

No Room in the Inn!

Teacher Pep Talk: It is a wonderful thing to be able to teach children about the circumstances surrounding Jesus' birth. Even though Jesus is the Son of God, and the promised Savior and King, He is not born in a fancy palace or in the capital city of Jerusalem. He is born in a humble stable in a little town called Bethlehem. But Bethlehem was a very important place. It had been the hometown of His forefather, David. David had started life as a shepherd, but God later chose him to be a king. David was called "a man after God's own heart."

You will need: Several pieces of paper with an "O" marked on them and one piece of paper with an "X" marked on it, for the game.

Major Points: The Savior was to be born soon.
Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem.
There was no room for them in the inn!
Baby Jesus was born in the stable in Bethlehem.

Scripture Ref. Luke 2:4-7 (KJV) And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Memory Verse: Luke 2:7 ...there was no room for them in the inn.

Lesson: **Christmas will be here soon!!**

- We are all looking forward to Christmas.
- I'm excited! Aren't you? (*Wait for answers.*)
- It's exciting to think about Christmas coming so soon!
- I also like thinking back on all the exciting things that happened a long time ago on that first Christmas, when Jesus was born!

The Savior was to be born soon!

- An angel had visited both Mary and Joseph and told them that the baby Jesus was going to be born.
- Jesus was the promised Savior and King!

Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem.

- One day, before Jesus was born, the ruler of the land (Caesar) said that everyone had to travel to his family's hometown to be counted.
- Joseph's family was from Bethlehem.
- Mary and Joseph had to travel a long way to go to Bethlehem.

There was no room for them in the inn!

- When they arrived, there were many people in Bethlehem!
- Mary and Joseph looked for a place to stay, but there was no room for them in the inn!
- So, Mary and Joseph went to stay in the stable, where the animals were kept.

Baby Jesus was born in the stable in Bethlehem!

- While they were there baby Jesus was born!
- Mary wrapped baby Jesus in cloths and laid him in a manger. (A manger was a wooden box filled with hay in the stable.)
- The Savior of the world, God's Son (Jesus) had been born!
- What a wonderful thing! Praise God!!

A King in humble surroundings

- Where do you think most kings are born? (*Wait for answers.*)
- That's right. Most kings are born in castles or palaces.
- It's funny, isn't it? Even though Jesus is the Savior and King of the whole world, He wasn't born in a fancy palace or castle.
- God didn't want those things for His Son.
- Jesus was born in a humble stable in the city of His forefather, King David, who had loved God very much.
- This was very important to God! It can be important to us too! When someone is humble, it means they are easy to approach.
- Jesus wants us to know that we can come to Him anytime.
- One way we can come to Him is by praying.

Prayer:

Let's pray and thank God for sending Jesus to us.

Dear God,
Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to be our Savior.
Thank you that He came to us so humbly.
Thank you for Christmas.
We love you. Amen.

Suggested Activities: (Pick and choose the activities that work best for you!)

“Quit Stalling”

This is a great game! The class acts out the story of Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem. Two people play the parts of Mary and Joseph. They carry bundles and travel around the room to get to Bethlehem. The other persons play the inhabitants of Bethlehem. (*These folks each choose a piece of paper with either an “X” or an “O” on it.*) **RULES: Have just one “X” per group. Don't tell anyone if you have the X or an O!** Have the persons spread out around the room. Mary and Joseph go from person to person asking for a place to stay. Everyone with an “O” tells them “There's no room in the inn!” Finally they find the person with the “X” on the paper. That person tells them that they may stay in the stable. Mary and Joseph are happy! Play again with other people acting out the parts of Mary and Joseph.

What's a Manger?

Face it. No one knows what a manger is, unless someone else has taught them. Discuss how a manger was a wooden box which was full of straw that the animals used to eat their food out of. Since Mary and Joseph were in a stable, there was a manger nearby because the animals would eat out of it every day.

Recreate the idea of a manger: Use a clean laundry basket. Fill it with towels or blankets. (You can use hay, if feasible.) Have a baby doll available. Wrap the baby doll with light cloths (For example: dish towels) and put the doll in the manger. Allow the children to take turns wrapping the baby and placing it in the manger. Put the blankets in and out a few times. *Make sure that the children treat the baby doll gently and with respect, since it is representing the baby Jesus.*

Sing Old McDonald

Stables mean animals... and animals mean... "Old Mc Donald." If you are a preschool child, this makes sense. Sing "Old McDonald" allowing the children to provide the names of the various animals. Pause a little during the song to give adequate time to make all the appropriate animal sounds! They will love this! Sing LOUD!

