



At-A-Glance: Ages 8-9
Kings & Kingdoms: Advent of the King
Unit 10, Lesson 50

Advent 3: Birthplace of the King

Lesson Aim: To understand why Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

THE WELCOME

MEET & GREET: Where were you born?

GAME: Bethlehem Travel Corners

THE WORSHIP THE KING WHO CAME TO US

Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony: The Bethlehem Candle

Read Worship Scripture: Luke 2:7

Sing songs and worship God. Bless and collect the offering.

Perform King City Chronicles script or read storybook.

THE WORD A BETHLEHEM MANGER

Children sign note cards; place in Golden Bowl. Classroom Covenant.

Review: God sent an angel to Nazareth to speak to Joseph in a dream.

Today, we will read about the birth of baby Jesus. If a Bible Timeline is available, point out Jesus on Earth (Circa 1-33 A.D.). **The Romans were counting everyone. Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem to be counted. Listen carefully to the reason why Mary and Joseph had to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem.** Point out the distance between Nazareth and Bethlehem. Reveal Bible Story Scripture Reference: Luke 2:4-7. Find It First. Highlight Key Verse: Luke 2:7. Pray. Read.

THE WAY A HUMBLE BIRTHPLACE

The Roman government declared that everyone under the Roman rule must go to their hometown to be counted. Joseph was related to King David whose hometown was Bethlehem so Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem to be counted. The Bible doesn't say how Mary and Joseph traveled or how long a journey it was. It would have taken 3-7 days to walk or ride a donkey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Mary would have had to travel slowly because her baby was about to be born. Have you ever taken a long trip?

What happened while Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem? (Baby Jesus was born.) **What did Mary do first?** (She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger.) **Why did she have to place Him in a manger?** (There was no room at the inn.)

If you could choose the perfect place for baby Jesus to be born, what would it be like? (Warm, clean, filled with toys, soft blankets, crib, etc.) **As God's Son, Jesus deserved to be born in a golden crib in the royal palace of an important city. Why do you think God chose a manger in the little town of Bethlehem for the birthplace of His Son?** Jesus gave up everything when He left His throne in heaven and came to earth to save us. His humble birthplace reminds us that every place and every person in the world is special and important to Jesus. He came to save us all.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

God chose Bethlehem for the birthplace of the King of heaven and earth. One thousand years before Jesus was born, God chose another child from Bethlehem to one day be the king of Israel. Let's see where the Lord sent Samuel to find this new king that would replace King Saul. Reveal 1 Samuel 16:1. Find It First. Highlight. Read.

Jesse and his sons were from Bethlehem. Which son became the king of Israel after King Saul? (David.) King David was born in Bethlehem. He had children and his children had children and their children had children. This continued for one thousand years until Joseph was born. Then, Joseph married Mary who became the mother of Jesus. That is how Jesus is related to King David.

If time allows, play KING CONNECTIONS in the GOT TIME? segment.

THE GOLDEN BOWL: Pray for individuals. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES:

- TREASURE TREAT: Piece of hay
- DAILY WAY CHALLENGE
- OFFERING OF ART: Mary laying baby Jesus in a manger
- PRAYER REQUESTS
- BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG

GOT TIME?

SNACK: Stable Snack

GAME: King Connections

CRAFT: Manger Ornament

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES: Crown Toss, Royal Musical Chairs

BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW