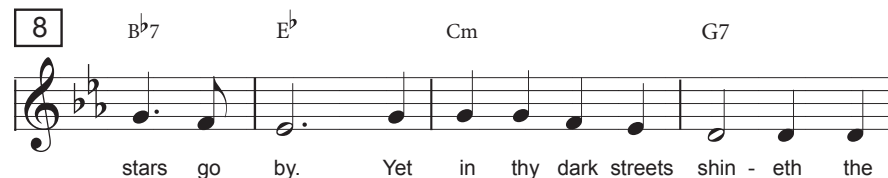
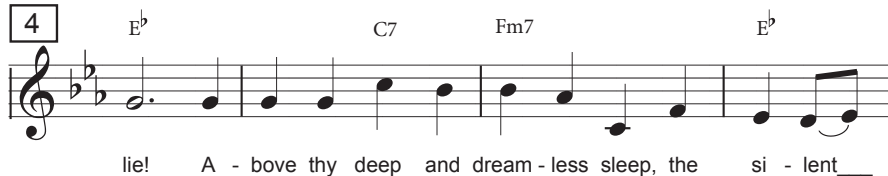
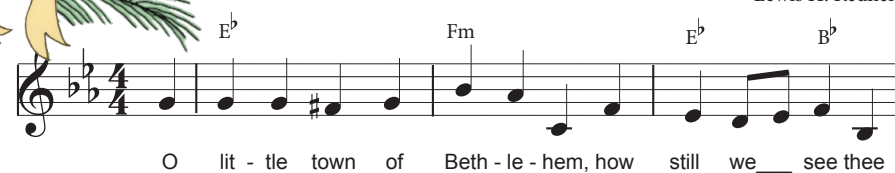
## O Come to My Heart

Emily Elliott  
Timothy R. Matthews  
Adapted by Anita Brandon



## O Little Town of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks  
Lewis H. Redner

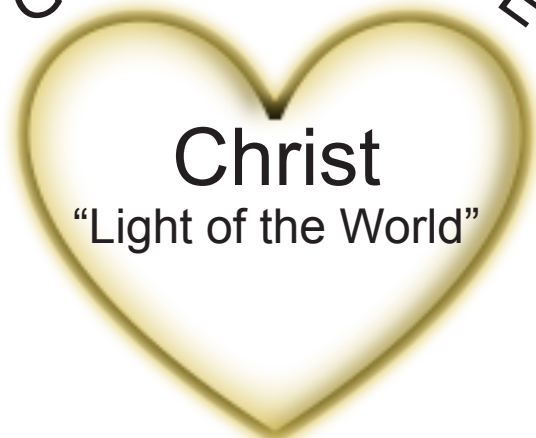




# Planning for the Incarnation

"This is love: not that we loved God, but that **He loved us and sent His Son** as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." (I John 4:10)

GOD'S LOVE



Draw a line from each word below to match each of the hearts.  
(HINT: Each heart matches a candle we light on the ADVENT wreath.)



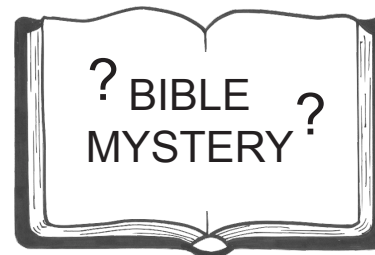
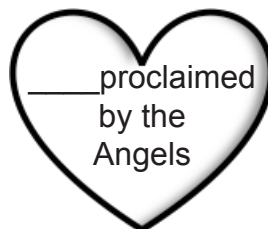
LOVE

JOY



PEACE

LOVE



Who is this ruler;  
what is His name?

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."  
(Micah 5:2)

\_\_\_\_\_

GOD'S Special place: BETHLEHEM

Another special place-----Your heart.

Is there room in your heart for JESUS?  
(Put your answer in the heart.)

