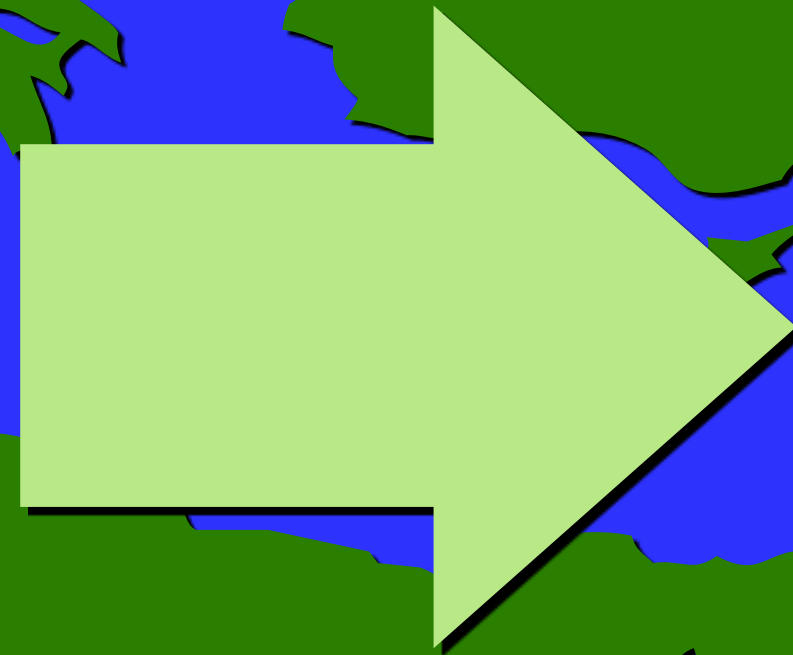




THE FIRST CHRISTMAS STORY!

A FUN & EASY TO READ VERSION OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY!

ABOUT 2000 YEARS AGO, IN JUDEA
(NOW CALLED ISRAEL), SOMETHING
AMAZING HAPPENED!



THERE WAS A YOUNG WOMAN CALLED MARY.
ONE DAY MARY HAD A VERY SPECIAL
VISITOR, AN ANGEL CALLED GABRIEL!




GREETINGS MARY! GOD
HAS SENT ME WITH A
VERY SPECIAL MESSAGE.
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE
A SPECIAL BABY.



HE WILL BE CALLED
'JESUS' (IT MEANS
SAVIOUR) AND HE WILL
BE THE SON OF GOD
AND HIS KINGDOM WILL
NEVER END.

HOW CAN I HAVE
A BABY? I'M
ONLY YOUNG.



YOU WILL HAVE A
BABY BY GOD'S HOLY
SPIRIT, SO YOUR
BABY WILL BE HOLY.

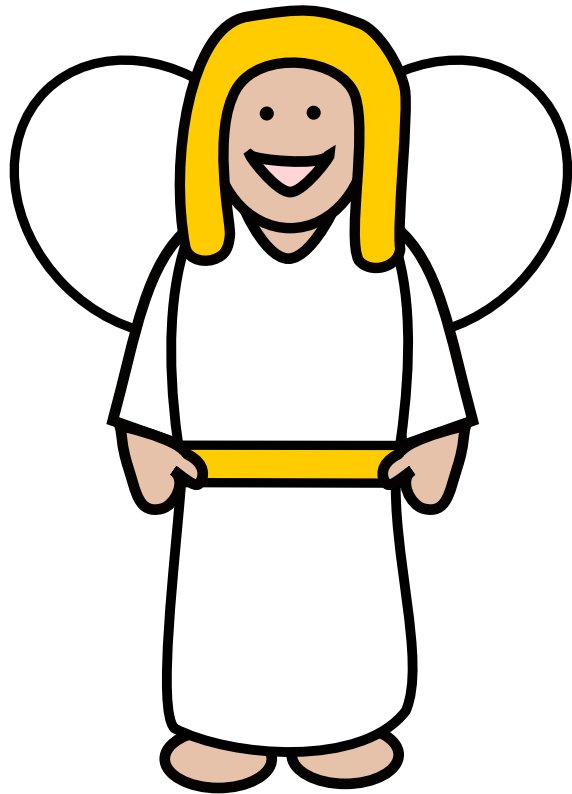
I'M NOT SURE I REALLY
GET IT, BUT I TRUST
GOD SO LET IT HAPPEN
AS GOD WANTS!

