

# The Jesus Gift Arrives

Big Idea: Jesus is my God, the greatest gift ever.

● Memory Verse  
*"For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given" (Isaiah 9:6).*

Word of the Week  
**"Humble"** - Humble means thinking less about yourself and more about God and others. People who are humble don't show off. Instead, they point others to God. They say and do things that help others feel loved and valued.

This week's lesson is based on **Luke 2:1-7** and *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 43-49.

Sunday

## Time to Go!

*Toot, toot, toot*, the trumpets blasted. The announcement boomed across cities and towns far and wide. Ruler Caesar Augustus had ordered everyone to go to their family's hometown. Everyone had to go *now!* He wanted to count all the people. And he wasn't asking, "Please, if you don't mind." No, it was an order! A command. If people didn't listen, they would be in big trouble.

So what did all the people do? Read **Luke 2:3**.

*Hurry, hurry!* Moms and dads, brothers and sisters, grandmothers and grandfathers busily packed their bags. Whether their hometown was close by or far away, they must go there—and they must go there now!

There were no cars, motorbikes, trains, or planes. Instead, people had to walk the long, dusty roads or ride a bumpy donkey or horse.

Before they left, many families bowed together to humbly pray. They knew that God promises to "guard you as you come and go" (Psalm 121:8, ICB). They wanted God to be with them and keep them safe on their long journey.

### I Wonder

» Do you ever pray for God to protect you when you go on a trip?

● Prayer Idea  
 Ask God to keep your family well and safe today.

● Mission Challenge  
 Look for a way to help someone in your family who helps other people, such as a big brother/sister, parent, or aunt/uncle.

### Parent Faith Talk

Share a time that God kept you safe on a short or long journey.

Monday

## God Is With Us

Joseph looked across at Mary with a smile. Her tummy was big and round. Mary was pregnant with precious Baby Jesus. And He could be born any day now!

Because Mary was about to have her baby, it wouldn't be easy to travel. But they had to go to Bethlehem. They had been ordered to go to their hometown for a "people count," so they needed to go. After packing their bags, Joseph gently lifted Mary onto the donkey's back. With a *clip-clop*, they were on their way.

Where were they going? Read **Luke 2:4**.

Mary and Joseph traveled for many days along hot, dusty paths, and busy roads.

Mary smiled and held her tummy tenderly as she swayed left and right on the donkey's back. They didn't need to worry on this long trip. God was with them. His angels were busy keeping them safe. One day very soon they would be able to say, "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given" (Isaiah 9:6). The greatest gift ever given to the world would soon be safely cradled in their arms.

### I Wonder

» Do you think that on their journey they made dinner over a fire? Did they look up at all the stars at night? What do you think they said in their prayers to God as they traveled to Bethlehem?

#### Prayer Idea

Thank God for His protection.

#### Do

Have a donkey race. Climb onto your mom or dad's back and ask them to crawl quickly across the floor. Talk about how bumpy and uncomfortable it would be to do that for a long time.

#### Memory Verse

### Fast Fact

Did you know that one of the best long-distance travelers in the world is the Arctic Tern? It is a bird that flies from the top of the world all the way to the bottom of the world and back again every year! To make their trip quicker, they can even sleep and eat while they fly. What an amazing animal God has made!





Tuesday

## No Room

Joseph smiled and pointed at the city ahead. Finally, after a very long and tiring trip, Mary and Joseph could see Bethlehem.

What was the other name for Bethlehem? Read **Luke 2:4**.

The donkey's slow *clip-clop, clip-clop* became *clippity-cloppity, clippity-cloppity* as Joseph eagerly rushed toward the city.

As they entered the gates, they saw people everywhere! Lots of people had come to be counted, just as they had. Joseph, Mary, and their donkey squeezed past the crowds of visitors. They walked up and down the narrow streets looking for a place to sleep.

Joseph stopped at an inn. *Knock, knock, knock*. As the door creaked open, Joseph asked for a room to stay for the night. The owner shook his head and closed the door. "There were no rooms left in the inn" (Luke 2:7, ICB). Joseph tried the place next door, but there were no empty beds there, either.

With tired, sagging shoulders Joseph and Mary moved from one house to another, looking for a place to sleep. But not a single room could be found anywhere. Oh, dear! What would they do?

If only the people realized that the baby inside of Mary was God's greatest gift to the world. If only they understood how special that unborn baby was. Maybe then they would have made room for Mary, Joseph, and the baby King.

### I Wonder

- » How can you make more room for Jesus in your life?
- » Is there something you could do less of so you could have more "Jesus time"?

#### Prayer Idea

If you would like, take a moment to ask Jesus to live in your heart today.

#### Do

**Plate Challenge:** See how much food you can fit on a plate. When we fill our lives up with so much "stuff" (even if it's good for us), we can run out space for Jesus.

#### Memory Verse

Wednesday

## Jesus Is Born!

The cows mooed. The sheep baaed. Mary and Joseph looked around the small, humble stable. This place where animals slept would be their room for the night. In all of Bethlehem it was the only room they could find.

Joseph tied up their tired donkey. Then he helped Mary lie down on the prickly hay. It had been such a long, bumpy journey! It was time to rest and sleep.

On this night, in this very place, among these animals, something amazing happened. Baby Jesus was born! "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given" (Isaiah 9:6).

God had given Jesus to the world. This was the greatest, most precious gift *ever!*

Joseph and Mary held Him close. They knew their tiny baby was someone very special. He was "God with us" (Matthew 1:23).

