

The Story of CHRISTMAS

Date: 12.07.25 | Jesus is Born!
Scripture: Luke 2:1-7

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL:

- The Bible is God's message about Himself and His salvation plan through Jesus.
- God deserves respect, obedience, and honor.
- God wants us to live for His glory.
- God sent Jesus to be the atonement for our sins.
- Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecies and promises.



MEMORY VERSE

"Don't be afraid! I bring you good news that will be great joy to all people. The Savior- yes, the Messiah, the Lord- has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! - Luke 2:10-11

BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

Several months after Gabriel's revelations, as the time drew near for Jesus to be born, Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a mandatory Roman census must be taken. People were registered for tax purposes. Because Joseph belongs to the house and royal line of King David, he must travel to Bethlehem, the town of David, and his ancestral home to register for the census. The Old Testament prophet, Micah, had foretold that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). This was a difficult trek of more than seventy miles through mountainous terrain- a particularly grueling journey for Mary, on the verge of delivery.

While they were there, the time came for Mary's first baby to be born. On the surface, political reasons determine where Jesus is born. Still, the ultimate cause is God, who controls history and guarantees that the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem in accordance with Old Testament prophecy. The town was crowded with people registering for the census, and no guest rooms were available. As a result, Mary gives birth to Jesus in the only place left: a cave or grotto where the animals stayed. This is the greatest miracle in the history of the world: the eternal Son of God is born as a man. All of this happens quietly in an obscure village in Judea.

When the baby Jesus is born, Mary wraps Him in cloths and places Him in an animal feeding trough, or manger. This is the source of the notion that Christ was born in a stable, something that is not ever stated in Scripture. In ancient times, strips of cloth were used to wrap babies to keep them warm and secure.

LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY

Locate the scripture in the Bible: *Luke 2:1-7*

Tell the story: Each class will get its own copy of "This is the Christmas Story," a Kids Read Truth Story and Scripture Book. Please read this book to your group sometime this morning. It has beautiful illustrations, includes the scripture references, and shares the Gospel.

Today, we will hear the story of the most significant moments in history: the birth of Jesus. God promised to send the Savior to rescue people from sin and death, and the time had finally come for Jesus to come to Earth. Jesus' birth is such good news! As we read our story today, we can rejoice that God sent His Son to save us!

Mary was engaged to Joseph. One day, an angel told Mary was going to have a very special baby. The angel explained, "This baby will be God's Son." Then an angel

appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife. Her baby was put there by the Holy Spirit. Name Him Jesus because He will save His people from their sins!” This was fantastic news! Jesus- God in the flesh- would come as a light into the dark world.

Mary and Joseph lived in the town of Nazareth. While Mary was pregnant, the Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus, announced that everyone needed to return to their own towns and be registered for a census. Since Joseph was a descendant of King David, he and Mary traveled to Bethlehem, the city of David.

While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. Mary and Joseph looked for a safe place to stay, but every place was full. So Mary and Joseph found a place where animals were kept, and that is where Mary had her baby. Joseph named Him Jesus. Mary wrapped the baby tightly in cloth and laid Him in a feeding trough.

The promised Savior had finally come, but He didn’t come in the way many people expected. He came as a baby, and He was born in a lowly manger. Jesus is special because He is God’s Son. Only Jesus is fully man and fully God. He had come to be the light of the world. Because of sin, we all live in darkness, but when you look to Jesus, the light of His salvation overcomes the darkness.

Re-tell the Bible Story: Have students re-tell the story as best they can.

Attributes of God: Use the attributes of God list and determine the characteristics of God that we see in today’s story. How can knowing these characteristics of God to be true change the way we live in Christ?

Share the GOSPEL: Even though people kept sinning and could not save themselves, He promised that a Savior would come to rescue them. Through the family of Abraham, God was working to send Jesus into the world so that all who believe in Him could be saved. Jesus is the Savior God promised long ago. He left heaven and was born a baby so that He could live a perfect life for us. He died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead. The birth of Jesus is good news because it meant that Jesus had come to save us from sin and death!

QUESTIONS TO REBUILD THE STORY

1. What does Micah 5:2 tell us about the Messiah?
2. Why were Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem?
3. Why was Jesus born where the animals were kept?
4. Why didn't God arrange for His Son to be born in a palace?
5. What does this tell us about God's plan for Jesus?
6. What are some ways Mary cared for baby Jesus?
7. Did you learn anything new or clear up any misconceptions about the Nativity story?
8. What made this baby special?
9. Why did the angel tell Joseph to name the baby Jesus?
10. Why was Jesus' birth good news?
11. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
12. What does the story teach me about myself?
13. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
14. Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
15. How does this story help me live on mission better?

PRAYER PROMPTS

Thank you for bringing the Old Testament to life in the New Testament! Thank you for the prophecies promised in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New Testament. Every word of the Bible was written to point us to You, Your truth, and Your salvation plan for mankind, and we are so thankful to see all of it revealed in Jesus! Help us to live in light of Your love for us!

MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

In December, we will collect money for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Students can put their donations in the giving funnel at the top of the lobby.

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

ATTENTIVE - God hears and responds to the needs of his children.

COMPASSIONATE - God cares for his children and acts on their behalf.

CREATOR - God made everything. He is uncreated.

DELIVERER - God rescues and saves his children.

ETERNAL - God is not limited by time. He exists outside of time.

FAITHFUL - God always keeps his promises.

GENEROUS - God gives what is best and beyond what is deserved.

GLORIOUS - God displays His greatness and worth.

GOOD - God is what is best and gives what is best. He is incapable of doing harm.

HOLY - God is perfect, pure, and without sin.

IMMUTABLE/UNCHANGING - God never changes. He is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

INCOMPREHENSIBLE - God is beyond our understanding. We can comprehend Him in part but not in whole.

INFINITE - God has not limits in His person or on His power.

JEALOUS - God will not share his glory with another. all glory rightfully belongs to him.

JUST - god is fair in all his actions and judgements. He cannot over-punish or under-punish.

LOVING - God feels and displays infinite, unconditional affection toward his children. His love for them does not depend on their worth, response, or merit.

MERCIFUL - God does not give his children the punishment they deserve.

OMNIPOTENT/ALMIGHTY - God holds all power. nothing is too hard for God. What He wills He can accomplish.

OMNIPRESENT - God is fully present everywhere.

OMNISCIENT - God knows everything, past, present, and future - all potential and real outcomes, all things micro and macro.

ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

PATIENT/LONG-SUFFERING - God is untiring and bears with His children.

PROVIDER - God meets the needs of his children.

REFUGE - God is a place of safety and protection for his children.

RIGHTEOUS - God is always good and right.

SELF-EXISTENT - God depends on nothing and no one to give him life or existence.

SELF-SUFFICIENT - God is not vulnerable. He has no needs.

SOVEREIGN - God does everything according to His plan and pleasure.

TRANSCENDENT - God is not like humans. He is infinitely higher in being and action.

TRUTHFUL - Whatever God speaks or does is truth and reality.

WISE - God knows what is best and acts accordingly. He cannot choose wrongly.

WORTHY - God deserves all glory and honor and praise.

WRATHFUL - God hates all unrighteousness.

Application Questions

LOOK UPWARD

- How does this story apply to your relationship with God?
- What does it teach you about Him- His will and His heart?

LOOK INWARD

- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself?

LOOK AROUND

- How does this story apply to your relationship with others?
- What does it teach you about how to see others and relate to them?
- What is God inviting you to do differently in your relationships?

LOOK OUTWARD

- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

LOOK FORWARD

- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?