



The ruler of the land wanted to count all the people. To make sure no one was missed in the big count, every man had to take his family and go back to the place where his family was from. Let's see if we can count all the people in our group.



BETHLEHEM
FAR, FAR
AWAY

Mary and Joseph had to travel a very, very, very long way to get to Bethlehem—the town where Joseph’s family was from. Let’s all get up and pretend to walk to Bethlehem. The trip was hard for Mary because she was almost ready to have a baby. Let’s sit down and say, “Whew.”



There were lots of people in Bethlehem when they got there! There was nowhere to sleep! They had to stay in a place for animals. Do you think it was noisy? Let's all make animal sounds!



It was time for the baby to be born! Mary gave birth to Jesus and wrapped Him real tight in cloths. She used a manger—a box that held the animal’s food—as the baby’s bed. Let’s all pretend to rock the baby to sleep.



Jesus, God's only Son, was born around a bunch of animals! At first, only Mary and Joseph knew He came. But now, we all celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas. He is the reason we celebrate!



HE Jesus is hope.

WE We can have hope in Jesus.

ME I can have hope in Jesus.

? BIG QUESTION



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

Why was Jesus born?
To save us!

- *Unto you* (point out)
- *is born* (rock a baby)
- *this day a* (point downwards)
- *Savior.* (jump up)
- *Luke 2:11* (open hands like a book)