

## THE BIRTH OF JESUS

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 2:4-20



## The STORY

Read the story of the birth of Jesus in Luke 2:4-20.

**Please note:** The discussion questions in the following sections are written to serve as a guide in teaching our youngest children. Three to six year olds are not going to be able to answer these questions like their older brothers and sisters. Please refer to the God's Story Preschool Curriculum Outline for additional ideas.

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion.

- What is your favorite part of the Christmas story? (Accept any answer.)
- What did the shepherds see? (The shepherds saw the angel of the Lord who announced the details of Jesus' birth, then they saw many, many angels praising God.)
- Why was Jesus born in such a humble manger? (Jesus' humble birth is the beginning of a humble life. Paul tells us in Philippians 2:6-8 that Jesus gave up the glory He had as God to become a servant as a man.)

## CRAFT QUESTIONS

**Coloring sheets have been provided that exemplify today's lesson: traditional manger scene. Engage the children by asking:**

- What do you think the shepherds thought when they found the manger just as the angels had said? (Verse 20 says that the "shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them." They were amazed and it caused them to worship God.)
- What can we learn about God through the shepherds' experience? (We learn that God is all-powerful and is in control of all things, such as the angels who serve Him. We learn that God did not send Jesus into the world secretly but wanted many people to know about Jesus right from the beginning.)
- What did Mary do when the shepherds came and told what had happened to them? (She treasured what they told her in her heart. Mary knew her son was special and the shepherds' vision of the multitude of angels confirmed this.)

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### SNACK QUESTIONS

**While the children are eating the snack, engage the children by asking:**

- How did the shepherds feel when the angels appeared? (They were afraid.)
- Would you be afraid if an angel appeared and started talking to you? Why? (The angels are not like ordinary men. They often have a brightness about them called the glory of the Lord. This would be very bright. Also, angels travel through the air which could be a scary thing to see in the middle of the evening.)

### WHERE IS the Gospel?

*Please use the following comments connecting today's lesson to the Gospel to help inform your understanding and serve you by aiding your preparation for class. Remember, we want to do more than present disconnected Bible stories and lessons to our young children. We want them to understand how each story in the Bible plays a part in God's greater plan of redemption.*

Though Jesus was a king, He did not come in His power but He came in humility that He might become a servant for all, dying on the cross for our sins. He gave up His glory to come to earth because He loved us. Later He would die for our sins so that we could be free from the penalty of sin. Isn't it amazing that God Himself came as a baby?

### SWORD BIBLE MEMORY

#### BE A DOER OF THE WORD

*Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult worker.*

