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And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Luke 2:7

When it's time for a mommy to give birth to a baby, most moms like to have their birth space set up in a special way. A clean and comfortable bed, privacy, their favorite foods and drinks available. But because we don't always know the exact day or hour a baby will be born, sometimes things don't work out the way we plan.

Moms, you can take this moment to share a little about what you wanted to have for your birth space versus what you actually had for your birth space.

Mary didn't have any normal comforts. Because everyone was coming to Bethlehem for the census, all the inns were filled, and Mary had to give birth to Jesus in the animal shelter.

On the tenth day of Advent, let's talk about being humble.
Do you know what it means to be humble?

Let's read for a moment about the throne of God in Heaven.

"A throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, 'Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!'" Revelation 4:1-8

Does that throne room sound like it's fit for the King of Kings? Sure does! And Jesus is worthy to sit at the right hand of His Father God Almighty! But when Jesus was born, instead of leading them to an extravagant inn, one that would speak of His true worth, the Lord led them to an animal shelter, and baby Jesus wasn't given a crib carved from the finest wood and coated with the finest of gold and wrapped in the finest of linen. He was swaddled in cloth and laid in a manger.

You see, Jesus lowered Himself to be born in the most lowly and humble of places to be an example to us all. That in lowering Himself, He might raise us all up.

When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, the town was crowded with people who were there for the census. A census is when the government takes a count of all the people in their land. There were no rooms at the inns available to rent when Mary went into labor with baby Jesus, so they ended up staying with the animals!

Let's play a game that will help you get an idea of what it may have felt like for Mary and Joseph to search for a place they would be welcome. It's a little like hide and seek, but with a twist! The more people who can play it, the more fun it will be!

Choose one person to be the stable keeper, and the rest will be Mary and Joseph.

The Marys and Josephs will close their eyes and count to 100 while the stable keeper will go and find a place to hide.

Then the Marys and Josephs will all split up and go search for the stable keeper. When you find the stable keeper, quietly join them in their hiding place! Shhh! You don't want to give away the hiding place to anyone else! Stay hidden until everyone has found the stable keeper and has tried to squeeze into the hiding place together!

To play another round, let the first person who found the stable keeper take a turn at being the stable keeper and finding a new place to hide.
Repeat as much as you like!