

Dear Student,

This month we are looking at two symbols: IHS and X. These are called the Christogram and Chi.

Back when the stories of Jesus were written down, they didn't speak English. Or French or Spanish or German or Italian or Portuguese. The first stories about Jesus were written in ancient Greek. The Greek language has a different alphabet. Last month, we looked at the beginning and ending letters of the Greek alphabet. The Alpha and Omega are letters used to describe God. God is everything. The beginning and the end. The letters we are looking at this month are first three letters used to spell out the name Jesus in Greek and a shorthand for the title Christ, which means Messiah.

In Greek, the name Jesus is spelled IHΣΟΥΣ. The first three letters are called iota, eta, and sigma. The Greek letter X is called chi. Centuries ago, early Christians used this letter as an abbreviation for Christ. Whenever you see Xmas, know that it is actually Christmas. IHS means Jesus and you can see these letters in fancy writing in our sanctuary. X means Christ.

In your bible, please turn to Luke and read Chapter 2 verses 1-21 (p.1048-1049).

How do you think Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem? There were no cars or planes. Do you travel during Christmas? Is it relaxing or stressful?

How do you think Mary and Joseph felt sleeping surrounded by animals? Have you ever slept somewhere uncomfortable? Maybe in a tent or on a floor? Was it fun?

How do you think the shepherds felt having the angels suddenly appeared? The angels announce the birth of the Messiah. Messiah comes from the Hebrew language. In Greek, it is translated as Christ. It means Savior. How do you feel hearing about the Savior's birth?

This section ends with the baby being given the name Jesus, as an angel had told Mary. How were you given your name?

In your packet is a craft for making a baby Jesus ornament, a coloring page, the Greek letters that are the symbols for Jesus Christ, a crossword puzzle, a dot-to dot, and some paper and stickers for making your own Happy Birthday card to Jesus.



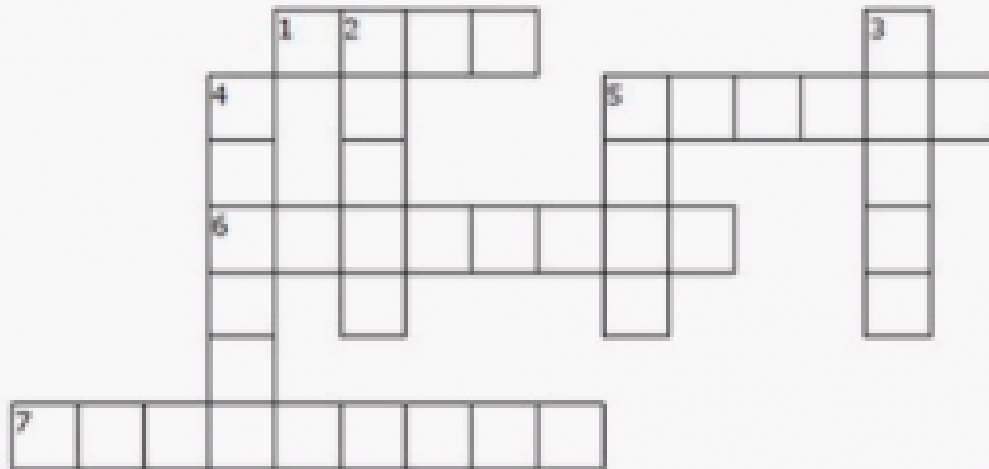
IHS

X

The Birth of Jesus

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 (KJV)

Puzzle is based on Luke 2:1-20



ACROSS

1. An infant or very young child
5. The place where Mary laid the baby Jesus
6. A person who takes care of sheep
7. The city where Jesus was born

DOWN

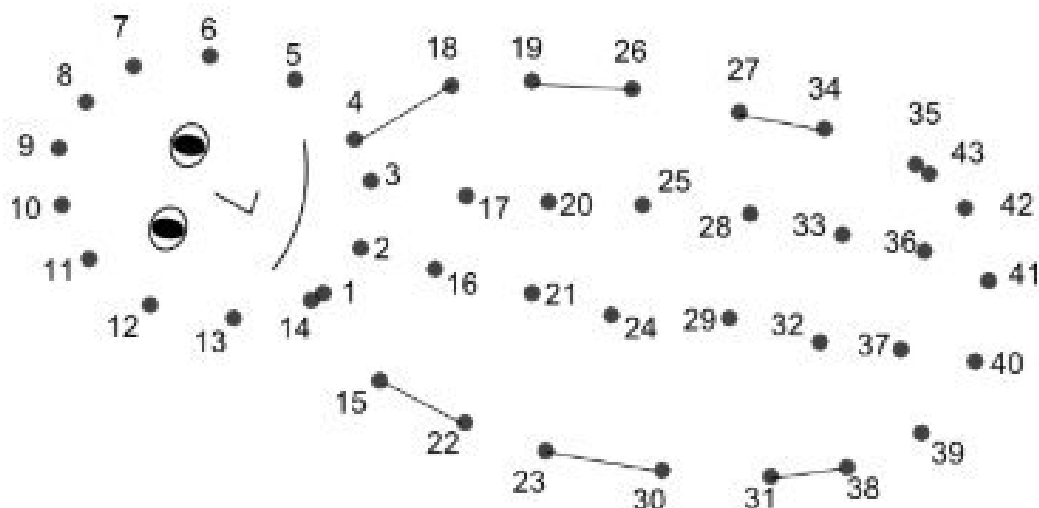
2. Heavenly being that told the shepherds about Jesus' birth
3. The savior of the world
4. The earthly father of Jesus
5. The mother of Jesus

JOSEPH	ANGEL	BETHLEHEM	BABY
MARY	SHEPHERD	JESUS	MANGER

Jesus is Born

A Christmas activity worksheet from ministry-to-children.com

Connect the dots to see who was born in Bethlehem.



Finish the story with the words at the right.

M _____ and J _____ traveled to

B _____.

M _____ had a baby and named him

J _____. He was God's Son.

She placed J _____ in a m _____,

which was a place for animals to eat.

He was wrapped in s _____

clothes, which were strips of cloth.

