

BIRTH OF JESUS

Matthew 1:18–2:23; Luke 1:26–2:20



BIBLE VERSE COMMITTING TO MEMORY

Luke 2:11

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.



September 4, 2011



STORY LESSON BIBLE STORY

A young woman named Mary was chosen to carry the Christ-child. An angel appeared to her and revealed the news. This messenger instructed the teenager to name her son, Jesus. Mary, however, was pledged to be married to Joseph from Nazareth. Seeing as how a virgin should not be with child, Joseph was going to quietly break up with her. An angel then appeared to Joseph and relayed the news to him about the child. Joseph immediately understood and obeyed the Lord's command.



A royal decree went out that all the known world was to be taxed. Everyone had to go to their place of birth and register and pay the taxes. Joseph was born in Bethlehem, the city of David, so he and Mary made their way to this small town. Mary was about ready to have the baby. When they got to Bethlehem all the rooms were filled up—no sleeping places were available! An animal stable was offered to them and they took it. That is where the God-man was born, amidst the animals he created. He was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger.



Meanwhile, an angel task force was sent to the nearby shepherd offices to spread the good news (gospel) about the Christ-child. The shepherds were blown away by the dazzling array of heavenly host



singing and giving praise to God. The shepherds then made their way to the stable where Jesus was and they bowed down and worshiped him. They also spread the news to others concerning the child and the people were amazed!

Mary and Joseph marveled at the events surrounding the birth of this miraculous child. They named him Jesus just as the angel had instructed them.

Wise men from the east were following a star that had appeared to them. They stopped in Jerusalem and asked King Herod where the king of the Jews was to be born. King Herod was disturbed and placed an inquiry into the prophet's accounts surrounding the birth of the Christ-child. He found out: Bethlehem in Judea.

So the wise men proceeded towards this tiny town with a special request from Herod: "When you find this king, let me know so I can go and worship him." The magi arrived in Bethlehem, found Jesus, bowed down before him and worshiped him. They presented him with gifts: gold, incense, and myrrh. And then they left. The wise men took a different way home because they had been warned in a dream not to go tell Herod about the Christ-child. This infuriated Herod, who then took it upon himself to have all the baby boys in the area of Bethlehem killed who were two years or younger.



Meanwhile, Joseph and Mary and the baby Jesus fled to Egypt. They came back to Nazareth when they were told by an angel that it was safe.

"And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him" (Luke 2:40).





LIFE APPLICATION

MAKING IT REAL

Divine Intervention

I find it interesting that God picked a couple of teenagers to handle this important task of birthing and raising the Christ-child. It is neat that an angel appeared to Mary to impart this divine selection of her to carry this special baby as well as her betrothed husband, Joseph, who was gently informed by another angel what was really going on with Mary's pregnancy. God spoke to them loudly and clearly, and these two young people humbly obeyed. Does God intervene today? Does He send angels to deliver messages? Does God speak loudly and clearly more than just with Mary and Joseph? The answer is ABSOLUTELY, however, God chooses to use a variety of ways and means to accomplish His communication. Let's talk about some of the different ways He uses...

Insignificant Events can often have a lot of Significance

Sometimes it is not the big, flashy things that happen in life are the things to get excited about. Rather, maybe it is the simple, often insignificant things which are the most significant in light of eternity. I know that I often argue with my wife about having something my way at the moment, only later to realize that that little thing did not really matter at all. Maybe being nice to someone that others are mean to may seem really insignificant to you, but that is REALLY significant to the person you were nice to. That is how we impact and change our world: bringing significance to seemingly insignificant tasks.



QUESTIONS

REMEMBERING

- 1. Who did God choose to be the "mother" of Jesus?** Mary
- 2. Who was Mary betrothed or engaged to?** Joseph
- 3. What name was Mary and Joseph supposed to give to the baby?** Immanuel
- 4. What city did Mary and Joseph have to travel to?** Bethlehem
- 5. Who came to visit Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus?** shepherds and wise men
- 6. Who announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds?** A lot of ANGELS, a heavenly host



COLORING SHEET

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