



SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Sunday, December 1, 2024

Series Title: The King is Coming!

Lesson Title: The Birth of Jesus

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

Introduction

The Christmas season is a wonderful time of year – especially for Christians! It's a time for us to reflect on the great love that God has for us – a love so great that it moved Him to send His only begotten Son to die to save us from our sins. Christmas is also a time when we give and receive gifts – but just understand that when you are in Christ, you've already received the greatest gift of all – salvation! Let's talk about how God's plan to save us unfolded more than 2,000 years ago in a town called Nazareth.

The Promise of a Savior 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. 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 him 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.

The Birth of Jesus

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.

Mary Gives Birth

Seeing that Mary was due at 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.

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 saw Jesus, they spread the news, and everyone who heard was astonished.

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.

Journey to Egypt

King Herod lied when he told the wise men he wanted to worship Jesus. What Herod really wanted was to find Jesus and kill Him! He was afraid this new "king" would replace him as king of Judea. He did not understand that Jesus would grow up to be so much more than the King of Judea – He would be the King of Kings, Ruler of God's spiritual kingdom.

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.

Name: _____

**SUNDAY SCHOOL HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024**

The Promise of a Savior King

1. **Circle the correct answer** – Which angel did God send to let Mary know that she would have a child?
 - a. Tyrone
 - b. Lucifer
 - c. Angela
 - d. Gabriel

2. **True or False** – When Mary told her soon-to-be-husband Joseph that she was going to have a child by the Holy Spirit, he believed her right away.
 - a. True
 - b. False

No Room in the Inn

3. **Answer the question** – Why did Mary and Joseph have to go to Bethlehem?
 - a. Mary forgot something
 - b. Joseph wanted to visit his relatives
 - c. They did not go to Bethlehem
 - d. To be counted in the census

Mary Gives Birth

4. **Circle the correct answer** – According to Matthew 2:2, what appeared in the sky when Jesus was born?
 - a. Thunder and lightning
 - b. Searchlights
 - c. A brand-new star
 - d. Clouds

Shepherds Visit Jesus

5. **Answer the question** – What was the good news that the shepherds heard in this story?

6. **Circle the correct answer** – What did the shepherds do after they went to Bethlehem to see baby Jesus?

- a. They went shopping
- b. They shared the good news of Jesus' birth
- c. Nothing
- d. They made a birthday cake

Wise Men Visit Jesus

7. **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

8. **Circle the correct answer** – Which gift from the wise men was given to recognize Jesus' royalty?

- a. A puppy
- b. Gold
- c. Fruits and Nuts
- d. Chocolate

Journey to Egypt

9. **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 anoint him
- c. To kill him
- d. To feed him

10. **Circle the correct answer** – Where did Joseph take his family to hide from King Herod?

- a. Ireland
- b. Japan
- c. Egypt
- d. England