



SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT AND STUDY GUIDE

Date: Sunday, December 18, 2022

Lesson Title: The Birth of Jesus

Instructions for This Week:

- 1. Take this week to study your Sunday School lesson prior to coming to class.**
- 2. Do the homework assignments throughout this study guide.**
- 3. Bring the study guide along with your answers to class.**

See you there!

Key Scriptures:

- Read Matthew 1:18-25**
 - Read Matthew 2:1-11**
 - Read Luke 2:1-20**
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What Does Christmas Mean To You?

What do you think about when you think about Christmas? Would it be families gathering together? Gifts? Food? Decorations? Does your family have Christmas traditions? Well, all those things are nice, but let's talk about what Christmas is really all about.

The reason we have Christmas is to celebrate Jesus' birthday!

Why We Needed A Savior

Many years had passed since the prophets had foretold that the Savior of the world would come. Men had abandoned God's ways. And the world was growing more and more evil. The time had come for God to send His son to earth to rescue us from sin and bondage.

Assignment:

1. List one reason that we needed a Savior.
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The Promise Of The Saving King

Years ago in the days when Herod was King of Judea, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. Gabriel gave Mary a message from God that a child would be born unto her. This message was surprising to Mary but she was attentive and obedient. Angel Gabriel informed Mary that she was to name the child Jesus for He would save the people from their sins. And Mary said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And the angel departed from her.

Mary who was engaged to her soon-to-be husband Joseph was surprised and confused about how a child of God would be born to her. When she told Joseph, he did not believe Mary's story. He was confused and hurt. "How can this be true?" Joseph was also concerned that Mary was going to have a baby before their marriage had taken place.

At night Joseph thought to divorce Mary quietly. But then an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and assured Joseph that the child in Mary's womb was the Son of God who would save the people from their sin. The

angel told Joseph to take Mary as his wife and name the child Jesus. When Joseph awoke from his dream, he did all the angel commanded.

Assignment:

1. What did Joseph want to do when he first found out that Mary was pregnant?

2. What happened when Joseph heard from the angel concerning Mary's pregnancy?

No Room in the Inn

A long time ago, the Roman Emperor, Caesar Augustus, wanted to count how many people were in his kingdom. So, he made everyone go back to where their family was originally from to be counted there. Well, since Joseph was the great-great-great-great-great-grandson of the Kings of Israel, he had to go back to the town of Bethlehem to be counted. That's where King David was from before he became king. And Joseph had to take his family with him, so that meant Mary had to go too, even though she was pregnant.

Joseph took the pregnant Mary and traveled on a donkey for several days. Soon they arrived in Bethlehem and looked for a place to stay but they were told that the inns were full – as many traveled there for the census.

Assignment:

1. Why did Mary and Joseph have to go back to Bethlehem?

Mary Gives Birth

Seeing that Mary was due any moment, an owner of the inn told Joseph that they could stay in his stable - a place where animals were kept. There was probably fresh hay on the floor that they used for beds.

There, Mary gave birth to Jesus. Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem. Baby Jesus was laid in a manger which is an animal's trough. Now when Jesus was born, a brand-new bright star appeared in the sky.

Assignment:

1. What appeared in the sky when Jesus was born?

Shepherds Visit Jesus

That night, some shepherds were in the fields near Bethlehem, keeping watch over their flocks of sheep. An angel appeared to them and gave them the good news that a Savior, Jesus had been born. The angel told the shepherds they could find Jesus lying in a manger. Suddenly a whole group of angels appeared saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

The shepherds hurried into Bethlehem and found Jesus in the manger, just as the angel had told them. After they had seen Jesus, they spread the news, and everyone who heard was astonished.

Assignment:

1. What was the good news that the shepherds heard in this story?

2. And what did the shepherds do when they heard the good news from the angel that Jesus had been born?

3. Then, after the shepherds saw Jesus, what did they do?

Wise Men Visit Jesus

Sometime later, wise men saw the shining star in the sky that signaled the birth of Jesus. They came to Judea, the region around Jerusalem and Bethlehem, to worship Jesus, the newborn King.

A man named Herod was the King of Judea. He called the wise men to a meeting and told them to find the new king so he could go and worship Him, too.

The wise men continued on to Bethlehem and followed the star until it was directly above the house where Jesus was. They found Mary and Jesus in the house and knelt down to worship Him. They brought Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, some of the finest things in the ancient world. The gold was given to recognize Him as royalty. Frankincense was a type of incense used in temple worship, and was mixed with the oil used to anoint priests. This was given to Jesus to recognize Him as our High Priest. Lastly, myrrh was an expensive perfume used as a medicinal agent and also to prepare bodies for burial. This was given to Him to recognize the manner in which He would save us. He died for us.

After visiting Jesus, the wise men had a dream that warned them not to go back to King Herod, so they took a different route home.

Assignment:

1. What gifts did the wise men bring to Jesus?
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Journey to Egypt

King Herod lied when he told the wise men he wanted to worship Jesus. He was afraid this new "king" would replace him as king of Judea. He did not understand that Jesus would grow up to be king of God's spiritual kingdom, not King of Judea.

What Herod really wanted was to find Jesus and kill Him! Herod was furious when he realized the wise men had not come back to tell him where to find Jesus. He sent his soldiers to Bethlehem to kill all the children under two years old, thinking Jesus would certainly be one of the ones killed.

But God had told Joseph in a dream to flee to Egypt. Joseph took Mary and Jesus to live in Egypt where they would be safe from Herod. Joseph, Mary and Jesus stayed in Egypt until Herod died, and then they returned to Nazareth.

Assignment:

1. What were King Herod's actual intentions when he sent the wise men to find baby Jesus?
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We don't know the exact month that Jesus was born, but universally, we celebrate His birth yearly at Christmas time. Baby Jesus, the Son of God came to save us. Let's celebrate our Savior!