MARY WAS ENGAGED TO JOSEPH. WHEN HE FOUND THAT MARY WAS GOING TO HAVE A BABY, HE WAS VERY WORRIED AND UPSET!

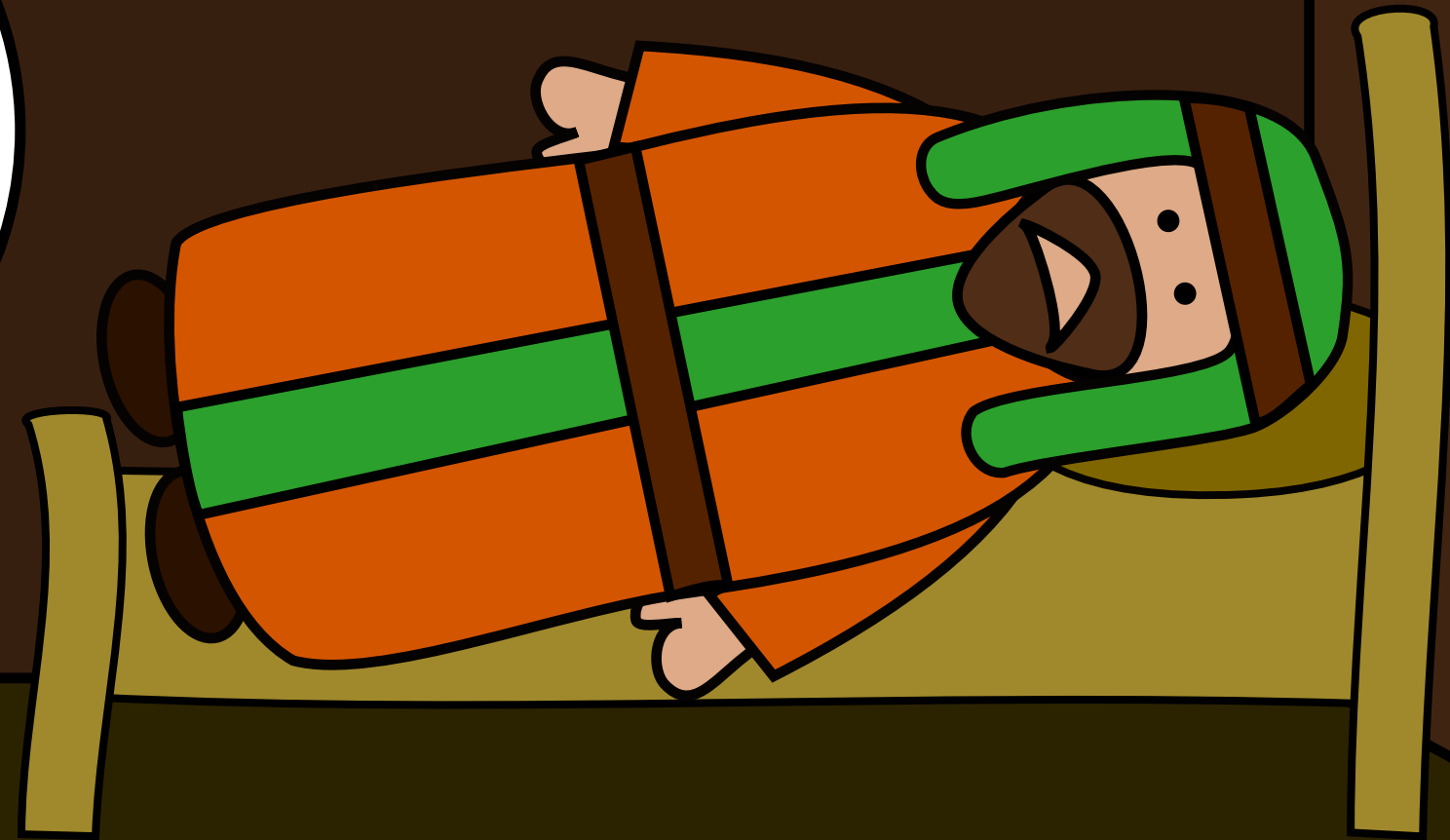
I THINK MARY LOVES ANOTHER MAN. I STILL LOVE HER BUT I'LL HAVE TO BREAK UP WITH HER.




