

A Nativity Journey in our homes.



The Nativity Journey can be set up in your home during the season of Advent. The idea is that the Crib is placed in a living area of your home and the characters are set out at different distances or in other rooms and each week they are moved closer to the crib as they journey to Bethlehem.

Decide on a place to set up the stable of your Nativity set. It is important that it is in a kitchen or living area where it is the focal point for your family each day during Advent.

- ◆ The animals can be placed in the stable from the First Sunday of Advent

- ◆ Then place the shepherd and his sheep nearby, because "there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night". They could be on a shelf in the same room or on the mantle piece.



- ◆ Next place Mary and Joseph and the donkey a little farther away e.g on the window ledge or shelf, facing towards the stable on their journey.

- ◆ Leave the angel and baby Jesus in the box until Christmas Eve.

- ◆ Lastly find a place FAR AWAY for the three wise men... e.g., in the kitchen...on top of the cabinets or at the top of the stairs. They have a long journey from the East and need to be a good distance from the Stable



Arrival of the Characters to the Stable: (arrival dates): Each Sunday have the kids move the characters a little closer so that on....

Christmas Eve: Mary & Joseph arrive

Christmas morning: Baby Jesus is born and in his manger, place the angel in position, and bring the shepherds into the stable too. When the characters are in place, read/tell the Nativity Story (back of sheet) for the whole family.

Epiphany (January 6th): After Christmas Day, begin moving the wise men closer, every other day or so, so they arrive at the stable on January 6th. On this day read the rest of the Nativity story about the wise men and their gifts. Leave the nativity set up until the children return to school.



This is a very enjoyable way to tell the story of the birth of Jesus and make it interactive for the whole family. Children will love moving the characters and building a wonderful visual display of a very important and wonderful season in our Liturgical Year.

NOTE: Parents please place figures up high or safely away from small children and ensure that you are with the children when the characters are being moved.

Nativity Story

One day about 2000 years ago, an Angel of the Lord called Gabriel told Mary she would have a very special baby that she should call Jesus.

Mary married Joseph and he took her to Bethlehem so they could pay their taxes. Mary was expecting to have her baby very soon. When Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem there were no rooms left in the Inns because the town was very busy. They were worried because they had nowhere to sleep and Mary was tired because the journey had been long and dusty. She felt very tired and weary from riding on a donkey.

But a kind innkeeper said they could shelter in a stable at the back of his Inn, where animals like sheep were kept overnight to stop them from straying. Mary knew the baby would be born soon, so she was very glad to be able to rest on the straw. It was strewn with straw for the animals and the animals made friends with Mary and Joseph who settled down for the night as best they could.

In the night Mary had her baby.

Joseph and Mary called the baby Jesus just like the angel told them they should. They put baby Jesus in some swaddling clothes so he was wrapped up warm and snug. Then they put some straw for a bed in a small wooden manger that animals fed from and put Jesus inside it. A very bright great star shone over the manger and they were covered in bright light.

It was a very starry night and the local shepherds were looking after their sheep in the fields. The Angel of the Lord told them Jesus was born and that he would be a Saviour of men. So as soon as they heard about the birth of Jesus they hurried to see Mary and Joseph to wonder at Jesus.

Later three Kings from the east followed the star. The three kings were wise men and the great bright star helped them find their way to Jesus. The kings were on their camels and made a very grand sight.

The kings took Jesus gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. These were very valuable gifts in those days. Gold could be used to buy things and the frankincense and myrrh were used for medicine and perfume.

Jesus Christ was the Son of God and grew to be a very special man indeed.

This story is the real story of why we celebrate Christmas today, to celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ into our lives.

