

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson Two

THE DETAILS OF THE BIRTH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Scripture reading: Luke 2:1-20

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we see how when the time appointed by God had come for Christ to be born, *God sovereignly caused a universal census to be taken so that Mary and Joseph would be in Bethlehem for Christ's birth, as foretold by the prophet Micah (Micah 5:2). The Savior of the world had come, yet man gave Him no place to even be born, so He was born in a poor, humble manger among the beasts of the fields.* Although men took no account of His birth in the city, the angels of heaven announced the birth of the Savior to the shepherds in the fields. They had both time and room in their hearts to go and find the Savior who had been born. After finding Him they came back rejoicing and praising God.

Memory Verse: "A Savior was born to you today in David's city, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:21).

Facts to Teach:

1. Many hundreds of years before the Savior was born, the prophet Micah had already announced beforehand that He would be born in the city of David, Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). Before great persons (presidents or kings) visit a city, the city is always pre-notified so that they can prepare the city for his coming. So great and important is the Savior who was to be born in Bethlehem that God gave hundreds of years notice beforehand about His coming.
2. In order to lead Joseph and Mary to the city of David where Christ was to be born, God sovereignly caused a universal census to be called for the first time in the history of the ancient Roman government. Everybody had to return to the city of their ancestry and be enrolled.
3. Joseph and Mary were very righteous. They did not take any excuse to avoid or hide from the census, even though she was nine months pregnant. This made it very difficult and even dangerous to walk all the way to Bethlehem to be enrolled. There was the danger that the baby might even be born while they were on their journey.
4. There was no room in the inns for Joseph and Mary when they arrived. There is no place given to the Lord Jesus in this world, for people do not care about Him. He later said, "Foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to rest His head." (Matt. 8:20)
5. Finally, the Lord Jesus was born in a lowly, dirty manger among the animals. They are called the dumb beasts of burden, yet they knew their Owner when He came and they knew their Master when He was born, but His people Israel did not (Isa. 1:3).
6. The angels of heaven would not allow the greatest event that had ever happened in the universe (God's incarnation is even greater than creation) to go unannounced. They did not announce it to the busy, occupied people of Bethlehem, but to the open shepherds as they took care of their flocks in the night out in the fields. They gladly received the good news, ran to the city and found the baby-Savior in the manger. They rejoiced and worshipped God.

Songs: Hymns 82, 84, 85 and Hymns Jr. 46-47.

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Character Lesson Two

OPEN

Definition:

An open person is able to receive something new. He listens to what others say and is willing to receive help. He also knows how not to be open to receive something that will hurt himself or others.

Examples and/or Questions to Ask the Children:

1. The shepherds were open for when they heard the angels announcing the good news, they received it gladly and went to find the baby Jesus.
2. We need to be open so we can find the Lord Jesus also.
3. An open person goes to others for help and he receives the most help by opening and asking.
4. An open and empty container can be filled with many things. For example, use a see-through jar and fill it with different sorts of things. (e.g. rocks, grass, toys, etc.) Then take a small pocket Bible and explain that it can not be added since the jar has already been filled with other things.

Verses:

"... Lydia, ... whose heart the Lord opened to give heed..." Acts 16:14
"I am the Lord thy God, who bought thee out of the land of Egypt; open thy mouth wide and I will fill it." Psalms 81:10

(See second page for songs and craft ideas)

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Character Lesson Two (continued)

Songs:

Hymn #1132, vv. 3 and 5

D A D
Lord Jesus, open us;
D A D
You know the source from which we came.
G D
By calling on Your name,
G A D
Lord, let no earth unturned nor rocks remain -
G A D
Lord Jesus, open us.

Lord Jesus, we love you;
Lord, take whate'er we think we know.
We'll open to life's flow,
And thus take in the life that makes us grow-
Lord Jesus, open us.

Hymns Jr. #89

Lord, today, keep my heart, keep it all the day-
While I'm young, keep my heart
Soft, dear Lord, I pray;
Lord, I would keep my heart through every day
Soft and open unto You.

Craft Ideas:

1. Have the children color a picture (animals, flowers, etc.) on the paper in crayon, pressing hard.
 2. Paint with the water color paint over the paper. The paint will only stick to the paper where the crayon is not colored on.
- [Materials needed - crayons, water color paint (in cup), paint brush, sheets of paper]