ONE NIGHT WHEN JOSEPH WAS SLEEPING,
AN ANGEL APPEARED IN A DREAM!



JOSEPH! DON'T WORRY
ABOUT MARRYING MARY.
HER CHILD IS HOLY AND
WILL BE GOD'S SON! YOU
ARE TO CALL HIM JESUS
AND HE WILL SAVE PEOPLE
FROM THEIR SINS!



WHEN JOSEPH WOKE UP, HE WAS MUCH HAPPIER!



NOW I TRUST GOD
AND MARY. I'M GOING
TO FIND MARY AND
MARRY HER!

AT THIS TIME, THE LAND WHERE
MARY AND JOSEPH LIVED WAS
PART OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE.



THE EMPEROR WANTED TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE PAID THEIR TAXES, SO HE HELD A CENSUS TO COUNT EVERYONE! PEOPLE HAD TO GO TO THE TOWN THEIR FAMILIES CAME FROM.



JOSEPH AND MARY HAD TO TRAVEL FROM NAZARETH (WHERE THEY LIVED) TO BETHLEHEM (WHERE JOSEPH'S FAMILY CAME FROM). IT WAS ABOUT 70 MILES / 110KM.



WHEN THEY REACHED BETHLEHEM THEY HAD PROBLEMS FINDING SOMEWHERE TO STAY. SO MANY PEOPLE HAD COME FOR THE CENSUS, THAT EVERY HOUSE WAS FULL AND EVERY BED WAS TAKEN!

NO
ROOM!

WE'RE ALL
FULL UP!

GO AWAY!

SORRY, THERE'S NO
ROOM HERE. TRY
SOMEWHERE ELSE...



THE ONLY PLACE THEY COULD FIND TO STAY WAS WHERE THE ANIMALS LIVED.

THERE'S ROOM
WITH THE
ANIMALS...



SO MARY AND JOSEPH HAD TO STAY WITH THE ANIMALS!



WHEN JESUS WAS BORN, HIS BED WAS THE MANGER,
WHERE THE ANIMALS ATE THEIR FOOD FROM!

