



December 2023



Dear Jesus,

Thank You for the great hope and love You brought into the world when You were born! Pour Your love, strength, hope and peace into the hearts and minds of every child that is attacked, bullied, rejected and bereaved because they love and follow You. Hold their hurting and fearful hearts gently in Your hands and embrace them with Your arms of love. Let them know You are with them every second of the day and night and will NEVER let them go! Amen.



How much do you remember of the first Christmas in the Bible?
 Complete this crossword to find out! Use the Good News Bible.

(Answers at the end)

1							2			3
						4				
5								6		
		7		8				9		
10										
						11				
						12				

Across →

1. The angels sang God's praises to the shepherds: "_____ to God in the highest heaven!" (Luke 2:14)
2. The angel told Mary that her child would "be called the Son of the Most _____ God." (Luke 1:32)
5. The town where Jesus was born. (Luke 2:6)
9. The angel told Mary of the miraculous things that would happen, saying "...there is nothing that _____ cannot do." (Luke 1:37)
10. After Jesus was born, Joseph took him and Mary and escaped to _____ to save Jesus from being killed. (Matthew 2:13-14)
11. Mary laid Jesus in a manger because there was no _____ for them in the inn. (Luke 2:7)
12. The angel of the Lord told Joseph to name Mary's baby Jesus because "he will _____ his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)

Down ↓

1. The name of the angel who told Mary she was going to have a baby boy. (Luke 1:26-27)
3. The name of the King who wanted to kill Jesus. (Matthew 2:13)
4. Who were the first people told by an angel that Jesus had been born? (Luke 2:8-12)
6. Visitors from the East who studied the stars came to visit Jesus. (Matthew 2:1-2) These visitors are also called Wise Men or _____.
7. These Wise Men worshipped Jesus and gave gifts to him - gold, frankincense and _____. (Matthew 2:11)
8. The Wise Men followed a _____ which led them to the house where Jesus was staying. (Matthew 2:9-11)



Dear God,

Thank You for the most special and wonderful gift of Your Son Jesus Christ! Thank You for sending Him to show us how much You love us and to save us from all the wrong things we do, think and say. Fill the hearts of all children who are persecuted with the great hope, wonder, love and joy of Jesus' birth. Give them deep peace and great strength when they feel terrified, lonely, in pain and desperately sad. Let them know You see them. You are with them, You know everything about them and You love them with a love that is deeper than the deepest sea and higher than the highest mountain! Amen.



Dear Jesus,

Be very near to children whose Mums, Dads and families have been killed because they loved and believed in You. Hold them tightly in Your arms of love, just as a shepherd gathers a hurt lamb and cradles it in his arms. Help them know that they will see their loved ones again with You in heaven where there will be no more sadness, pain, death or suffering. Fill their hearts with Your peace, strength and hope. Give them loving families and friends to look after them and pray with them so that they feel You are with them - now and always. Help their hearts smile again in Your love!



Dear God,

Please give special protection to Christian children, their families and friends this Christmas and New Year. Christians are often attacked more at this time of year when they celebrate the birth of Your Son Jesus. Keep them safe at church, in their homes, as they play outside, go to school or work - everywhere! Help them remember that **NOBODY AND NOTHING IS MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU!** *Hallelujah!!!* Amen.

Answers to crossword

1: GABRIEL, 3: HEROD, 4: SHEPHERDS, 6: MAGI, 7: MYRRH, 8: STAR	Down:
1: GLORY, 2: HIGH, 5: BETHLEHEM, 9: GOD, 10: EGYPT, 11: ROOM, 12: SAVE	Across: