



## **Station Seven story – Herod on the rampage**

**We heard the news from an innkeeper. Herod was on the rampage again. We could barely believe it. Everyone with a baby boy needed to make themselves scarce, leave Bethlehem until the fuss died down.**

**Mother looked really frightened. She said we should go to Egypt straight away. Father went into the town to find out more. When he came back, he looked just as frightened as mother. ‘It’s true,’ he said, ‘they want to take all the boys under two years old. We need to leave this minute.’**

**Mother wrapped Benjamin in a shawl and strapped it to her back. Father strapped a skin of water to his back and wrapped some food in a cloth. We couldn’t take anything else. I had to leave my toys behind.**

**Bethlehem was crowded, and very noisy. Lots of people had come from all over the country. I could hardly see where I was going, I just held onto father’s cloak. He kept stopping to talk to people, but mother pushed him along, told him we must hurry.**

**We walked up the hill to the sheep. It got dark very quickly and only father knew the way there. Mother made a bed with her shawl and a blanket in the middle of the sheep. I thought I would be cold but it’s quite warm when there’s sheep all around. The next day Benjamin lay on the blanket and the sheep sniffed and licked him – it made him laugh. Mother and father didn’t laugh though. They took it in turns to watch the hills. We sat in the shade of some trees when the sun was high in the sky.**

**We were up there a long time, I don’t know how many days. I was bored without my toys, though it was good fun sometimes talking to the sheep. I couldn’t go for a walk because mother and father didn’t want me out of their sight. One afternoon, the innkeeper came to see us. He said it was safe to go back. Mother and father both cried, but they were happy.**

**We walked back to Bethlehem with the innkeeper. Mother kept Benjamin wrapped tight in her shawl until we were back in the house. Neighbours brought us food, and we didn’t go out of the house for a few days. Eventually, mother said I could go out to play – that was the best day of my life.**