

The Birth of Christ

"The Stable"

Lessons from the Bible: Matthew 1:18-24 and Luke 2:1-7.

Optional items needed:

- "Jesus and Me" **See attached under activities. paper per child, pencils

INTRO:

"We will be learning about Jesus and when He was born. We will learn in the next few weeks that the wisemen and the shepherds came to visit Jesus. Today we are going to learn a little more about when Jesus was born. But first, we want to talk about when you were born." Give each child a **"Jesus and Me"** paper and a pencil. Go over the parts of the "Me" side with the children and have them write their answers on their paper. Have the children fill out the "Me" side only. They will do the "Jesus" side later.

Bible Lesson:

Read: The Action Bible – Pages 558 – 565 (Mary & Joseph and The Birth of a Saviour).

- Or -

Read: Matthew 1:18-24 aloud to the children. ¹⁸ *The mother of Jesus Christ was Mary. And this is how the birth of Jesus came about. Mary was engaged to marry Joseph. But before they married, she learned that she was going to have a baby. She was pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit.* ¹⁹ *Mary's husband, Joseph, was a good man. He did not want to disgrace her in public, so he planned to divorce her secretly.*

- Joseph finds out that Mary, the woman he's engaged to be married to, is pregnant and so he wants to divorce her. Back then, when you were engaged to someone, you were legally bound to them, just like today after you get married. He's a good guy, though, because he doesn't want to make a big deal out of it, so he was just going to divorce her quietly.

Read: ²⁰ *While Joseph thought about this, an angel of the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son. You will name the son Jesus.[Ⓜ] Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins."*

- Joseph finds out that the baby, that Mary is going to have, is from the Holy Spirit and is the Son of God. The angel told Joseph, in so many words, that he was to raise the Son of God!

Read: ²² *All this happened to make clear the full meaning of what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will be pregnant. She will have a son, and they will name him Immanuel."[Ⓜ] This name means "God is with us."*

- This whole thing was in God's plan. Jesus was fulfilling prophecy before He was even born.

Read: ²⁴ *When Joseph woke up, he did what the Lord's angel had told him to do. Joseph married Mary.*

- Joseph listened to the angel and believed what he was told. He decided not to divorce Mary.

Read Luke 2:1-7 - *At that time, Augustus Caesar sent an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that they must list their names in a register. ² This was the first registration[Ⓜ] taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And everyone went to their own towns to be registered.⁴ So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. This town was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David. ⁵ Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. (Mary was now pregnant.)*

- The man in charge, Caesar Augustus, wanted to know how many people he was in charge of. Caesar wanted to know how many people would be paying him taxes. Every man had to go, with his family, to his hometown to be counted. Joseph's family was from Bethlehem, so he traveled with Mary from Nazareth, where they lived, to Bethlehem. Mary was pregnant when they started the journey. They didn't have cars or planes. They did have a donkey and their own two feet to travel.

Read: ⁶ While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. ⁷ She gave birth to her first son. There were no rooms left in the inn. So she wrapped the baby with cloths and laid him in a box where animals are fed.

- They are in a strange place and Mary gives birth to the Son of God. The city is full because of the census. They have to stay in a stable because there is no other room available. A stable is like a barn. It's where animals were kept. He didn't have a crib. He was layed in a manger. A manger is like a trough where animals ate out of. **The Son of God, the greatest person to ever come to this earth, was born in the most humble of places.**

Discussion:

Ask the following questions, give the 2 answers and let the kids pick the correct one! *correct answer in bold

- What city was Jesus born in? **Jerusalem** or **Bethlehem?**
- How did Mary and Joseph get to Bethlehem? **By walking and riding a donkey?** -- or **Driving a taxi ?**
- Who told Joseph that the baby that Mary was going to have was from God? **An angel** or **Joseph's mother?**
- Who named Jesus? **The angel** or **Mary and Joseph?**
- What did Mary wrap Jesus in after he was born? **A cute little outfit she bought at Target** or **Swaddling cloths (or big strips of cloth)**
- What did Jesus sleep in? **A manger** or **A crib?**
- Why were they in a stable? – **They liked to be with animals** or **There was no room for them in the inn.**

Activity: "Jesus and Me" – Jesus' Birth

Have the children fill out the "Jesus" side of the paper.

Discuss the answers with the children.

Discuss the difference between their birth and Jesus' birth and how many things have changed.

If they had a choice, would they want to be born in Jesus' time or now?

Memory Verse: "For to us a child is born,
And He will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace".
Isaiah 9:6

Close in Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank You for giving us the gift of Jesus, the greatest Christmas gift of all. Please help me to remember why we celebrate. I am very thankful for the real reason for the season and, without Jesus, we wouldn't have Christmas! I love You and thank You for giving us this day!

In Jesus Name

Amen

Craft:

Joy to the World Christmas Ornaments

Provided by Oriental Trading Company



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Videos:

Here are 2 videos to help explain the story as well:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkEypzmHwCl>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3656G6tWuI>

Activity Sheets:

- Jesus & Me worksheet
- Nativity Coloring sheet

Feel free to take a picture of their art work or share how your activity went!
Post it on our Facebook page or share it on GroupMe. Have a Blessed Day &
Week! Until we can meet again

~ *Teacher Chrissy*

Thank you to <https://ministry-to-children.com/> for their resources and helping share the gospel with all children.

	Me	Jesus
City born in...		
Place born in... (type of building)		
Dressed in...		
Traveled by...		
Visited by...		
Presents received...		



“For unto us
a child is
born... .

**Isaiah
9:6 KJV**

...unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

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