

General Church Education



The Lord Is Born on Earth

Luke 2:1-7

Lesson 28

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Introductory Level: The Lord Is Our
Heavenly Father

For ages 5-6 years

THE LORD IS BORN ON EARTH

Luke 2:1-7

OVERVIEW OF THE STORY

When the power of evil was so strong and people were struggling to know the truth, the Lord Himself was born on earth. Because the Roman rulers called for a census, Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem, the city of their ancestors, and Jesus was born there.

CONCEPTS FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

- ❖ Another name for Jesus Christ is Immanuel, which means "God With Us."
- ❖ Jesus was "the Word made flesh" (John 1:14). He was born so that we might see Divine truth in a Human form and be inspired to turn away from evil. This is how we are saved or how we are able to choose the path to heaven.
- ❖ The Lord's birth was prophesied many times in the Old Testament. In the Old Testament the Hebrew word "Messiah" means "the anointed one" or the Savior who would come on earth. In the New Testament the Greek word "Christ" has the same meaning.
- ❖ The Lord was born at night because spiritually the light of truth had vanished from the earth and there was great ignorance about spiritual things. The power of evil had become so strong that people were helpless to resist it.
- ❖ The Lord's bed was a manger where horses eat because horses mean the understanding of truth from the Word. The Lord came to bring the Word back into people's minds and lives.

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IMPORTANT IDEAS FOR CHILDREN

The Lord God was born on our earth as a little Baby.
He was called Jesus because Jesus means Savior.
He came to save people from evil and lead them to heaven.

LET'S REMEMBER:

- ◆ Last time we learned about a very special baby. Do you remember his name? (John.)

His parents were old but they loved each other and they loved the Lord. So their prayers were answered. They had a baby who would grow up and tell people that the Lord was coming soon. This was how the old prophecy came true.

- ◆ Do you remember what a prophecy is? (A message telling something that will happen in the future.)
- ◆ Who told Zacharias that his wife Elizabeth would have a baby? (An angel.)
- ◆ Did Zacharias believe it at first? (No.)
- ◆ What happened because he did not believe right away? (He became mute and could not speak until after the baby was born.)



OUR STORY FOR TODAY:

In our last story we learned about another prophecy. It said that the Lord Himself would be born on earth. He came at a time when even people who wanted to be good did not know how to be good any more.

Most people at this time could not read. They depended on those who could read to teach them the laws of God. The Scribes and Pharisees were leaders of the Jewish people. They could read the laws and knew what the laws said to do. But the Scribes and Pharisees wanted to have their own power over the people. They told the Jewish people what they wanted them to do instead of what was right.

So, the Lord came to our earth to remind people what the Scriptures really taught and to show them how to live. This is why He is called a Savior—because He saved people from evil that was so strong.

An angel was sent to a young woman named Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of a very special Baby. The angel told her to name this special Baby "Jesus" and that He would be called the "Son of the highest." This means that God Himself would be the Father of this Baby, which is why He is sometimes called the "Son of God."



The angel also appeared to a man named Joseph, who loved Mary, and told him to marry her and make her his wife. The angel told him that the Child she would have was "of the Holy Spirit." This is another way of saying that this Baby would be the Son of God. It was quite amazing because nothing like this had ever happened before. All other people have an earthly mother and father. Mary and Joseph were good people and obeyed the Lord even though they probably did not fully understand what was happening.



Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem about this time because there was a census. A census is a time when all the people in a country are counted to see how many people are living there. The Romans who were ruling or governing the Jewish people wanted to have everyone in the country counted. The Roman soldiers read the orders or the decree to the people, and everyone had to obey.

Each family had to go to certain cities to be counted. Mary and Joseph made the long journey from their home in Nazareth to the town of Bethlehem. When they arrived, there were many other travelers in town for the same reason and so there was no room for them to stay in the inn.

Do you know what an inn is? (Like a hotel or motel. A place for travelers to sleep.)

They found a sheltered place to stay in a stable with the animals and this is where the Baby was born. Let's find out where Mary put the Baby.



Read **Luke 2:1-7**.

Where was the Baby laid? (In a manger.) Do you know what a manger is? It is a feed box for horses. It was probably filled with sweet smelling hay and would have made a soft bed. Mary wrapped the Baby in swaddling cloths. These were nice clean cloths that made a soft covering for Him and kept Him warm.



