

## December 10

Character: Jesus (His Birth)

Setting: Our advent devotionals thus far have discussed some of the characters of Christmas. Today, we're going to discuss the main character of Christmas, the one whose very presence changed the world forever. Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph were all aware of the miracle that was about to take place when the baby in Mary's womb would come forth into our world. We've discussed all of their reactions to the "good news" delivered to them through an angel of the Lord. But up until this point, the most important character of Christmas hadn't been born. Our story today begins with a Roman ruler issuing a decree. In this time of history, the Roman Empire was very powerful and ruled over the civilized world. The people had to follow the Roman laws. So, when a decree was issued that all people had to return to their hometowns to register for a census, Joseph had to go. Because he belonged to the house and family line of David, he had to travel to Bethlehem. It just so happened that Mary, who was very far along in her pregnancy at this time, had to travel with him because she was his fiancée'. Little did this powerful Roman emperor know that his decree was part of God's perfect plan to bring His son into the world exactly as the prophets foretold. Our story begins in Luke, Chapter 2.

Scripture: Luke 2:1-7 (Read)

Application: Had Jesus been born in Nazareth, the village where Joseph and Mary lived, He would not have fulfilled the requirements to be the Messiah. We know this because the prophet Micah declared "out of Bethlehem will come forth the one who will be the ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of Old, from ancient times." His birth had to take place in Bethlehem, and this is just one of numerous prophecies about the birth and life of Jesus that were fulfilled by Jesus. God intricately worked out every single detail of Jesus's birth, so the people would know that He was the promised Messiah. Not everyone believed, of course. But it's not because God's prophets erred. Their prophecies about Jesus's birth, life and death all came to pass exactly as they said they would. Take some time today to discuss with your family some of the prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament. Write down your favorite ones, and discuss how many details had to fall into place for these prophecies to come true.

Prayer: Praise God that He gladly gives us wisdom when we ask Him for it. Thank Him for the Bible which is His book written for us so that we may know and learn about Him. Ask God to give us hearts

to believe the words in our Bibles, and to share this Good News about Jesus with all those we know and love.