

the birth of jesus christmas story for children

the birth of jesus christmas story for children unfolds the timeless narrative of hope, love, and a miraculous beginning that continues to captivate hearts each year. This comprehensive guide delves into the key elements of the nativity story, making it accessible and engaging for young minds. We will explore the prophecies foretelling Jesus' arrival, the journey of Mary and Joseph, the humble stable in Bethlehem, the appearance of the angels to the shepherds, and the wise men's quest guided by the star. Understanding these foundational aspects helps illuminate the true meaning of Christmas and the significance of Jesus' birth. This article is designed to be an informative resource for parents, educators, and anyone seeking to share this special story with children.

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The Old Testament Prophecies of Jesus' Birth

Long before Jesus was born, ancient scriptures, known as the Old Testament, spoke of a coming Savior. These prophecies were like hints and clues, telling people what to expect when God's special son would arrive on Earth. For centuries, people waited, hoping for the fulfillment of these promises. These predictions weren't just about a new king; they described a rescuer who would bring peace and forgiveness to the world. Understanding these ancient words helps us see how incredible and planned Jesus' birth truly was, setting the stage for the Christmas story we know today. The Old Testament is full of exciting predictions about this event.

Messianic Predictions for Children

Imagine a treasure hunt where the map is made of old stories! That's a bit like how the prophecies of Jesus' birth are for children. These stories, found in ancient books called the Old Testament, told people many years ago that a very special baby would be born. They said this baby would be a king, but not like any king they knew. He would be kind and loving, and he would help everyone feel better. The prophets, who were special messengers from God, wrote down these amazing predictions. They talked about a baby born in Bethlehem, a town small and quiet, and how he would bring joy and hope to the whole world. These ancient writings are like the first clues in the Christmas story!

Mary and Joseph's Journey to Bethlehem

The Christmas story begins with a young woman named Mary, who was promised in marriage to a good man named Joseph. An angel named Gabriel visited Mary and told her she would have a very special baby, the Son of God. Mary, though surprised, trusted God and said yes. Joseph was a kind and honest man. When he learned Mary was going to have a baby, he was confused, but an angel appeared to him in a dream and explained everything. He learned that this baby was sent by God and was part of God's amazing plan. Around this time, the Roman Emperor, Augustus, decided everyone had to travel back to their hometowns to be counted, like a big census. Joseph's family came from a town called Bethlehem, so he and his pregnant wife, Mary, had to make the long journey from their home in Nazareth to Bethlehem. It was a difficult trip, likely on foot or on a donkey, traveling many miles. They were heading to Joseph's ancestral home to fulfill this important Roman decree.

The Road to Bethlehem for Little Ones

Picture Mary and Joseph getting ready for a big adventure! They lived in a town called Nazareth, but they had to travel to a different town, called Bethlehem, for a special reason. The Emperor, who was like a ruler of many lands, said everyone had to go back to their family's old town to be counted. So, Joseph and Mary packed their bags and set off on a long walk. It wasn't like riding in a car; they probably rode on a gentle donkey. The journey was long and maybe a little tiring, but they were together, holding onto hope. They were on their way to Bethlehem, a place that would soon become very, very famous because of their special trip and the baby they were carrying.

The Humble Birth in the Stable

When Mary and Joseph finally arrived in Bethlehem, they found that the town was incredibly crowded. So many people had come for the census that all the inns and guest houses were full. There was no room for them inside. Because there was no other place to go, they had to find shelter in a humble stable, a place

where animals like sheep and donkeys were kept. It was a simple and rather poor place, smelling of hay and animals. It was here, in this quiet, humble stable, surrounded by gentle farm animals, that Mary gave birth to her son. She wrapped him in soft cloths, as new babies are, and laid him gently in a manger, which is like a feeding trough for the animals. This simple beginning showed that Jesus came not to a palace, but to be with everyone, even the humble and the poor. This manger became the first cradle for the King of Kings.

