

PASSPORT TO ISRAEL

BETHLEHEM

The city of Bethlehem is located just a few miles south of Jerusalem. The first time Bethlehem is mentioned in the Bible is in Genesis 35:19, which says, “And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem.” Today, you can still visit Rachel’s Tomb, a special place where Jews, Christians, and Muslims come to pray and remember the matriarch Rachel. Although the tomb has faced attacks over the years, it continues to stand.

Bethlehem appears again in the Bible during the time of the Judges, when there was a famine in the land. A woman named Naomi and her husband, Elimelech, left Bethlehem to live in Moab. Later, Naomi returned home with her daughter-in-law Ruth, who married a kind and wealthy man named Boaz. Their family line became very important—Boaz and Ruth had a son named Obed, who was the father of Jesse, who became the father of King David. That means Bethlehem was the hometown of Israel’s greatest king, David!

About 1,000 years later, Bethlehem became famous again as the birthplace of Jesus, fulfilling the prophecy written long before in Micah 5:2:

**“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,
Yet out of you shall come forth to Me
The One to be Ruler in Israel,
Whose goings forth are from of old,
From everlasting.”**

The Gospel of Matthew also tells us that wise men followed a star that led them to Jesus (Matthew 2:1–11). Today, visitors can still see the traditional Shepherds’ Field, associated with the place where angels appeared to shepherds on the night Jesus was born. You can also visit the Church of the Nativity, which stands above the grotto where tradition says Christ was born.

In modern times, Bethlehem has changed a lot. A century ago, most of its people were Christians, but now the majority are Muslims. Bethlehem is known for its beautiful handmade crafts, especially carvings made from olive wood, which are sold all over the world as reminders of the city where Jesus was born.

STAR OF BETHLEHEM ORIGAMI CRAFT

FOR THE TEACHER

Description:

Create a Star of Bethlehem Origami Craft with students to remember the star the wise men followed to find Christ.

Resources Needed:

- Square sheet of paper
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Pencil or pen
- Crayons, colored pencils, or markers for decorating (optional).



**WATCH THIS VIDEO FOR
VISUAL INSTRUCTIONS**

FOR THE STUDENTS

Instructions:

Start with a square sheet of paper (If your paper is rectangular, trim it to a square first.)

- Fold the square paper in half diagonally (corner to corner) to form a triangle.
- Rotate the paper so the point of the triangle is facing up and the long side is closest to you.
- Take the right bottom corner and fold it to the left corner and crease.
- Without unfolding the paper, take the top corner, fold it to the left corner, and crease.
- Take the top corner and fold it straight down so that you have two right triangles along the long side of the triangle.
- Unfold the paper and place a mark along the left side where the crease is.
- Using your crease mark as a starting point, take a pen and ruler and measure 5 cm along the crease and place a mark.
- Using the ruler, draw two straight lines from the 5 cm mark to the top and bottom left points of the triangle.
- Using scissors, cut along the lines you just created. Discard the scraps.
- Unfold and re-crease each side as shown in the video.
- Completely unfold and puff your star. Add color and decorations for some fun!