

Jesus Is Coming – Bible Story

3a

(Trumpet Sounds)

Town crier: Give ear! Give ear! By order of the Emperor Augustus, all men will go to their hometowns to be registered for the tax list.

Narrator: And so Joseph went from Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was from the house and family of David. And he took with him Mary, who was expecting a baby.

All: Clip, clop, clip, clop, clip, clop.

Joseph: (to himself) I hope this trip isn't too hard on Mary. Our baby could come any minute! I know he is the Son of God, and I'll be his father on earth. Mary and I will love him as much as any parents ever loved their baby. I'll be a good father. I'll teach him the Torah, and he will grow up to be a man of God.

Mary: (touches Joseph's arm) Joseph, I think I see Bethlehem in the distance! I'm so glad. I would like to get off this donkey.

Narrator: When they came to the little town of Bethlehem, there was quite a crowd. Joseph went from house to house looking for some place to stay where Mary could rest and have

shelter, but there was no space anywhere. Joseph came to an inn, and he knocked on the door.

Innkeeper: Go away. We don't have any room tonight.

Narrator: Joseph turned away and pulled the donkey with Mary behind him. The innkeeper saw that Mary was pregnant and felt sorry for the young couple.

Innkeeper: Wait! I don't have a room inside the inn, but I do have a stable where travelers keep their animals. You may sleep there tonight, if you'd like.

Narrator: Mary and Joseph both nodded their heads yes. The innkeeper showed them to the stable. It wasn't much, but it was a roof over their heads and animals to keep them company. Joseph made Mary a bed of soft hay to rest, and they both stretched out to sleep. But that night, with only Joseph and the animals to keep her company, Mary gave birth to baby Jesus. She wrapped him in cloth and laid him in the manger.

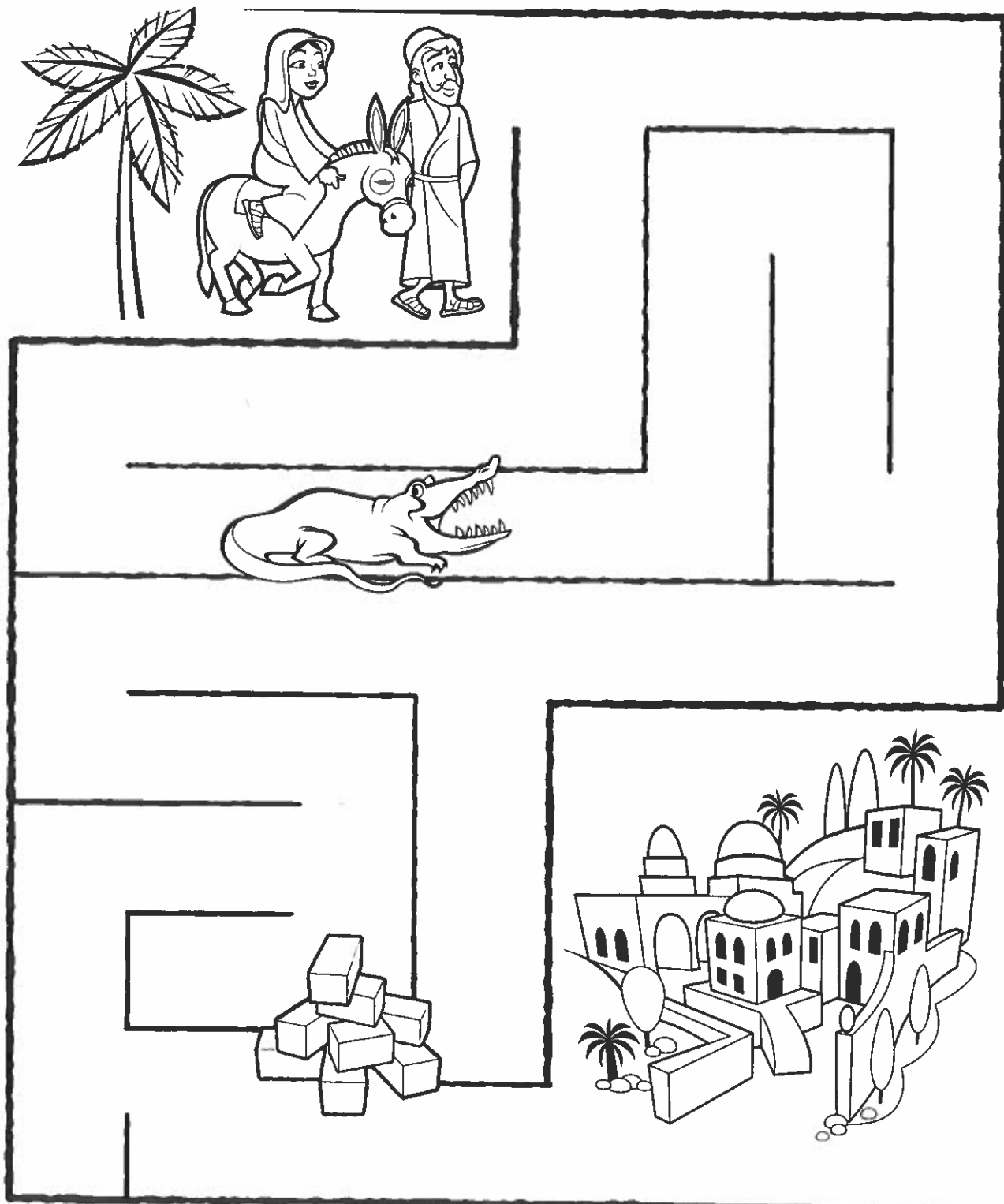
(Based on Luke 2)



