



# *A Christmas Look & Find*

FOR STUDENTS OF ALL AGES

**THE CHRISTMAS SEASON** is rich in the beauty of sights and sounds. Referencing selections from M&G's masterworks and timeless carols, observers of all ages will not only discover exciting details in each painting, but also learn about some of the biblical and art history connections. There's so much to see in each masterpiece!



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*Rest on the Flight into Egypt*  
Giuseppe Simonelli



**FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS** God's people waited for their Deliverer to come. Matthew is listening to God's message as he writes the words down. Matthew records the scenes of Jesus' life as sung about in the Christmas carol, *Who is He in Yonder Stall?*.

“Who is He in yonder stall,  
At whose feet the shepherds fall?  
Who is He in deep distress,  
Fasting in the wilderness?  
'Tis the Lord! O wondrous story!  
'Tis the Lord! the King of glory!  
At His feet we humbly fall,  
Crown Him! Crown Him Lord of all!”

**LOOK:** Can you find a part of a wing, a feather quill pen, some curly blonde hair, a wrinkled forehead, a very white shirt, two strings, and a book?

Click on the image to learn more about this M&G painting.

*St. Matthew*  
Guido Reni







**GOD SENT THE ARCHANGEL** Gabriel to tell the virgin Mary that she would be a mother; she would give birth to the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

This beautiful 19th-century mosaic shows Gabriel bringing this important message. He comes in peace, which explains why the artist depicts Gabriel holding an olive branch.

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*  
"O come, O come Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Son of God appear,  
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel,  
Shall come to thee, O Israel."

**LOOK:** Can you find a few missing black tiles (tesserae), some olives, a hand showing blessing, a row of blue feathers, and a fancy gold ribbon?

*St. Gabriel the Archangel*  
Unknown Artist



**WHEN A NEW BABY IS BORN**, there's a lot of excitement! Family and friends crowd in to see the little one. Everyone is happy for the mother and delighted to see the newborn, whom the mother protects and cares for.

In this small painting, the artist shows the adoring shepherds. After the angels announced the joy of Christ's birth in the night sky, the shepherds went to the Bethlehem stable to see the newborn King.

*Joy to the World*

"Joy to the world,  
The Lord is come,  
Let earth receive her King,  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing!  
And heaven and nature sing!"

**LOOK: Can you find:** a big dog, a bright star, a lady's hair ribbon, a wooden awning, a sheep, and striped angel wings?

Click on the image to learn more about this M&G painting.

*The Adoration of the Shepherds*  
Hans Von Aachen







**AN IMPORTANT PART OF CELEBRATING** during the Christmas season is music! Have you ever heard a cello played or an orchestra perform before? Have you played a recorder? Have you sung in a choir? Imagine how this pictured musical ensemble would sound.

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!*  
“Hark the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King,  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled,  
Joyful all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
With angelic hosts proclaim,  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
Hark the herald angels sing,  
Glory to the newborn King!”

**LOOK:** Can you find a cello, a lute, a recorder, a hidden harp, an organ, and a crown of flowers?

*St. Cecilia and Angel Musicians*  
Giovanni Battista Beinaschi



**DO YOU EVER TURN OUT THE OVERHEAD LIGHTS** and use a smaller table lamp or flashlight?

How does lighting change the mood? What type of feeling do you get from this picture?

*Candlelight Carol*

“How do you capture  
The wind on the water?  
How do you count all the stars in the sky?  
How can you measure  
The love of a mother  
Or how can you write down  
A baby’s first cry?  
Candlelight, angel light  
Firelight and star glow  
Shine on His cradle till breaking of dawn.  
Gloria, Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Angels are singing  
The Christ child is born.”

**LOOK:** Can you find: a protective father holding the lantern, an inquisitive toddler, a skeptical onlooker, a gentle mother, a resting baby, and a pointing friend?

Click on the image to learn more about this M&G painting.

*The Adoration of the Shepherds*  
Pieter Fransz de Grebber







**THIS PAINTING IS VERY TALL**—77 inches long! It is painted on wood panel. It captures the moment of the shepherds' arrival at the stable to see the new-born Christ lying in a manger, which is a food trough for animals. This was a very humble beginning for the Messiah.

