



A LESSON AT ADVENT: MARY AND JOSEPH GO TO BETHLEHEM

BEFORE YOU READ:

- The Bible tells us all about God sending the world a special gift. That gift was Jesus!
- Before Jesus was born, special messengers of God, called prophets, told the people that Jesus was coming. Jesus was coming to save the world because it was broken due to sin.
- God chose earthly parents for Jesus. Their names were Mary and Joseph.
- In today's lesson, the Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus announced that everyone needed to be counted. While obeying that order, the time came for Mary to have baby Jesus.

Read the following Bible Story to learn more!

REVIEW/DISCUSS:

- Where did Mary and Joseph go to be counted? **(Bethlehem)**
- When they got there, there were no rooms left in the inn. Where did Mary put Baby Jesus? **(in a manger where animals were fed)**
- What did Mary wrap Baby Jesus in? **(large strips of cloth)**
- It was probably loud and stinky outside with a bunch of animals. Is this the way you would imagine a King to come into the world? Why?/Why not?
- Why do you think Jesus came to earth as a baby to normal parents, in a place where animals were, instead of as a baby with royal, wealthy parents?



PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for coming into the world just like me, to save the world! You didn't come with a lot of bells and whistles. You came as a baby. And you were the greatest gift the world has ever received. Help me to share this story forever!

Amen!



READ: BIBLE STORY-LUKE 2

1. At that time, Augustus Caesar sent an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that they must list their names in a register.
2. This was the first registration taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
3. And everyone went to their own towns to be registered.
4. So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. This town was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David.
5. Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. (Mary was now pregnant).
6. While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby.
7. She gave birth to her first son. There were no rooms left in the inn. So she wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger, where animals were fed.

International Children's Bible



ACTIVITY: "DRAW THE STORY"

Supplies needed: Paper, your child's favorite art supplies (crayons, markers, colored pencils, etc.)

Step 1: Invite your child to try to retell the Bible story from the lesson.

Step 2: Using the art materials, have your child separate their paper into 6 boxes.

Step 3: In each box, have them draw a scene from the story, being sure to share the details from the story in the correct order: (Caesar Augustus gives an order; Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem; The time comes for Mary to have her baby; There are no rooms left in the inn; Mary has baby Jesus and wraps him in bands of cloth; Mary lays baby Jesus in a manger where animals were fed.)

Step 4: Invite your child to tell the story again, using their pictures.