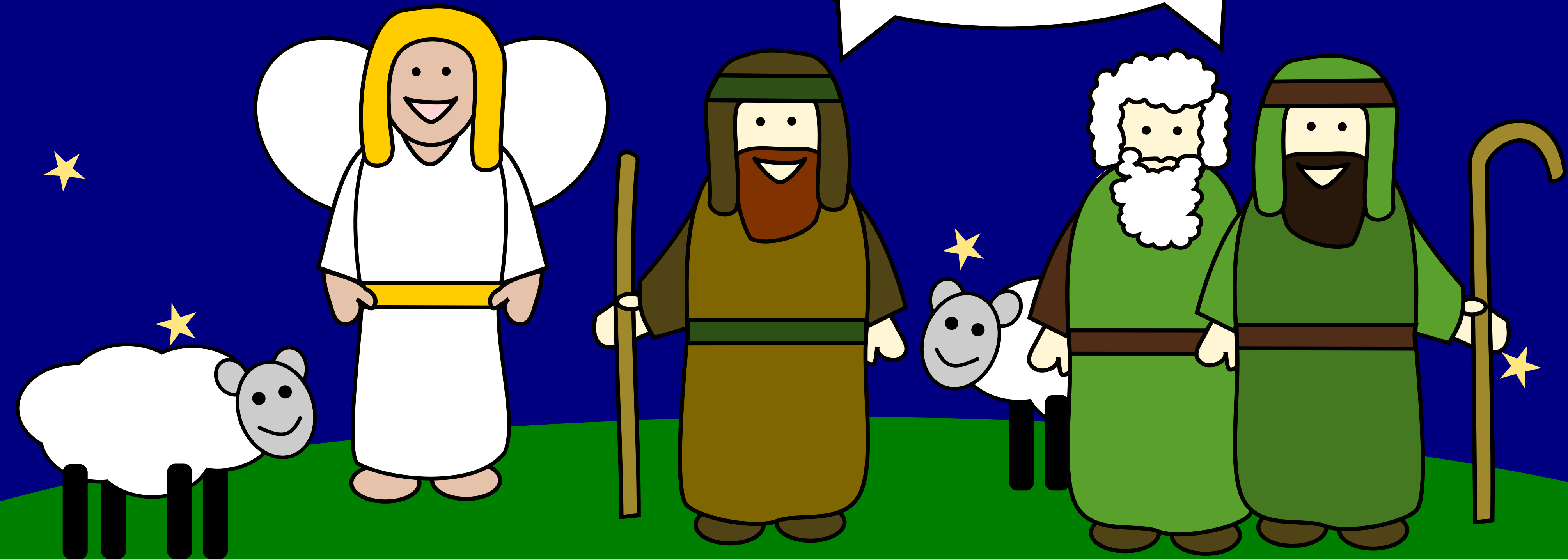



OUT IN THE FIELDS AROUND BETHLEHEM, SOME
SHEPHERDS WERE LOOKING AFTER THEIR SHEEP.



SUDDENLY AN ANGEL APPEARED!

WOW!!!

