

General Church Education



The Lord Is Born on Earth

Luke 2:1-20

Lesson 28

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 3: The Lord Is Our Lawgiver

For ages 8-9 years

The Lord Is Born on Earth

Luke 2:1-20

For Parents and Teachers

The whole of the Old Testament looks forward to the coming of the Lord on earth. Prophecies of His coming begin in Genesis and continue through Malachi. Prophecies encourage people to prepare for a better day. They especially help the angels retain hope for the human race. The Jewish people thought an earthly king would come to overthrow their enemies and establish the Jewish nation as the greatest on earth. However the Lord did not come to set this nation above others but to teach people how to serve others. That is why so few recognized him.

Only the humble in heart were truly prepared to receive Him. Most people had no room in their hearts or minds for Him, just as there was no room found in the inn. But the shepherds, who represent all good people who treasured innocence, which is a willingness to follow the Lord, received the knowledge of the Savior joyfully and with a great burst of heavenly light. They were eager to see the Lord and to tell others about Him.

Ideas for Children

- Only the humble in heart can truly receive the Lord.
- The Lord came into a dark world to light the path to heaven.
- Light stands for truth.

From the Writings

Since without the Word there is no recognition of the Lord, and so no salvation, the Lord was pleased to come into the world; and not only to fulfill the Word, but also to renew and restore it, thus giving light again to the inhabitants of this earth. As the Lord says in the book of John:

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness. This was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. (John 1:4, 5 & 9) *De Verbo* 17

The Lord Is Born on Earth

Luke 2:1-20

Words to Understand

registered—recorded in a list of names or events

census—counting of the people

lineage—direct descent from an ancestor

betrothed—promised to be married

savior—person who saves others

Prophecies

In our last lesson we learned some of the prophecies of the Lord's birth. You remember that a prophet is one who speaks for the Lord. A prophecy is a promise made by the Lord about the future. The Lord gave many prophecies so people would be thinking about Him and would be ready to receive Him. In this lesson we will read about the Lord's birth on earth and see how two prophecies from the book of Isaiah relate to this great event.

Mary and Joseph Travel to the Town of Bethlehem

Mary and Joseph were both descendants of David, the strong and beloved king of Israel. David lived hundreds of years earlier when the Jews were a powerful nation and greatly respected by other countries around them. Now the Holy Land had become part of the Roman Empire.



The Jews no longer governed themselves. The evil king Herod, who served the Romans, ruled over them. Caesar Augustus, the great Roman Emperor who ruled many nations, called for everyone in his empire to be registered, so that tax money could be collected. According to ancient custom the Jews were registered by families or tribes, each in their old family town. So Mary and Joseph made the journey to Bethlehem because Bethlehem was David's town.

Read Luke 2:1-20.

A Virgin Shall Conceive and Bear a Son

What prophecy came true in this story from Luke? It was the prophecy from Isaiah 7:14: The Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His

name Immanuel. In the story we read that Joseph traveled from Galilee to Bethlehem “with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.” The Son that would be born to Mary would be like no other baby before or since. He would have an earthly mother, Mary, but His father would be God Himself. This child would be Immanuel or God with us, as the angel had told both Mary and Joseph. This miracle was the fulfillment of the ancient prophecy.

Bethlehem

Bethlehem was a little town in Judea. Small stone houses were clustered together on the hills surrounded by rich green valleys. It was not a great or famous town, but on this night it was the most important place on earth! You probably remember the story of how Bethlehem was crowded because so many people had come to be registered at this time. When Mary and Joseph arrived there was no room in the inn for them. So the Lord was born where animals lived, swaddled in clean cloths and laid in a manger. The Lord could have been born anywhere, but He chose this humble birth.



The Shepherds

While the people in Bethlehem asleep, simple shepherds in the fields around the town were still awake keeping watch over their flocks. The sheep were gathered together and the shepherds took turns watching for wild animals such as wolves that might be lurking in the darkness. But all was peaceful and calm under the twinkling stars that night.

Suddenly a great burst of light turned the night bright as day when an angel of the Lord appeared before their eyes! How did the shepherds feel? They were afraid seeing the power and glory of heaven. But soon they were full of happiness, feeling the love and peace of the Lord. The news that the heavenly host brought was received with joy and gladness. The long awaited savior had been born in Bethlehem! The angels spoke of peace and good will. These gentle shepherds yearned for peace. They went immediately to Bethlehem to find this Babe who was the Savior, Christ the Lord. Afterwards they eagerly told the good news to all who would listen.