**DEEP
BLUE**
CONNECTS

3b Maze – Puzzle (Preschool)

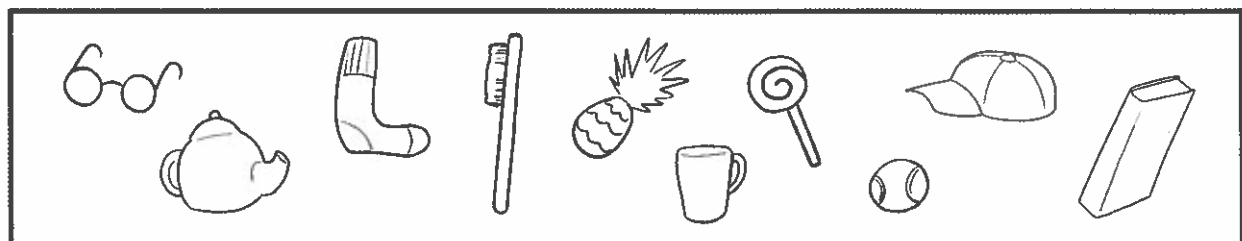
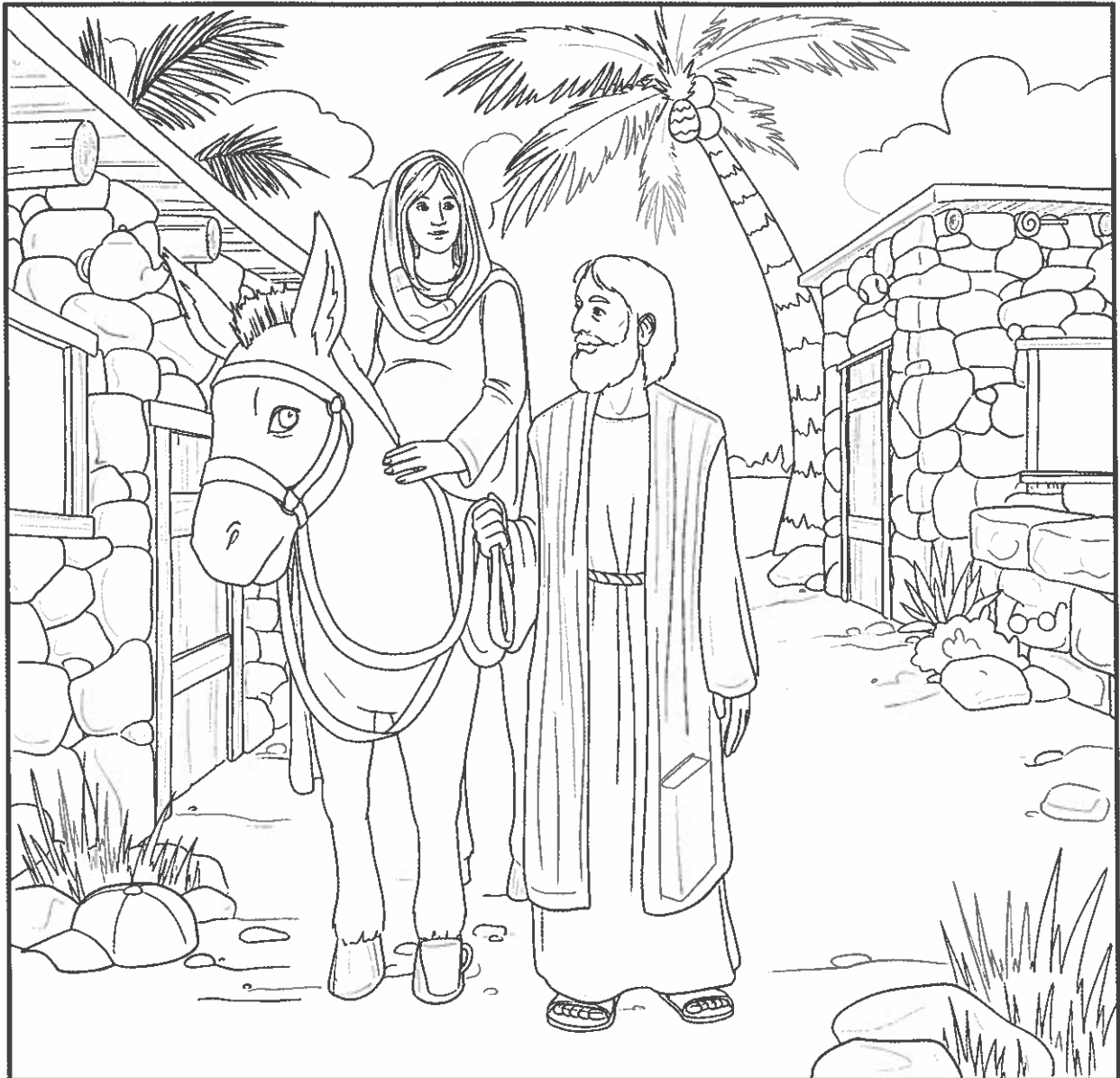
Help Joseph and Mary find their way from Nazareth to the city of Bethlehem.



Hidden Pictures – Puzzle (Younger Elementary)

