

THE PEOPLE OF ADVENT



Week Three - Joseph, Mary, and the Savior

A Note to the Parents/Teachers

This week we finally get to the climax of the story - the miraculous birth of Jesus. This is a well-known story to many. Pray that in the midst of this chaotic season of life, both you the teacher and the kids would rest in the Good News of this amazing part of our history!

- **Big Idea:** God has come to be with us -
in the ultimate partnership with humanity!

Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**
Take some time to ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work this week, month, or even past year. Anything, big or small, that is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.
- **Question**
What are some of your favorite things your family does at Christmas time? What are you celebrating at Christmas?

Sing Together

Born Is the King (It's Christmas) - <https://youtu.be/EnMBUjCPaZ0>

Story - from Matthew 1:18-23

Hundreds of years passed since God first made the promise of a child being born from the woman and crushing the serpent's head. Then hundreds more after He made a promise to make Israel His people and bless the nations through them. And even hundreds more after He spoke through the prophets about the coming Rescuer who would take away their pain and sin. Finally, it was time to bring all of those promises together in one person; His own Son.

The birth of King Jesus came about this way:

After his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, it was discovered before they married that she was pregnant from the Holy Spirit. So her husband Joseph, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her publicly, decided to divorce her secretly.

But after he had considered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, *“Joseph, son of David, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because what has been conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”*

Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, Isaiah:

*‘See, the virgin will become pregnant
and give birth to a son,
and they will name him Immanuel’,
which is translated, “God is with us.”*

Jesus was the Son of God born by the Holy Spirit - but he was also the son of Mary and Joseph. His ancestors were also Israelites who were exiled into Babylon, and before that one of his great great great grandfathers was King David, and his father Jesse, before that a woman who loved God named Ruth, and so on. In fact, the family tree of Jesus goes all the way back to Abraham, the man God chose to create the nation Israel out of... and even all the way back to the first man, Adam.

After thousands of years of waiting, longing, and hoping for God’s promised Rescuer to come, he came. But not at all in the way God’s people were expecting. The Creator of all the universe made himself small and weak, being born as a human, in order to fulfill the partnership humans were meant to have with God from the beginning.

The God who flung planets into space and kept them whirling around and around, the God who made the universe with just a word, the one who could do anything at all - was making himself small. And coming down... as a baby.

- Jesus Storybook Bible (p. 179)

[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- Why do you think God's promise of the Rescuer took so long to come?
- Did God interact with and provide for His people in the meantime?
- Who was Jesus the son of? Why is it important that he was both the Son of God, born by the Holy Spirit, and a son of man, born to Mary and Joseph?
- What does Immanuel mean? Why is this a good name for Jesus?

Breakout Time

- **Prayer:**

God, You have always been with us. You have never left Your creation alone. Thank You, Jesus, for coming down from your throne in heaven to be with your people. Help us to live like you, with your Spirit's help. Amen.

- **Craft:**

Use the attached sheet for kids to color and to discuss as a class what story it is telling.

The woman represents Mary, who carried Jesus. Talk about the three circles: the one above representing God in heaven, the one on Mary representing God partnering with her, and the one in her womb representing God come to us.

Have the kids draw their own picture on the back, showing how they would tell the story of God's light coming into the world.

There are also instructions for another activity using paper plates and popsicle sticks on the last page.

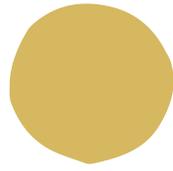
- **BLESS Activity:**

For kids to do during the week

Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask the Spirit to help us to *Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath* (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

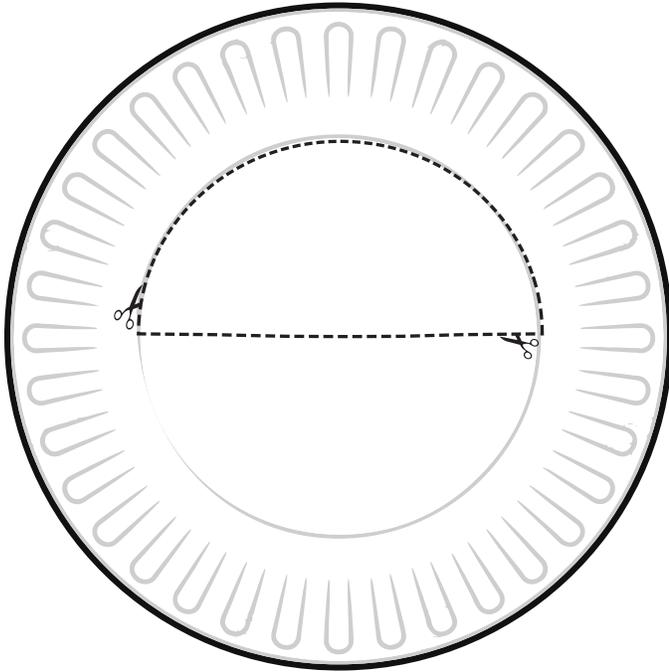
This week, focus on the **Eat** rhythm.

It's Christmas time. You are probably going to share some meals with family and friends. Take some time to be intentional with those meals and remember that Jesus shared the table with the people nobody else wanted to be around. Are there opportunities to open your table up to others outside your family this holiday season?



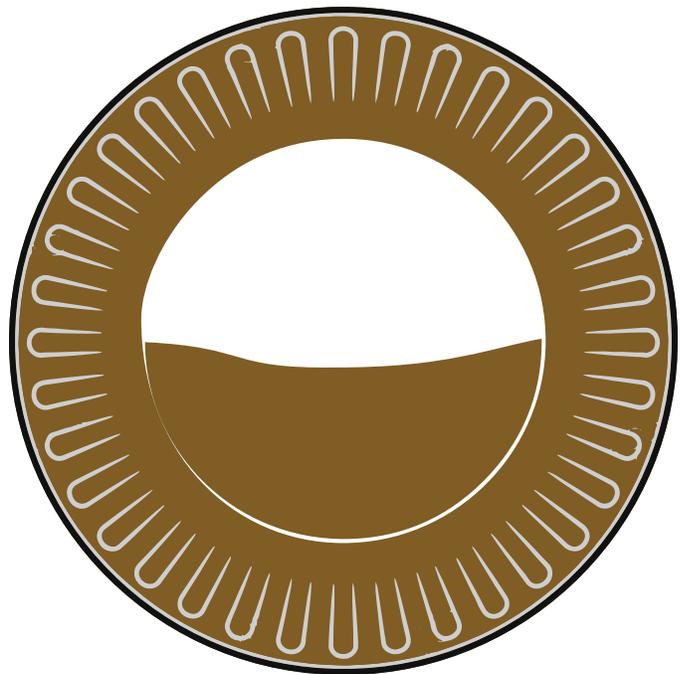
grow

“And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment
of what had been spoken to her by the Lord.”
Luke 1:45



Step 1) Take a paper plate and cut out half of the inner circle.

Step 2) Color plate brown.



Step 3) Glue star on top and manger. (You can use popsicle sticks or make out of the scrap paper you cut out.)