You might think that when the Lord came to earth He would live in palace like a king. But the rulers at this time were mean and selfish. So the Lord was born in a stable surrounded by people who loved Him and wanted to obey His laws. He came to earth because He loves us and wants to show us the truth about what really makes us happy.

So you see, this little Baby was different from any other ever born or to be born. And God, Who made heaven and earth and everything in it, came to earth as that Baby to grow up here and show us the right way to live.

WHAT DID WE LEARN TODAY?

- ♦ **What was this very special Baby's name?** (Jesus.)
- ♦ **Who was Jesus' mother?** (Mary.)
- ♦ **Who was Mary's husband?** (Joseph.)
- ♦ **Who was Jesus' Father?** (The Lord.)
- ♦ **What do you think it would feel like to talk to an angel?**

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ACTIVITIES



Recitation: Learn the recitation by heart and earn an award. Awards are on the last page of this lesson.

Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."



Project choices:

The Birth of the Lord project
Color a picture of the nativity

Luke 2:9-11



Songs:

Away in a Manger—Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-away-in-a-manger/>

O Tell Me, Gentle Shepherd—Listen or download at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-o-tell-me-gentle-shepherd/>



Additional Activities:

- ❖ Children delight in going through old Christmas cards to find pictures of the stable scene or Mary with the Baby Lord. Cut out scenes. Add glitter to the edges or glue the pictures to a piece of colored paper to create a border. Punch a hole at the top, attach a string or piece of yarn. Hang it as an ornament on your tree—or give it as a gift.
- ❖ Talk about ways to "make a place for the Lord to be born" in your life. We do not need to do heroic acts. When we humbly obey what the Lord has said we invite Him into our daily lives. Experience the joy in these moments.

The Birth of the Lord

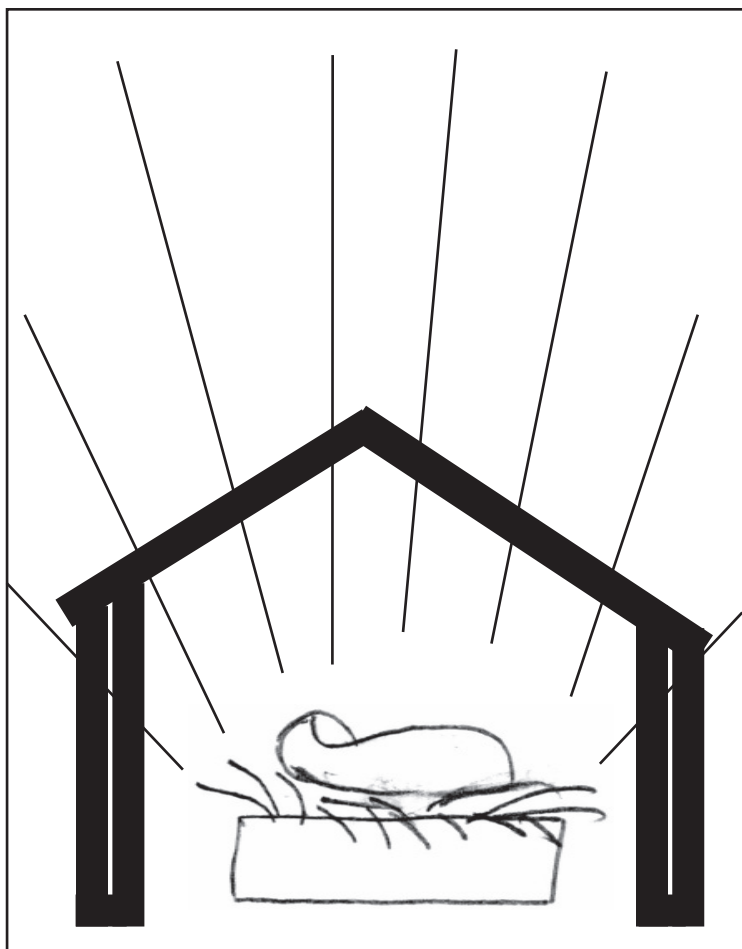
Make a picture of Baby Jesus in the stable to help children remember how He brought light into the world.

