

Week 1 – Lesson 1

We are now in the Christmas season, and Christmas is all about Jesus Christ! Because this is such a special time of year, we are going to read in the Bible and use these lessons to talk about the Christmas story and what we can learn from all the amazing things that happened when Jesus Christ was born.

Today we are going to read some Bible verses that talk about Jesus Christ's birth. The special thing about these verses is that they were written about 700 years before Jesus was born! Did you know that when Jesus was born, God's people were waiting for Him to come? For many hundreds of years, God's prophets foretold the coming of Jesus Christ. That means that God's messengers told God's people that Jesus would be coming - even before He came. God wanted His people to know that His Son would be coming into the world, and the people were watching and waiting for Jesus Christ to come. Let's read what these verses say.

Spending time in scripture

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Discussion

In these verses, the birth of Jesus was being prophesied about. When someone prophesies, they are given knowledge or inspiration from the Lord about something that will happen in the future. In these verses, the prophet Isaiah prophesied and wrote that Jesus Christ would be coming into the world as a child, and that Jesus would be called Wonderful, The mighty God, and the Prince of Peace. Isaiah also wrote that the peace of Jesus Christ would never end, and that Jesus would be our King, and would rule God's people.

Why do you think that God wanted His people to know that Jesus Christ would be coming?

Jesus Christ's coming into the world was one of the most important things that would ever happen. Because it was so important, God's prophets taught about it and tried to prepare God's people for Jesus Christ to come. They did this so that the people would recognize Jesus and be ready to listen to Him and follow Him when He came.

Why is the birth of Jesus Christ so important?

Jesus Christ came to earth to make salvation and eternal life possible for all people. The prophets and God's people had been waiting and looking for the coming of Jesus Christ for many years, because His coming changed everything.

Jesus Christ came to earth to suffer and die for us so that we can be forgiven of our sins and find peace and happiness. Because of Jesus Christ, it is possible for us to live with God after this life, and to be happy with Him forever. Jesus also came to serve and teach and bless and help, and show us how to live and how to be more like God. Jesus Christ truly is Wonderful, and is the Prince of Peace. Jesus can bring

peace to our homes, our hearts, and our lives.

Because of who Jesus Christ is, and what He did, His birth is powerful and significant. We celebrate Christmas because Jesus Christ coming into the world changed everything and made eternal joy possible for all people. We owe everything to Jesus Christ, and His birth marked the beginning all that He would do for us.

Bearing testimony

Share your witness that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world, and that His birth is important and significant because of who He is and what He came to earth to do. Share any feelings you have about the Lord, or about Christmastime.

You could also invite your child to share their feelings. How do they feel about Jesus Christ? Why does His birth feel important to them?

Christmas Symbolism

Red is one of the colors of Christmas because it reminds us of Jesus Christ's blood. Jesus Christ came to earth to die for us, and His blood was shed to save us from sin and from death.

We remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ by using red in our Christmas decorations and celebrations. Red helps us remember that Christmas is about Jesus Christ, and that He died for us because He loves us.

Christmas Carol

Sing "Joy to the World" together.

If this song is unfamiliar to your child(ren), go over the words of the first verse a few times before you sing together.

Christmas Picture Book Suggestion

Read *The Carpenter's Gift* by David Rubel.

Creating Meaningful Traditions

One family tradition we cherish is to interact with our Nativity set. I tuck the baby Jesus figure away until Christmas Day, and all throughout December our children move Mary and Joseph as they travel.

The wise men from our Nativity are also kept traveling around until Christmas Day. Our girls love finding new places for them to roam on the tops of doorways and across windowsills while the shepherds usually wait near a bookshelf.

If this is a tradition your children would like, start today! Invite your children to begin moving Mary and Joseph on their journey toward the Christ child's birth, and experience the joy of Him appearing on Christmas Day. We put the baby Jesus in His manger on Christmas Eve when we set out presents. We find joy in our children being excited to find Him there on Christmas morning.

Week 1 Day 1 Craft

Watercolor Tree Ornaments

Supplies needed:

- Watercolor paper
- Watercolor paints
- Paintbrushes
- Scissors
- String or yarn
- A hole punch

With your watercolor paints, paint freely all over your watercolor paper. (If you'd like to, use red since you learned today about the significance of red as a Christmas color.) Feel free to mix colors and enjoy this unstructured art experience.

You can also brush water all over your paper before beginning to paint. This is called "wet-on-wet" painting, and will make your paint bloom and spread once you introduce color.

After your paper is painted, allow it to dry. Once it is dry, cut shapes out – circles, stars, or any shape – to be Christmas ornaments! Punch a hole in the top, thread some yarn through and tie it. Then add your new ornaments to your Christmas tree.

Tip: use cookie cutters to create your shapes! Trace the outline of a cookie cutter on the back of your watercolor paper, and then cut it out.



