

Week 3

When Mary and Joseph reached Bethlehem they had problems finding somewhere to stay. So many people had travelled to the town to register for taxes that all the hotels were full. The only place they could find to stay was a stable where the animals usually slept. Mary and Joseph did their best to get things ready for the baby's arrival by turning a manger (the animal's food bowl) into a crib...

To make your manger you'll need:

- a toilet roll
- brown paper, or white paper coloured brown
- brown card, or white card coloured brown
- light brown or yellow tissue paper
- scissors (not pictured), glue and Sellotape
- a pencil

Cut the brown paper to fit round your toilet roll. Now glue the paper to your toilet roll. Next draw round one end of your toilet roll on the brown card. Cut out the brown card circle, and cut it in half to give you two semicircles.



Next cut your covered toilet roll in half, length ways, and glue or Sellotape the two halves back to back. Add a brown semicircle to each end of the top half of your manger. Finally cut a rectangle of tissue paper to fit in your manger, and make small cuts round the edges of the tissue paper to give the effect of straw. You now have a finished manger.

To make your stable you'll need:

- a cardboard box
- a lollipop stick or strong piece of card
- shiny gold or silver card
- brown paper (optional)
- brown or yellow shredded paper
- paper with a blue or black background and stars (printed or drawn on)
- scissors (not pictured), glue and Sellotape
- a pencil

Find a good-sized cardboard box - it needs to be big enough to fit Mary, Joseph, the donkey, and the manger. If you have labels on your box which won't come off (like us) you can cover your box with brown paper, but you don't have to. Next, cover the top of your box with star paper to represent the night sky.



For the large star, cut a star shape out of the shiny gold or silver card. Sellotape the lollipop stick or strong card to the back of your star. Now Sellotape the other end of the lollipop stick/strong card to the back of your box so the star sits above the box.

Add the shredded paper (we shredded the packing paper that came in our box) in piles inside the box to look like straw, and your manger. You now have a finished stable.

To make your baby Jesus (who'll need to be put somewhere safe until Christmas Day) you'll need:

- pink card or white card coloured pink
- a white tissue
- a pencil
- scissors (not pictured) and Sellotape

From the pink card, cut a rectangle which is around half the size of your manger. Now cut the top of your rectangle into a curve.

Cut your tissue into a square (see our photo for the size compared to your curved rectangle). Wrap the tissue around your curved rectangle leaving a small gap under the curved end. Secure your tissue with Sellotape and draw a face in the gap. You now have a finished baby Jesus.



Come back next week for another exciting instalment in the Christmas story.