

A LESSON AT ADVENT: MARY AND JOSEPH GO TO BETHLEHEM

BEFORE YOU READ:

- During Advent, we celebrate God coming to be with us as a human.
 - Before Jesus was born, special messengers called prophets told the people about Jesus. Jesus was coming to save the world because it was broken. The world was broken because of sin. The people waited a long time, but God sent Jesus just like God promised!
- Jesus is the Son of God, but he also had parents on earth. His mother's name was Mary. His father's name was Joseph. An angel named Gabriel told them that Mary would give birth to Jesus.
- In today's lesson, the Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus announced that everyone needed to be counted.

Read the following Bible Story to learn more!

DISCUSSION/REVIEW:

- 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. How would you like sleeping in a dirty, stinky barn? Is this the way you would imagine a King to come into the world? Why?/Why not?
- Why do you think Jesus was willing to be born this way?



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: THE 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 1: "TELL THE STORY"

Supplies needed: a brown bag, a pacifier, a plastic farm animal, a piece of white fabric, a few pieces of raffia or crumpled strips of paper, a calculator

1. Practice telling the story of the birth of Jesus
 - a. Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem to be counted (give your child a calculator).
 - b. Jesus was born as a little baby (give your child a pacifier).
 - c. Jesus was born outside with animals (give your child a plastic animal).
 - d. Mary wrapped Baby Jesus in strips of white cloth (give your child a piece of white cloth).
 - e. Jesus slept in a manger where animals ate, likely on itchy hay (Give your child a few pieces of raffia or crumpled strips of paper).
 - f. He was a baby who would save the world!
2. Invite your child to take their bag of items and practice retelling the story to someone else (another parent, siblings, grandparents, etc.)