

Born in a Barn

Do you see the Savior? The search has just begun.

His star is rising in the east, bright as the shining sun.

Three kings have followed faithfully to where the star has led.

The Savior of the world found in a humble manger bed.

Day 1 · A Manger Luke 2:4-12

Is this really where our search for the Savior starts? In a barn? In a manger? No, not quite. The search for the Savior began thousands of years before, just outside the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve had disobeyed God. Sin was in the world. Creation was in need of a Savior. God made a promise in that garden to Adam and Eve—a promise that the Savior would come. God's people had been on the lookout ever since, waiting and hoping and searching for the Savior.

But now some shepherds from the hills have some new clues where this Savior might be. "This shall be a sign unto you," the angel told them. "You will find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."

Is this really where our journey through Lent begins? At the first Christmas? Let's look for the manger and see.

Day 2 · A Star Matthew 2:1-6

One name we have for Jesus is "Morning Star." If each of us were a star, then Jesus would be the brightest and best of all: a morning star that can be seen long after the sun has risen. It wouldn't be hard to spot a star that bright, would it? And it shouldn't be hard to see the Savior either.

The prophets in the Old Testament wrote clues about where to find the Savior. Clues that came right from God. They wrote that God was sending the world a Child. They even wrote where to look for that Savior: in the tiny town of Bethlehem. Why, the only thing that would make finding the Savior easier would be to shine a bright light down from heaven on the place he was born. Oh, that's right! God did that, too.

Day 3 · Three Kings Matthew 2:9-11

We're not alone in our search for the Savior. Magi from a far eastern land are following a star, seeking out the newborn king. These star followers are very important people. Sometimes they are called kings.

But even these important Magi know that finding this baby is more important. This is no ordinary child, you see. This is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. There is more to this manger Child than meets the eye. Let's join the Magi in their search for the King of kings.

Count the eggs and ducks and chicks. Find a football you can kick.



Baptized with Water

Do you see the Savior? Is he here at the pool?
Take off your sandals. Stay awhile. The water's fresh and cool.
A man is eating locusts. He speaks of God above.
The Savior might stop for a swim. Look for the Spirit's dove.

Day 4 · A Locust Mark 1:4-6

"There was a man named John," the Bible tells us. And that man was a little strange. His clothes were stitched-together camel's fur, and he ate nothing but wild honey and ... gulp ... locusts! (You can find one hidden in the picture.)

But strange as that man was, he had a very special message to bring. "The Savior is almost here," John said. He shouted it out to anyone who cared to listen. "The Savior is almost here. God's promise is coming true. So let's get ready!" That news doesn't sound strange at all.

Day 5 · Sandals Luke 3:15-16

The people came to John asking if he was the Savior. But John was quick to tell them that he was not. "The Savior is so great," John said, "that I'm not even worthy to untie his sandals!"

But John was worthy. God made him worthy enough to baptize the Savior of the world. And although we do not seem worthy to accept the coming Savior, God's grace and love make us worthy, too. Just like John.

Can you imagine what that may have looked like when John baptized Jesus in the river that day? Do you suppose Jesus took his sandals off first? Do you suppose John helped him do it?

Day 6 · A Dove Matthew 3:16-17

Where is this Savior who is supposed to be coming? Well, if you weren't sure before, you should know now. God the Father is speaking from heaven. "This is my beloved Son. I am pleased with him," God says. And the Holy Spirit is there, flying down like a dove to point to Jesus the Savior. He's right here!

God is there at your baptism, too. Through water and God's Word, you are made a beloved child of God the Father. The Holy Spirit fills your heart, and your forehead is marked with the Savior's cross.

Where is the coming Savior? He's right here! Right now! In you!

Find a cricket, a bus and a diver.

Look for the sea star not far from a driver.



