

THE BIRTHDAY

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

Lesson Focus: God's plan for Jesus' birth

Memory Verse: Luke 2:10-11 *"Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord."*

Activities and Crafts: Coloring picture of Angel's announcement, Word Search of different terms from lesson.

Craft for 1st and 2nd Graders: Make a birth announcement for Jesus (Color a picture on the back of the post card the announcement of the angels to the shepherds)

Introduction:

Birthday Quiz:

Everyone has a birthday - the day they were born.
 What is so special about birthdays?
 Why do you like your birthday?

Let's see how much you know about birthdays?

1. Which month has the fewest birthdays?
(February)
2. Which month has the most Birthdays?
(September)
3. How many people are born a day worldwide?
(385,000 each day)
4. What is the rarest birthday day?
(Christmas day)
5. How do the English Royals announce a birth of a child?
(Royal births are announced by an official royal notice place on a golden easel.)
6. How did your parents announce your birth?
7. Where were you born?

Your birthday is special - because it is the day you were born. Most parents let people know by calling with the news that their baby is finally here! Today we are going to look at the Bible and see how God announced the birth of Jesus Christ.

Bible Study:

Luke 2:1-5: Birth Place:

Luke 2:1-2:

What is a decree? (a proclamation - an order to obey)

Who gave the order? (Caesar - ruler of Rome)

What was the order? (that everyone would be registered or counted)

To register or count everyone is called a census.

Luke 2:3-4:

Everyone had to go to the city of their family.

What city did Joseph go to? (Bethlehem)

Do you think that the following two things are important?

1. Is it important that they went to Bethlehem?
2. Is it important that Joseph is from the family of King David?

Both of these things are VERY important.

Bethlehem - fulfills prophecy from Micah 5:2 - which tells where the Messiah would be born. (Prophecy is God telling something will happen hundreds of years before it does.) (in this case 700 years before it happened)

Joseph: His ancestral family came from Bethlehem. David was born in Bethlehem (1 Samuel 17:2) The bible lets us know that Joseph is clearly from the family of King David. The bible also tells us that the Messiah would come through the family line of David (Jeremiah 23:5; Isaiah 11:10; Isaiah 9:6-7) Mary goes with Joseph to Bethlehem - because she is engaged to marry him and she is pregnant with Jesus.

Luke 2:6-7: Birthday

While they are in Bethlehem to be registered the time came for Mary to give birth.

Do you think that this was a bad time for Jesus to be born?

(The bible tells us in Galatians 4:4, "*but when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law.*")

What this means is that none of this was a surprise to God. This was the exact place, the exact time in history that God chose to have Jesus be born. Joseph and Mary probably did not understand - but God's timing is always perfect.

What specific facts are we given about Jesus' birth?

1. first born Son
2. wrapped in swaddling cloths (bands of cloth to wrap a child in tightly)

3. laid Him in a manger (feeding trough)

4. no room from them in a regular room

The birth of Jesus was not in a place that we would think that the God of heaven would have His Son be born. Not a castle, not even a nice room. A place where animals were kept. This is no surprise to God - this is God's perfect plan!

Luke 2:8-20: Birth Announcement

Remember how we talked about how the Royal family announces the birth of a royal baby on an official notice set on a gold easel. God has a better way of announcing the birth of the King of Kings.

How does God announce Jesus' birth:

He goes to those who least expect it. He goes to those who are not popular in society. He goes to those who nobody values. He goes to shepherds.

Luke 2:8-9 The scene:

What were these shepherds doing?

(living in the fields)

(watching their flocks of sheep)

(it was night)

Who does God send to announce Jesus' birth? (an Angel)

Describe the scene?

(dark)

(Angel appears)

(God's Glory shines everywhere)

(Shepherds are very afraid)

Can you imagine? It's very dark out at night outside of the city. They are just minding their own business - when suddenly there is this Angel of God and God's glory is shining everywhere.

How bright do you think God's glory is?

Would you be afraid too?

Luke 2:10-14 The Announcement:

Angels words:

don't be afraid

I bring you the best news ever for all people

A baby has been born in the City of David (Bethlehem)

He is the Savior

He is Christ the Lord

What will be the sign that they see?

1. a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths
2. in a manger

Angels song - a multitude of angels

How many is a multitude? (a lot)

Praising God

“Glory to God in the highest

And on earth “peace and goodwill toward men”

The angels know what the birth of Jesus means. They give praise to God for His mercy and work of love in sending Jesus. They know what this will mean for all humans - God’s love and good will given to all men through Jesus.

Do you think that this is the best birth announcement ever given?

Do you think that it was amazing that God gave this announcement to humble shepherds?

Does God do things
in unique ways?

God’s way is always perfect!

Luke 2:15-20 The Response

Shepherds:

How did the Shepherds respond?

they talked about it

they came to a decision to go see what they had been told

they did it quickly

How did the Shepherds respond after they saw Jesus?

They told everyone (they did not keep it to themselves)

They believed what they were told

They returned to being shepherds glorifying and praising

God for all the things that they heard and seen

Mary:

Mary had to think about it. The Bible says that she stored these things in her heart (she would not forget).

The fact that God would announce the birth of Jesus by angels to shepherds was amazing to hear - and very unexpected.

You have to remember that Mary and Joseph believed

what God told them in the first part of the book of Luke - but they did not know how everything would go. They were simply obeying God and believing that God's way is always perfect!

Application:

Do you think that the story of the Birth of Jesus is true?
What is the most amazing part of the story to you?

Do you find it interesting how God does things? God ways are simple, not what we would expect.

The birth of His Son in an unimportant town; in an unimportant place (a place for animals)

The birth of His Son is announced by the glory of heavenly angels

The birth of His Son is announced to unimportant people

How have you responded to the birth of Jesus? Have you ever told others?
Do you believe that Jesus is the Savior of the World?