1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24
25			

1:Day One

Read: Luke 1:27-28 God sent the angel Gabriel to the town of Nazareth in Galilee with a message for a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to Joseph from the family of King David. The angel greeted Mary and said, "You are truly blessed! The Lord is with you."

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Question: How do you think Mary would have felt when she saw the angel?

Activity: Angel Colouring-in page

2:Day Two

Read: Luke 1:29-33 Mary was confused by the angel's words and wondered what they meant. Then the angel told Mary, "Don't be afraid! God is pleased with you, and you will have a son. His name will be Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of God Most High. The Lord God will make him king, as his ancestor David was. He will rule the people of Israel forever, and his kingdom will never end."

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Question: What do you think the name Jesus means?

Answer: Saviour

Activity: Toilet Roll Nativity by SquiggleMum

3:Day Three

Read: Luke 1:34-38 Mary asked the angel, "How can this happen? I am not married!"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come down to you, and God's power will come over you. So your child will be called the holy Son of God." Mary said, "I am the Lord's servant! Let it happen as you have said." And the angel left her.

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Question: Mary's response tells us a little about her attitude toward God. What do you think?

Activity: Dress up as Mary using a tea towel, table cloth and belt.

4:Day Four

Read: Luke 1:46-55 Mary's song:

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

Question: Was Mary happy when she sang this song? When do you like to sing?

Activity: Sing or listen to Away in a Manger on YouTube.

5:Day Five

Read: Luke 2:1-2 About that time Emperor Augustus gave orders for the names of all the people to be listed in record books. These first records were made when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

Question: Why did they need the names of all the people to be listed in record books?

Answer: This was done so that everyone could be made to pay taxes to the Emperor.

Activity: Collect milk lids and line in rows and count.

6:Day Six

Read: Luke 2:3-4 Everyone had to go to their own hometown to be listed. So Joseph had to leave Nazareth in Galilee and go to Bethlehem in Judea. Long ago Bethlehem had been King David's hometown, and Joseph went there because he was from David's family.

Question: Who was King David?

Activity: Read David and Goliath story (1 Samuel 17).

7:Day Seven

Read: Luke 2:5 Mary was engaged to Joseph and travelled with him to Bethlehem. She was soon going to have a baby.

Question: What would it be like to travel by donkey instead of car?

Activity: 5 minutes of Piggybacks

8:Day Eight

Read: Luke 2:7 She [Mary] gave birth to her first-born son. She dressed him in baby clothes and laid him on a bed of hay (manger), because there was no room for them in the inn.

Question: The town was so busy that Mary and Joseph stayed in a stable. Would that be comfortable?

Activity: Shoe box manger. Place a tea towel in a shoe box and lay a doll in to sleep.

9:Day Nine

Read: Luke 2:8-9 That night in the fields near Bethlehem some shepherds were guarding their sheep. All at once an angel came down to them from the Lord, and the brightness of the Lord's glory flashed around them.

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Question: Do you think the shepherds were scared when they saw the angel?

Activity: Cotton wool sheep. Glue cotton wool on paper and draw legs and body with a pen.

Image from Littlemummy.com

10:Day Ten

Read: Luke 2:10-12 The angel said, "Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, which will make everyone happy. This very day in King David's hometown a Saviour was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. You will know who he is, because you will find him dressed in baby clothes and lying on a bed of hay."

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Question: Why do you think the angels visited the shepherds and not a King or a Queen?

Answer: Angels were sent to tell the good news of Jesus' birth. They went to poor, humble, busy shepherds, who were looking after their sheep. Do you think this is a symbol that Jesus' coming was for all; even the poor?
(Read the commentary and decided yourself)

Activity: Find out what do shepherds do

11:Day Eleven

Read: Luke 2:13-14 Suddenly many other angels came down from heaven and joined in praising God. They said:

"Praise God in heaven!

Peace on earth to everyone

who pleases God."

Question: Why do you think the angels looked like?

Activity: Turn off the lights and shine a torch around.

12:Day Twelve

Read: Luke 2:15-16 After the angels had left and gone back to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see what the Lord has told us about." They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and they saw the baby lying on a bed of hay.

Question: Did the shepherds walk slowly to visit Jesus?

Answer: No. They hurried.

Activity: Clap hands slow and then fast while child keeps to the beat with their feet.

Go fast

Then slow

Go Fast

Then slow

13:Day Thirteen

Read: Luke 2:17-20 When the shepherds saw Jesus, they told his parents what the angel had said about him. Everyone listened and was surprised. But Mary kept thinking about all this and wondering what it meant.

