

STORY

The Birth of Jesus - Luke 2:1-20

TEACHER PRAYER

O Lord, Dear Father in heaven, you have given us, who in no way deserved it, such an amazing gift, Your own Son, to be our Savior. His humble birth hides the grand and noble work You sent Him among us to do. This baby, Jesus, became our perfect Savior, although it meant He would leave the glories of heaven to live within the confines of the Law which we cannot keep and then would suffer the desolation and agony of hell and death instead of us. Help me, Oh Lord, to share the joy and amazement at this wondrous gift You have given to us. And grant that the peace through forgiveness in Jesus given for all of the world would come to each of our hearts in every season. In Jesus saving name, I pray. Amen.

VOCABULARY

Caesar Augustus - the Roman Emperor or ruler of the Roman Empire.

Quirinius or Cyrenius - this governor's name gives many people trouble.

host - a very large group or army, too many to count (of angels, people)

OUTER AIM

Jesus Our Savior is Born

INNER AIM

Jesus, the Promised Savior, is Born!

BACKGROUND

(Rupprecht Bible History References Vol. 2, pp. 23-34)

Galatians 4:4 - "When the fullness of the time was come (when everything was ready), God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, in order to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."

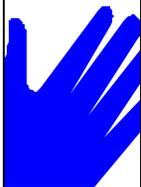
This sums up the plan and purpose of God in connection with the birth of Jesus. God arranged history so everything would be ready. The Jews no longer ruled themselves as God had prophesied (Genesis 49:10). So a Roman Emperor, looking for more taxes, served God's plan to have Joseph and Mary in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2) just in time for Jesus' birth. Joseph and Mary registered there because they were descendants of the family of King David. But the birth of the King of Kings was anything but royal.

There was no room in the inn, so Mary and Joseph found themselves in a stable, possibly a cave for the animals. Jesus' first bed was the feeding crib or manger. Jesus' humble birth was in keeping with His work as Messiah - not to rule as an earthly monarch, but to serve under God's law and to finally give His life as a ransom for all. Below are notes on each verse of the account:

Luke 2:1

- ▶ Caesar Augustus : the first Roman Emperor ruled from 27 BC to 14 AD.
- ▶ Registered :This was a census in the Roman empire to be sure nobody was overlooked in taxes.
- ▶ To do this, the people of Palestine returned to the city of their family or heritage where family records were kept.

v. 2



- ▶ Quirinius or Cyrenius: the Roman form and the Greek form of the name for the same man.
- ▶ He ruled over Syria including Palestine (twice) from 7-2 BC and again 6-9 AD.
- ▶ The census or registering took place during his first term in the office.
- ▶ (Note: We don't know the exact date of Jesus' birth, nor do we need to. The early church began celebrating Christmas in contrast with a Roman holiday which followed the shortest (darkest) day of the year - December 21.)

vs. 3-5

- ▶ Joseph also went up.: He traveled among crowds of people, each going to the city of his family to obey the command to be registered.
- ▶ Mary, his betrothed wife, also needed to be registered, so she went along despite her condition.

vs. 6-7

- ▶ Her firstborn son: Compare with Matt 1:25 (and the previous lesson) to recall the miracle within this simple, humble birth.
- ▶ Swaddling cloths: Strips of cloth wrapped securely around the Babe, as the angel had identified Jesus for the shepherds.

V. 8

- ▶ Shepherds living out in the fields: Shepherds protected their flocks by remaining in the fields with their sheep.
- ▶ These particular sheep were raised to be temple sacrifices.
- ▶ The lowly birth, matching the humble purpose of Jesus' coming, was first announced, not to royalty, but to rustic shepherds.

V. 9

- ▶ An angel of the Lord: The Lord's holy messenger produced fear in the hearts of these shepherds.

V. 10

- ▶ Do not be afraid: Perfect love casts out fear.
- ▶ The angels had Good News of God's love to bring,.
- ▶ which will be to all people: the tidings of great joy are not meant to be hoarded but shared and enjoyed by all people.