Lesson 2

Yesterday we talked about how important the birth of Jesus Christ was. Because the coming of Jesus Christ was so important, prophets had taught about His coming for many years, and God prepared miracles and witnesses to show that the birth of Jesus Christ was extraordinary. One of the miracles of Jesus Christ's birth is how He came into the world. Let's read the Bible verses that teach us about this.

Spending time in scripture

Luke 1:26-35, & 37-38

²⁶ And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

²⁷ To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

Let's talk a little bit about what is happening. An angel from God named Gabriel was sent to a city called Nazareth, to visit a young

woman named Mary. Mary was engaged to marry a man named Joseph. Let's see what the angel said to her.

²⁸ And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

²⁹ And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

³⁰ And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

When the angel came to Mary, he said, "Mary, the Lord is with you, and loves you. You are blessed among women." When Mary heard the angel say these things, she was a little worried, and wasn't sure what he meant. The angel told her not to be afraid, and that she had found favor with God. That means that God approved of how Mary was living her life and He was happy with her.

³¹ And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

³² He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and

the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

³³ And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Then the angel told Mary that she would become pregnant, and that the baby inside of her would be named Jesus, and that He would be great and would be called the Son of the Highest.

³⁴ Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

³⁵ And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

³⁷ For with God nothing shall be impossible.

³⁸ And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Mary asked the angel how this would happen, since she was not yet married. The angel explained that this would happen through the power of God, and that with

God, nothing is impossible. Then Mary said, “Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.” Mary was saying, “I will do whatever the Lord wants me to do.”

Discussion

This was the amazing beginning of the birth of Jesus Christ. An angel announced to Mary that she would be the mother of the Son of God, and would give birth to Jesus through the power of God. Mary was a wonderful woman, and was willing to do whatever the Lord asked her to do.

Even though this announcement from the angel was unexpected, and might have made Mary feel worried or even afraid, she had faith and said, “Yes.” She said yes to God’s plan even when she wasn’t sure how it would work, or what would happen to her. Mary had great faith, and put her trust in God.

What do you think we can learn from Mary’s example?

We will all have times in our lives when what the Lord is asking us to do makes us feel afraid, or we aren’t sure how everything will work out. But we can be like Mary and have

faith in God and trust in His plan. God is perfect and knows everything and has all power in His hands. We can trust that what He asks us to do will be for our good, and that He will prepare a way for us to do the things He needs us to do.

have expected? Testify of the Lord's faithfulness and goodness, and that He will only ever guide us to paths that lead us to Him.

How can we learn to trust in the Lord?

Can you think of a time when you needed to trust in God and you didn't know if everything would be ok? What did you learn?

From Mary, we learn how to respond to God with faith and a willingness to say, "Yes," to His will for us. God has a plan for each of us, and wants to help us learn and grow and become all that He knows we can become. It is important for us to be ready to do what the Lord asks of us. We want to be able to say, like Mary, "Behold, here I am, Lord. Be it unto me according to thy word."

Bearing testimony

Share a time when you had to trust in the Lord. What did you learn? Was it hard to let go of your desire for control? How did God lead you? How was the outcome better than what you could

Christmas Carol

Sing “Joy to the World” together.

Christmas Picture Book Suggestion

Read *The Nutcracker* by Susan Jeffers.

Christmas Symbolism

Jesus Christ was born in Israel, a land far away from many of us. In Israel, the weather is very warm. It is a place with hot, sunny summers and cool rainy winters.

Because of this, Israel is a country that grows oranges and other citrus fruits. Israel is particularly famous for growing Jaffa oranges. When we include oranges in our Christmas celebrations, they can remind us of the place where the Lord was born - a land where oranges grow.

Creating Meaningful Traditions

Move your Mary and Joseph, if you have decided to include that tradition in your celebration.

Week 1 Day 2 Craft

Oven-Dried Orange Slices

Supplies needed:

- Oranges (or any citrus fruit like lemons or grapefruit)
- Knife
- Parchment paper
- Large baking sheets

Preheat your oven to 200 degrees Fahrenheit.

Slice your oranges in even, thin slices. ($\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch to $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch is ideal. The thinner you can get them, the faster they'll dry out.) Line your baking sheet with parchment paper and arrange your orange slices on the parchment paper, leaving a little bit of space between each orange slice.

Once your oven has preheated, place your baking sheet(s) of oranges in the oven.

Dry the slices in the oven for 2-4 hours. Every half an hour, turn the slices over to ensure that they don't burn or stick,



and to check how dry they have become.

If your orange slices are browning, it is a sign that your oven is too hot. Turn down the temperature if this is happening.

Once the orange slices have no more moisture, remove them from the oven and allow them to cool. (Some slices might dry out sooner than others. Feel free to remove any slices that are ready, and leave the rest to continue drying in the oven.)