

The Nativity Left Right Game

Pass the gift **LEFT** or **RIGHT** every time you hear the word

How to play: sit in a circle, each player holding a small wrapped gift. The leader reads the story slowly. Every time you hear **LEFT**, pass your gift to the left. Every time you hear **RIGHT**, pass it to the right. When the story ends, the gift in your hands is yours to keep!
This is a retelling for a game; the Bible references show where each part comes from.

Get ready! Hold your gift **RIGHT** in front of you, and listen for God's Christmas story.

Long before Jesus was born, God made a promise: a child would be born, and His name would be called "The mighty God." God always does what is **RIGHT**, and He keeps His promises. *(Isaiah 9:6)*

In the city of Nazareth, God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary, who was going to marry Joseph. Gabriel told her she would have a son and call His name JESUS. Mary believed God, and then the angel **LEFT** her. *(Luke 1:26–38, 45)*

Mary hurried to the hill country to visit her cousin Elisabeth. **RIGHT** when Elisabeth heard Mary's greeting, Elisabeth's baby leaped for joy! Mary stayed about three months, and then she **LEFT** for home. *(Luke 1:39–56)*

Joseph was a just man, so he wanted to do what was **RIGHT**. An angel spoke to him in a dream: Mary's baby was from the Holy Ghost, and Joseph would call His name JESUS, "for he shall save his people from their sins." When Joseph woke up, he obeyed **RIGHT** away. *(Matthew 1:18–24)*

Then Caesar Augustus ordered that everyone be taxed in their own city. So Joseph and Mary **LEFT** Nazareth and went to Bethlehem, the city of David. *(Luke 2:1–5)*

In Bethlehem there was no room **LEFT** for them in the inn. **RIGHT** there in Bethlehem, Mary's firstborn son was born. She wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger. *(Luke 2:6–7)*



That night, shepherds were in the field keeping watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord came, the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were afraid. But the angel said, "Fear not," and told them the good news: a Saviour, Christ the Lord, was born in the city of David! Then a multitude of the heavenly host was praising God. *(Luke 2:8–14)*

Still holding on? There's more of the story **LEFT**!

When the angels **LEFT** and went back into heaven, the shepherds said, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem." They **LEFT RIGHT** away and came with haste, and they found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. They told everyone what they had heard about this child. Then they **LEFT**, glorifying and praising God. *(Luke 2:15–20)*

Later, wise men came from the east to Jerusalem. They had seen His star, and they had come to worship Him. When they **LEFT** King Herod, the star went before them until it stood over where the young child was. *(Matthew 2:1–9)*

They came into the house, saw the young child with Mary His mother, fell down and worshipped Him. They gave Him gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh. Then God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod, so they **LEFT** for their own country another way. *(Matthew 2:11–12)*

The wise men brought gifts, but Jesus is God's greatest gift to us. The Bible says, "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." *(2 Corinthians 9:15)*

Pass your gift one last time to the **RIGHT**... and whatever you are holding **RIGHT** now is yours to keep. Merry Christmas!