

Nativity Craft Project

PART 3

Read the story and complete the tasks. Look up the words in bold and underlined (including the title!) in a dictionary.

Here is part of the Nativity Story from the book of Luke in the Bible:

And there were, in those days, shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.” Luke 2:8&9

Imagine you are the archangel Gabriel

Here's a little question: when God spoke to all the angels the day after Jesus had been born and told them to go and tell people in the world that his Son, had been born, did he leave it up to **YOU**, the leader of the angels, Archangel Gabriel to decide who to tell first? Or did **he** make the decision? Suppose that he had asked you and, remembering that this is the SON of GOD whose birth you are announcing to the whole world who would **YOU** have chosen?

- Would it have been the highest religious leader in the land, the high priest of Jerusalem?
- Would it have been the Pharisees, (lawyers who were always on the lookout for the Messiah)?
- Would it have been a group of poor shepherds on a hillside?

In those days, many people thought shepherds were untrustworthy, and so they would not have been at the top of Gabriel's list to be the first people to share the news of Jesus' birth, so the decision must have been God's.

Imagine the scene: The shepherds are on a hillside (think about somewhere like Butser Hill) It is night time and the shepherds are keeping an eye on their sheep mainly to protect them from being stolen by other shepherd but if it was lambing time the new-born lambs would need to be guarded from foxes and mountain lions. It is a typical winter night; all is peaceful; there is the bleating of a lamb or two and the stars are shining brightly.

The shepherds are used to being out in the dark. They have done this throughout their lives, and there is nothing different about this night. No one has said, "There's something in the air." No one has goose pimples, but then, utterly, out of the blue, an angel appears. It is as staggering to them as it would be if angel appeared in front or *beside you* right now!!

The angel *stands* before them; he is not hovering in mid-air, and initially it is just that one particular angel, but soon an innumerable company of angels join him. They are all standing

on the grass in the fields **amidst** the sheep and the shepherds, along the paths, on the little walls, EVERYWHERE!!!!

Imagine hundreds of thousands of angels stretching out in every direction, so that the hills seem as if they are carpeted with angels.

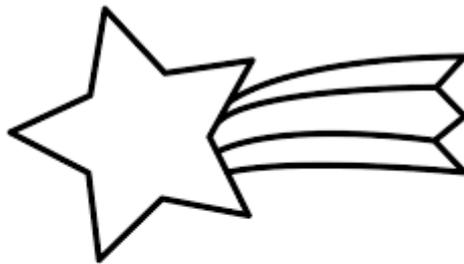
Imagine: the light of the angels lighting up the fields, the sheep and the shepherds -a light so bright that it illuminates the whole landscape.

Imagine: the shepherds standing there petrified while the archangel Gabriel tells them the news of Jesus' birth and how they can recognise Jesus (a baby born in a stable) in the busy crowded town of Bethlehem.

Now think back to your role as the Archangel Gabriel. Why do you think that God decided that you should tell a group of **lowly** shepherds first? What kind of a place was Jesus born in? What kind of a "king" was Jesus? What kinds of people did Jesus surround himself with? Were they Kings, Queens, Princes Princesses or ordinary working people? Do you think that a high **priest** or a **lawyer** would feel very comfortable visiting a stable?

God's plan was that Jesus should experience what it is like to be human – so he made sure that he was born to an ordinary family where he would experience love, but also hardship. The shepherds were ordinary men who experienced something **extraordinary** they were more comfortable with looking for a stable rather than a palace but more importantly they represented the people Jesus and God wanted to **befriend**.

Colour in this star and cut it out to glue above your stable scene



TASK 3

Use Nativity figures of shepherds, sheep and other animals you might already have at home or colour and cut out the templates below .



