And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city.

So the cities were crowded with people and some were having trouble finding rooms for the night. Near the little town of Bethlehem was a little place in the desert where someone had built a shelter for the animals.

- 1. There was some hay beside the shelter...
- And more hay on the other side...
- There were also bags of oats and wheat for the animals...
- One night a wondrous star appeared over the shelter...
- A shepherd saw the star and came to see what it meant...
- A sheep followed him..
- Then a second sheep came...
- 8. An owl flew to the top of the shelter and stayed to watch the star...
- The moon shone brightly...
- 10. A third sheep came to the place to be with the others...
- An angel flew down, saw this was the place, and began to sing...
- 12. A pig wandered to the shelter...
- A chicken settled down in the hay...
- A.cow was eating some hay...
- 15. In a faraway land, a wise king saw the wondrous star and decided to go and find the place it marked. He brought a gift of gold...
- His camel stood beside him...
- 17. A second great king saw the shining star and set out on a journey to follow it. Frankincense was the gift he brought  $\dots$
- His camel wandered in behind him...
- They met a third king, carrying myrrh, and invited him to come along to see what great event was causing this wondrous star to shine in the heavens....
- He also rode a camel...
- 21. Joseph found the shelter and said, "This is the place where we will stay."
- Mary agreed and settled in to rest...
- 23. The donkey that carried Mary rested in the hay...
- 24. They spread new hay in a manger to make a small bed...
- 25. Mary wrapped the Baby Jesus in swaddling clothes and laid him in the manger. They heard the angel say, "Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." ~

## Christmas Nativity Advent Calendar

Materials needed;

Copies of characters and stable

Magnet tape

Colored pencils

Scissors

Access to a laminator. You will need either (1) 11  $\chi$  17 sheet or (2) 8.5  $\chi$  11 sheets.

This can de done at most copy shops.

- 1) Copy the characters and stable onto card stock.
- 2) Color all the images with colored pencils.
- 3) Cut out all of the images very close to the line.
- 4) Have the images laminated
- 5) Cut out the laminated images leaving a small amount of border.
- 6) Affix a small piece of magnet tape to the back of each image. You may need to use a few pieces on the stable.

This Nativity Advent Calendar can be fun for all ages. Begin December 1st by placing the stable and one other figure in any magnetic surface. As each day begins place another figure anywhere you like until December 25, when you place the baby Jesus in the manger. Remember, be creative, move figures around daily to create a new scene. After all, animals and people don't stay in the same place for 25 days!



