**The Nativity story told with a bracelet**

Long ago in the little town Nazareth, in Israel, lived a young woman called Mary **(blue bead).**

Mary was engaged to a man called Joseph **(green bead).**

One day the angel Gabriel **(white bead)** came to Mary and told her that she would have a baby. The baby would be called Jesus and he would be the son of God.

Mary was so amazed by what happened. She told her parents and her husband-to-be Joseph what the angel had said. Joseph was shocked, as he knew it was not his baby.
But then the angel also came to Joseph and said the same to him. After a time Maria found that she was going to have a baby.

When Mary was nearly ready to have her baby The Emperor **(red bead)** said that everyone must go back to where their relatives came from. They would be counted and their names would be written down in a register. This was done so the Emperor later could get taxes from the people.

Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem, as Joseph’s relatives came from that city. Maria was riding on a donkey **(orange bead)**. It was a very long journey and they arrived in Bethlehem at night.

Bethlehem was very busy as many people had come there to be registered.

Mary and Joseph tried to find a bed in a lot of hotels, but they were all full. Finally they

found an inn where the innkeeper was very kind and said they could stay in his stable **(dark green bead).**

That night baby Jesus **(gold bead)** was born. To keep him warm they wrapped him in a cloth and laid him in a manger, where the animals usually ate their food.

The shepherds **(brown beads)** were up on the hills when they were suddenly blinded by a bright light. It was an angel **(white bead)**.

The angel told them a special baby had been born and to follow the bright star **(yellow bead)** in the sky.

At the same time 3 wise men **(purple bead, turquoise bead, pink bead)** also saw the star. They knew that it meant that a special baby had been born so they also followed the star. When they found the stable they gave baby Jesus beautiful gifts.

As they all gathered around the baby Jesus, they all knew this was a very special night and that Jesus was a special baby.