YES

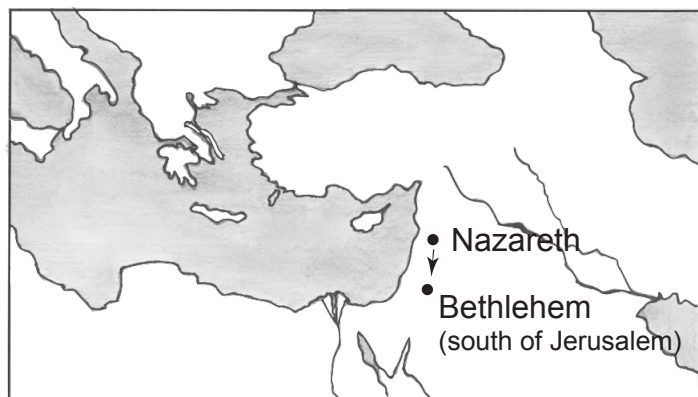
NO



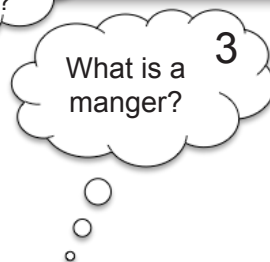
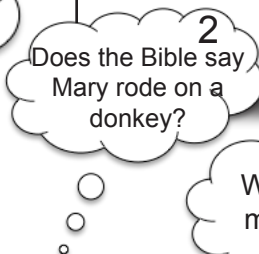
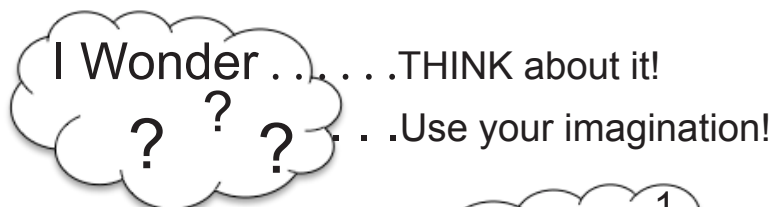
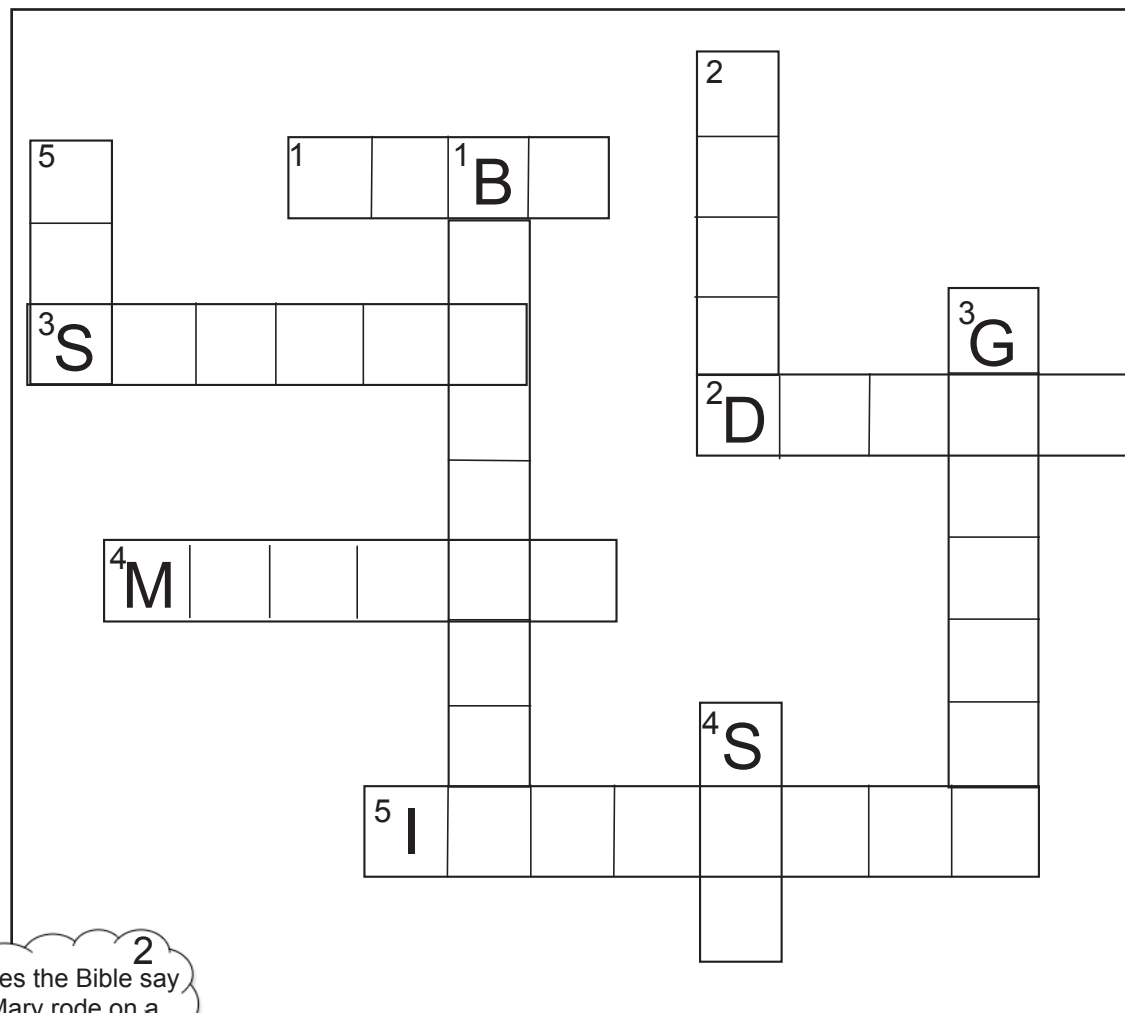
# How far is it from Nazareth to Bethlehem?