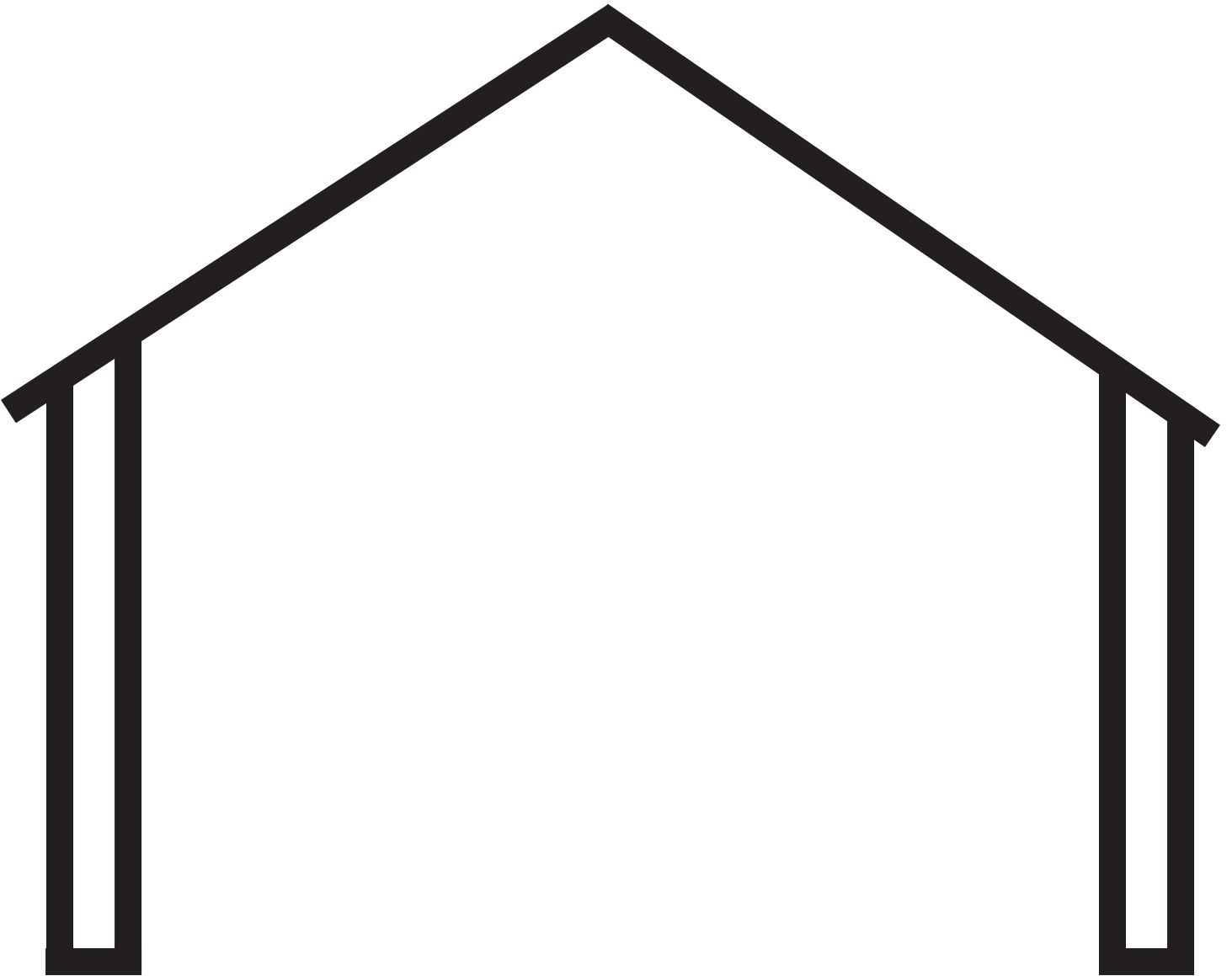
Supplies:

- 1 printed page
- oil pastels
- watercolor paints
- paint brush
- 1 piece of yellow paper

Project instructions:

1. The printed page has the outline of a stable on it. Draw a picture of Baby Jesus in the manger inside the stable. The manger would probably be wooden, so you could make it brown. Make the straw which cushioned the Baby yellow. Jesus was wearing swaddling clothes. Color them white. Color the Baby's face, too.
2. Now add rays of white and yellow light coming from the Baby. These can go all the way past the roof of the stable and up into the sky. You can also add a star if you wish.
3. Using black or very dark blue paint, paint all over your picture. The manger and the stable outlines may not show up very well, but Baby Jesus and the light coming from Him should shine through the darkness!
4. Glue your project to the center of the yellow piece of construction paper to create a frame.







Recitation Award: The Lord Is Born on Earth

Purchase a wide colorful ribbon. Attach each recitation award to the ribbon as it is learned. Multiple copies of the award are provided for classes.

