In the Beginning...Jesus

Lesson 31
The Promised King and Savior Is Born

Themes:

- God prepared the way for Jesus with the birth of John the Baptist.
- Jesus was born to Mary, a virgin, fulfilling the Old Testament promise.
- Jesus was born in Bethlehem, fulfilling the Old Testament promise.

Scripture:

Luke 1:26-33; Matthew 1:18-23; John 19:36; Luke 2:1, 3-7

Memory Verse:

John 1:12 (and review verses 1-11)

Clues Fulfilled By Jesus' Birth:

CHILD OF PROMISE, GOD WITH US, RULER FROM BETHLEHEM

Home and Heart:

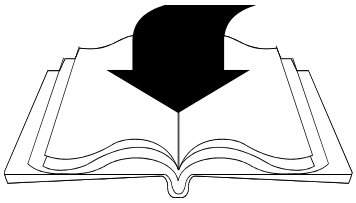
Read Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20. God's people were waiting for a great King like David. Do the events surrounding Jesus' birth seem "kingly"? Why not? Were His parents royal people? Were they rich and important? Was He born in a palace? Who were some of the first people to whom the angels announced His birth? Do you think all of these things would make it more or less likely for people to believe He was the long awaited King? Why do you think God did things this way? What is more important, to judge things by what you think they should be like, or by what God's Word says is true? Is this sometimes hard for us to do? Why?

Caesar Augustus was the most powerful ruler on earth at the time of Jesus' birth. He was a Roman and not a believer in the one true God. Read Proverbs 21:1. How did God use Caesar to fulfill the Old Testament promise from Micah 5:2? Did Caesar know he was fulfilling God's plans? Does a person need to agree with God's plans for them to come true? Read and discuss Job 42:2.

Read and discuss Mary's prayer of praise in Luke 1:46-55. Does it sound like Mary doubted that God would keep His promises from long ago? Why not? Was she proud that of all the women in the world, she alone was chosen to give birth to God's Son? What verses show her attitude? Who does she give all the credit to and why? Do you ever feel like boasting about something wonderful you have been given? Why would it be wrong to boast about a gift that was given to you? How was the birth of Jesus a gift to God's people? Do you need this gift, too? Have you received the gift of Jesus? What might this look like in your life?



DISCOVER MORE



MATTHEW & LUKE

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are called the gospels. The word *gospel* means "good news." The gospels are good news because they tell about the long-awaited King and Savior God promised: Jesus! This week, read Matthew 1:18-25; 2:1-18, and Luke 2:1-40. You will often find the words: "...to fulfill…" These words show that Jesus fulfills the Old Testament promises. After reading each passage, use the chart below to check off which events are described in each. Taken together, these passages provide a more complete picture of events of Jesus' birth.

Event	Matthew 1:18-25 2:1-18	Luke 2:1-40
Caesar Augustus makes a decree	☐	☐
Jesus is born in Bethlehem	☐	☐
There is no room at the inn	☐	☐
Jesus is born in a manger	☐	☐
The angels announce Jesus' birth to shepherds	☐	☐
The wise men (Magi) come to worship Jesus	☐	☐
Herod gives orders to kill the male children	☐	☐
Joseph takes Mary and Jesus to Egypt	☐	☐
Jesus is brought to the temple in Jerusalem	☐	☐