



Birth

Luke 1-2

Review

- See if the group can give a quick retell of our first 5 stories.
- How does it feel knowing you are chosen by God?
- Why do you think we celebrate Christmas?

Hook Question

What is the best present you ever given to someone? How about one you received?

Tell the Story

Retell

Have the group retell the story in their own words. Work together to recreate what was just heard asking 'what's next' questions.

Personal/Group Retell

Have the group get into a circle. Toss a ball from one person to another and when the leader says, "Stop," the person holding the ball needs to tell what happens next in the story. Continue until the story is completely retold.

Introduction

Though God had to kick Adam and Even out of the Garden of Eden, it did not mean that God loved them any less. He had an amazing love for them and all the families that came after them. He just wanted everyone to know how much He loved them and to follow Him. But everyone continued to disobey God. He tried all kinds of things: rules to follow, Kings to rule over them, people to tell them what God was thinking and how much He still wanted to be with them. Nothing worked. Eventually God sent the most precious thing He had. It was a present for everyone if they would accept it. Christmas Day was here!

One day, an angel surprised a young woman named Mary. "Don't be afraid Mary. God has chosen to bless you! You will give birth to God's son. People will call him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us'! He'll become a king whose kingdom will never end!"

Even though this seemed impossible, Mary said, "I am God's servant. I hope everything you've said comes true!" After that, Mary sang to God thanking Him for choosing to bless her. And just as the angel said, Mary became pregnant.

Now Mary was supposed to marry a man named Joseph. He found out that she was pregnant and so Joseph was going to leave her quietly.

One night, one of God's angels came to Joseph in a dream. He said, "Joseph, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The child in her is from God. You are to give him the name Jesus, meaning he will save the people from their sins.

Discussion Questions

Listed below are some basic questions that can be asked. You may want to supplement these questions with other Head, Heart, and Hands questions.

- What kinds of emotions do you think Mary was feeling?
- Why do you suppose God chose Mary?
- What amazes you the most about Jesus/God?
- How would you have felt if you were Mary or Joseph in this story?
- What did we learn about being a follower of Jesus from this story?
- After hearing the story, how will you live differently?

Story Continued...

That next year Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem. There were no rooms anywhere in the town, only the stable. That is where Mary gave birth to a son.

They named him Jesus just as the angel told them to. They wrapped him in strips of cloths and put him in the animals' feeding trough.

That night, shepherds were out in a nearby field watching their sheep when all of sudden an angel appeared in front of them! They were terrified!

The angel said, "Don't be afraid—we have good news! Your new king, the one who will save you, has been born tonight! You'll find him lying in a feeding trough wrapped in strips of cloth."

Then the sky was filled with angels singing, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace and good will to all men." Immediately, the shepherds ran into town to look for the baby.

Just as the angel said, they found Mary and Joseph and their new baby, wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a feeding trough. Filled with joy and excitement, they hurried to tell everyone in Bethlehem this amazing news! (Pause.)

Wise men from distant lands were studying the stars when they noticed an unusually bright star appear. This star guided them directly to the place where Mary and Joseph were staying. As they entered the doorway, the wise men were filled with joy and fell on their knees in front of Jesus. They brought expensive gifts of gold, spices and perfumes for this newborn King!

Jesus grew up healthy and strong. He was filled with God's wisdom and loved by everyone.

Closing Blessing

Read Luke 2:14

Pray We give you all the glory Lord for you are so worth it. Nothing compares with you! Bless each one here with your peace and your favor because of your love for us.