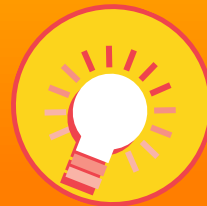


Comprehension Workbook 2

Jesus (Birth)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

CurriculumVisions

VisionMasters

Comprehension Workbook 2

Jesus

(Birth)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

understand • key words • summarise • sequencing • AF2-3 • AF4-5 • AF6-7 • discuss • create

Christian faith

Matches the requirements of the Literacy Strategy and designed to integrate with the study of world religions. (This material is independent of any specific text book and can be used alongside any publisher's books including our Christian Faith, Church, Christian art and writing and Christian holy days books.)

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Unit 2: The birth of Jesus

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The birth of Jesus

Luke's account of the birth of Jesus

Luke wrote one of the Gospels and also the Bible books called the Acts of the Apostles. The Acts tell the story of the Apostles as they travelled around preaching the word of Jesus. Luke was not one of Jesus' disciples. He was a physician and was born in Syria. He was not a Jew and may have been a slave who was trained as a doctor so he could look after his owner. We do not know anything about Luke's early life, but he joined the apostle Paul in around 51 AD and travelled with him while he preached. This is Luke's version of the birth of Jesus.

In those days The Roman emperor ruled that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room available for them in any house.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you Good News that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in Bethlehem a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. On the eighth day, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.





Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write a sentence in which you found the word '**census**'.

b From that sentence, suggest what '**census**' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word '**census**'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to '**census**'.

e Draw a small picture of someone taking a '**census**'.



Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: amazed	astonished

3

Summarising

(the gist of the story)

To summarise means to rewrite the story in a shorter version using as many of our key words from Task 2 as needed.

1 Write a heading for your summary.

2 Now write the main idea in one sentence.
e.g. "This story tells us..."

3 Now add some detail to the main idea by writing more sentences after it.

**Finally,
can you rewrite your
summary to make it better?**

1. Look out for errors such as using the same word too often – use alternatives.
2. Make sure you have summarised the author's purpose in your OWN words.
3. Make sure your summary is in a logical order.
4. Is your summary informative AND interesting to others?

There is nothing wrong with rewriting; even the best authors rewrite their work.

Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.



The baby was named Jesus.

The Roman emperor ordered a census to be taken.

An angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds.

Joseph and Mary went from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

Mary wrapped the baby Jesus in cloths and placed him in a manger.

The shepherds came to visit the baby Jesus.



Get to the facts

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the facts of the story.