V. 11

- ▶ Born to you this day: The Savior of the world is born for you today.
- ▶ He is Christ, the long awaited Messiah, the Lord, who was promised to become your Savior.
- ▶ The most important news in all of history is brought first to humble shepherds.

V. 12

- ▶ Shall be a sign to you: The angels wanted the shepherds to see this great event for themselves, so they enabled them to find Jesus.

V. 13

- ▶ A multitude of the heavenly host: Countless angels of heaven filled the sky around these shepherds singing their praises of God.
- ▶ Amid the lowliness of Jesus' birth, the glory of His person shone through in the choir of angels that proclaimed Jesus' birth that night.

V. 14

- ▶ Glory to God: God's greatest glory is his working out our salvation by His grace.
- ▶ This salvation, the forgiveness of sins, alone brings peace to human hearts and reestablishes good will between God and mankind.
- ▶ Surely it is worth singing about!

V. 15

- ▶ Let us now go to Bethlehem and see: They wouldn't wait, but convinced each other to see the event announced by the angels on God's behalf.

V. 16

- ▶ And they came with haste: Their hurried search was rewarded with the joy of finding the Babe as the angels had said.

V. 17

- ▶ They made widely known: Probably for a long time to come they told people all about the angel's description of this one special child, for His coming was great news of joy for all Bible-believing people.

V. 18

- ▶ All of those who heard it marveled: The shepherds carried amazing news that caused everyone whom they told to be amazed.

V. 19

- ▶ But Mary: Mary stored all these events in her heart and thought about them over and over again as she discovered more and more about God's wonderful plan of Salvation through the baby Jesus.
- ▶ Surely the Lord had given her and gives us much to think about.

V. 20

- ▶ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God: They returned to their duties but with joy in their hearts which they gladly shared with others.

STUDENT PRAYER

O Lord, dear Father in heaven, though we did not deserve it, You gave us such an amazing gift, Your own Son, to be our Savior. His humble birth hides the grand and noble work You sent Him among us to do. Jesus became our perfect Savior. He left the glories of heaven to be born a human baby and to live within the confines of the Law which we cannot keep. Then He also suffered the desolation and agony of hell and death instead of us. Help me, Oh Lord, to know and to share the joy, the amazement, and the peace sent through this wondrous gift You have given to us. In Jesus' saving name, I pray. Amen.

PRESENTATION

You might begin the lesson by asking the students what is the first thing that comes to mind when they think about Christmas. Then move from there into the greatest gift given which is God's own Son our Savior. The real meaning of Christmas is God's undeserved gift of a Savior for us. It is a cause for amazement and joy because of the salvation and peace that Jesus brings.

APPLICATIONS

1. How do we express our joy at Christmas? We anticipate Christmas with Advent services and celebrate with special services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We decorate our homes and churches. We send religious cards sharing the message with family and friends.
2. Christmas decorations have a message. An evergreen tree signifies everlasting life, because it stays green through winter; the lights on the tree signify Jesus the light of the world and His children who are to share that light with the world. Giving gifts reminds us of the greatest gift ever given, Jesus, the Savior of the world.
3. The many outward customs of Christmas carry a danger. Our time, energy, thoughts, and finances can be soaked up by the outward festivities of Christmas, while our meditating on and rejoicing in the birth of

Jesus gets buried in the background. We want to make sure that our children realize that Christmas is not Santa Claus and exchanging presents but a very special time set aside for celebrating the greatest Gift of all.

4. We, too can be shepherds. The joy of Christmas is in the peace of conscience that God gives for all people through Jesus. The shepherds were the first Christian missionaries, telling what they had heard and seen concerning Jesus. We get the privilege of bringing this gift to others, too. May we share our joy as the shepherds did.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

Lower

Luke 2:11 - For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Titus 2:11 - For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

Middle any of the above and...

1 John 4:9-11 - In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Upper any of the above and...

Isaiah 9:6 - For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Micah 5:2 - But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.

