



Activity #6 Grade 8

Since your next religious education class is another Faith in Action day, email a picture of your completed activity #6 to your catechist by **January 3 or January 6, 2021**. Use the bible passages to look up the answers to the Christmas story. Then write about a meaningful gift you gave to someone special or someone in need.

NAME _____

Part 1: The Christmas Story

“Someone is coming soon who is much greater than I am. I have baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” (Mark 1:8)

The angel _____ was sent by God to a town called _____, to a virgin betrothed to a man named _____, of the House of David; and the virgin’s name was _____. The angel said to her, “Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!” Mary was greatly troubled by these words and asked herself what the greeting could mean, but the angel said to her, “Mary, do not be afraid. You have won God’s favor. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call him _____. The _____ will come down upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the _____ of _____.” For with God, nothing will be impossible. Mary, an obedient young woman, placed her complete trust in God and said, “I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done to me.” And the angel departed from her. (Luke 1:26-38)

Now _____, betrothed to Mary, found that she was with child before they had come to live together as husband and wife. Joseph, being a just man, and unwilling to shame her, resolved to send her away quietly. However, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a _____ and said, “Joseph, Son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit: She will bear a son and you shall name Him _____ because He will _____ His people from their sins.” Joseph did what the angel of the Lord told him to do. (Matthew 1:18-24)

Now at this time _____, the Roman Emperor, issued a decree for a census to be taken throughout the nation. This census took place when _____ was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his or her ancestral home to be registered. So Joseph set out from the town of _____ to the town of David called _____ since he was of the line of David, with his wife Mary, who was with child to be registered together.

While they were in there in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to give birth to her son, _____. She wrapped Him in _____ clothes, and laid Him in a _____ because there was no room for them at the inn. (Luke 2:1-8)

In the countryside, close by, a group of _____ were tending to their flock of sheep. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and said, “Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy which will come to all the people. Today, in the town of David, a _____ has been born to you; He is _____ the _____. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger. And suddenly with the angel there was a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and singing:

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth _____ among men with whom He is pleased.”

The angels went away from them into heaven and the shepherd’s said to one another, “Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.” So they set out for Bethlehem and found the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in the manger. The shepherd’s went back glorifying and praising God for all that they heard and seen was exactly as they had been told. (Luke 2:8-20)

Jesus had been born in the town of _____ during the reign of King _____. Some _____ came to Jerusalem from the East and asked, “Where is the infant _____ of the Jews? We saw His _____ as it rose and have come to pay Him homage.” King Herod heard about this and was perturbed since he was the only king of the Jews. He summoned the wise men to see him privately and asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared and said, “Go and find out all about the child and when you have found him, let me know so that I may go and pay homage, too.”

The three wise men went forth and followed the rising star as it rested over the place where the child was born. They saw the child with His mother Mary and falling to their knees they did Him homage. They brought him gifts of _____, _____, and _____. They were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod and returned to their own country. (Matthew 2:1-12)

The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said to him, “Get up and take the child and his mother with you and escape to Egypt and stay there until I tell you, because Herod is about to search for the child to destroy Him.” Joseph, Mary and the baby, Jesus, left that night for Egypt.

Herod was furious when he realized he had been outwitted by the three _____. So in Bethlehem and in surrounding regions, he had all the male children who were _____ years old or under killed. After Herod’s death, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and told him it was safe to go back to Israel. However, _____ had succeeded his father Herod as ruler of Judea and being warned in a dream, Joseph decided to take his family to the region of _____ to the town of _____.

The words of the prophets were to be fulfilled: He will be called a _____. (Matthew 2:13-23)

Part 2: The Three Wise Men gave gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Holy Family for Christmas.

These gifts are symbolic of the kingship of Jesus, of prayer, and of suffering. All meaningful gifts represent something deeper: love, gratitude, sharing, concern, friendship, delight, or our desire to reach out to a person in need. For example, you may have participated in Heart of the Hamptons Star Program donating a gift to a child in need in our community or you may have participated in a gift program through your school. You may have worked hard and saved money to buy a gift that someone would like very much. You may have thought a great deal about what you would give to a special person. You may have given a gift to someone who didn’t

expect one. Whether or not a gift is expensive is not the point. When you give a meaningful gift, you give part of yourself.

Write about a time you gave a gift that was very meaningful to you and to the person who received it.

What does the spirit of Christmas mean to you this year? Write 3 or more sentences. Think about this...
