

RESPONSES TO JESUS' BIRTH

Scripture:

Matthew 1:18-2:18, Luke 2:8-38

Materials:

Bring nativity set

Flash-a-card visuals

Memory Verse:

Matthew 1:21 "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know—When God told Joseph, the Shepherds, the wise men from the east, Herod, and the Jewish scholars that Jesus, Son of God and the Savior for sins, was born, they either praised and worshiped Him or refused and hated Him.

To Realize—That Jesus is the Son of God, the Savior of the whole world.

To Respond by—Bowing the knee in praise and worship to Jesus.

Before the lesson:

Song

Help ½ students look up Matthew 1 and ½ students look up Luke 2.

Setting up the Story:

One month ago we celebrated a holiday: December 25th. Can anyone tell me what holiday that was? Take out Joseph/Mary from nativity set. Can anyone tell me what these are? "Nativity" "Christmas" "Joseph/Mary!" These nativity sets are often put out at Christmas time to celebrate the birth of Jesus, but sometimes these pictures of how it might have looked don't quite get the details straight. We are going to look at exactly what really did happen, because it was written down almost 2,000 years ago by people who heard it from the ones who were there!

Scripture Telling the story:

Matt.
1:18-25

- I. **Joseph** is told about Jesus
 - A. Mary is with child
 - B. In a dream, the angel tells him it is by the Holy Spirit: Son of God
 - C. Tells him to name Him JESUS: God saves.

As you tell the story:

Joseph is a righteous man—he loved God and did the right thing.
The angel tells Joseph that the baby in Mary does not have a human Father, but that GOD is His Father!
If God had not told Joseph through that dream that this baby was the SON OF GOD, would Joseph have known? No! So then what does the angel tell him?! What to name the baby! God was naming His Son Jesus? Why THAT name? we are going to find out when we learn our memory verse!
When Joseph wakes up, he immediately knows what he needs to do! He needs to protect Mary and the baby! He marries her!
Then some news comes that probably

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D. Joseph marries Mary E. Has to go to Bethlehem because of the census (taxes) F. Jesus is born! 	<p>didn't sound like very good news! They were going to have to travel because the Roman government decided it was going to count the number of people in each area in order to find out how much tax money to get. And Joseph was a descendant of King David. Does anyone remember where King David had been born a thousand years earlier? Bethlehem!</p> <p>So Caesar Augustus, way over in Rome was making everyone go to their ancestor's home—and that meant Joseph and Mary HAD to go to Bethlehem!</p>
Lk. 2:8-20	II.	<p>Shepherds are told about Jesus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. In fields near Bethlehem B. Angel brings them good news of great joy: Savior has been born! C. Sign will be wrapped in cloths lying in a manger D. They came in a hurry and found baby E. They told everyone what they had heard and seen 	<p>Storytell with flash-a-card visuals</p> <p>The SON of GOD, the SAVIOR has just been born! The One that God promised for two thousand years and gave lots of clues about...He's here! Who knows? Joseph and Mary. A few relatives! Do you see these shepherds? What does it look like they are doing? Do they know that the promised Savior has just been born right there in Bethlehem?! Right where they are?! No! Why don't they know? No one has told them! Well GOD was going to tell them! Suddenly an angel STOOD right there and he was shining brightly. GREAT! Now they know! But why had God told them? So they could go SEE for themselves! And that's what they did! Vs. 15 "that the Lord made known to us" If God hadn't told the shepherds would they have known the Savior of the world had just been born? No! Vs. 17 "the statement which they had heard." Vs. 20 "just as they had been told."</p> <p>Did the shepherds see a star in the sky? But as star WAS seen far away in another country! Some very important men saw it. It was their job to study the stars and constellations. When they saw that star, they knew exactly what it meant: the KING of the Jewish people had been born!</p> <p>"Oh, that's interesting." What did they do?! We don't know if they had camels. We don't know if there were only 3 or</p>
Mt. 2:3-12	II.	<p>Jewish Wise Men hear of Messiah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. The city is stirred from foreign wise men <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?" 2. "We have come to worship Him." B. Herod asks where 	

	<p>Messiah is to be born</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scribes and chief priests 2. "In Bethlehem" (Micah) <p>C. Herod finds out the time the star appeared.</p> <p>D. The Jewish scholars don't go to worship or find out</p>	<p>more than 3—but they got VERY expensive gifts and came to worship him! Would they have known the king of the Jews had been born without the star? No! Jerusalem had been the capital, so they figured that's where the Jewish king would be. "Where is he?"</p>
Mt. 2:1-2, 7-12	<p>III. Foreign Wise Men follow star</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Come to Jerusalem and inquire B. They are directed to Bethlehem C. They follow the star with great joy and worship Jesus D. They present their gifts 	<p>There was a man pretending he was the king of the Jews! His name was Herod: but he was not a descendant of Abraham and definitely not from King David's royal family! He didn't even know where Messiah was supposed to be born! So he had to call for his religious leaders. READ CLUE #2 Bethlehem! WHO told Herod the King of the Jews had been born? What did he do? He hated Jesus. He didn't want Jesus to be in charge of him and tell him what to do.</p>
Mt. 2:1-2, 16-18	<p>IV. Herod hears of new king</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. From wise men of east B. From own wise men C. Enraged when he realizes he's been tricked D. Orders murder of infant boys 2 years and younger 	

Concluding the Story:

Show the nativity characters. Put the main characters on the board and WHAT they were told about this baby: Son of God! Savior! King of the Jews! These all came and saw for themselves, praised God for His Savior, and worshiped Him with expensive gifts.

But there are two groups of people MISSING! They were told right from the Old Testament Scriptures and from important foreign men—the Jewish religious leaders and Herod ignored the Good News they had heard and even hated Jesus.

Do you know why I believe Jesus is the Son of God? Because GOD told Joseph so. And it has been written down. Otherwise, we wouldn't know.

Do you know why I believe Jesus is the Savior of the world? Because GOD told the shepherds so. And it has been written down. Otherwise, we wouldn't know.

Do you know why I believe Jesus is the King of the Jews? Because GOD showed the foreign wise men with a special star. And it has been written down.

And do you know why I am teaching this lesson on the Bible bus in January of 2022? So YOU can know it, too!

Sing: I believe the Bible. I believe in Jesus. Jesus died for sinners. Jesus Christ is risen. Jesus Christ is coming.

Explain about Cards/Stickers and help kids attach their second sticker. Collect cards.

Pass out 2 cookies/student.