Mary and Joseph looked into His beautiful face and smiled. This special baby needed a name. The shining angel had told them, "And you shall call his name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

Jesus. Yes, His name would be Jesus!

### I Wonder

» What other names would Jesus have? Read all of **Isaiah 9:6**.

#### Prayer Idea

Thank God for giving us Jesus, the greatest gift ever.

#### Do

What welcome noises might the animals have made? Pointing to each animal in the picture, share their "greeting" with your family.

#### Memory Verse



Thursday

## Amazed Angels

Mary tenderly wrapped Baby Jesus in cloth to keep Him from getting cold. Then she laid Him down to sleep.

What was Baby Jesus' bed? Read **Luke 2:7**.

A king sleeping in a bed like that? Usually kings sleep in fancy royal palaces, on giant silky-soft beds. But not this humble King.

Thousands and thousands of invisible angels looked down at Baby Jesus lying in that manger. They were amazed. They knew Jesus as king of the universe! In heaven Jesus had a shiny throne, with angels singing praise songs to Him day and night. And now He had swapped it for a stable, a manger, and noisy animals.

The Bible says, "He gave up his place with God and made himself nothing" (Philippians 2:7, ICB). Wow! What a humble God and Savior He is.

The angels knew their King deserved the very best. But Jesus had given it all away to save the world. He had come down, down, down, to give His life—the greatest gift ever given to the world.

### I Wonder

» Why did Jesus give up heaven to be born in a stable?

#### Prayer Idea

Thank You, Jesus, for being my God, the greatest gift ever.

#### Do

Sing "Away in a Manger" or other songs you might know about Jesus' birth.

#### Memory Verse





Friday

## The Greatest Treasure

Hidden in a dark attic of a French family home was a colorful little vase. For years it lay unnoticed in an old, dusty shoebox. No one in the family cared about it. In fact, it had been completely forgotten.

The vase had been given as a gift long ago. But no one really liked the gift, so it had been put in a shoebox and stored away in the attic.

One day while the family was cleaning out the attic, the vase was found again.

"H'mm," Father said, "maybe we should see how much this vase is worth."

"Yes, let's find out," answered Mother. With the shoebox under their arm they climbed into the car and drove to ask an expert.

The expert carefully opened the shoebox and gasped. This was a very rare and very precious vase. The vase was eventually sold for \$19 million. That is a very, very large amount of money!

Many years ago, in an old, dusty stable, with noisy animals, lay another treasure. This treasure was worth more than the entire universe. This treasure was Jesus. As He lay in the animal feeding trough, people passed by without caring. No one noticed that the greatest, most valuable treasure ever was right there with them!

Do you want the treasure of Jesus? He is yours if you ask Him into your heart. He will give you love, forgiveness, joy, and a place in heaven with Him forever. Now, that is a treasure worth treasuring.

### I Wonder

» Why was the gift of Jesus given to you? Read **John 3:16** together.

#### Prayer Idea

Ask Jesus to help you to treasure Him more than anything else.

#### Memory Verse



## Family Activity

### Memory Box

Think about the treasure of Jesus. Find something to remind you of His great gift and place it in the memory box as a reminder.

## For You, Parents

"The gift of Christ reveals the Father's heart. . . . The whole treasury of heaven is open to those [God] seeks to save. Having collected the riches of the universe, . . . He gives them all into the hands of Christ, and says, All these are for man. Use these gifts to convince him that there is no love greater than Mine in earth or heaven. His greatest happiness will be found in loving Me" (Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 57).

## Sabbath

# The Gift of Baby Jesus

How well do you know the story of Baby Jesus from this week's lesson?  
Do you know it well enough to create a drama together as a family?

### Characters

- Narrator
- Mary
- Joseph
- Innkeeper

### Props

- A donkey (broom)
- Baby Jesus (doll)
- Animals (toys)
- A manger (box or chair)

### MISSION CHALLENGE

Show your drama to friends, or record it on a phone and send it to someone to remind them how much Jesus loves them.

### Narrator Script

Toot, toot, toot, *the trumpets blasted. The announcement boomed across cities and towns far and wide. Ruler Caesar Augustus was ordering everyone to go to their family's hometown for a people count.*

*Joseph and Mary packed their bags. Joseph gently lifted Mary onto their donkey's back. With a clip-clop, they were on their way!*

*They traveled far, far away. Over hills and along dusty roads. Clip-clop, clip-clop. What a long trip! Finally, Joseph pointed excitedly. Look! It's Bethlehem!*

*The donkey's slow clip-clop, clip-clop became clippity-cloppity, clippity-cloppity, as Joseph eagerly pulled the donkey with his precious load towards the city.*

*Joseph, Mary, and their donkey walked up and down the narrow streets of Bethlehem, looking for a place to sleep. Joseph stopped at an inn. Knock, knock, knock. As the door creaked open, Joseph asked for a room to stay for the night. The owner shook his head and closed the door. "There were no rooms left in the inn" (Luke 2:7, ICB). Joseph tried the place next door, but there were no empty beds there, either.*

*All they could find was an animal stable. They made a bed in the hay and fell fast asleep.*

*On this night, in this very place, among these animals, something amazing happened. Yes! Baby Jesus was born!*

*Joseph found a manger for His bed. Mary wrapped the tiny baby King in cloth. Carefully they laid Him in the manger.*

*Jesus loved us so much that He came to save us. Here in the stable lay the greatest, most precious gift ever given to the world.*