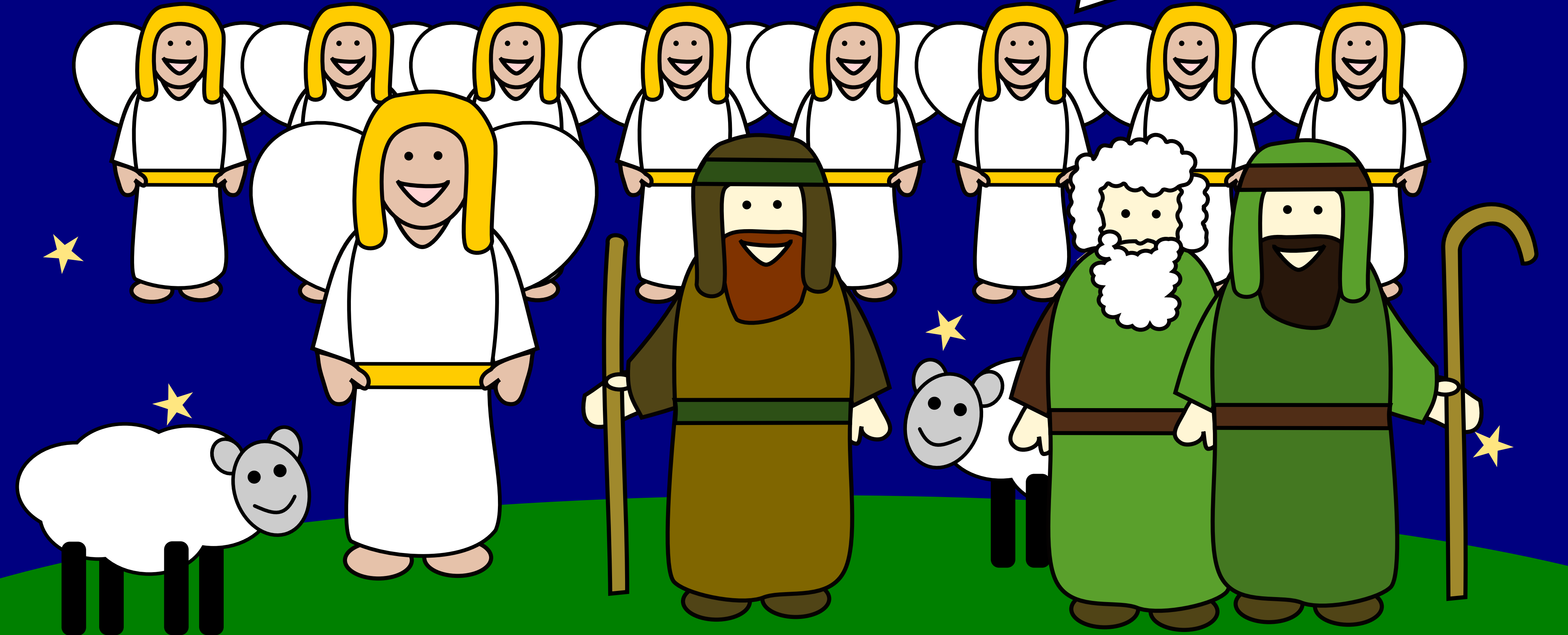




DON'T BE AFRAID! I BRING GOOD NEWS. THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD HAS BEEN BORN IN BETHLEHEM! YOU WILL FIND HIM LYING IN A MANGER.

SUDDENLY LOTS OF OTHER ANGELS
APPEARED AND SANG A SONG PRAISING GOD!

GLORY TO GOD AND
PEACE ON EARTH!



WHEN THE ANGELS HAD GONE BACK TO HEAVEN,
THE SHEPHERDS WENT TO FIND THE NEW BABY.

COME ON,
LET'S GO TO
BETHLEHEM!

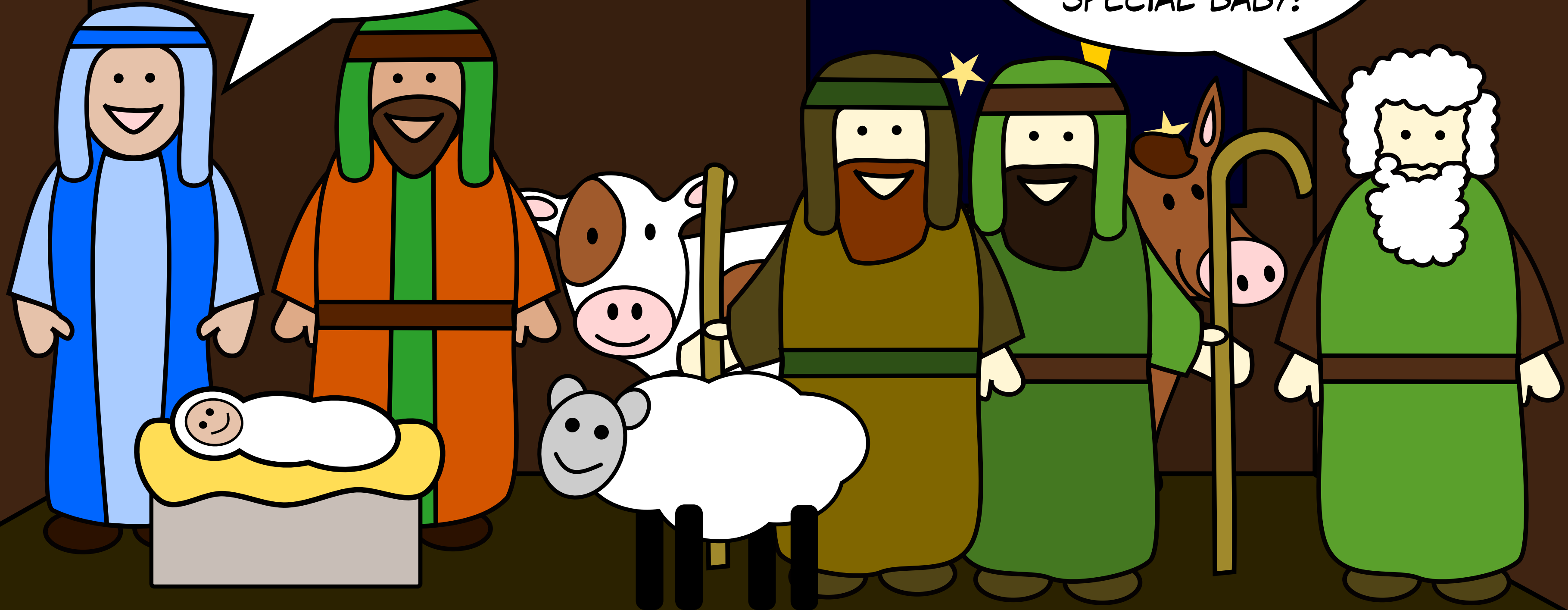
BAAAAA!
(WHICH
MEANS YES!)



