



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!

DISCUSSION:

- Where did Mary and Joseph go to be counted? **(Bethlehem)** Why did they go? **(to follow the order of Caesar Augustus)**
- What was unique about the circumstances surrounding Jesus' birth?
- It was probably loud and stinky outside with a bunch of animals. Yet, this is where Jesus, a King, was born. 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 ordinary parents, in a place where animals were, instead of as a baby with royal, wealthy parents?
- What does this story teach you about the character of God?



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! In Jesus' name, Amen!



READ: BIBLE STORY-LUKE 2

1. In those days, Caesar Augustus made a law. It required that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world.
2. It was the first time a list was made of the people while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
3. Everyone went to their own town to be listed.
4. So Joseph went also. He went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea. That is where Bethlehem, the town of David, was. Joseph went there because he belonged to the family line of David.
5. He went there with Mary to be listed. Mary was engaged to him. She was expecting a baby.
6. While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born.
7. She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger. That's because there was no guest room where they could stay.



ACTIVITY: "LIKE I SAW IT"

The Bible tells us that when the time came for Mary to give birth to Baby Jesus, there was no room left for them in the inn. Jesus came into the world in a place where animals were.

As you think about the details of Jesus' birth story, imagine how the animals must have reacted that night. **What do you see? What do you smell? What do you hear? What can you touch?**

As you wonder, **choose an animal you imagine was there and tell the story of Jesus' birth from that animal's perspective. Write your version down and share it.**