Galatians 4:4-5 - But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

HYMN CHOICES

"From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" (TLH 85 1-4 and any other verses)

"A Great and Mighty Wonder" (TLH 76 1-4)

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" (TLH 94)

The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-20

The Story

Parents: Review this lesson with your child.

The time came for Jesus to be born on the earth. The Bible told that He would be born in Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph lived a long way away in Nazareth. What would happen? Listen to the Bible lesson from Luke 2.

The king wanted his people to pay taxes and be counted. People had to go to the city their family came from. Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem because they were from King David's family. Mary was about to have a Baby, but she needed to go along.

When Joseph and Mary got to Bethlehem, they couldn't find any room in the inn or hotel because there were so many people in the town. They had to stay where animals were kept. The time came for Jesus to be born. He was born in Bethlehem. Mary wrapped Jesus in strips of cloth and laid Him in a manger where hay for the animals was placed.

During the same night that Jesus was born, an angel came to shepherds. They were watching their sheep in the field. The angel said to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid, for I bring you good news of great joy. Today in Bethlehem a Savior, Christ the Lord, was born. You will find the Baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

Suddenly the sky was full of angels praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" Then the angels went away.

The shepherds said to each other, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this Baby."

So they hurried to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby Jesus Who was lying in the manger. There they worshiped the Savior of all people.

After they had seen Jesus they returned

to their sheep. They gave praise to God for sending the Savior Jesus. They also told other people about the wonderful Child they had seen. Those that heard it were surprised at what they had been told.

Mary thought about all that had happened and remembered it again and again.

Jesus our Savior is born.

Rejoice, your Savior is born!

Passage

"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Lk. 2:11

Hymn WS 709 v. 1, 3

God loves me dearly, grants me salvation:
God loves me dearly, loves even me.
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

He sent forth Jesus, my dear Redeemer;
He sent forth Jesus and set me free.
Therefore I'll say again: God loves me dearly,
God loves me dearly, loves even me.

Prayer

Dear God, Thank You for sending Your Son,
Jesus, to be my Savior. Amen.



Classroom Activity - Cut out the pictures from the top of page 3 and have the children glue them next to the sentence(s) that you read to them.

1. The king wanted to count his people. Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem.
2. Many other people had come to Bethlehem. The only place to stay was where the animals stayed.
3. While they were staying there, Mary had her Baby. Jesus was born! The only bed they had for Him was a manger.
4. The angels sang songs to the shepherds telling them about God's Son, our Savior.
5. The shepherds went to see the Baby Jesus. They found Him just as the angels told them. They worshiped Him.
6. After the shepherds saw Jesus, they praised God and told the people they met about Jesus!

1.

