

### "Jesus is born"

(the noise of many footsteps)

**King's Messenger:** "You people of Nazareth! Come here and listen to the order of the King! A census will be taken. Every citizen of the country must return to his hometown to be counted.

This is certainly not good news. But after you are counted, you may return here. Obey this law! Remember: the King is strict."

All of Nazareth was agitated. Many people were upset. The King's order didn't fit into their plans, but it did fit into God's plan.

Even Mary and Joseph had to get ready for this long trip. Joseph was a descendent of King David, which is why he had to return to Bethlehem, his birthplace.

Traveling can be pleasant, but not when one has to travel 106 miles on foot!

For Mary, the trip was especially difficult because she was expecting her first child. She already knew that she would be the mother of God's Son, for an angel had told both her and Joseph this good news.

Jesus, the Savior of the world – this was God's good plan.

The trip to Bethlehem seemed never-ending. They had already been on the road for five days. Mary and Joseph wouldn't have planned this for themselves. But it was part of God's plan and that's why they obeyed.

In Bethlehem they were very disappointed.

**Innkeeper:** "Nothing is available. Every room is taken. Ask somewhere else. Go away, there's no room here for you."

Everywhere else the doors were closed on them.

At last they found a place in a barn.

A barn in God's plan.

And there, in the middle of the night, a miracle took place.

Jesus was born. Mary took Jesus, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger.

God's plan was accomplished.

Imagine, 700 years before this happened, God had already promised that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

God loved the world so much that He carried out His plan and gave His Son to us.

**People:** Narrator, King's messenger, innkeeper