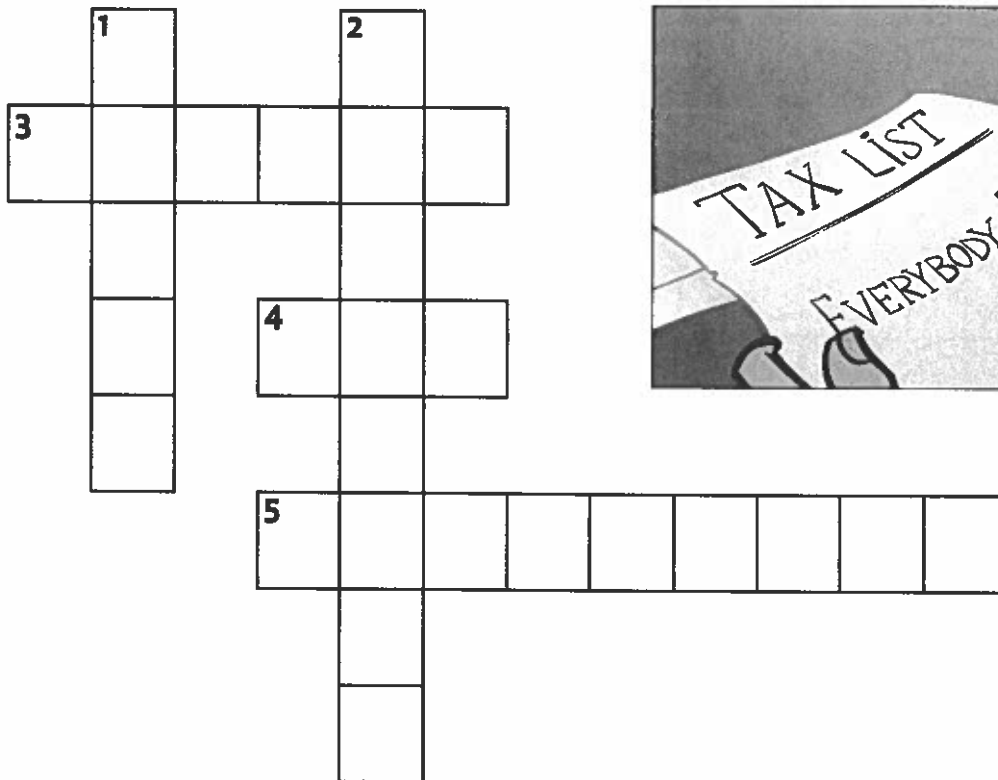
3c

Look carefully at the picture of Joseph and Mary entering the city of Bethlehem. Find 10 