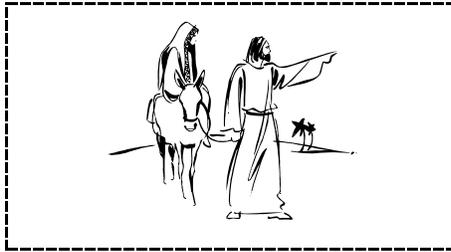
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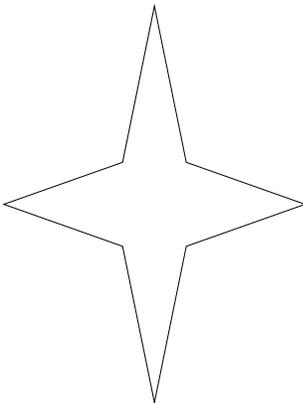
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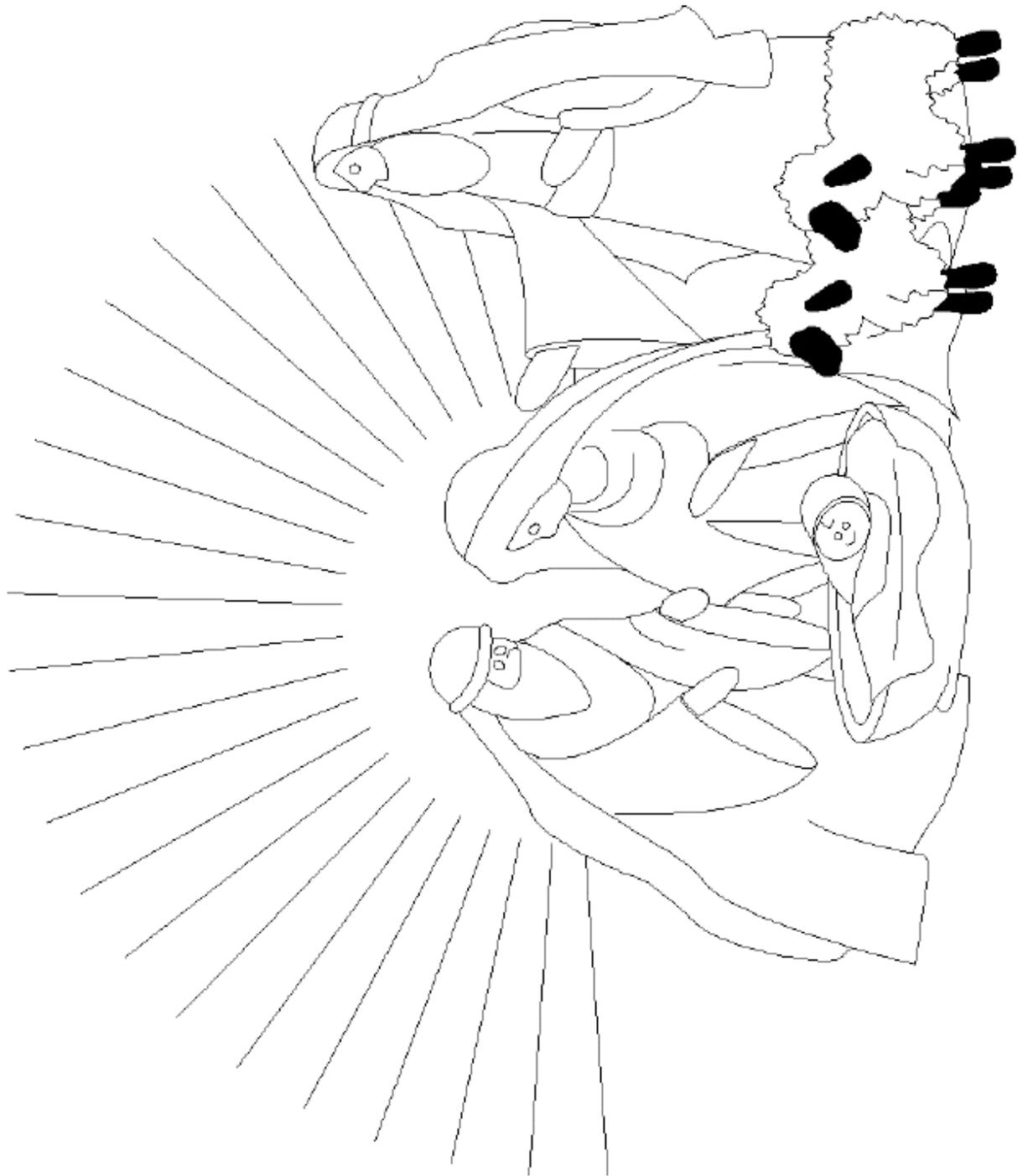
6.



Classroom Activity - Find an inexpensive nativity set for the children to arrange and use the time to discuss the people and items in the set. You may need to tell about the wise men and animals that may be included.

Classroom Art Activity - Color and decorate the nativity scene on page 4. Cut it out and glue it to a piece of dark construction paper. (You may choose to keep it whole and glue the popsicle sticks to page 4.) Glue 4 popsicle sticks over the scene as shown and glue the star above in the sky or make a glitter glue star.







