

The Shepherds

The sky was dark and clear, and the stars shone brightly. A baby had been born, the saviour of the world and Jesus was His name. The room was small and crowded, lots of visitors had come to see the baby wrapped up tight in a manger. But who was there?

Well, let's take a closer look as we work backwards through our story book.

Let's hear about what happened to the shepherds and the fright they received one night.

The field was calm and peaceful, and the stars were bright and beautiful. In fact, the field was so peaceful that one shepherd fell asleep under the tree, but there was no way he could sleep for the whole story!

All of a sudden, a bright light appeared. The shepherds were so scared that they shuddered with fear.

"What is that?" one of them cried.

"I don't know but I think we might die!"

But don't worry dear readers, the shepherds were fine. It was one of God's angels and they're lovely and kind.

"Don't be afraid," the angel said to the shepherds (still shaking with fear), **"I bring you Good News, the Saviour is here."**

The shepherds smiled with joy; they couldn't wait to meet this baby boy.

"Jesus has been born this day. In Bethlehem you will find him sleeping on a bed of hay. This boy will bring hope and joy to all of the lands, and you will get to hold Him in your hands."



Just before the shepherds could go to meet Jesus, a choir of angels appeared, and they were filled with happiness. They started to sing, giving praises to God.

“Give Glory to the Lord in heaven above, and peace to mankind, and those who please God.”

Then the angels vanished and went back to heaven. The shepherds couldn't believe the news they were given. So they packed up their things and left to find the baby boy, the one who would bring so much joy. They followed the path until one of them said,

“Look there He is, straight ahead!”

When they saw Jesus, they **danced** and they **whirled**, for this baby boy was the saviour of the world. They told all their friends; they were bursting with happiness. No one could deny they had seen God's goodness.

So that's our story of the humble shepherds,

they were startled and scared but then they were brave. They went to find Jesus, **the one born to save**.

When they found Jesus, they gave Him all the glory. Now I wonder who we will meet next on our backwards Christmas story.



The Birth of Jesus

The sky was dark and clear, and the stars shone brightly. A baby had been born, the saviour of the world and Jesus was His name. The room was small and crowded, lots of visitors had come to see the baby wrapped up tight in a manger. But who was there? Well, let's take a closer look as we work backwards through our story book.



We've saved the best till the end, or are we at the start? Let us meet Jesus; He plays quite a big part. Long before Jesus was even a thing, a girl named Mary was planning her wedding. Then out of nowhere, an angel appeared. Mary couldn't believe it, she started quaking with fear. **"Don't be afraid,"** the angel spoke softly, **"you have been chosen to carry God's glory. You will give birth to God's own son, and then name Him Jesus, He is the Holy One."**

Mary couldn't contain her excitement and joy and ran to tell Joseph they were having a boy. When Mary told Joseph of this very good news, Joseph looked **puzzled** and a **little confused**. But he was still a man of his word, he would still marry Mary and follow the Lord. That night, as Joseph slept, his dreams were visited by an angel – the one Mary met.

"Don't be afraid!" the angel said, while Joseph was still tucked up in bed. **"What Mary says is true, she will have a baby. This baby is God's son, He will be filled with His glory."**

With Joseph now told of this great news to come, God's saviour was coming, how totally awesome! But along came a royal census, now where would Mary give birth to Jesus?

The census said, "**You must return to your home country.**" So to Bethlehem they must go, and they left in a hurry.

The journey was long and winding, it was a good thing they had a donkey as Mary's feet were hurting! With Bethlehem drawing ever near, they started to worry because Jesus was nearly here.

Mary and Joseph finally made it, but where would they stay? There was no room at the inn, where would they lay?

But don't worry readers, **God performed a miracle** when a very nice inn keeper offered them his stable. They followed the man out to where the animals lay, now Mary could rest and sleep on the hay.

Now it was finally time for the greatest gift of all. He came into this world, baby Jesus was born. The night wasn't glamorous, grand or befitting a king, but **the saviour of the world was here**, all of heaven was singing.

Mary smiled at her baby; she knew what He would become.

Now Jesus had been born, He was God's amazing son!