hidden items in the picture and circle them.



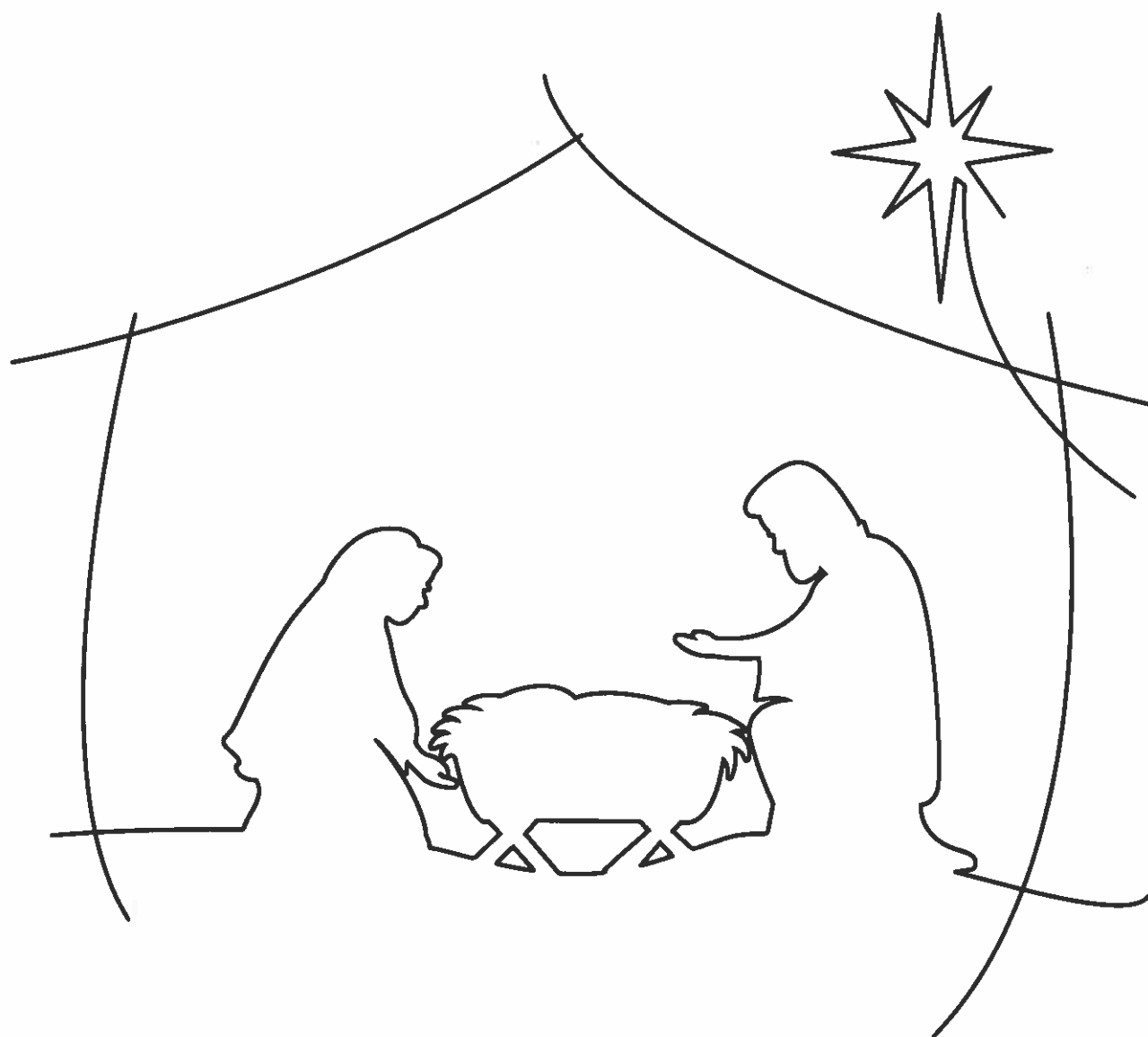
3d Crossword Puzzle – Puzzle (Older Elementary)