The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-20



The Story

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The king wanted his people to pay taxes and be counted. People had to go to the city their family came from. Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem because they were from King David's family. Mary was about to have a Baby, but she needed to go also.

When Joseph and Mary got to Bethlehem, they couldn't find any room in the inn or hotel because there were so many people in the town. They had to stay where animals were kept. The time came for Jesus to be born. He was born in Bethlehem. Mary wrapped Jesus in strips of cloth and placed Him in a manger where hay for the animals was laid.

During the same night that Jesus was born, an angel came to shepherds. They were watching their sheep in the field. The angel said to the shepherds, "Do not be

afraid, for I bring you good news of great joy. Today in Bethlehem a Savior, Christ the Lord, was born. You will find the Baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

Suddenly the sky was full of angels praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" Then the angels went away.

The shepherds said to each other, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this Baby."

So they hurried to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby Jesus Who was lying in the manger. There they worshiped the Savior of all people.

After they had seen Jesus they returned to their sheep. They gave praise to God for sending the Savior Jesus. They also told other people about the wonderful Child they had seen. Those that heard it were surprised at what they had been told.

Mary thought about all that had happened and remembered it again and again.

Jesus our Savior is born.

Rejoice, your Savior is born!

Activity One - Cut out the pictures from the bottom of page 4 and glue them next to the sentence(s) that tells about the picture.

1. The king wanted to count his people. Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem.
2. Many other people had come to Bethlehem. The only place to stay was where the animals stayed.
3. While they were staying there Mary had her Baby. Jesus was born! The only bed they had for Him was a manger.
4. The angels sang songs to the shepherds telling them about God's Son, our Savior.
5. The shepherds went to see the Baby Jesus. They found Him just as the angels told them. They worshiped Him.
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1.

2.

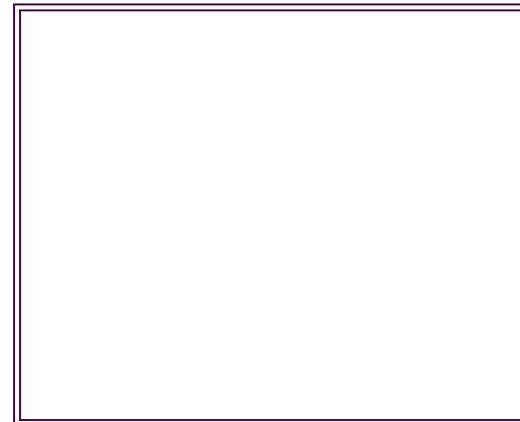
3.

4.

5.

6.

Activity Two - Draw a picture of yourself in the box to make the sentence complete.

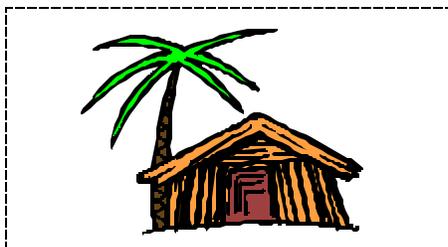


Jesus came to earth for everyone! Each one of us is precious to Him.
He wants us all to believe in Him so we can someday live with Him in heaven.

**“For there is born to you (_____ (your name))
this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”
Luke 2:11**

Prayer

Dear God, Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to be my Savior. Amen.



The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-20



The Story

The time came for Jesus to be born on the earth. The Bible told that He would be born in Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph lived a long ways away in Nazareth. What would happen? Listen to the Bible lesson from Luke 2.

The king wanted his people to pay taxes and be counted. They had to go to the city of their family. Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem because they were from King David's family. Mary was about to have a Baby, but she needed to go also.

There were so many people in Bethlehem that no room in the inn or hotel was found for Joseph and Mary. They had to stay where animals were kept. The time came for Jesus to be born. He was born in Bethlehem. Mary wrapped Jesus in strips of cloth and placed Him in a manger where hay for the animals was laid.

