

Bible Insert for Leader - Bible Story

The Christmas Story

(BIBLE STORY: Matthew 1-2, Luke 1-2)

Introduction

- God created the whole universe and everything in it. He created Adam and Eve so He could have a relationship with them. But because of Adam and Eve's sin, they and everyone after them would be separated from God. However, God's love for us was so great that He was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice so we could receive forgiveness for our sin. God put His plan into motion.
- God the Father would send Jesus, His only Son, to come to earth. He would come as a baby but grow into a man who would die to take the punishment for all sins.

Story

- In preparation for Jesus' coming to earth, God sent a messenger angel to a young woman named Mary. The angel told Mary she was going to have a special baby – not just any baby, but God the Son. He was the Messiah and was coming to pay the price for sin. But Mary was confused because she was not yet married to Joseph and had never been with a man. The angel told her, "Nothing is impossible with God." So even though Mary didn't understand, she said she would do whatever God wanted her to do.
- Joseph did not understand either how Mary could be having a baby without them being married yet. He thought she had been with another man, so he decided to break up with Mary. But he wanted to do it quietly so it wouldn't cause trouble for Mary. But then God sent an angel to Joseph to tell him He wanted Joseph to take Mary as his wife and that the baby was to be named Jesus. God told Joseph that the baby would be the Savior Who would take the punishment for sin for the world.
- So Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem. When they arrived, Mary was ready to have the baby, but they were told there was no

room for them in the inn. So they found a place to stay with the animals instead. Jesus, the King of Kings, left beautiful, perfect Heaven and was born in a manger that held hay for the animals to eat!

- When Jesus was born, an angel appeared to some shepherds who were watching over their sheep that night in the fields and told them about Jesus. At first the shepherds were afraid of the angel, but then they hurried to Bethlehem to see Jesus for themselves and worship Him. They followed the star to the stable and found Mary and Joseph holding a newborn baby. The angel was right – before them was the Messiah, the promised Savior! They bowed and worshiped Him.
- After a time, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple where they met a man named Simeon. God had told him he would see the Messiah before he died. When Simeon saw Jesus, he knew God had kept His promise.
- Later, when Jesus was about two years old, wise men from far away came to see Jesus. They followed the star to where Jesus was. They brought Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These were valuable gifts but small in comparison to the incredible gift of forgiveness Jesus would bring. They bowed before Jesus and worshiped Him because they knew He was the Son of God.
- Mary kept the words she heard and the things she saw as treasured memories. She believed God and waited to see what He would do through Jesus.

Conclusion

- God knew that only someone who was perfect could pay the punishment for sin. But no one on earth was perfect. So God sent His Son Jesus, Who had never sinned, to pay the price for our sin. Jesus came to earth as a baby, to live a perfect life, die on the cross for our sin, and rise from the dead to offer us the greatest gift we could ever receive – salvation! This is why we celebrate Christmas – to remember all that Jesus came to do for us!

Bible Insert for Leader - Challenge

Introduction

- In our Bible Story, we learned that God's love for us was so great that He chose to send His one and only Son to pay the price for our sins so we could receive forgiveness. Jesus came to earth as a baby and grew into a man. He experienced all the temptations, feelings, and heartaches we experience; yet He never sinned. Christmas is about Jesus because He gave His life so we could receive forgiveness for our sin and no longer be separated from God.

Key Points

Sin separates us from God!

- Sin is anything we think, say, or do that breaks God's Law. Whether you tell a lie, steal a toy, or think about how to steal a toy, they are all sin.
- The Bible tells us that what we deserve for sin is death. Romans 6:23a, "For the wages of sin is death."
- We don't immediately die when we sin. When it says the wages or punishment for sin is death, it means that after our bodies die, we will be separated from God forever and will not spend eternity with Him in Heaven. It also means that here on earth we can't have a relationship with God because our sin separates us from Him.

God has a gift to give us!

- The greatest gift we could ever receive is forgiveness for our sin and eternal life. This gift is freely given to everyone who accepts it.
- We don't deserve this gift! We are all sinners and deserve to be separated from God (Romans 3:23).
- There is nothing we can do to earn this gift of forgiveness for our sins.
- Ephesians 2:8-9, "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."

Jesus is our solution!

- We can receive forgiveness for our sins only through Jesus Christ, because He paid the price for our sins when He died on the cross.
- To receive this gift, we must admit our sins and ask Jesus to be the Lord of our lives. When we do that, all our sins—past, present, and future—are forgiven (1 John 1:9).
- Romans 6:23b, "But the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Conclusion

- We celebrate Christmas because of Jesus. We are so thankful that He came and was born in a manger, that He paid the ultimate price by dying on the cross so we could be forgiven of our sins. There is no greater gift that we can receive. There is no one who loves us more! This Christmas, let's remember that it is all about Jesus!

Invitation

For the unsaved child:

- Do you know the real reason we celebrate Christmas? God sent His Son to die on the cross so that you could receive forgiveness for your sins.
- We have all sinned, and sin separates us from God (Romans 6:23a). Sin is anything we think, say, or do that breaks God's Law. Jesus paid the price for our sin; He became our Substitute (2 Corinthians 5:21).
- Invite the children to stay behind and talk to a leader if they have any questions or would like to ask Jesus to forgive their sins and be the Lord of their lives.

For the saved child:

- Are you allowing other things to be more important this Christmas? Are you putting Jesus first this Christmas?
- Encourage children to stay behind and talk to a leader if they have any questions.