

General Church Education



The Lord Is Born

Luke 2:1-20

Lesson 29

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 1: The Lord Is Our Creator

For ages 6-7 years

THE LORD IS BORN

LUKE 2:1-20

The Lord came into the world as our Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ. He chose to be born in a simple setting rather than in a fine palace. This humble beginning of His life on earth emphasized that He is the Lord of all people.

The angels brought the joyful message of the Lord's birth to shepherds. The angels' message to the shepherds was one of reassurance for all time, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." Another translation from a different Greek version of the text reads, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to men of good will." This is a renewal of the Lord's covenant given so long ago in the early stories of the Old Testament. People who look to the Lord and lead a life of good will through service to others can find inner peace in this world as well as in the world to come.

IDEAS FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

- We can look for ways to share Christmas joy with children. We can also encourage children to share their joy with others.
- Christmas can be a time to help children join the angels in giving glory to God. There are many joyful opportunities for worship, song and praise to the Lord.
- We also can help them begin to understand that living "according to Divine truth" is the essence of giving glory to God (*Arcana Coelestia* 874).

FROM THE WRITINGS

The Lord is the God of heaven. To give glory denotes to acknowledge and worship Him; for to give glory signifies that glory belongs to Him alone, because He is the God of heaven and earth. To give glory and to glorify, when spoken of God, mean to worship and adore Him. Glory, in the Word, when used in reference to the Lord, properly signifies the Divine Truth proceeding from Him, because this Divine Truth is the light of heaven, and from that light angels and men have not only all their intelligence and wisdom, but also all their happiness. *Apocalypse Explained* 678

To give glory to God is to live according to Divine truth; as the Lord also taught in these words in John: "In this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit; so shall you be my disciples. Abide in my love: if you keep my commandments, you shall abide in my love. You are my friends, if you do whatsoever I command you" (xv. 8, 10, 14). It is therefore evident that to glorify God, or to give glory to God, is to bring forth fruit. *Apocalypse Explained* 874

THE LORD IS BORN

IMPORTANT IDEAS

The angels brought joyful news of the Lord's birth to nearby shepherds.

An angel told both Mary and Joseph that the Lord would soon be born. They knew that Mary would be the mother of a special Baby. His Father was God Himself. Joseph was willing to care for the Baby Lord and protect Him as a father would.

Joseph and Mary were married while they were waiting for the Lord to be born. During this time, Caesar Augustus, the ruler, wanted to register everyone who lived in the country so that he could collect taxes. He commanded that all people must travel to the city where their family originally came from. Mary and Joseph came from the family of King David who had ruled a very long time ago. They had to travel a long distance from Nazareth, where they lived, to Bethlehem, which is called the "City of David."

Bethlehem was a very small town. Many had traveled there to be registered, so the town was crowded. There weren't enough places for everyone to stay. By the time Joseph and Mary arrived, the inn was full. It was time for the Baby to be born, but they had no place to stay. As you listen to the story, see if you can hear where the Baby Lord was born. Read Luke 2:1-7.

When the Lord was born, He was wrapped in swaddling cloths, and laid in a manger. A manger is a box that holds feed for horses and other gentle animals. The Lord was born in a stable, a building that shelters helpful animals like donkeys, horses and cows. The Lord could have chosen to be born in a palace



with a fancy bed, surrounded by kings and other rich people. Instead He chose to be born in a simple place with gentle animals for companions.

When the Lord was born, the angels were very happy. They immediately shared the wonderful news that the Lord had come into the world. Do you know who first heard about the Lord's birth? Listen to the next part of the story to see if you are right. Read Luke 2:8- 10.

Long ago shepherds lived in the fields, protecting their sheep. Nighttime was very dark. We can imagine how amazed the shepherds were when the angel appeared to them in a glory of light. The Word tells us that the shepherds "were greatly afraid." The angel was sent to give "good tidings," or news. He comforted the shepherds and told them not to be afraid. The news that the angel wanted to share was to bring joy to all people in the world. He told the shepherds that the Baby was the "Savior who is Christ the Lord." He explained where they could find the Baby. See if you can hear clues in the story that told the shepherds how to recognize the Baby when they saw Him. Read Luke 2:10-12. Surely there would be only one newborn baby "wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger" in the small town of Bethlehem.

