

# THE SHEPHERDS FIND THE MANGER

Luke 2:7-20, 25-40.

## LESSON 102 -- Primary Course

MEMORY VERSE: "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest"  
(Luke 1:32).

### BIBLE TEXTS

#### Luke 2:7-20, 25-40.

7 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.

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was

just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

33 And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.

34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

36 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;

37 And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

39 And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

## **NOTES**

### **God's Great Love**

God, the heavenly Father, looked down from His Home above and loved the people of the world. He planned to send His only Son, Jesus Christ, to the earth to show how much He really loved the people. He wanted every one to get ready to go to Heaven.

### **Mary and Joseph**

In the city of Nazareth lived a young woman named Mary. God sent a beautiful angel from Heaven to her to tell her that she was to be the mother of a wonderful Baby. Mary was frightened when she saw the angel and heard what he had to say. But the angel said to her, "Fear not." Then the angel told Mary that she should call His name JESUS, and He should be the Son of God. He should be the One through whom people could be saved and go to Heaven.

Some time later, Mary and her husband Joseph went to the town of Bethlehem to be taxed. It was a long, hard journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem and no doubt they longed for a place to rest. But when they reached the little city they found that it was crowded with people who had all come to be taxed. They found that there was no room for them in the inn, or hotel. The only place they could find to sleep that night was in a stable.

### **Birth of Jesus**

While Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem, God sent the Baby Jesus to them, just as the angel had promised. Mary lovingly wrapped Him in soft clothes and laid Him in a manger. There was no cozy bed, no downy pillow, no clean room for the Baby and His mother – only a manger and a bed of straw.

### **The Shepherds**

Let us go from the manger in Bethlehem for a few moments to a hillside in the same country. Here we find some shepherds watching their sheep all through the night. Perhaps as they sit by the fire they are talking of the Saviour whom long ago God had promised to send to the world. God had told some of the old prophets who lived close to Him that Jesus should be born in Bethlehem. Those who loved God were expecting Jesus to come.

Suddenly a lovely angel is seen in the sky and a great light shines around the shepherds. They become very frightened. Listen! The angel is saying something: "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." The angel also tells the shepherds that they shall find the little Babe lying in a manger.

At once a great many angels join the first angel and their voices ring out in praise to God. This is what they say: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." When they finish their message, or song, the angels again go into Heaven.

Oh, how happy those shepherds were! They were no longer afraid, but believed all that the angels had told them. Cannot we hear them as they rejoice and praise God for the wonderful news that has just come to them? In our imagination we can almost see them clap their hands and lift their faces toward Heaven as they watch the angels disappear into the starlit sky. The shepherds did not wait until daylight, but started at once to Bethlehem to see the new Baby. They hurried across the fields to the place where Mary and Joseph were; and, just as the angel had said, they found the baby Jesus lying in a manger. No doubt they knelt before the manger and worshiped the little Babe who lay quietly on the bed of hay.

The shepherds did not keep the good news to themselves but told others what they had seen and heard. As they return to their sheep out on the hillside, they praised God and were very joyful.

## **Wonderful Name**

For many, many years some of the people had been looking for this great event, and now it had happened! Jesus was born! What joy and peace He brought to earth! Through Jesus millions of people have been made happy.

When the baby was eight days old, He was named JESUS, as the angel had told Mary that He should be named. This name means “salvation,” for He came to save people from their sins. What a wonderful name!

## **Jesus in Church**

One day when Jesus was still very young, His parents took Him to the Temple in Jerusalem. While there, a man named Simeon came into the Temple. When he saw the Baby Jesus, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God. Simeon knew that Jesus was the Son of God, and he was happy to know that Jesus had been born. For many years he had waited for this very day. The parents of Jesus wondered at the words of this old man.

A very old lady named Anna, who stayed in the Temple and served God day and night, also saw the young Child. She gave thanks to the Lord and also knew that this Infant was to be the Redeemer of the world. Although Joseph and Mary did not have much money, they had the love of God in their hearts. The most important thing in life is that we love Jesus with all our hearts. God loved them and sent His Son to them. God knew that Mary would be a good mother for Jesus. As she watched over the Baby, no doubt there was a song of gladness ringing in her heart. Mary thought about all that she saw and heard concerning this marvellous Child, and silently kept it in her heart. More and more the baby grew as His kind parents watched over Him, and day by day he became stronger and wiser. We are sure that God, the heavenly Father, was with this family.

