

Bible in 52 Weeks: Week 22

Jesus Birth



Share pictures and stories of the day you were born or of a favorite birthday. If you have any family/friend birthdays coming up, make or write cards to them



Read Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 2:1-7 Or in the Spark Storybook Bible read pages

Conversation Starters:

For children:

- Do you know where you were born? Was it in a stable? NOOOO! Where were you born? What do you think it would be like to live in a stable/barn? What animals might be in a barn?
- Jesus name means "God is with us." What does your name mean?
- Mary and Joseph had to walk a long way to Bethlehem. What's the longest walk you've been on? Did you get tired?
- What kinds of things do babies need? Jesus didn't have much, but God was there! How do you know that God is with you?
- An angel told Joseph to not be afraid about Jesus coming. Dads are special people! What kinds of things does your dad do for you? Or grandpa, uncle or special guy in your life?
- There was no room in the inn for Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus-but we can make room for Jesus in our hearts! How can you make room for Jesus?

For adults/youth:

- Matthew and Luke are the only two gospels that tell the story of Jesus' birth. How are they the same? What are the differences?
- Matthew's gospel is one filled with fear around Jesus' birth. Babies can indeed be frightening! If you've had children, what are some of your parenting fears? If you don't what are some of the fears your parents might have had?
- In Luke, there was no room for the Holy Family-how do we not make room for Jesus in our own lives? How can we create room for Jesus?

- When was a time when, like Joseph, you took a “leap of faith” and did something counter intuitive? How did you know that it was the correct thing to do?
- Have you ever had a dream that gave you a vision for your life?
- We don’t talk about the Holy Spirit much in Lutheran circles. But right here at the beginning of Matthew’s gospel the Holy Spirit is prominent. How do you think of the Holy Spirit in relationship to God and Jesus? What is the Holy Spirit’s role do you think?

Activities for all:

- Ask relatives or look up some of your genealogy. What surprises or connections did you make?
- Walk to work, or to run errands this week. Consider Jesus’ time when walking was really the only mode of transportation! How would your life change if you could only walk places?
- Draw what you think the stable where Jesus was born looked like. Historically, it was really more like a cave!
- Service project: Contact a local shelter for those who are homeless and see what donations they might need. Or connect with Family Promises or Growing Home, both agencies in the CO area that support homeless families.
- Donate shoes that you no longer wear to a thrift store.
- Plant some seeds and watch them grow! How is our life with God like these new plants?



Celebrate new life this week! Use a shoe box or some sort of box, as a “manger” for your prayers this week. Give thanks for new life, pray for those families who are on the street, pray for healthy babies all over the world, give thanks for our families and for all families!



+God is With Us+