Old McDonald

Old McDonald had a farm...

E-I-E-I-O

And on this farm he had a...

(Stop and ask... "A what?" Wait for an answer, repeat the word, and then continue...)

E-I-E-I-O

With an _____ here,

And an _____ there,

Here a _____,

There a _____,

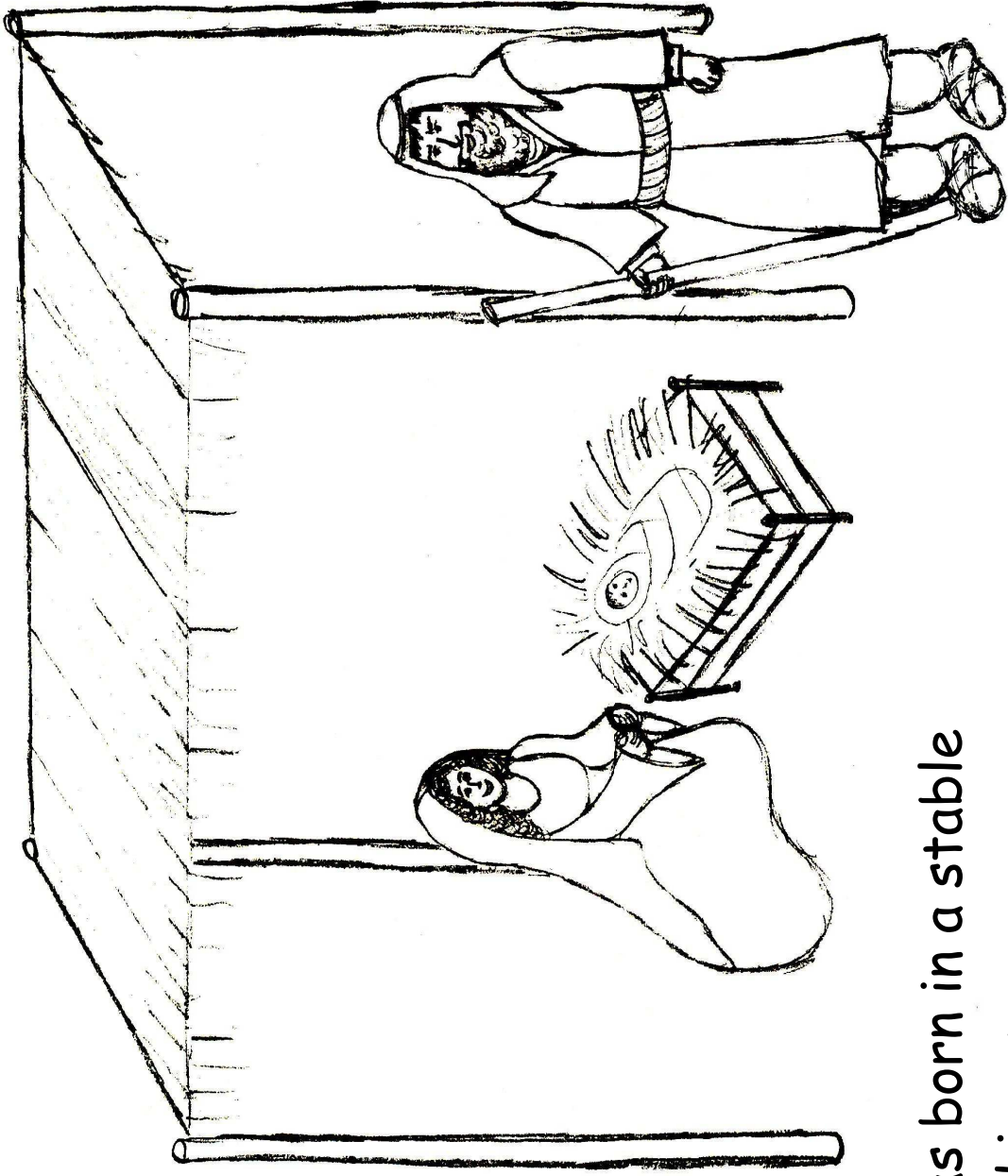
Everywhere a _____!

Old McDonald had a farm...

E-I-E-I-O!!

Coloring Page

Use the provided coloring page of the stable and manger. Make a copy for each child and provide crayons or markers. Allow the children time to color the page carefully. Encourage them to draw in some animals around the stable. What kind of animals might have been there? (EX: Sheep, goats, cows, horses or donkeys, chickens, etc.) ***Alternatively*** – provide animal stickers or stamps and let the children put them around.



Baby Jesus was born in a stable
and placed in a manger.

