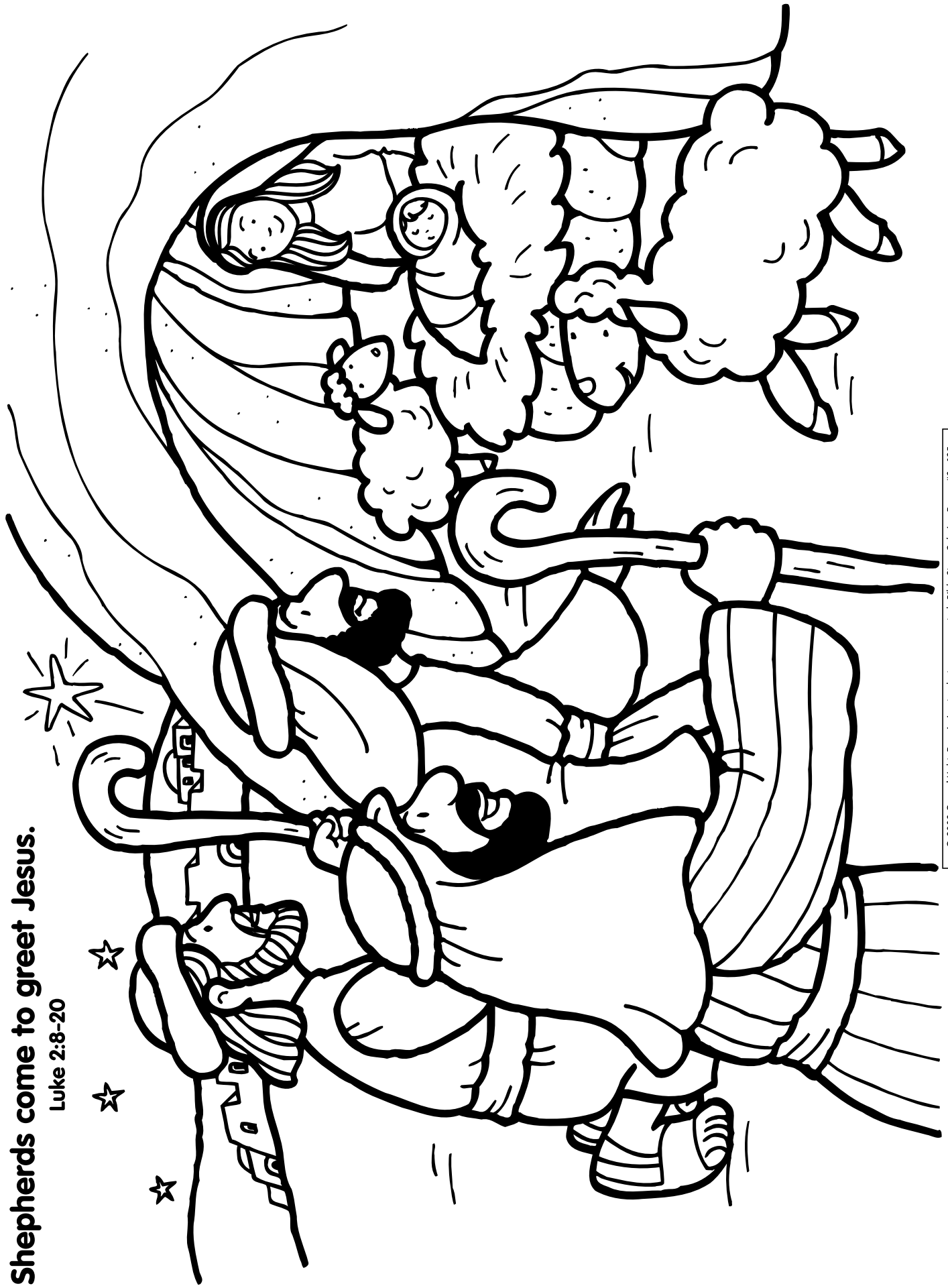


Shepherds come to greet Jesus.

Luke 2:8-20



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The nighttime sky was dark. Out on a hill, some men were sitting together. They were shepherds who were taking care of a flock of sheep. Suddenly, there was a very bright light in the nighttime sky. And right before their eyes they saw an angel! The shepherds were very frightened!

“Do not be afraid,” the angel said to them. “I have good news for everyone! Tonight in the city of Bethlehem, Jesus, the Savior, is born! You will find the baby wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.”

Before the shepherds had a chance to say anything, the sky was filled with more and more angels. The angels praised God and said, “Glory to God in the highest!” The shepherds listened as the angels praised God for sending Jesus to be born.

When all the angels had left, the sky became quiet and dark once more. The shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to Bethlehem. We want to see this baby the angel told us about!” They hurried down the hillside and ran along the road to Bethlehem.

When they found the stable, they saw Mary and Joseph. They quietly came near to see the baby. There was baby Jesus lying in a manger, just as the angel had said.

The shepherds were so excited that they told everyone the good news as they went back to their sheep. “Jesus is born! Jesus is born in Bethlehem!” they said. The shepherds thanked God for sending His Son, Jesus.