

The Story of

CHRISTMAS

Date: 12.8.24 | Title: Jesus is Born! | Scripture: Luke 2:1-7

LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Middle School Students

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.

High School Students

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 is a righteous judge.

God sent Jesus to be the atonement for our sins.


Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecies and promises.

Jesus gave His life for us on the cross and He is the only way for salvation.



**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



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BACKGROUND INFO FOR LEADERS

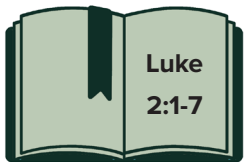
Several months after Gabriel's revelations as the time drew near for Jesus to be born, Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a mandatory Roman census must be taken. People were registered for the purpose of taxation. Because Joseph belongs to the house and royal line of King David, he must travel to Bethlehem, the town of David, and his ancestral home to register for the census. The OT 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, but the ultimate cause is the God who controls history and who guarantees that the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem in accordance with the OT prophecy. The town was crowded with the people registering for the census and there was no guest room 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.

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LOCATE THE SCRIPTURE & TELL THE STORY



**TELL
THE
STORY**



Today, we will hear the story about one of our greatest moments in history: when Jesus was born. 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!

Read directly from Scripture, use the message, or the summary provided in the lesson

Mary was engaged to be married 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 amazing news! Jesus- God in the flesh- would come as a light into the dark world.

Mary and Joseph lived in the town of Nazareth. During the 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.

Re-Tell

The Bible
Story

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.

Put the events in order, draw a comic strip, build it with blocks or playdough, act it out, etc...



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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: 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 through 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!

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“Storying” Questions: As you ask these questions, have your students find the answers in the actual verses of scripture instead of recalling them from your re-telling of the story. We always want to encourage all of our students to go directly to God’s Word over a commentary on or summary of scripture. Use the Bible Study Bookmark Questions as well as these questions to help students understand the text:

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 command 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?

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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.

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ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

OMNIPRESENT - God is fully present everywhere.

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

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.

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PRAYER PROMPTS

Thank you for bringing the OT to life in the NT! Thank you for the prophecies that are promised in the OT and are fulfilled in the NT. 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 that all revealed in Jesus! Help us to live in light of Your love for us!

IF TIME ALLOWS:

Help the students in your group practice memorizing the books of the Bible:

- Torah: Genesis-Deuteronomy
- History: Joshua-Esther
- Poetry: Job-Song of Solomon
- Major Prophets: Isaiah-Daniel
- Minor Prophets: Hosea-Malachi
- Gospels: Matthew-John
- Paul's Letters: Romans-Philemon
- General Letters: Hebrews-Revelation

Or play a game of Bible Trivia!

MISSIONS EMPHASIS:

For the month of December, we will be collecting money for the Lottie Moon Christmas offering. Students can put their donations in the giving funnel in the top of the lobby.

REVIEW UNIT VERSE:

Work on memorizing this weeks verse with the students in your group. You can use the first letter of each word in the verse to help with this. For example, the unit verse would look like this:

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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?
- What aspect of His character is He inviting you to experience and enjoy?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your relationship with God?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in your relationship with God?

LOOK INWARD

- How does this story apply to your heart and your own spiritual growth?
- What does it teach you about yourself, your needs, or your goals in life?
- In what aspects of your personal life is God inviting you to grow and mature?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story inwardly?
- How will those around you benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to allow these truths to help you grow spiritually?

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?

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Application Questions

LOOK OUTWARD

- How does this story apply to your ministry and mission in life- to your role in God's kingdom, in society, and in the world?
- What does it teach you about God's purposes for the world?
- What part of His mission is He inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit by applying the truths of this story in your ministry?
- How will the world benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to live out these truths in the world?

LOOK FORWARD

- How does this story apply to your future, both in this age and in eternity?
- What does it teach you about God's plan for your life, now and forever?
- What aspects of eternity is God inviting you to participate in?
- How will you benefit in the future by applying these truths now?
- How will God's kingdom benefit?
- What practical steps can you take to impact eternity now with these truths?