A Great Light

What clues about the Lord's birth do you find in this prophecy?

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.” Isaiah 9:2

Who saw a great light when the Lord was born? This prophecy came true when the shepherds were surrounded by light from heaven.

Why did people walk in darkness and live in the shadow of death? Because many had lost sight of the truth. Leaders like the scribes and Pharisees wanted power and honor for themselves and taught falsities instead of truths. Evil spirits wanted to make people think and act in sinful ways. There were so many evil spirits in the spiritual world that lit-

tle light from heaven could get through to people on earth. When the Lord came on earth, He fought against the evil spirits and conquered them so the light of heaven could shine through again. This prophecy shows how important light is. We are talking about spiritual light or the light of heaven, which is truth. It is truth that defends us from evil and connects us to the angels.



God With Us

The Lord came to earth because He loves us. During His life on earth He showed us how to overcome our faults. He let evil spirits tempt Him so that He could fight them and win. He showed people He was the Lord God Jesus Christ. He took away the power of evil spirits over us so that we can be saved. “Jesus” means “Jehovah saves.” This is why He is called our Savior.

Discussion Ideas

- Why was the Lord born in a stable and not in a palace, like a king? What kind of freedom does this give people to recognize people as King over their lives?
- Think of the light on Moses' face when he received the commandments. Compare this light with the light surrounding the angels when the Lord was born on earth.

Activity Overview | The Lord Is Born on Earth

Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel. Matthew 2:1-6

Songs

City of David Bethlehem

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-city-of-david-bethlehem/>

From the Eastern Mountains

Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-from-the-eastern-mountains/>

Projects

Choose one or two activities.

- Activity 1 | Enlighten My Darkness
- Activity 2 | Nativity Luminary
- Picture to Color—The Savior Is Born (Luke 2)

Additional Activity Ideas

- Watch GCED’s HeartFelt Bible video, *Jesus Is Born*, at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-jesus-is-born/>
- The angels appeared to the shepherds with the good news of the Savior’s birth. They were gentle people who recognized the Lord right away. Tell about how you might have felt if you had been among the shepherds on that awesome night!
- After the Lord’s birth the shepherds told everyone about it. How might people have reacted to this news? It’s likely that people reacted in a variety of ways. How might you have reacted?

Activity 1 | Enlighten My Darkness

Create a project showing the brilliant light of truth the Lord brought into the world at His coming.

Materials Needed

a black or dark blue piece of paper

The Glory of the Lord picture printed on white or yellow paper

crayons or markers

optional: gold or silver glitter and glue

stapler

Directions

1. Using bright colors, decorate the *Glory of the Lord* picture on the following page.
2. *Optional:* decorate the picture using gold or silver glitter and glue. Allow to dry.
3. Place a piece of dark paper over the *Glory of the Lord* picture and staple to the top and bottom of the page only.
4. Bend the papers apart and use scissors to cut the dark piece of paper in half. Make a straight or jagged line. Open the dark paper to show the radiant light coming from the angels.
5. As you open the dark paper to reveal the light, think about the light the Lord brought into the world at His birth. How does the Lord bring light into your life today?



Glory of the Lord

Activity 2 | Nativity Luminary

Create a project showing the brilliant light of truth the Lord brought into the world at His coming.

Materials Needed

glass jar

Nativity Luminary Template picture printed on white paper

electric or wax votive candle

small piece yellow tissue paper

dark blue tissue

glue

paintbrush

scissors

Directions

1. Choose the *Nativity Luminary Template* that best fits the jar you have chosen.
2. Cut out and discard the white areas.
3. Turn the *Nativity Luminary Template* over so the back is showing. Spread glue all around the “light” at the top of the picture using a paint brush. Lay the yellow tissue over it.
4. Turn the template over so the front is facing you. Using the paintbrush, glue the template to the outside of the jar.
5. Tear the dark blue tissue into small pieces. Glue the pieces all over the jar, being careful not to cover the yellow light.
6. While the glue is wet, make small holes in the tissue with the point of the scissors. These will look like stars the project is finished.
7. Allow the glue to dry.
8. Put an electric or wax votive candle inside the jar.

Activity 2 | Nativity Luminary Templates

Choose a template to fit your jar. Cut out white areas. Keep black areas.



