

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Bible Text: Luke 2:1-20

Lesson Focus: God's son Jesus came to save all people, focusing on the outcasts first.

Big Question: I've heard this story many times. What else can I learn from it?

Key Words: INCARNATION, BETHLEHEM, MESSIAH/CHRIST, OUTCAST

BIBLE CONNECTION

-] Not only did angels tell people of the good news of Jesus' birth, but shepherds were the first to hear the news.
-] Shepherds were considered "low life" by higher-class people in Jesus' time.
-] It was offensive to some people to know that shepherds were the first to hear about Jesus.
-] Jesus came for those who are poor and oppressed, like the shepherds, and not just for the rich.
-] God can use anyone to bring the message of the good news to others.
-] Jesus, not Caesar Augustus, was the true peacemaker.
-] Jesus came to this earth for YOU!

CARTOON CONNECTION

-] Who are the outcasts of today's society? Would it be possible for God to communicate with them first? If so, how?
-] How do our relationships or the ways we treat others make some people into outcasts?
-] It doesn't take long to make someone feel welcome or unwelcome. What can you do in 10 minutes that would cross boundaries and extend God's welcome to all people, especially the outcasts?



HANDBOOK CONNECTION

Here We Stand Student Book page 46: Ten Important Things that Happened between the Old and New Testaments

-] How can Jesus be the descendant promised to King David and also the one who came for the sake of the Romans?

Here We Stand Student Book page 72: Top 10 Angel Sightings in the Bible

-] How would you react to an angel sighting?
-] How do you think God's message is delivered today?

LIFE CONNECTION

Pay close attention to who winds up alone and on the outside. Why is that person left out? Your challenge this week is to break down barriers and invite those outsiders into your activities, or to show them welcome and friendship in some other way.

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Word Search

Use the Bible references (NRSV Bible) to find the word that completes each sentence. Then circle the words in the puzzle.

Q X H S E L V Q B K Z N I G S G L L
V F J H I Z E D U T I T L U M Z R H
M G E E G V N E G C N Z A R X E R C
K L S P H G F J N Y L Q O O H Y B L
P T U H T P J X H L U I N A A T F X
B S S E H D G I K I M B P J H E Q V
U M I R J Y W Q R P P L N C C J P V
K V L D X H T I V S I O Q P T R Z F
R O U S D K N I M Y N S T C R E T Y
A I M O E I I O R U F M F K E Z V Q
D O N X U B M R J O I S I N A X A H
I Q M S N A S O L S H O E Y S X U M
D P V D N I L U A F B T B N U H H O
M R T G C N A H D Q W R U X R E B P
K B E B N L E E L I L A G A E P V F
W R U J W J H S B H L T M S D K O T
J R P S U T S U G U A O Q D F L E R
G E M R B R N O P P U P L H K K B K

1. The prophet Isaiah tells us that _____ rests upon Jesus' shoulders (Isaiah 9:6).
2. Caesar _____ ruled the entire Roman world (Luke 2:1).
3. _____ was governor of Syria at the time of Jesus' birth (Luke 2:2).
4. Nazareth was located in _____ (Luke 2:4).
5. Mary put Jesus in a _____ after he was born (Luke 2:7).
6. _____ were the first to hear about Jesus' birth (Luke 2:8-9).
7. The shepherds were visited by a _____ of angels (Luke 2:13).
8. Mary _____ in her heart the things that were said about Jesus (Luke 2:19).
9. Jesus' parents presented him in the temple on the _____ day to be circumcised (Luke 2:21).
10. Joseph and Mary named their son _____ (Luke 2:21).

Answers: 1. authority 2. Augustus 3. Quirinius 4. Galilee 5. manger 6. Shepherds 7. multitude 8. treasured 9. eighth 10. Jesus