

## **The Gospel of Luke / Lesson 4**

### **The Birth of Jesus**

**Luke 2:1-7**

## **For Servants,**

- Please review the introduction to the Book of Luke and pick some information to focus on.
- It is advisable to have the children take turns in reading the verses so that they get engaged and pay attention. Upon the servant prep. Servant may elect to summarize some verses into a story instead of reading verse by verse.

## **MEMORY VERSE**

### **LUKE 2:7**

“And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes

## **WHAT YOU WILL NEED:**

Four signs that read “North,” “South,” “East,” and “West,” and depending on the size of your class, make several slips of paper which say either “North,” “South,” “East,” or “West.” Make enough to divide your class into 4 equal groups.

Pictures from a magazine of a palace, a hotel, a barn, and an outdoor night scene. Paste the pictures on a piece of black construction paper.

## **LESSON TIME!**

### **Lesson Goal: God among us**

Today we will learn about the most wonderful, glorious, stupendous event of all time! The Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ; The Messiah, prophesied in the Old Testament, arrived exactly as God promised. The coming of Jesus, who came to take away the sins of the world, is the most important event ever. This is what we celebrate in the Nativity feast.

The Simple Summary of this story is: that God planned his own birth place to be in Bethlehem as in all prophecies and was born in a poor lowly place in a stable, he was laid down in a manger after being wrapped in swaddling cloth by His mother St. Mary.

### **Luke 2:1-3**

**2 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.**

What was the world like at the time of Jesus’ birth?  
Caesar Augustus was the emperor, ruler of the entire known world; He wanted to have a count of all people living in his kingdom.

## **The “Census” Game**

Put up four signs in four different places in the classroom. These signs should

say “east,” “west,” “north,” and “south.” Pass out corresponding notes to each of the children in the class.

Have each child go to the place that corresponds with his note. When each child has arrived at his location, appoint one child from each group to count his group and report the number to you.

Explain that this is what Joseph and Mary had to do when they traveled to Bethlehem to be counted in the census.

### Luke 2:4-5

**4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed [a]wife, who was with child.**

Joseph had to go to **Bethlehem**, the city his family was from. Joseph was a descendant of **King David**. He had to travel from his home in Nazareth all the way to the little town of Bethlehem. Today that trip would only take a couple of hours by car. But in that day, it probably took about 5 days because they had to walk.

**Ask the kids: What was the city that Joseph had to go to? And who he descendant of?**

Mary traveled with Joseph to Bethlehem. She was betrothed [engaged/ or his care] to him and was considered a part of his family. She was also a descendant of King David. It was very close to the time she would give birth to her baby, but she had to obey the Roman Emperor as well.

More than 600 years before the birth of Jesus, God had written that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). Caesar Augustus thought he was the supreme ruler of the world, but he was actually being used by God to bring about the fulfillment of prophecy. God intended all along for Jesus to be born in Bethlehem, because **God is in control of all things**.

### Luke 2:6

**6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered.**

While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for the baby to be born, just as God had planned because **God is in control of all things**. The Bible tells us that there was no room for them in the inn. Did God leave out a detail? Did He forget to provide a place for Jesus to be born? No, He knew all along. It is interesting that when Jesus arrived there was no room for Him. Hopefully there is room for Him in our hearts.

[ For the servant; you may simplify this:/ if not then for servants only]

What is an inn? We may think it was like a little hotel, but it was not. The Greek word used here for “inn” is “kataluma,” and it simply means an enclosure. It was probably four walls with no roof that a traveler could drive his cattle into for the night or rest in himself. A kataluma had no food, no innkeeper, and no provisions, just some water. The Bible tells us that even in this sparse enclosure, there was no room for Jesus to be born.

Mary’s time to deliver her baby had come, and they had to find a place for her. Jesus, the King of kings, was to be born that night in Bethlehem. There was no place for Him, no hotel, not even room in a lowly kataluma enclosure.

But even in the midst of this God was still in control.

### **Palace or Barnyard? [visual aid]**

Gather some magazines pictures of a palace, a hotel, a barn, and an outdoor night scene. Mount them on a piece of black construction paper.

Hold them up for the children and describe them.

Ask the children where they would like to have been born. Compare that with where Jesus was born.

Jesus was born and laid in a manger. A manger is just a feeding trough; a place where animals ate their food. This manger was probably in some little outside shelter or cave, even more lowly than a kataluma. Jesus Christ the Messiah, the King of kings and the Lord of lords, was not born in an emperor's court or a king's palace or even a kataluma, but He was born in a stable and laid in a manger.

### **Application:**

The King of the entire universe was born in a lowly stable. Why? Perhaps He knew that a humble birth would not impress or threaten anyone. He wants us to genuinely believe in Him as Savior. He came so that the entire world could come to Him, not just those who are wealthy or influential. He does not try to impress; He is not threatening. God planned the humility and simplicity of His birth because **God is in control of all things**. God wants us to come to Him freely and openly. The simplicity of His birth helps us come to Him genuinely and honestly.

### **Luke 2:7**

**7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.**

We read that "she" brought forth her baby. No nurse or doctor was there to help St. Mary. "She" wrapped him in swaddling cloths; there was no one to do it for her. Luke lets us know that at a time when Mary should have had the most tender care, she and Joseph were in a dirty stable without friends or family to help them. With her own hands she wrapped her baby in strips of cloth and laid him into a feeding trough.

Help and family did not surround Mary, but she knew the glory of that night. The Messiah had come, and He would make it possible for all to be saved through His free gift. St. Mary knew that **God is in control of all things** and that even this lowly birth was His plan.

### **Follow the Leader [ game]**

Have the children from 2 to 4 lines. Direct the first child in line to move his arms, legs, and head in various poses.

Have the children in each line copy whatever the first person in line is doing.

Explain to the children that Jesus is the first person in our line/life, and He came to show us what to do, therefore we follow his commandments and love Him.

God himself came to the world as a human and was incarnate; Jesus Christ our God; just as God planned because **God is in control of all things**. He came to live a perfect life as an example to us and to die for our sins in order to open the doors of heaven to us.

The town of Bethlehem did not realize what had happened on that dark night, but St. Mary knew, St. Joseph knew, and God knew. It was the most important night in all of history. Jesus, our Savior, was born!

The next time you feel like things are out of control, remember the story of Jesus' birth. God is always in control, even when it does not seem like it. Mary and Joseph probably planned to have baby Jesus at home with their family, but God had a different and better plan. By taking them to Bethlehem, God fulfilled the prophecy concerning the Messiah and gave His Son a humble birth which would be celebrated by Christians all over the world for centuries.

The many prophecies in the Bible are physical proof of God's control in all things.

There are more than 300 prophecies concerning Jesus' life alone. God controls everything, and He loves us and wants us to walk with Him through all things. Let's give our lives to Him and allow Him to do great things through us. **God is in control of all things.**

### **PRAYER**

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for coming to live among us

### **Email to Parents:**

Dear Parents;

Our lesson this week covered "The Birth of Jesus." We talked about the prophets and prophecies foretelling the birth of Jesus, His birth in the manger, and His purpose in coming—the salvation of mankind. We encourage you to review these scriptures (Luke 2:1-7) with your child. As we consider

the birth of Jesus, we realize God is in control of all things. Though the world seemed out of control, God had a plan. Just at the right time, He sent His Son Jesus into the world to provide salvation for man. We hope you and your family will be blessed as you study God's Word together.