That same night Jesus was born, an angel came to shepherds who were watching their sheep in the field. The angel said, "Do not be

afraid, for I bring you good news of great joy. Today in Bethlehem a Savior, Christ the Lord, was born. You will find the Baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

Suddenly the sky was full of angels praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" Then the angels went away.

The shepherds said to each other, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this Baby."

So they hurried to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the Baby Jesus Who was lying in the manger. There they worshiped the Savior of all people.

After they had seen Jesus they returned to their sheep. They gave praise to God for sending the Savior Jesus. They also told other people about the wonderful Child they had seen. Those that heard it were surprised at what they had been told.

Mary thought about all that had happened and remembered it again and again.

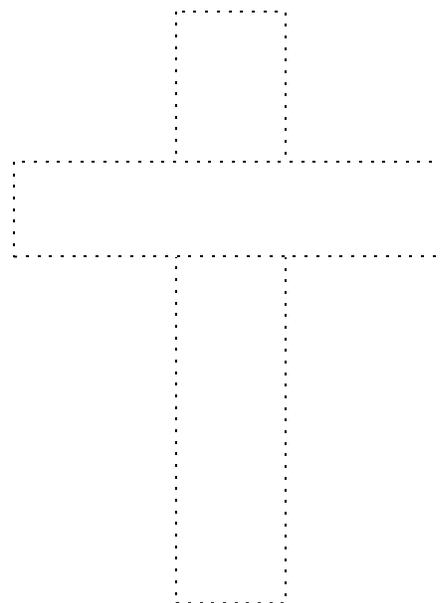
Jesus our Savior is born.

Rejoice, your Savior is born!

Activity One - If the following sentences are correct, write YES in the blank. If they are not correct, write NO in the blank.

1. _____ Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem.
2. _____ They got to stay at a fancy hotel.
3. _____ Jesus was born in a hospital.
4. _____ The shepherds were watching their sheep.
5. _____ The angels told them that Jesus was born!
6. _____ The shepherds went to see Jesus after a few days.
7. _____ The shepherds kept Jesus' birth a secret.
8. _____ Mary knew that Jesus was very special.

Activity Two - Many people give gifts at Christmas, but God gave us a Christmas present that is more special than any that we have ever been given. Trace over the dots and then color the symbol meaning that gift.



Passage - Fill in the blanks of this passage with the words from the box.

you	Lord	born	Christ	day	Savior	city
-----	------	------	--------	-----	--------	------

"For there is _____ to _____ this _____
in the _____ of David, a _____, who is
_____ the _____." Luke 2:11

Prayer/Hymn - TLH #85 v. 2, 13

"This is the Christ, our God and Lord,
Who in all need shall aid afford;
He will Himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.

Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Make Thee a bed, soft, undefiled,
Within my heart, that it may be
A quiet chamber kept for Thee. Amen.

The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-20

What might be inside these gifts?

- Is it something to use, or a keepsake?
- Is it something needed, or just wanted?
- Is it for one person or to be shared?

What other types of gifts are there?

Today we will learn about the best Gift ever.



Prayer

Dear God,

There are, indeed, many kinds of gifts. We ask that You would be with us today as we consider the very special gift You gave all people through Your Son, Jesus. Amen.

The Story - Luke 2:1-20

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. {2} This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria.

{3} So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. {4} Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, {5} to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

{6} So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. {7} And she brought

forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

{8} Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. {9} And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

{10} Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. {11} "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. {12} "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a



Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths,
lying in a manger."

{13} And suddenly there was with
the angel a multitude of the heavenly
host praising God and saying: {14}
"Glory to God in the highest, And on
earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

{15} So it was, when the angels
had gone away from them into
heaven, that the shepherds said to one
another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem
and see this thing that has come to
pass, which the Lord has made known
to us."

{16} And they came with haste

and found Mary and Joseph, and the
Babe lying in a manger. {17} Now when
they had seen Him, they made widely
known the saying which was told them
concerning this Child. {18} And all those
who heard it marveled at those things
which were told them by the
shepherds.

