

# What is *Advent* and how do we prepare for it?

Advent is the season when Christians prepare to remember the birth of Jesus. For many it is an exciting season which leads to the fun of Christmas Day. However, for Christians there are many important things to remember and prepare for. Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day.

## Advent Wreath

An advent wreath has many symbols included in it that are very important to Christians. The wreath is circular and traditionally covered in evergreen leaves to symbolise eternal life. There are four candles around the outside and one in the centre.

The first candle represents Hope and is linked to the patriarchs.

The second candle is for Peace and the prophets.

The third candle represents Love and John the Baptist

The fourth candle represents Joy and Mary

The central candle represents the birth of Jesus and that he is the light of the world.

## Jesus

Jesus was the son of Mary and Joseph. Some people believed he was the Messiah but many Jewish people did not agree.

## John the Baptist

John the Baptist was another prophet and baptised people to help them be forgiven for their sins. He also baptised Jesus.

## Mary

Mary was the mother of Jesus and she was present for many key events in Jesus' life, including his crucifixion. Catholics pray through Mary as the mother of God. Other Christians don't pray to Mary but accept her as the mother of God.

## Spellings for this unit

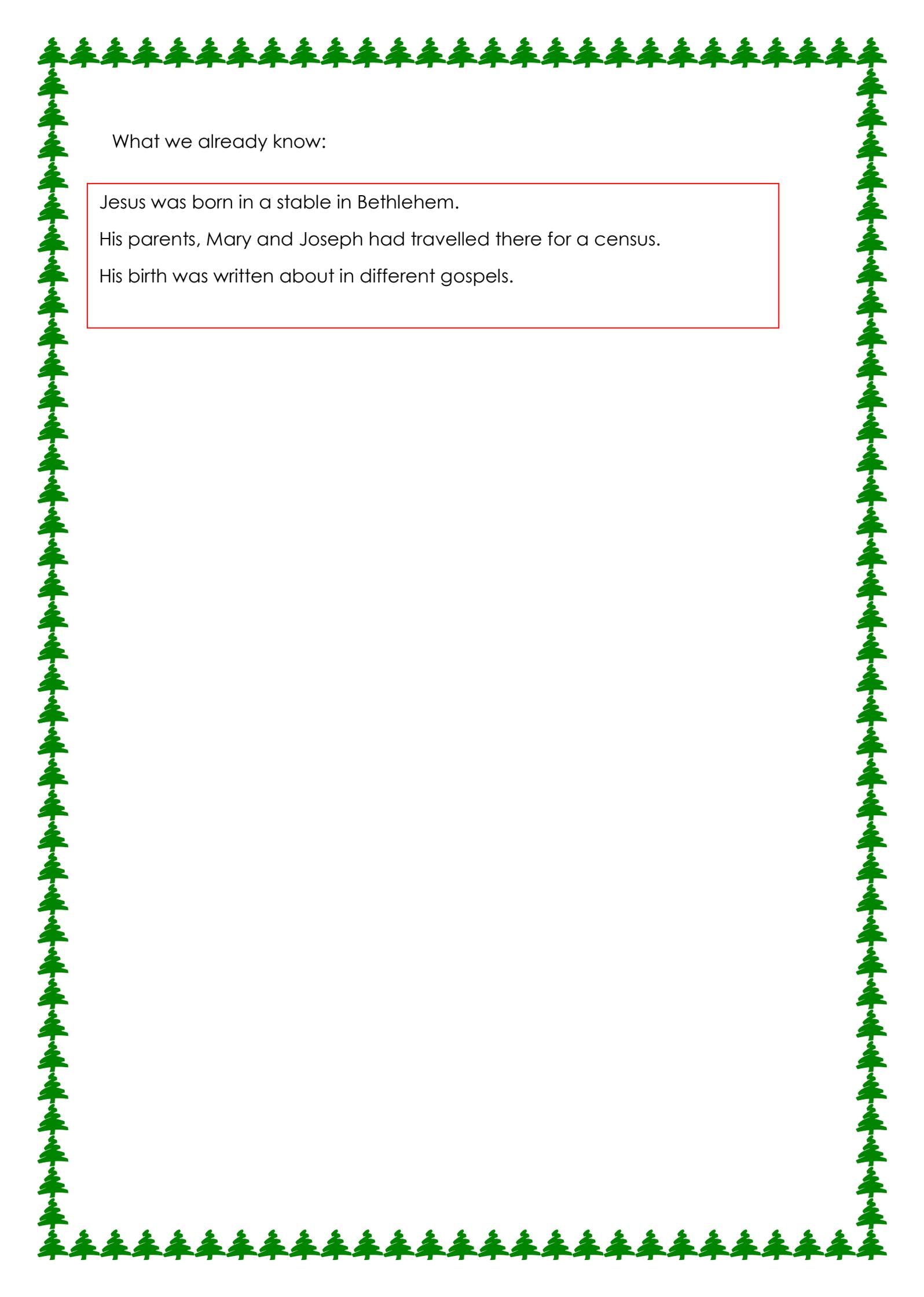
according  
ancient  
communicate  
persuade  
symbol.

Our Christian values:

Hope      Love      Joy      Peace

## Key Vocabulary

Advent	The Christian season preparing to remember Jesus' birth.
prophet	A messenger sent from God
patriarchs	These are Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
Mary	The mother of Jesus who spent her life watching him spread the word of God.
John	Known as John the Baptist
baptise	A ceremony where people are accepted into the church and past sins are forgiven.



What we already know:

Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem.

His parents, Mary and Joseph had travelled there for a census.

His birth was written about in different gospels.