



Unit 1, Lesson 4

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY: BIRTH OF JESUS

LUKE 2:1-7; MICAH 5:2;
ISAIAH 7:14; 9:1-7

THE STORY HOME

Talk about waiting! The birth of Jesus fulfills ancient prophecy from prior centuries (Isaiah 7:14). God was working all along to plan Jesus' birth because He had origins "from of old, from ancient times" (Micah 5:2). In today's Bible story young Joseph goes to Bethlehem, the town of David, to register with Mary, who was expecting a child. While there, she gives birth to her baby, her firstborn, Jesus. The parents and Jesus suffered some hardships as evidenced by Jesus being born in an animal stable rather than a comfortable guest room. Jesus knows what it's like for us as He ministers in the human world. Jesus is God's greatest—and long-awaited—gift of worldwide redemption and relationship (Luke 2:1-7).

PARENTS & KIDS QUESTIONS:

- Are you patient when you have great expectations but must wait a long time?
- How do you feel when someone rejects you or is too busy with other people to care about your needs?
- What are some ways to show hospitality to others?
- Hospitality also means opening your heart. Have you opened your heart to allow Jesus to come in and live with you?

TOGETHER HOME

Based on God's promises found in sacred history (Micah 5:2, Isaiah 7:14; 9:1-7), make a coupon booklet for this week. Each "coupon" is really a promise of what you will do for your child and what he or she will do for you. Your child may make coupons for: take out the trash, make my bed, bring in the laundry, bathe the pet(s), write a thank-you note to the teacher, or whatever you think up together. Your coupons can be promises of a bedtime story, a family day-trip, or some small reward for learning this month's Bible memory verse.

BIBLE MEMORY HOME

Want your child to have clean hands and a hopeful heart? Repeat our memory verse twice, "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21), while lathering and rinsing hands. Remember, it's not just words but a fulfilled promise. Reviewing this verse reminds you and your child that we can open our heart and personally know a good God who keeps His promises.

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NT Unit 1, Lesson 4, Take-home