

BRINGING THE STORY HOME

Week of February 25, 2018

Timeless Truth: God sent Jesus to give us hope and teach us how to live

Bible Basis: Genesis 3; John 3:16

The Story for Kids Weekly Reading:

Chapter 22 The Birth of the King

Memory Verse: But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy. It is for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11



TABLE TALK

NOTE: These questions are designed to help prompt discussion among a wide range of ages. Please adapt them as they best fit YOUR family.

Ever since Adam and Eve chose to disobey God (the first sin) and all of his people were separated from him, they had been waiting for God to send a Savior to bring us back together with him.

- What is something special that you wait for? (Birthday, Christmas, new toy.) What is the longest time you’ve had to wait? What was it? Was it worth the wait?
- What were God’s people waiting for?
- Who found out about Jesus’ coming first? What was Mary’s reaction?
- Have you ever received exciting news that you wanted to keep in your heart for a while before sharing it? What was it?

EXTRA MILE

Read John 3:16

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

Take turns rereading this verse, but this time insert one person’s name and the others will read it to them. (ie Dad and kids will read to mommy, “For God so loved mommy that he gave his one and only Son that when mommy believes in him she will not perish, but mommy will have eternal life.”)

~ **How did it feel when you heard your name in this verse?**

~ **How did it feel to say someone else’s name?**

~ **God sent his son for every person on earth. As you go throughout your week, each time you see a new person practice saying to yourself, “God sent Jesus to die for (insert their name if you know it).” Notice how/if this changes your feelings toward others.**

It’s amazing to think that God would’ve sent Jesus to earth to die even if it had only been for one person, even if it had only been for me or you. Let’s thank God.

PRAYER TIME

Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to save each one of us. Help us to remember that you are our personal Savior and that you want a personal relationship with each one of us. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.



The Story for Kids 3x Week Reading Plan

DAY 1

Reading: *Jesus' Mother*, pg 164 – Pg 166 (blue–pg 181 – top of pg 184) (mins)

This reading covers: Luke 1; John 1

Summary: Mary let God use her even though she didn't fully understand.

Do together: Supply construction paper, drawing paper, markers, crayons, scissors and glue. Have the children depict the angel Gabriel visiting Mary.

Think about: Discuss the role of angels in the announcement of Christ's birth. Have the children share their own ideas about these visions. How do they think they would have answered had they been Mary or Joseph?

Also read: Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-33

Prayer: Dear God, How incredible to know that you used an ordinary person to be the mother of Jesus. You also used your heavenly messengers to bring this good news. Help me to be ready to hear you when you speak, and to follow you when you show me what to do. I pray in Jesus' name, Amen.

DAY 2

Reading: *The Birth of Jesus*, Pg 167 through break on pg 169 (blue– break on pg 184 – break on pg 187) (mins)

This reading covers: Matthew 1; Luke 2

Summary: Jesus' birth was a joyous event bringing hope to all people.

Do together: Have the children set up a nativity scene. You could use finger puppets or draw the characters on paper and cut them out. Be sure to include angels, shepherds, sheep, Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Wise Men and King Herod.

Think about: Discuss each character as it goes into the scene. Talk about their involvement in The Story. Have the children talk about what it might have been like if they had been there. Repeat together the praises of the angels: "May glory be given to God in the highest heaven! And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!"

Also read: Isaiah 9:2-7

Prayer: Dear God, What a great day, the day Jesus was born. You brought hope and peace into the world. Thank you for this awesome gift. In Jesus' name. Amen.

DAY 3

Reading: *Jesus as a Boy* –break on pg 169 - end (blue – break on pg 187- end) (mins)

This reading covers: Luke 2

Summary: Jesus shows children how to grow.

Do together: Get out the family photo album (or your iPhone ;). Have fun looking at pictures of your family over the years. Notice how much everyone has grown.

Think about: The Bible tells us that Jesus grew up, too. Even though he was God, he still started as a baby, became a boy, and grew into a man. Along the way, the Bible tells us he grew up well. At the very end of this chapter of The Story for Kids we read, "Jesus became wiser and strong. He also became more and more pleasing to God and to people." What would it take for you to grow up in each of these ways?

Wiser:

Stronger:

More pleasing to God:

More pleasing to people:

Read also: 1 John 2:5-6

Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank you that you gave me an example of how to live when you sent your Son Jesus. He was a real person and someone I can relate to. Help me to grow like he grew. In Jesus' name. Amen.