90 miles

1 day walking



## CHRISTMAS ADVENT CROSSWORD



Starting with #1, discuss your answer with your parents then circle the number.

Find your answers for the crossword puzzle by reading these scripture passages together.



## 2 - ACROSS and 5 - ACROSS

JOSEPH'S Response to Angel's announcement

"...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a \_\_\_\_\_ and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.'

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him \_\_\_\_\_---which means, 'God with us'. When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him. . . ." (**Matthew 1:20-24**)

## 3 - DOWN and 3 - ACROSS

MARY'S Response to Angel's announcement

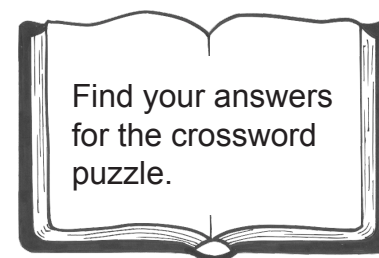
"God sent the angel \_\_\_\_\_ to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin . . . The angel went to Mary and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you. Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus.'"

(**Luke 1:26-31**)

"How will this be", Mary asked the angel. . . The angel answered, 'The Holy \_\_\_\_\_ will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you, so the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. " (**Luke 1:34 & 35**)

" 'I am the Lord's servant.' Mary answered. May it be to me as you have said." "And Mary said: 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.' . . . " (**Luke 1:38 & 46-47**)

## TRUTH SEEKERS



## 4 - DOWN and 5 - DOWN

"But when the time had fully come, God sent His \_\_\_\_\_, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons." (**Gal.4:4**)

Did Joseph obey God? YES or NO

## 1 - DOWN and 2 - DOWN

"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. . . And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to \_\_\_\_\_ the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of \_\_\_\_\_. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child." (**Luke 2:1, 3-5**)

## 1 - ACROSS and 4 - ACROSS

"While they were there, the time came for the \_\_\_\_\_ to be born, and she gave birth to her first-born, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and place him in a \_\_\_\_\_, because there was no room for them in the inn." (**Luke 2:6-7**)