Find the answers that fit in the blanks of the clues. Then add them to the crossword puzzle.
Look in Luke 2:1-5 for help.



1. Joseph was from the family of _____.
2. Joseph and Mary lived in _____.
3. _____ declared that lists be made.
4. Everyone had to be enrolled in the _____ lists.
5. Mary and Joseph had to go to _____
to be enrolled.

A Child Is Born in Bethlehem



3f All Are Welcome – Song

**All are welcome. All will be welcome,
no matter who you are.
All are welcome. All will be welcome.
What could be better?
All are welcome. All who are welcome,
we're like the brightest star.
All are welcome. All who are welcome,
we shine together.
We shine together, everyone.**

You be you. I'll be me.
We'll be a community
of different voices and hopeful choices.
One in heart, one in mind.
True believers, every kind.
With God to guide us,
the flame's inside us.

**All are welcome. All will be welcome,
no matter who you are.
All are welcome. All will be welcome.
What could be better?
All are welcome. All who are welcome,
we're like the brightest star.
All are welcome. All who are welcome,
we shine together.
We shine together, everyone.**

You be you. I'll be me.
Even if we disagree,
we still belong here.
God makes us strong here.
We believe devotedly,
with a faith for all to see.
We are united—
that's where God's light is.

All are welcome. You are welcome.
All are welcome. You are welcome.
Better together.
You are welcome, welcome, welcome.
We shine together. You are welcome,
welcome, welcome.

**Oh! All are welcome. All will be welcome,
no matter who you are.
All are welcome. All will be welcome.
What could be better?
All are welcome. All who are welcome,
just like the brightest star.
All are welcome. All who are welcome,
we shine together.
We shine together.
We are together.
We shine together, everyone.**



Words: Dennis Scott
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Jesus Is Coming

Luke 2:1-5

Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth during the time when Caesar Augustus ruled the empire. As the ruler, he declared that everyone in the empire had to be registered on the tax list. To do this, all the people had to go to their own cities. Joseph was a descendant of David, so he had to travel to Bethlehem, David's city. The trip was difficult for all of them. Mary and Joseph and a donkey carrying supplies made the trip. Mary rode on the donkey most of the way because she was expecting the birth of her child to happen soon. The trip took them at least four days.

Verse of the Month

The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people." Luke 2:10

What Do You Think?

Why was it important that Mary and Joseph were descendants in David's family line?

How do you think they felt about walking from Nazareth to Bethlehem?

Family Activity

Measure the distance from Nazareth to Bethlehem on a map of Bible times. How long would it take you to drive that many miles in your car? How long do you think it took Joseph and Mary to walk that distance? What preparations do you think they had to make for the trip?

Prayer

Dear God, we are thankful for Mary and Joseph's dedication. Help us learn from their examples how to serve you even in the difficult times; in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.