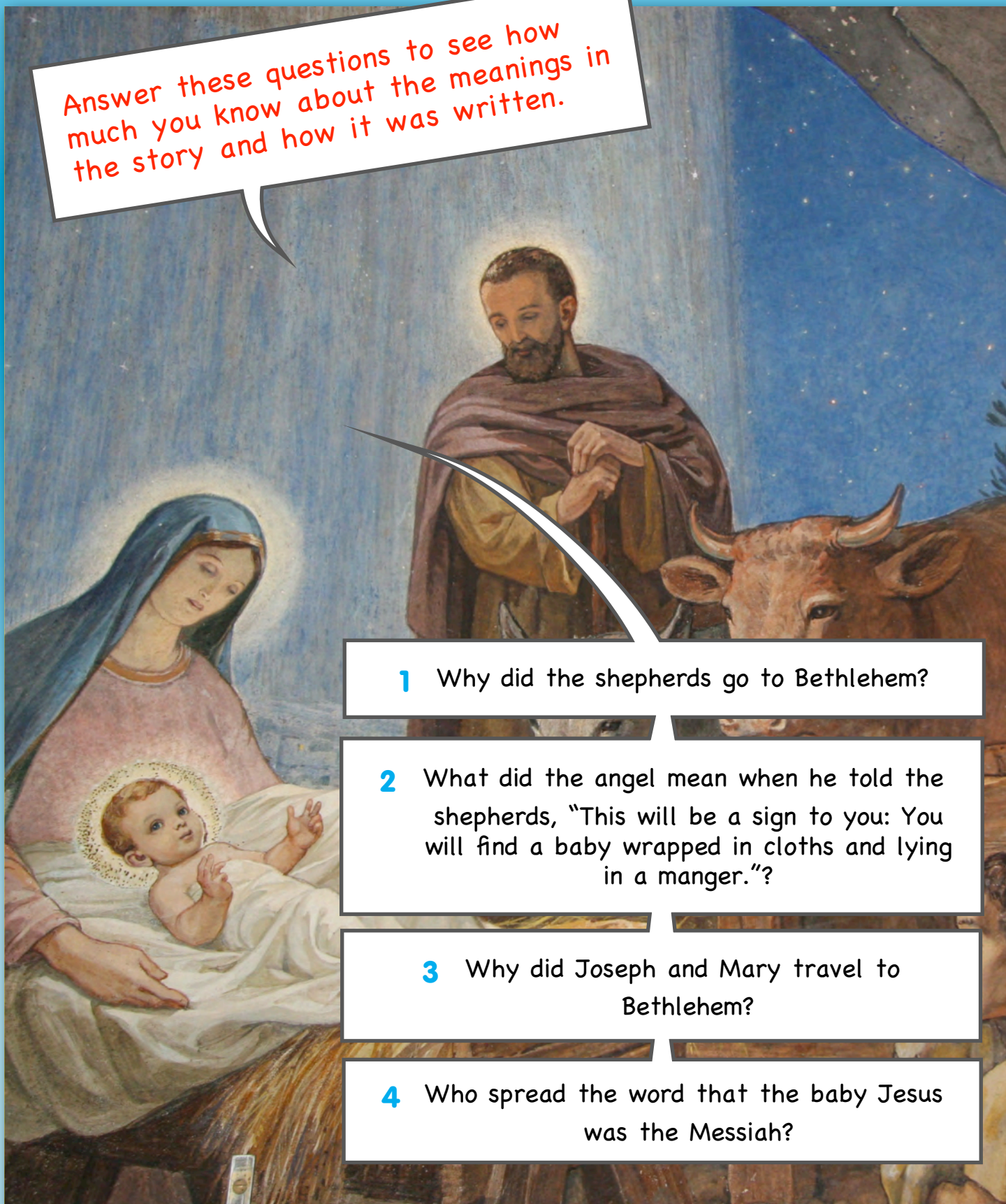
Write a sentence to answer each of these questions:

- (a) When did Luke join the apostle Paul?
- (b) Why did Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem?
- (c) Who appeared to the shepherds in the field?
- (d) Why was the baby Jesus placed in a manger?
- (e) When was the baby named Jesus?



Whys and wherefores

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the meanings in the story and how it was written.



1 Why did the shepherds go to Bethlehem?

2 What did the angel mean when he told the shepherds, "This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."?

3 Why did Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem?

4 Who spread the word that the baby Jesus was the Messiah?



Opinions matter

Answer these questions to give your views and to develop the story.

- 1 Why do you think it is important to conduct a census?
- 2 How do you think the shepherds felt when the angel appeared to them?
- 3 Do you think people today would have a hard time believing someone who said they had seen an angel?
- 4 Why do you think the angel appeared to some shepherds, instead of to more important people?





Talking it through

It often helps if a group of people get together and discuss a problem.