SO THE SHEPHERDS WENT AND FOUND MARY, JOSEPH AND JESUS!

WOW! THANKS FOR
COMING TO SEE US!

AN ANGEL TOLD
US ABOUT YOUR
SPECIAL BABY!



AT THE SAME TIME JESUS WAS BORN, SOME VERY CLEVER MEN, LIVING SOMEWHERE IN ARABIA, SAW SOMETHING AMAZING IN THE NIGHT SKY!

BETHLEHEM



THE WISE MEN SAW A NEW STAR APPEAR IN THE SKY.
IT MEANT THAT A NEW KING HAD BEEN BORN IN JUDEA.





WOW! LOOK AT
THAT BRIGHT
NEW STAR!

LET'S GO AND VISIT THE
NEW BABY KING! I'LL GET
THE CAMELS READY!

WE'LL NEED
SOME PRESENTS!

SO THE WISE MEN GOT PACKED AND STARTED A LONG JOURNEY
TO JERUSALEM (THE CAPITAL CITY WHERE THE KING LIVED).
IT TOOK THEM A WHILE BECAUSE IT WAS A LONG WAY!

BETHLEHEM



WHEN THEY GOT TO JERUSALEM, THE WISE
MEN WENT TO SEE KING HEROD IN HIS PALACE.



WE'RE WISEMEN FROM THE
EAST. WE'VE COME TO SEE
THE NEW KING. WE SAW HIS
STAR IN THE SKY!

I'M KING HEROD,
WHO ARE YOU?



WHEN KING HEROD HEARD THERE WAS A NEW BABY KING - HE WAS NOT HAPPY! SO HE TRIED TO TRICK THE WISE MEN INTO FINDING JESUS FOR HIM.

AH, A BABY, CUTE!
GO AND FIND HIM,
THEN I CAN VISIT
HIM AS WELL!

