

Matthew 1 & 2,
Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-40

God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son,
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have
everlasting life.
John 3:16

Readings this week:

- S Matthew 1
- M Matthew 2
- T Luke 1:1-38
- W Luke 1:39-80
- Th Luke 2:1-40
- F Romans 1:1-6
- S Acts 13:22-33

Can you think of what was said in the Old Testament about the birth of Jesus?

Ask your teacher to help you to find these prophecies and write down some of the references here.

In this lesson you are going to think about the events that surrounded the birth of Jesus. Many of the unusual events that happened give us clues about why his birth was important, and what it meant for the world.

Answer these questions - you may need to talk about the answers together with your class.

Who decided that Jesus would be born?

When did he make this decision?

Did he know what would happen to Jesus?

Did he care?

Did he love his son?

Why did he send Jesus?

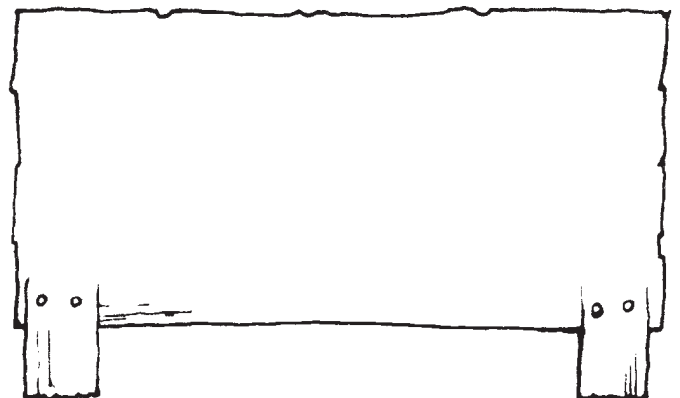
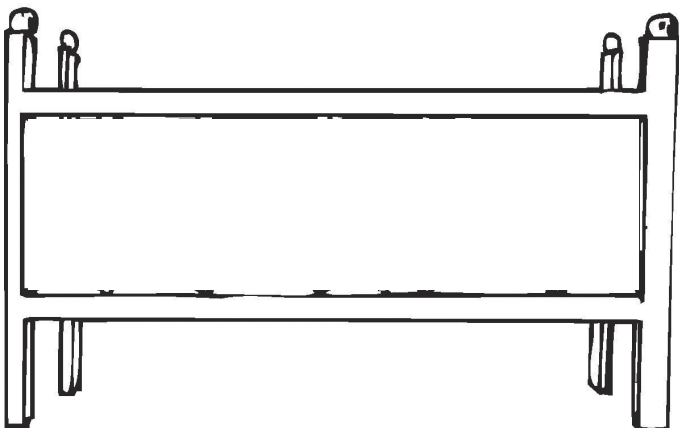
Who chose his name?

What does his name mean?

Use the spaces in the cot and manger to record your answers to these questions.

What do people do to get ready for a new baby

What did God prepare for his baby son?





Why do you think God chose poverty and homelessness for His son to be born into? Why not a palace and riches?

How do people announce the birth of a baby today?

How did God announce the birth of his son?

Who received the announcement?

Why do you think he chose them?

Imagine you were a witness to the events surrounding Jesus' birth. Talk about what you witnessed.

Try to think about all the details. Did everyone come to the stable? Was there a stable at all? What order did everything happen in?

In many countries, Christmas is celebrated as a festival to mark Jesus' birth.

Many people celebrate Christmas who have no faith at all.

But the Bible doesn't ask us to commemorate it.

What do you think about Christmas? What are the good and bad things about it?

Does it matter that some people think differently about it from others?

Digging Deeper

What is the gospel?

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are called 'Gospels'.

Look at Matthew 4:23 in different versions of the Bible to see how differently the word is translated. So what does 'Gospel' mean?

Now look at these verses and write down one or two words or phrases about the gospel and how we should feel about it.

Matthew 4:23

Mark 1:1,14-15

Luke 9:6

Romans 1:16-17

Galatians 3:8

The gospel writer, John, doesn't actually mention the words 'gospel' or 'good news' in his book but he does give us the same message in probably the most famous verses in the whole Bible. John 3:16-17.

Thank
you for
sending your
son to save us.