{19} But Mary kept all these things
and pondered them in her heart. {20}
Then the shepherds returned, glorifying
and praising God for all the things that
they had heard and seen, as it was told
them.

What the Story Tells Us - You have been asked to tell some people about the birth of Jesus - but you can only use 5 sentences to tell the story. Write here the 5 sentences you would use.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Outer Aim - Jesus our Savior is born.

What God's Word Tells Us - Speaking of Gifts... Look at the following passages. What are some of the other gifts God has given His people? Highlight or underline the gifts in the passages.

Genesis 1:1 - In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

I Corinthians 11:23-26 - For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.

Galatians 4:4-5 - But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Isaiah 40:8 - The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever."

Ephesians 4:11-12 - And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

Romans 6:3 - Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

Inner Aim - Jesus, the Promised Savior, is Born!

Passages

Luke 2:11 - For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Titus 2:11 - For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.

Isaiah 9:6 - For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Hymn Study - Use Hymn #85 "From Heaven Above To Earth I Come" vs. 1-4 to answer the following.

"From heav'n above to earth I come
To bear good news to ev'ry home;
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
Whereof I now will say and sing:

"This is the Christ, our God and Lord,
Who in all need shall aid afford;
He will Himself your Savior be
From all your sins to set you free.

"To you this night is born a child
Of Mary, chosen virgin mild;
This little child, of lowly birth,
Shall be the joy of all the earth.

"He will on you the gifts bestow
Prepared by God for all below,
That in His kingdom, bright and fair,
You may with us His glory share.

1. Who is speaking in verse 1?
2. Which words of verse 2 describe Jesus' mother?
3. Why would this child be the joy of all the earth?
4. Verse 3 says "who in all need shall aid afford". Can you give some examples from your life of times that Jesus has helped you?
5. How would Jesus set us free from sin? (verse 3)
6. What is the ultimate Christmas gift? (verse 4)

Prayer

My heart for very joy doth leap,
My lips no more can silence keep;
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradle-song:

Glory to God in highest heaven,
Who unto us His Son hath given!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.
Amen.

The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-20

What type of person do these words signify?

We know these are, in fact, names for Jesus. Our glorious Savior was born in the most humble of conditions.

Why was it so important for God's Son to become a lowly human rather than someone with a higher social standing?

Wonderful
Counselor
Mighty God
Everlasting
Father

Prayer

Dear Lord, As we study today about the great sacrifices You made for us by coming to earth as a Baby, open our hearts that they may be filled with awe at the extreme love You have for us. Amen.

The Story - Luke 2:1-20

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{3} So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. {4} Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, {5} to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.

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firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

{8} Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. {9} And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.

{10} Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. {11} "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is



Christ the Lord. {12} "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

{13} And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: {14} "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

{15} So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."

{16} And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. {17} Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. {18} And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

{19} But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. {20} Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

Review - How did God use each of the following people in the working of His plan for our salvation in today's story?

1. Cyrenius
2. Joseph
3. Mary
4. Jesus
5. angels
6. shepherds

Outer Aim

Jesus our Savior is born.

Matching Opposites - The story of Jesus' birth is one that goes beyond our comprehension. God and man are so different that to understand how Jesus is God and man is difficult, even impossible for us. Draw a line matching the opposites listed below.

Jesus lived in heaven.●

Jesus sat at God's right hand. ●

Shepherds watched the flock of sacrificial lambs.●

Jesus has all power in heaven and earth.●

Jesus is our King.●

● Shepherds went to see our Sacrificial Lamb.

● Jesus came to earth.

● He came as a servant.

● He lay in a feeding trough.

● He came as a helpless baby.

Passages - What other contrasts do we see in these references?

Micah 5:2

Galatians 4:4-5

Hymn #76

Inner Aim

Jesus, the Promised Savior, is born!

Closing Prayer

Come, Desire of nations, come,
Fix in us Thy humble home;
Oh, to all Thyself impart,
Formed in each believing heart!

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!"
Thank you, Jesus, for taking my place.
Amen.