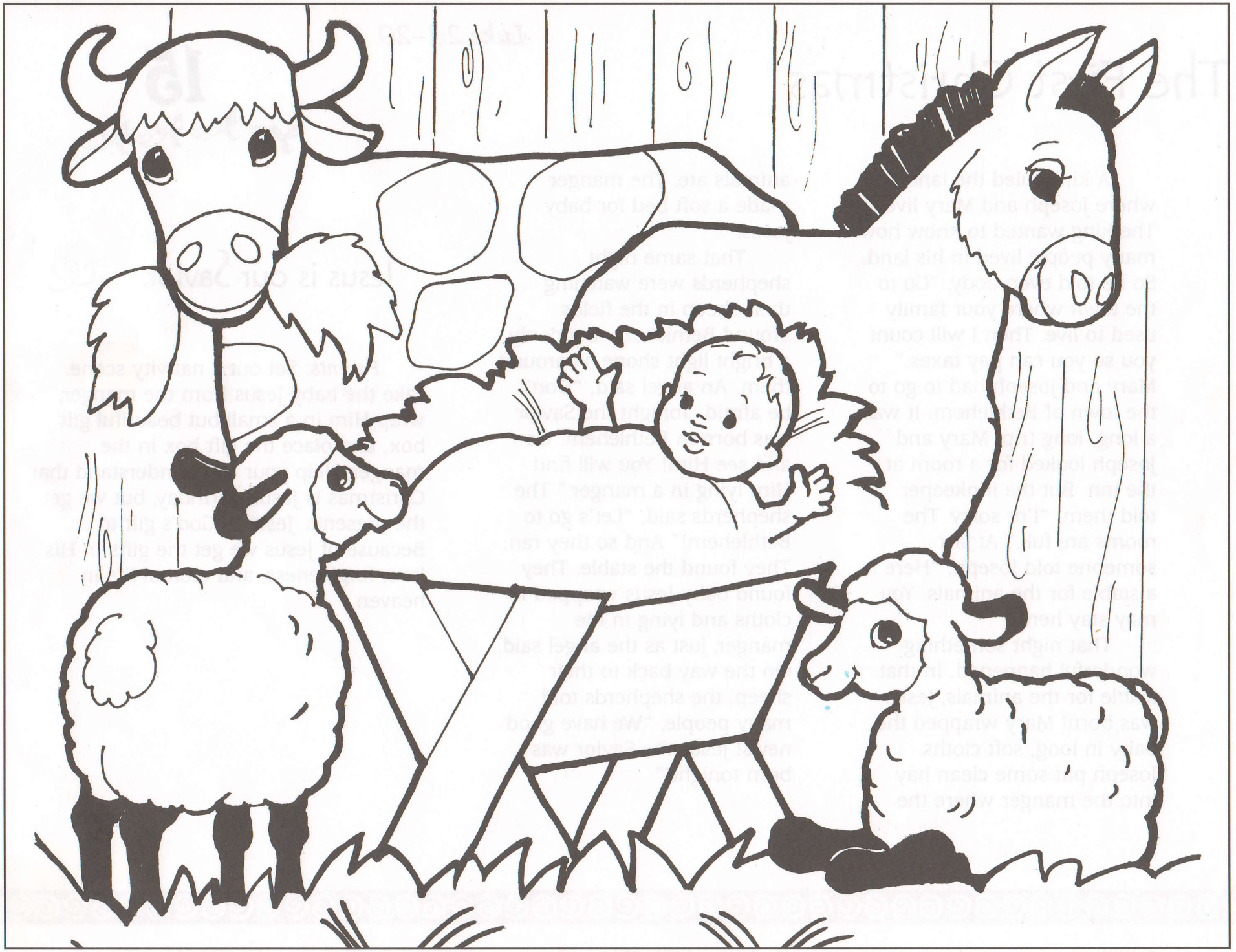

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The First Christmas

Luke 2:1–20

15

A king ruled the land where Joseph and Mary lived. The king wanted to know how many people lived in his land. So he told everybody, "Go to the town where your family used to live. Then I will count you so you can pay taxes." Mary and Joseph had to go to the town of Bethlehem. It was a long, long trip. Mary and Joseph looked for a room at the inn. But the innkeeper told them, "I'm sorry. The rooms are full." At last someone told Joseph, "Here is a stable for the animals. You may stay here."

That night something wonderful happened. In that stable for the animals, Jesus was born! Mary wrapped the baby in long, soft cloths. Joseph put some clean hay into the manger where the animals ate. The manger made a soft bed for baby Jesus.

That same night shepherds were watching their sheep in the fields around Bethlehem. Suddenly a bright light shone all around them. An angel said, "Don't be afraid. Tonight the Savior was born in Bethlehem. Go and see Him! You will find Him lying in a manger." The shepherds said, "Let's go to Bethlehem!" And so they ran. They found the stable. They found baby Jesus wrapped in cloths and lying in the manger, just as the angel said. On the way back to their sheep, the shepherds told many people, "We have good news! Jesus the Savior was born tonight!"

Jesus is our Savior.

Parents: Set out a nativity scene. Take the baby Jesus from the manger, wrap Him in a small but beautiful gift box, and place the gift box in the manger. Help your child understand that Christmas is Jesus' birthday, but we get the presents. Jesus is God's gift to us. Because of Jesus we get the gifts of His love, forgiveness, and eternal life in heaven.

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