*Good Christian Men, Rejoice!*  
 "Good Christian men rejoice  
 With heart and soul and voice!  
 Give ye heed to what we say  
 News! News!  
 Jesus Christ is born today!  
 Ox and ass before Him bow  
 And He is in the manger now  
 Christ is born today!  
 Christ is born today!"

**LOOK:** Can you find columns with fancy capitals, two cows, a basket, dark clouds, stones on a stair, a glowing town, 6 angels, and bare feet?

*The Adoration of the Shepherds*  
 Lambert Lombard



**THIS RENAISSANCE PAINTING** is an example of when artists began to paint the landscape into the backgrounds of their pictures. Before this time period, the artists used gold backgrounds to focus our attention on the people in the painting.

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

“Go, tell it on the mountain,  
Over the hills and everywhere,  
Go tell it on the mountain,  
That Jesus Christ is born!”

**LOOK:** Can you find a beautiful star, the wisemen, a broken block wall, early sheet music, distant mountains, a few tiny trees, a saddle, and a pillow?

Click on the image to learn more about this M&G painting.

*The Nativity*  
Master of the Borghese Tondo







**WE DON'T KNOW** how old Jesus' earthly father, Joseph, was when Christ was born. This painting shows him as an older man studying closely and enjoying the infant.

*Hush, My Dear, Lie Still and Slumber*  
"Hush, my dear, lie still and slumber,  
Holy angels guard thy bed;  
Heavenly blessings without number,  
Gently falling on thy head.  
Lu-la-by, Lu-la-by,  
Go to sleep my love, my dear,  
Lu-la-by, Lu-la-by,  
God wilt keep thee ever near."

**LOOK:** Can you find soft curls, a double chin, swaddling material, a strong hand, and something sunburned?

Click on the image to learn more about this M&G painting.

*St. Joseph and the Christ Child*  
Carlo Francesco Nuvolone (attributed to)



**OLD MASTER PAINTERS** enjoyed telling multiple parts to a story. You'll notice other paintings have more than one event being depicted. In the background of this Renaissance painting, an angel is telling the shepherds the Good News of Christ's birth. But, in the foreground, the shepherds are already worshipping the newborn King. Is this a fancy place? Was the King of Israel born in a palace?

*The First Noel*

"The first noel, the angels did say,  
Unto certain poor shepherd in fields as they lay,  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night, that was so deep,  
Noel, noel, noel, noel,  
Born is the King of Israel."

**LOOK:** Can you find a blue mountain, a dead tree branch, an angel in the sky, shepherds with their sheep, a bird, wheat, worn out pants, and two interested animals?

Click on the image to learn more about this M&G painting.

*The Adoration of the Shepherds*  
Pier Francesco Sacchi







**A LOVING FAMILY** is one of the greatest gifts in the world. This time of year, we focus on giving because “God so loved the world that he gave His only Son,” Jesus, to restore us to His family.

*Everlasting Life*

“God so loved the world,  
God so loved the world,  
That He gave his only Son,  
His only Beloved Son,  
That whosoever believeth,  
That whosoever believeth,  
That whosoever believeth in Him,  
Hath life, everlasting life.”

**LOOK:** Can you find some strappy sandals, a cross made of sticks, some chubby cheeks, three invisible halos, a cousin named “John,” and a loving expression?

*Rest on the Flight into Egypt*  
Giuseppe Simonelli



**THE ANGELS ARE HOLDING** a banner which has a word in Latin. What do you think the word means? The Christmas carol below has some Latin words too. Latin was spoken in the time of Jesus.

*Angels We Have Heard on High*  
“Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o’re the plains,  
And the mountains in reply,  
Echoing their joyous strains,  
Gloria, in excelsis deo,  
Gloria, in excelsis deo!”

*Two Angels with Banner*  
Unknown English artist

**LOOK:** Can you find two gold halos, a blue ribbon, a banderole with Latin, clothes of Christmas colors, and a triple-shaped cloud

Click on the image to learn more about this M&G painting.





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