



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH – PART 2 OF 3

Series Title: A Savior Is Born

Lesson Title: The Birth of Jesus

Key Scriptures: Matthew 1:18-25, Matthew 2:1-11, Luke 2:1-20

Homework Instructions: This series will cover three weeks of lessons for the month of December (December 3rd, 10th and 17th) and includes homework for each week.

You should complete the homework assignment for each week before class. However, you are welcome to go ahead and complete all homework assignments in advance if you would like to.

Lesson Overview

In this lesson, we'll learn about the birth of Jesus and events surrounding Jesus' birth. If you have not done so already, read the Key Scriptures so that you can have the context and perspective to best understand the Sunday School Lesson.

This week we will cover:

1. **No Room In The Inn**
2. **Mary Gives Birth**
3. **Shepherds Visit Jesus**
4. **Wise Men Visit Jesus**
5. **Wise Men Still Seek Him**
6. **Journey to Egypt**

The Birth of Jesus

1. 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 and Mary traveled 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.

2. 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, in a stable in Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to Jesus. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. Wise Men Still Seek Him

We can learn a lot from the wise men who sought Jesus 2,000 years ago. In fact, those who are wise in this day and age still seek Him! Now, we aren't looking for a baby in a manger – we seek the Lord, the risen King, because we need Him in every aspect of our lives!

Matthew 6 paints a vivid picture in verses 25-33. He says, more than life, more than food, more than clothing, we should **seek first the kingdom of**

God and His righteousness. Acts 17:28 says, “For in him we live, and move, and have our being...” and Colossians 3:3 reminds us that our “...life is hid with Christ in God.” Our very life is in Christ! We abide in Him and He in us – we have to seek Him in order to do the things He is calling us to do and to be who He is calling us to be.

We seek Him in prayer and our personal devotions, by coming to church to hear the teaching of the Word of God in our Worship Services and Bible Teaching, by attending Life Group events and other church events and services. We can see that God values those who diligently seek Him - Hebrews 11:6 lets us know that they will get a reward!

“...he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

6. 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10th – PART 2 OF 3

The Birth of Jesus

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

2. **Circle the Correct Answer.** What appeared in the sky when Jesus was born?

- a. Thunder and lightning
- b. Searchlights
- c. A brand-new, bright star
- d. Clouds

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

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

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

6. **Circle the Correct Answer.** What gifts did the wise men bring to Jesus?

- a. Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh
- b. A puppy
- c. Fruits and Nuts

d. Chocolate

7. Write out the scripture - Matthew 6:33

8. How do we know that God values those who diligently seek Him?

9. What were King Herod's actual intentions when he sent the wise men to find baby Jesus?

10. **Circle the Correct Answer.** What were King Herod's actual intentions when he sent the wise men to find baby Jesus?

- a. To hug him
- b. To kill him
- c. To anoint him
- d. To feed him