## **QUESTIONS**

1. When Jesus was born, where did His mother lay Him? Luke 2:7.
2. How did the shepherds know that Jesus was born? Luke 2:9-14.
3. Did they go and find Jesus? Luke 2:16.
4. Who saw Jesus in the Temple? Luke 2:25-27, 36-38.
5. What was the reason for Jesus' coming to the world? Matthew 1:21; Luke 2:14; John 3:16.

## LESSON RESOURCES

### TITLE

# THE SHEPHERDS FIND THE MANGER

Lesson 102

Luke 2:7-20, 25-40

# No Room For The Baby

WATCH AND PRAY 109

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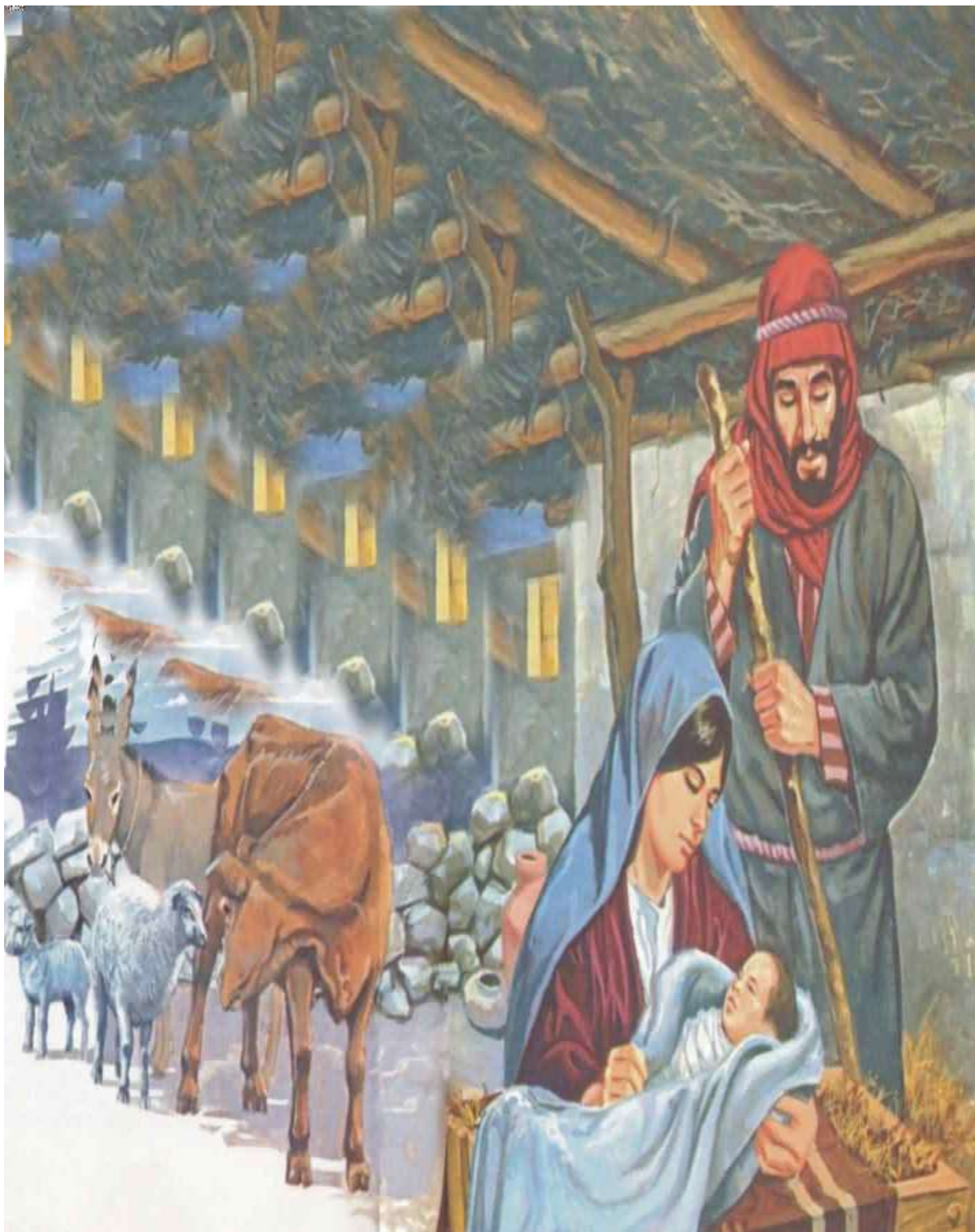
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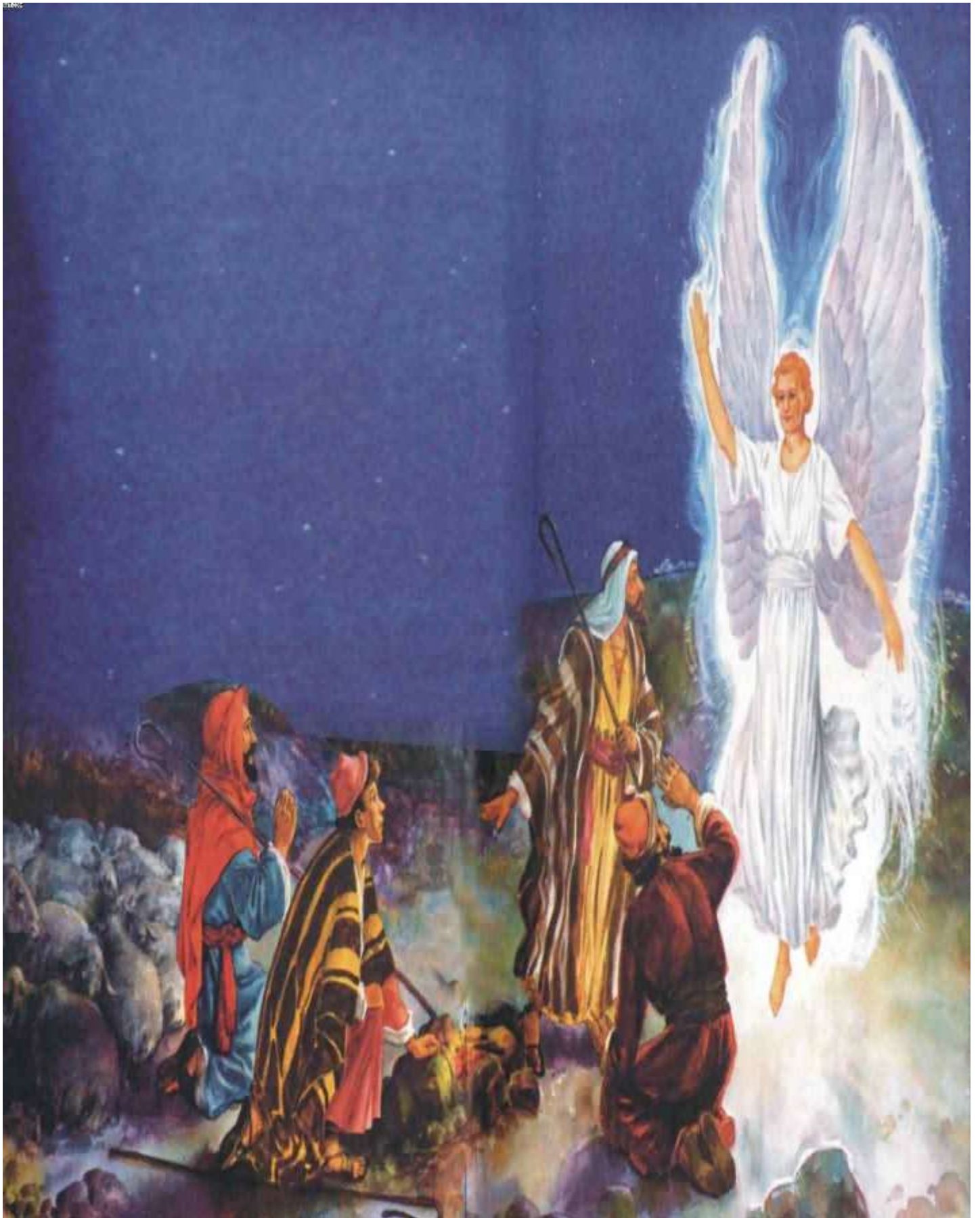
# No Room For The Baby

No room for the Ba-by at Bethlehem's Inn  
Only a cat-tle-shed  
No home on this earth for the dear Son of God,  
Nowhere to lay his Head  
Only a cross did they give to our Lord  
Only a borrowed tomb  
Today He is seek-ing a place in your heart  
Will you still say to Him “No room?”

PICTURE 1



PICTURE 2





PICTURE 3



PICTURE 4