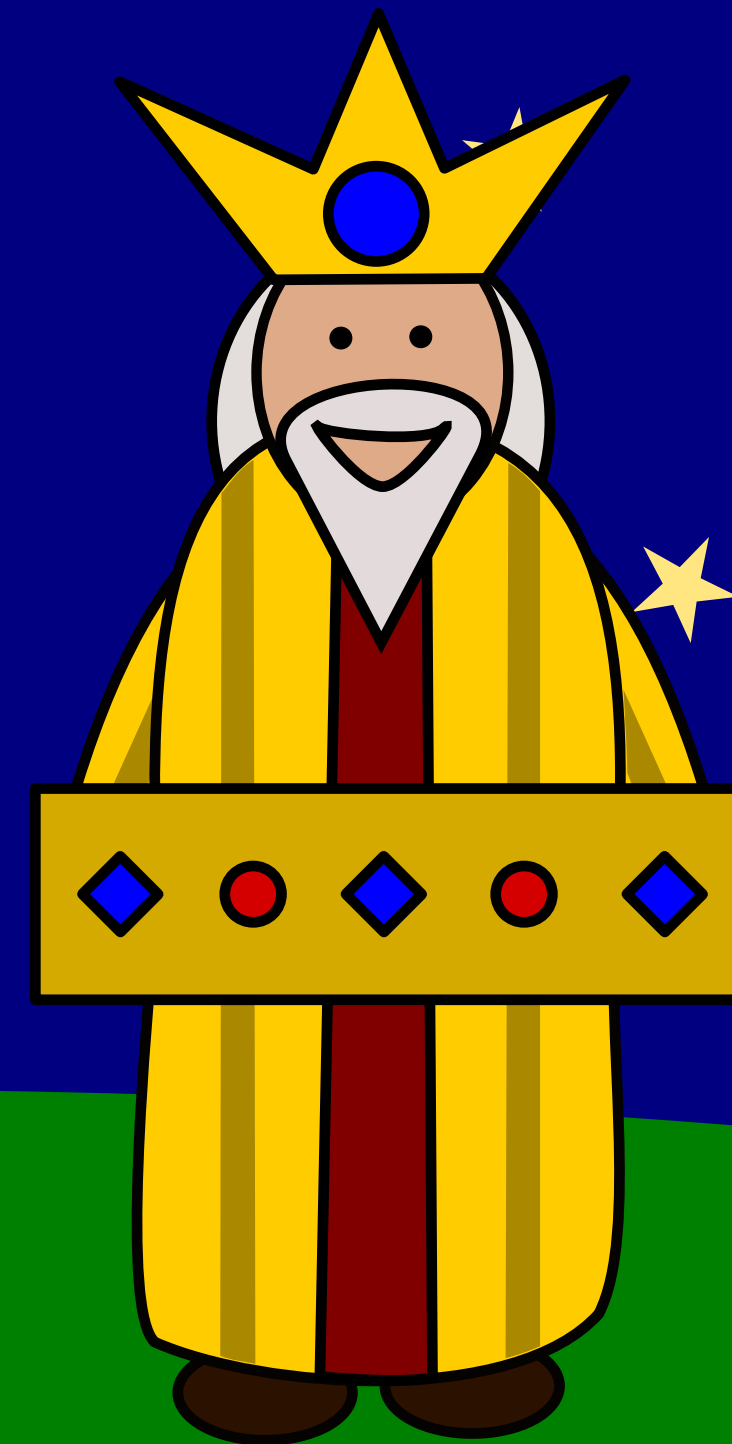
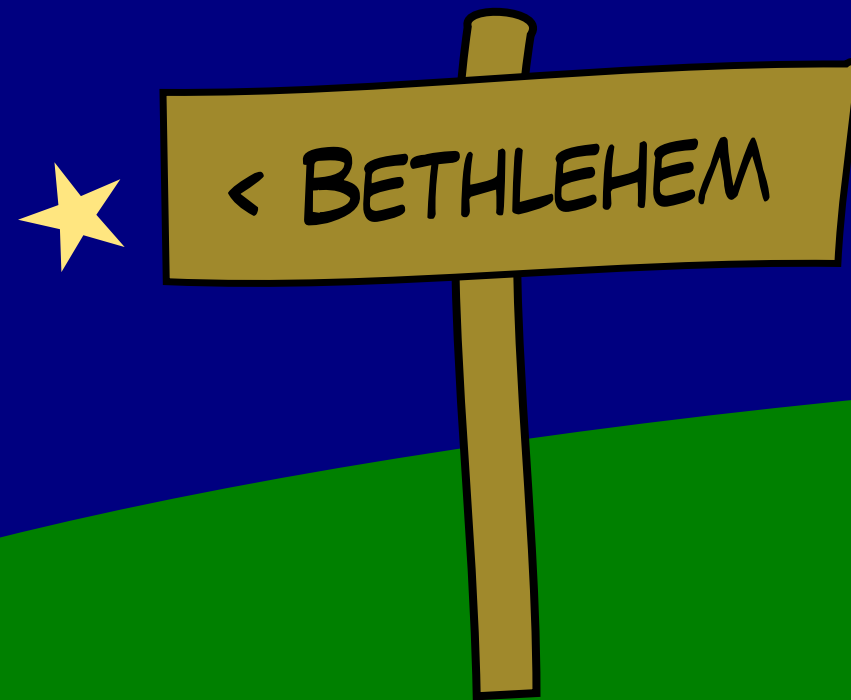




