

Merry Christmas!

Let's begin our time with prayer and thanking the Lord for coming down from heaven to save us from our sins and bring us into His eternal family.

Text: **Luke 2:1–20** (NKJV)

If possible, have each of your kids read one verse at a time or one paragraph each.

Christ is Born

2 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. ³ So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city.

⁴ Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. ⁶ So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. ⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

In chapter one, the angel told Mary the Holy Spirit would come upon her, and she would give birth to the Son of God.

Luke 1:35 (NKJV)

³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God."

Mary and Joseph were betrothed or engaged when Mary became pregnant and did not know each other intimately until after Jesus was born.

Caesar Augustus was taking a census of the people, which required them to return to their hometowns.

This shows us how God uses natural means at times for supernatural purposes as the Old Testament foretold Jesus would be born in the small town of Bethlehem in the lineage of David. (Micah 5:2, 2 Samuel 7:12-13, Isaiah 9:7)

The Angels Announce Jesus to the Shepherds

⁸ Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

¹³ *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:*

¹⁴ *“Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”*

The angels had the privilege to be the first ones to announce the coming of the king. They said: *“Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.”*

It is a normal response in scripture for people to be afraid when they see angels, but they came with great news!

“there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

But why does the world need a Savior?

Romans 3:10 (NKJV)

“There is none righteous, no, not one;

Isaiah 53:6 (NKJV)

⁶ *All we like sheep have gone astray;
We have turned, every one, to his own way;
And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

The Prophet Isaiah said: *“All we like sheep have gone astray;”*

Since the fall of man in the Garden, man has had a heart that rebelled against God.

Romans 3:23 Says.

²³ *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,* (NKJV)

Sin, the Bible tells us, leads to eternal death. (Genesis 2:14, James 1:14, Romans 6:23, Revelation 20:19-23)

But Christ came into the world to save us from death and from the judgment, which our sins deserve.

That is what the Prophet Isaiah meant when he said, *“the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity (Sin, evil, or guilt) of us all.”*

Jesus came to save us from sin and eternal death.

That is why we celebrate His birth because if Jesus did not come and die in our place, then we would not be able to go to heaven with Him but would be forever dead in our sins.

The Shepherds Visit Jesus

¹⁵ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. ¹⁸ And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

The shepherds did three things in response to the wonderful news the angels told them.

First, they went to Jesus; this should still be our response to this wonderful news. We need to come to Jesus in Faith, believing in Him and what He did, and knowing that we need Him to cleanse us from our sins.

Second, the shepherds went and told others.

This great news was not meant to be concealed or hidden but to be shared with everyone.

We want to be like the shepherds and tell the world we have found the Savior, come and see what God has done.

Third, *"the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them."*

The shepherds turned their hearts and minds to the Lord and worshipped Him for sending a savior!

This morning, Let's join with the angels and Shepherds and worship God, for the Savior has come!

1. O Come, All Ye Faithful

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!

Refrain:

O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him;
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

2 Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! [Refrain]

3 Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! [Refrain]

2. Joy To the World

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness
and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders of His love.

3. Go Tell It On the Mountain

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]

2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth. [Refrain]

3 Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]