



# Life of Christ

## Mary and Joseph travel Luke 2:1-5

**Younger Verse**

I am the Lord's servant. Luke 1:38

**Older Verse**

I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said. Luke 1:38

**Advent**

What candle did we light the last two weeks? (Promise and Bethlehem candles) Today we will light the Shepherd's candle. The angels told them the special news. They ran to see God's Son. Then, they excitedly told others the good news!

**Bible Story**

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Several weeks ago, we learned that God told His people a long time ago that His Son, Jesus, would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)

Joseph and Mary were told by an angel that they would be part of this wonderful plan. Mary would have God's Son.

Joseph and Mary did not live in Bethlehem. They lived in Nazareth. It was a town about 2 days walking from Bethlehem.

How did God get Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to have baby Jesus? Listen to what the Bible tells us...

The ruler (king) Caesar Augustus made a law that everyone had to be counted. It was called a census. So, everyone had to go to their hometown to be counted.

Joseph lived in Nazareth but his family was from Bethlehem. His great, great, great... grandfather was king David who was from Bethlehem.

Mary went with Joseph even though she was very pregnant. They both knew that she was ready to have her baby any day!

They must have looked and looked for a place to stay for the night. There were many people in Bethlehem because of the census. Every place

**Lesson Goals**

**See that God had a special plan**  
**Understand how much God loved us—He sent His only Son**  
**See how important it is to trust God even in hard times**



they went was full. They must have wondered why God was letting things happen this way, but God knew exactly what He was doing.

Finally, they found a place to stay. It was not beautiful or warm. Instead, it was a cold stable where the animals lived. It probably smelled like animals too.

It was there that Jesus was born, just like the prophets had said long ago in the Bible. Jesus was born in Bethlehem. God kept His promise!

Why did God let His only Son be born in such an awful place? He wanted His Son to be one of us; to know what we go through and to live like we live.

Jesus did all these things for a very special reason. Jesus came to help us get to Heaven. There was no way we could get there on our own, so God sent His Son to show us the way. How do we get to Heaven? We have to believe in Jesus and know that He lived, died on a cross, and came back to life again. We must tell God we are sorry for all the wrongs we have done. Ask Him to come into our lives and He will! We will go to Heaven one day and be with God! If you want to know more about how to go to Heaven, talk to us about it today.

**Learning Activities**

Help the kids see how much God loves them and how He keeps His promises.

**Memory Verse Activities**

Print the verse on the little light bulbs in the packet. String them together and say the verse. Share how we can be God's servants this week.

**Prayer Time**

Thank God for taking care of us and sending Jesus. Ask Him to help us be servants to help others this week.

**Snack Time/CleanUp**

Make fun Christmas snacks or eat animal crackers to remember the stable where Joseph and Mary spent the night.

Planning for December 22nd

Jesus is born!

Luke 2:6-20

Advent: Angel's Candle and Christ Candle

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Preschool Lesson  
For  
Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem

Teachers: A donkey puppet will tell the story today!

Hi! I'm a donkey! I want to tell you a special story that happened to me. I still can't believe it!

One day long ago, I helped Mary and Joseph. They had to travel to a town to be counted. It was a long way, so I went with them. Mary sat on my back.

Mary was pregnant. I knew that she would have the baby very soon because her tummy was very big. We had to stop sometimes during our trip because she would get tired of riding on my back.

Clippity, clop. Clippity, clop. I trotted with Joseph along the trail. Finally, we reached the town of Bethlehem. It was a small town but there were many people there for the counting.

Joseph and Mary went to all the hotels to find a place to stay. Every place was full. Mary was so tired and needed a place to rest.

Joseph stopped at one hotel and the man showed him where I could sleep. I couldn't believe it when Joseph and Mary slept there too! They did not have anywhere else to go, so they spent the night with me and the other animals in the stable.

God took care of Mary and a wonderful miracle happened. Jesus was born! All of us animals got to see Jesus first. It was amazing.

God loved us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, into the world. Jesus loves us too, and wants us to love Him.

Sing, "Happy Birthday" to Jesus.

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Hands-on Ideas  
For  
Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem

God took care of all the circumstances of His Son's birth. It certainly was not like most people would have expected. It seems like God's Son should have been born in a palace. God had another idea. Talk about how God's ways are sometimes different from ours, but His are ALWAYS the best. Talk about how God can make all things come together for His plan. (He even made the ruler sign a law to help get Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem!)

Make a graham cracker (or saltine cracker) stable using crackers, frosting (peanut butter or marshmallow cream will work too) and animal crackers.

For preschoolers, play "Hide the Ornament." Have everyone close their eyes. Hide an unbreakable ornament. Now let them try to find it. The person who finds it, gets to hide it next.

Sometimes when we travel somewhere, we take snacks with us. Mary and Joseph probably took snacks with them on their journey. Make some "trail mix" by combining raisins, marshmallows, chocolate chips, cereal, peanuts and other snack food. Share the mix together.

Find boxes and let the kids decorate them to be donkeys. Let them have fun pretending to ride the donkey.

Talk about how Joseph and Mary obeyed God. They listened and obeyed what God said. Pray and ask God to help us obey Him and do things His way.

Take your own census. Let everyone have a sheet of paper and count how many people are in the class today. Now have fun counting other things like shoes, colors of clothing, buttons, etc. Share how Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem to be counted.