As the shepherds returned to their sheep, they were praising God and saying wonderful things about him. Everything they had seen and heard was just as the angel had said.

Question: Was Mary and Joseph surprised to see the shepherds?

Answer: When the shepherds saw Jesus, they told his parents what the angel had said about him. Everyone listened and was surprised.

Activity: Whisper a secret word into the ear of one person and take turns until it comes back to the original person. Something like "I love you" would be fun.

14:Day Fourteen

Read: Luke 2:21 Eight days later Jesus' parents did for him what the Law of Moses commands. And they named him Jesus, just as the angel had told Mary when he promised she would have a baby.

Question: Jesus' name means Saviour (someone who saves). Does your name have a meaning?

Activity: Look up name meaning. (www.behindthename.com)

15:Day Fifteen

Read: Matthew 2:1-2 When Jesus was born in the village of Bethlehem in Judea, Herod was king. During this time some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem and said, "Where is the child born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

Question: What did the wise men see? How big do you think it was?

Activity: Star Christmas mobile craft. Make the mobile or just colour the star template.

16:Day Sixteen

Read: Matthew 2:3-6 When King Herod heard about this, he was worried, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. Herod brought together the chief priests and the teachers of the Law of Moses and asked them, "Where will the Messiah be born?" They told him, "He will be born in Bethlehem, just as the prophet wrote,

'Bethlehem in the land
of Judea,
you are very important
among the towns of Judea.
From your town
will come a leader,
who will be like a shepherd
for my people Israel.' "

Question: Why do you think Herod was worried?

Answer: Because he wanted to be king and no one else.

Activity: King Herod colouring page

17:Day Seventeen

Read: Matthew 2:7-10 Herod secretly called in the wise men and asked them when they had first seen the star. He told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, let me know. I want to go and worship him too."

The wise men listened to what the king said and then left. And the star they had seen in the east went on ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. They were thrilled and excited to see the star.

Question: Herod said he wanted to know about the baby king so he could worship him like the Wise Men. Was this true?

Answer: No. He wanted to kill him.

Activity: Spot the difference game. Online game.

18:Day Eighteen

Read: Matthew 2:11 When the men went into the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother, they knelt down and worshiped him. They took out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and gave them to him.

Question: It's Jesus' birthday! What presents did he get?

Answer: Gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Activity: Learn how to wrap a present with an empty box. (Instructions)

19:Day Nineteen

Matthew 2:12 Later they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, and they went back home by another road.

Question: Did the wise men go back and tell King Herod where Baby Jesus was?

Answer: No, they went a different way home.

Activity: Go outside and look at the stars. (Star Walk iphone application highly recommended).

20:Day Twenty

Read: Matthew 2:13-14 After the wise men had gone, an angel from the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Hurry and take the child and his mother to Egypt! Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is looking for the child and wants to kill him."

Question: Who wanted to kill Baby Jesus?

Answer: Herod.

Activity: 10 minutes of hide and seek

21:Day Twenty-One

Read: Matthew 2:15 That night, Joseph got up and took his wife and the child to Egypt, where they stayed until Herod died. So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "I called my son out of Egypt."

Question: Where did Joseph, Mary and Jesus go?

Answer: Egypt

Activity: Read about Egypt: National Geographic for Kids.

22:Day Twenty-Two

Read: Matthew 2:19-22 After King Herod died, an angel from the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph while he was still in Egypt. The angel said, "Get up and take the child and his mother back to Israel. The people who wanted to kill him are now dead."

Question: Where did Joseph, Mary and Jesus move to?

Answer: Back to Israel

Activity: Follow Jesus' journey. From Bethlehem to Egypt; From Egypt to Nazareth.

23:Day Twenty-Three

Read: Matthew 2:23 Joseph got up and left with them for Israel. But when he heard that Herod's son Archelaus was now ruler of Judea, he was afraid to go there. Then in a dream he was told to go to Galilee, and they went to live there in the town of Nazareth. So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, "He will be called a Nazarene."

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Question: Where do you think Nazareth is?

Answer: In Galilee, situated in northern Israel.

Activity: Information about ancient Israel and Nazareth, including map.

24:Day Twenty-Four

Read: Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. (KJV)

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Questions: Do you remember who said these words?

Activity: Sing the song: Angels we have heard on high
Free lyrics, sheet music and mp3 file available.

25:Christmas Day

Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. -- **Luke 2:11**