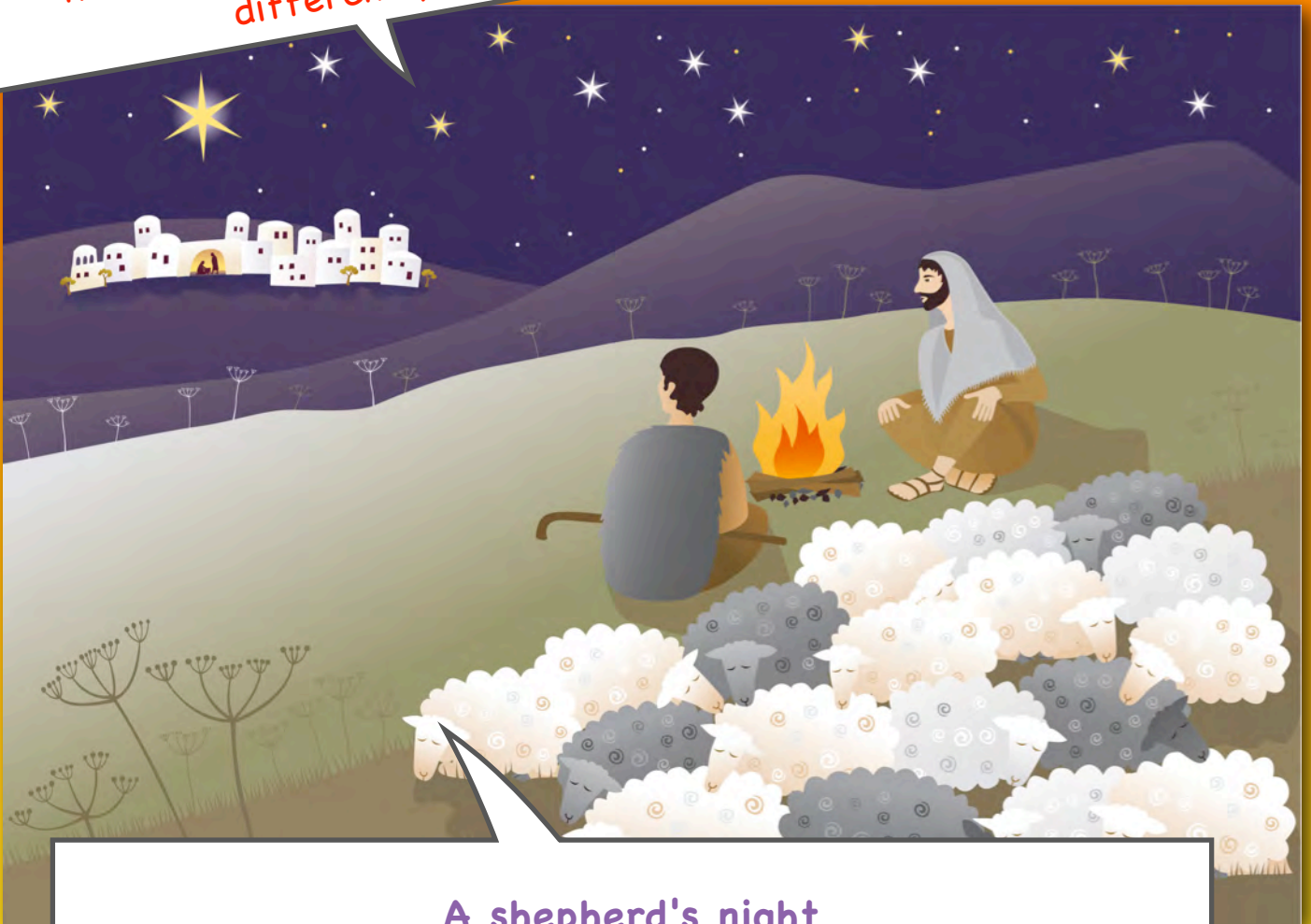
Discussion topic: Baby Messiah

Do you think people treated the baby Jesus any differently because he was the Messiah? How do you think his parents treated him?



Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.



A shepherd's night

You are a shepherd tending your flock with some other shepherds on a starry night. Suddenly, the air in front of you shimmers and a shape appears. The shape has wings and begins to talk to you and your friends. Telling you about that a Messiah has been born nearby...

(Now you continue the story, describing what you would do...)

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