THE OLD WRITINGS SAID THAT A VERY SPECIAL BABY WOULD BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM. SO THE WISE MEN FOLLOWED THE STAR AND THAT'S WHERE IT TOOK THEM!

THE STAR IS OVER BETHLEHEM, SO LET'S GO THERE!

< BETHLEHEM



THE WISE MEN FOUND MARY, JOSEPH AND JESUS LIVING IN BETHLEHEM. THEY WERE REALLY HAPPY TO SEE THE NEW BABY KING!



WE SAW A NEW, SPECIAL
STAR THAT MEANT A NEW
KING HAD BEEN BORN! SO
WE CAME TO FIND HIM!

AND WE'VE
BROUGHT GIFTS!
GOLD, FRANKINCENSE
AND MYRRH.

WOW!!!

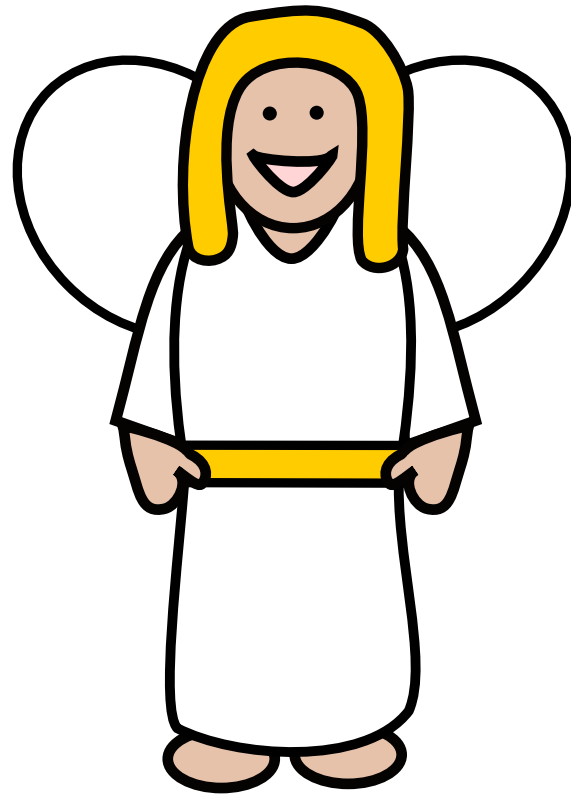


GOD WARNED THE WISE MEN, IN A DREAM, THAT KING
HEROD REALLY WANTED TO KILL THE NEW BABY JESUS.
SO THEY WENT BACK HOME A DIFFERENT WAY.

BETHLEHEM



WHEN THE WISE MEN HAD GONE, AN ANGEL
WARNED JOSEPH ABOUT KING HEROD IN A DREAM.



JOSEPH! KING HEROD
WANTS TO KILL JESUS!
GET UP AND TAKE JESUS
AND MARY TO EGYPT. STAY
THERE UNTIL I TELL YOU
IT'S SAFE TO COME BACK.




SO THEY ESCAPED TO EGYPT AND THEY LIVED THERE
FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS UNTIL KING HEROD HAD DIED.



WHEN IT WAS SAFE TO GO BACK, AN ANGEL TOLD JOSEPH. THEN THE FAMILY WENT BACK TO LIVE IN NAZARETH WHERE MARY & JOSEPH CAME FROM.





THE END!

YOU CAN FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
THE CHRISTMAS STORY ON
WHYCHRISTMAS.COM