A Manger, Not a Palace: The First Christmas Nursery

Imagine a cozy, but very simple, room. Instead of a soft bed, there was a wooden box filled with soft straw. This box was usually for the animals to eat from, and it was called a manger. Mary and Joseph couldn't find a place to stay in the busy town of Bethlehem, so they ended up in a stable with the animals. It was there, in this quiet, peaceful stable, that the baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped him up in warm cloths and laid him carefully in the manger. Even though it wasn't fancy like a royal bedroom, it was the perfect place for Jesus to be born. It showed that God loved everyone, no matter where they lived or what they had. This little stable was the very first Christmas nursery, full of wonder and love.

Angels and Shepherds: Heavenly Tidings

In the fields outside Bethlehem, some shepherds were watching their sheep late at night. Shepherds were important people who took care of the flocks, working hard even in the dark. Suddenly, a bright light filled the sky, and an angel of the Lord appeared before them. The shepherds were very frightened by the angel's presence and the shining light. But the angel spoke to them, saying, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people." The angel then announced the most wonderful news: "Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord!" This was the first Christmas announcement! And then, not just one angel, but a whole crowd of angels appeared, praising God by saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." After the angels left, the shepherds, filled with excitement and wonder, decided they must go to Bethlehem to see this special baby for themselves. They left their sheep and hurried to find Mary, Joseph, and the newborn Jesus.

Good News for the Sheep Herders!

Out in the dark fields, some shepherds were keeping their sheep safe. It was a normal night, but then something amazing happened! A bright light shone, and an angel appeared. The shepherds were a little scared, but the angel said, "Don't worry! I have wonderful news for you!" The angel told them that a very special baby, a Savior, had been born in Bethlehem. He was the one everyone had been waiting for! Then, even more angels appeared, singing beautiful songs to God. The shepherds were so excited! They couldn't wait to see the baby, so they left their sheep and ran to Bethlehem to find Jesus. This was the very first

Christmas message, shared with some kind helpers of the sheep.

The Wise Men and the Guiding Star

Far away, in lands to the East, lived wise men, sometimes called Magi. These men were scholars and stargazers who studied the stars. They noticed a very unusual and brilliant star appearing in the sky, a star they had never seen before. They understood from their studies that this special star meant that a new king, a very important one, had been born in the land of Israel. So, these wise men decided to follow the star on a long and adventurous journey. They traveled for many months, guided by the star, which led them all the way to Bethlehem. When they finally found Jesus, they were overjoyed. They knelt down and worshiped him, offering him precious gifts that showed he was a king: gold, which was for royalty; frankincense, a sweet-smelling incense used in worship; and myrrh, a spice often used for special ceremonies. Their visit showed that people from all over the world would recognize Jesus as their special King and Savior.

Following the Star to Find Baby Jesus

Far, far away, some very smart people who loved looking at the stars noticed something amazing. A brand-new, super-bright star appeared in the night sky! They knew this wasn't just any star; it was a sign that a very special king had been born in a faraway land. So, these wise men packed up their things and decided to follow this magical star. It was a long trip, and the star was their guide, leading them closer and closer. When they finally arrived in Bethlehem, they saw the star stop right over where Jesus was. They were so happy! They gave Jesus wonderful gifts: shiny gold, special perfume called frankincense, and another special spice called myrrh. It was like a royal welcome for the baby King!

The Significance of Jesus' Birth

The birth of Jesus is the central event of Christianity and a profound moment in history. It signifies God's immense love for humanity, choosing to send his Son into the world in a humble and relatable way. Jesus' arrival represented hope, peace, and salvation, fulfilling ancient prophecies and offering a new covenant between God and humankind. His birth in a stable, rather than a palace, emphasized his identification with the poor and marginalized, demonstrating that true value comes not from worldly possessions but from inner goodness and faith. The story of Jesus' birth encourages acts of kindness, generosity, and compassion, inspiring people to live lives filled with love and purpose. It is a reminder of the extraordinary power of a simple beginning and the enduring message of divine love bestowed upon all.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who was the mother of baby Jesus?

