



Bible Story Luke 2:1-20 Mary and Joseph have to travel to Bethlehem to pay taxes. Mary gives birth to Jesus in a manger.



God's Path Jesus, our God is born.



Memory Verse "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given..."
Isaiah 9:6 (NIV)

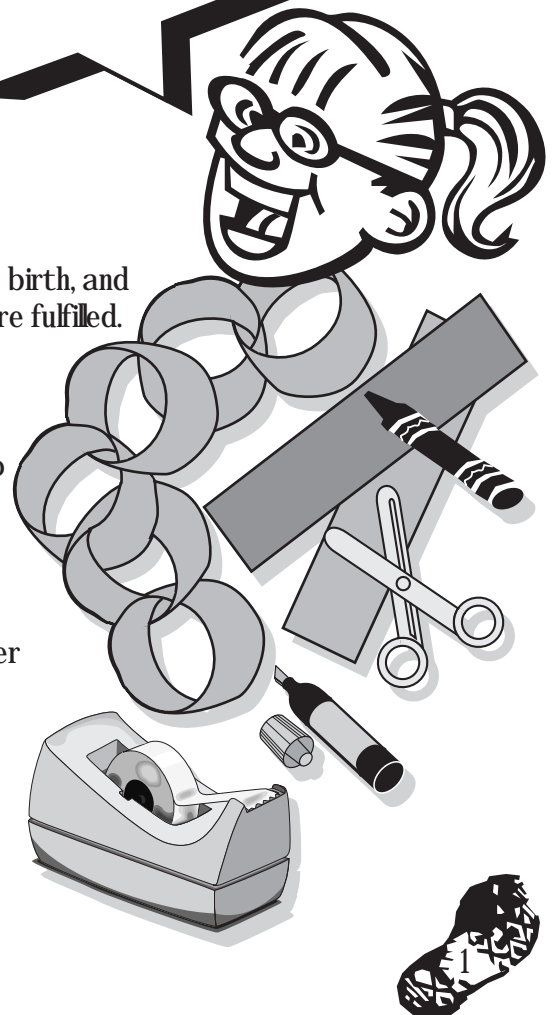
Getting Your Act Together

Read: Luke 2:1-20. Think about the miracle of Jesus' birth, and how the prophecies of the Old Testament were fulfilled. Look up Isaiah 11:1-5 and Micah 5:2.

Gather: A children's or easy-to-understand Bible. Construction paper cut into colorful strips to make paper chains. Scissors, tape, and pens.

Younger kids - Baby doll and blanket

Snack Ideas Any Christmas goody. Hot cider would be fun!



LESSON 41



Putting It All Together

As kids arrive

Opener Options

Color sheets, paper chains

Younger kids - let them pick the colored strips of paper as you help them tape together. Talk about the baby Jesus and Christmas coming.

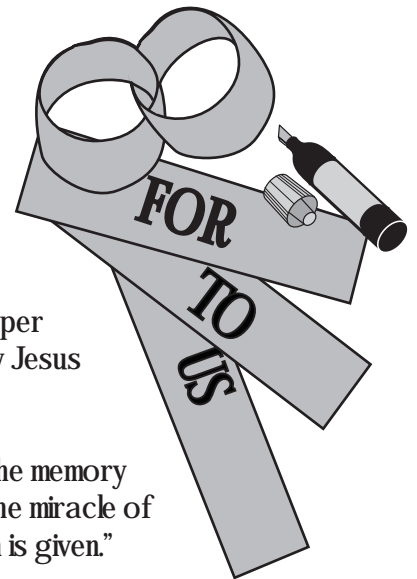
Older kids - can cut out strips and write words to the memory verse on them, then connect with tape. Talk about the miracle of Jesus' birth. "For to us a child is born, for to us a son is given."

Prayer "Dear Lord, we pray that you would be at the center of our celebration."

Storytime Younger kids: pick a Mary, Joseph, animals in the cave, shepherds. Act out the story from Luke 2 and wrap a baby doll tight (swaddling clothes). Let them take turns playing the different parts.

Older kids: Have volunteers read the story from the parent letter. Have a discussion about the miracle birth and the prophecies that were fulfilled in Jesus' birth. Have the kids color their color sheet as you share with them

 **Snack** - Serve hot cider or something Christmasy. Play a Christmas tape softly in the background.





Did You Know?

Dear Parent's and Teachers,

Merry Christmas! Jesus is born! "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Our scripture today comes from Luke 2. Jesus, our God, is born in a manger. The angels and shepherds come to worship Him. "Peace on earth, good will toward men", do you have peace this Christmas? Peace comes from knowing your sins are forgiven and God is in control. Take time to know the Messiah Jesus in a new way this Christmas and let Him give you a Christmas miracle.

"When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about'" Luke 2:15 (NIV)

Joseph and Mary were both descendants from David, see Matthew 1. This fulfills the prophecy from Isaiah 11:1-5 Jeremiah 33:15 and Ezekiel 37:24-25

● Jesus was probably born in a cave, because Bethlehem cattle were usually kept in a cave instead of a building.

○ Jesus was born in Bethlehem which also fulfills the prophecy from Micah 5:2.

Mary wrapped Jesus in swaddling cloths, which were strips of cloth. Babies are still wrapped this way in many mid-eastern countries. The babies feel warm and secure.

"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world." (Luke 2:1-3 [NIV]) This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone had to go to his own town to register. Joseph had to go to Bethlehem.



"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:11-14 (NIV)



Do you know the excitement you feel on Christmas morning when you're about to open your gifts? Imagine how the shepherds felt when the angel told them that their Savior had been born! When they had seen Jesus they spread the word about what they had been told. Just as you want to tell your friends about the great gifts you receive on Christmas remember to tell them about the greatest gift that ever was given- Jesus! It's a gift that everyone can enjoy.

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