

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 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. IHS means Jesus. X means Christ.

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. Let's look at the story of the first Christmas. In your bible, please turn to the book of Luke and read Chapter 2 verses 1-21.

Mary and Joseph traveled nearly 100 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem. They walked and maybe rode a donkey the entire way. Do you travel during the holidays? Is it fun? Is it stressful? How far have you walked?

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When they reached Bethlehem, they would have tried to stay with family. In the overcrowded family home, they were given a place to sleep near the animals. Have you ever stayed at a crowded relative's house? Have you ever had to sleep on the floor?

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Angels suddenly appeared to shepherds. 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? In what way does the Savior save?

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This section ends with the baby being given the name Jesus. How were you given your name? How important are names and titles? Jesus means Salvation. And the title Christ means Savior. What does your name mean?

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In your packet are some fun worksheets and a craft for making a baby Jesus ornament (crafts are still fun, even when you are a teenager).

A	B	C	D	E	G	H	I	J	L
▽	♥	I	☆	●	★	◆	○	✱	☆
N	O	P	R	S	T	V	W	Y	
■	✱	▷	⊙	▲	†	◇	□	*	

I bring you \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 of great \_\_\_\_\_ that will be for  
 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_. Today in the  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 town of David a \_\_\_\_\_ has  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 been \_\_\_\_\_ to you; he is  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ ...

*IHS*

*X*

**W**hat did the angels say?







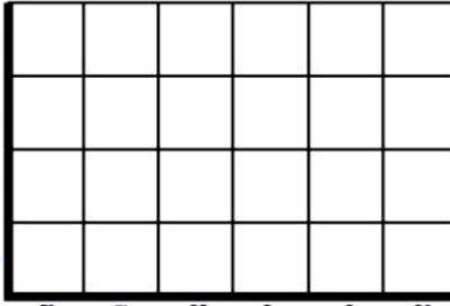
























Fit the pieces in the puzzle and find out.




all	the	peo		be		ord.”	- Luke 2:10-11	
this			go	od	news	I am	brin	ging
“Do	not	eat		af	raid;	gr		joy
you		you				to		is
for		ior	who		of			
	born				ple:	day		Sav
	is	the	Mes		a	siah,	th	e L

**M**ary and Joseph had to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem for the census ordered by Caesar Augustus. It was a long journey, and there were many people there. They found shelter in a stable. There Jesus was born. Mary wrapped the baby in cloths and placed him in a manger. There were shepherds watching their sheep in the hills. Suddenly something appeared to them.

Copy the drawing into the correct squares.

						A		
AF	DF	AH	DG	DJ	CG			B
								
CI	CK	CJ	BF	DH	AJ			D
						F		
DK	BI	DI	AI	BG	BI		G	
						H		
AG	CF	BK	CH	BJ	AK		I	
						J		
AK							K	

In the Scripture verses, there are words underlined. Find them in the puzzle. They are up and down, across or diagonal. There will be 17 letters that remain uncircled. Write them in order on the lines.

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.”  
-Luke 2:10-11

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”  
-Luke 2:14

Who said these words to the shepherds?

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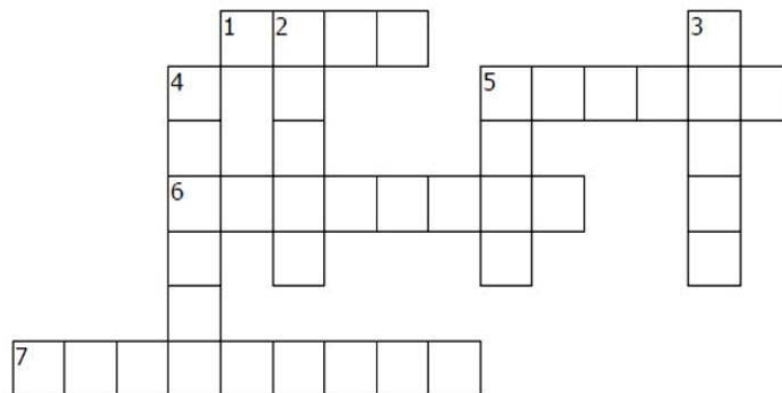
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H	A	P	A	L	L	B	L	N	B	G
I	R	E	S	T	S	A	R	O	O	O
G	L	O	R	Y	A	F	G	I	R	O
H	E	P	L	S	V	R	M	E	N	D
E	O	L	P	J	I	A	F	G	E	G
S	G	E	E	O	O	I	F	O	W	T
T	O	D	A	Y	R	D	A	W	S	O
D	D	O	C	R	D	A	V	I	D	W
N	G	R	E	A	T	H	O	L	I	N
C	H	R	I	S	T	H	R	L	G	H

## 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