Suddenly many, many angels joined the one angel. The heavenly host praised God for such a wonderful miracle. The shepherds were innocent people who were willing to follow the Lord. This is why they were the first people to see the Lord. They immediately went to Bethlehem and found everything as they had been told. They were so excited that they told many people about the Baby.

As we read the last part of the story, imagine being invited by a heavenly host to go to see the new Baby Lord. Imagine the joy you would feel when you found that most precious Baby with Mary and Joseph. Think about who you might want to talk to about seeing Him. Read Luke 2:13-20.



DISCUSSION

- Christmas time is a very exciting and happy time of year. We look forward to celebrating the birth of the Lord. On that very first Christmas night the angels also were very excited. They shared their excitement with the shepherds by telling them about the Baby and by praising God. At Christmas time you also can share your excitement with other people. What are some of the things that you like to do to share your joy in celebrating the birth of the Lord? (*Answers may include caroling, decorating the house, baking, making or buying gifts, going to church, setting up a representation, singing.*)
- We read in the story that there was no room in the inn for the Baby Lord. Most places were too crowded and too busy for people to pay attention to Him. Only the shepherds had room in their hearts to pay attention. Can you think of ways that you can make room in your heart for the Lord this Christmas? (*Read Christmas stories from the Word, help your family prepare for Christmas, thank the Lord for coming to earth when He did and for the stories in the Word about His coming so that everyone can know Him.*)
- Have you ever seen a tiny baby? How do you feel when you see one? (*Answers may include happy, gentle, wanting to touch or hold the baby, etc.*)
- The Baby Lord was the most special baby ever born. How do you think the shepherds felt when they saw Him? (*Answers might include excited, happy, nervous.*)



THE LORD IS BORN | Activities

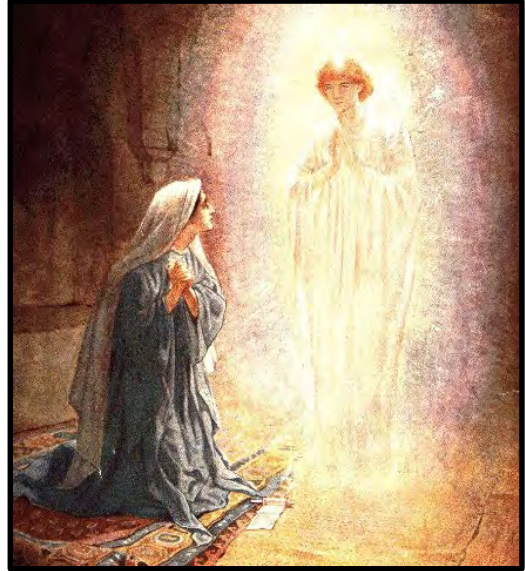
Recitation

- Learn the recitation.

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest."

Luke 1:30-32 (Portions)

When your child has learned the recitation, look for the recitation award picture like this in the *Recitation Book*. Give your child a sticker, e.g. a star, to decorate it.



Song

- Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-hark-the-herald-angels-sing/>

Videos

- Jesus Is Born (story from the Word)

Watch at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-jesus-is-born/>

- Bethlehem Lay Sleeping (song)

Watch at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-bethlehem-lay-sleeping-song/>

Projects

- The Lord Is Born
- Picture to color

The Lord Is Born

This project helps children celebrate the news that the Lord was born.

Supplies needed

- 1 piece of paper
- scissors
- tape
- colored pencils or markers
- glue
- glitter



Directions

1. Make a diorama of the angels telling the shepherds the good news that the Lord was born in Bethlehem.
2. Print the project pages.
3. Angels: Cut around the large yellow rectangle with the picture of the angels. Fold the rectangle along the two yellow lines. Create a triangle that can stand up by folding the ends of the rectangle towards each other with the angels showing on the outside (see picture).
4. Tape the top edges together.
5. Glory: Cut out the rectangle on the dashed line. Cut the rectangle in half on the dashed center line.
6. Fold the rectangles into a fan on the solid grey lines.
7. Tape the short ends of the fans together. Leave a little room at one edge to allow the fan to stretch into a rainbow shape when assembled (see picture).
8. Decorate the fan with colored pencils or markers.
9. Make the "glory" special by using glue and glitter.
10. When the glitter dries, arrange into a fan around the angels (see picture above).