Baby Jesus' mother was a kind and good woman named Mary. She was very special and loved Jesus very much!

Who was the father of baby Jesus?

Even though Mary was his mother, God was baby Jesus' Heavenly Father. Joseph was a good man who loved Mary and took care of Jesus on Earth.

Where was baby Jesus born?

Baby Jesus was born in a humble stable in the town of Bethlehem. It wasn't a fancy house, but it was a safe place for him.

Why was Jesus born in a stable?

Mary and Joseph couldn't find a room in the inn because many people were traveling. So, they had to use a stable, which is a place where animals sleep.

Who visited baby Jesus first?

Some shepherds, who were watching their sheep outside at night, were the first people to visit baby Jesus. Angels told them about his birth!

What is a star that is special to Jesus' birth?

There was a very bright and special star that guided wise men to where Jesus was. It's called the Star of Bethlehem!

Who were the wise men, and what did they bring?

The wise men were visitors from far away who were very smart and followed the special star. They brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh for baby Jesus.

What is the main message of the Christmas story?

The Christmas story is all about love! It teaches us that God loves us so much that he sent his Son, Jesus, to be born on Earth to bring joy and peace to everyone.

Why do we celebrate Christmas?

We celebrate Christmas to remember and honor the birth of Jesus. It's a time for giving, sharing, and being thankful for the gift of Jesus!

Additional Resources

Here are 9 book titles related to the birth of Jesus Christmas story for children, with short descriptions:

1. *The Little Star Who Couldn't Twinkle*

This heartwarming story follows a small star who feels insignificant because it can't shine as brightly as the others. On the night of Jesus' birth, the little star discovers its own special purpose in guiding travelers to Bethlehem. It learns that everyone has a unique gift, no matter how small it seems.

2. *Mary's Little Donkey*

Meet Barnaby, a gentle donkey who has the important job of carrying Mary on her long journey to Bethlehem. Through Barnaby's eyes, children experience the anticipation and wonder of their travels. He witnesses the humble beginnings of Jesus' birth and plays a quiet but significant role in the Nativity.

3. *The Shepherd Who Found a Friend*

This book tells the tale of a young shepherd boy who is lonely and a little afraid tending his sheep on the night of Jesus' birth. When the angels announce the good news, he is guided to the manger, where he encounters the baby Jesus and his family. The shepherd finds not only a new friend but also a profound sense of peace and joy.

4. *The Wisest Gift for the King*

Three wise men travel from afar, guided by a brilliant star, to find the newborn King. Each wise man brings a special gift, but the story explores the true meaning of giving. It teaches children that the most precious gifts are love, kindness, and faith, which are more valuable than gold, frankincense, or myrrh.

5. *Bethlehem's Best Christmas Eve*

Step into the bustling town of Bethlehem on the night Jesus was born. This book captures the sights, sounds, and emotions of that historic evening through the eyes of various villagers. From the innkeeper to the shepherds, readers see how everyone played a part in the miraculous event.

6. *The Angel's First Song*

This gentle narrative focuses on the very first angel who sings the joyous message of Jesus' birth to the shepherds. It's a story about the excitement and wonder of sharing such incredible news. The angel's song brings peace and hope to a world in need, and children learn the power of good tidings.

7. *Joseph's Peaceful Dream*

This story delves into the perspective of Joseph, Jesus' earthly father. It highlights his quiet strength, his

love for Mary, and the crucial role he played in protecting his new family. The book emphasizes the importance of faith and obedience as Joseph receives divine guidance in his dreams.

8. *The Stable That Became a Sanctuary*

Explore the humble beginnings of Jesus' birth in a simple stable. This book beautifully illustrates how a place of quiet obscurity became the most sacred spot in the world. It teaches children that God's love can be found in the most unexpected and unassuming places.

9. *A Candle for the Manger*

This tender story follows a young child who wants to give the baby Jesus a gift. Not having anything material to offer, the child decides to light a single candle to bring warmth and light to the manger. It's a beautiful lesson about offering what you have with a loving heart.

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