

THE PERSON AND LIFE OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Lesson One

THE BIRTH OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

Scripture reading: Matt. 1:18-25

Burden to Impart:

In this lesson we want to impress the children with the wondrous Person of the Lord Jesus; He is both God and Man. We also want to impress them with His unique conception; being conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of a young virgin girl.

Because of this divine yet human source He is very, very special. He has no sin, no shortcomings, or defects; He is absolutely perfect in every way, inwardly and outwardly, in life and also in conduct. He is the One that all mankind had been waiting for ever since Adam sinned and God had promised that a Savior would one day come into the world (Gen. 3:15). For thousands of years God's prophets had told about His coming and gave many details that would come to pass with His birth, life, death, and resurrection. He would be the answer to every problem of man and the entire universe. He was the promised Savior and coming King. He would be called "Jesus" (meaning Jehovah the Savior) because He was a perfect man who would die upon the cross to save us from our sins. His name would also be called "Emmanuel" (meaning God with us) because He was the mingling of God with man. So then, His birth and His coming is the coming of God to be with us.

Memory Verse: "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

Facts to Teach:

1. Before an important person visits a certain place their coming is always pre-announced so that everything and everyone will be ready to meet him. Because of the tremendous importance of the coming of the Savior and Redeemer, God gave many prophecies and promises about His coming hundreds and even thousands of years before He was born (Gen. 3:15; Num 24:17a; Isa. 7:14; 9:6; Micah 5:2).
2. Born of Mary: The Lord Jesus was born of a typical young Jewish girl, hence He is a real man, the Son of Man (Mark 10:45). Mary was a virgin, a young woman who had never been married or come together with a man. (Luke 1:27, 34)
3. Born without sin: Although the Lord Jesus was born of Mary and was a real human being, the Bible tells us that He was born without sin and did not have a sinful nature, as all other men have (Rom. 8:3; 2 Cor. 5:21a; Heb. 4:15).
4. Born of the Holy Spirit of God: Because the Lord was conceived of the Holy Spirit of God, He had the life and nature of God, His Father. Therefore He is the Son of God (Luke 1:35).
5. Who He is:
 - a. Jesus the Savior to be our Redeemer, to save His people from their sins (Matt. 1:21).
 - b. Emmanuel God with us, God coming to man so that man can receive Him as life. (Matt. 1:23)

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Songs for Lesson One

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Hymns, Jr., #47.

D E⁷ A⁷
Our God has come as man
D Em A⁷
According to God's plan --
D A D A
His name is Jesus Christ the Lord,
G D A D
Our wonderful God-man!

Hymns, #84.

D A D A
Christ, by highest heaven adored,
D G D A D
Christ, the everlasting Lord:
D Bm E⁷
Late in time behold Him come,
A E A E⁷ A
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
D G D A
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
D G D A
Hail th' incarnate Deity!
G B⁷ Em B⁷ Em
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
A D A⁷D
Jesus our Immanuel.

Repeat last two lines.

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Character Lesson One

PATIENT

Definition:

A patient person is able to wait without losing hope or being anxious, and also able to work diligently without becoming discouraged.

Examples and/or Questions to Ask the Children:

1. A farmer has to wait patiently for the seeds that he has planted to grow up and bear fruit.
2. When we are patient, we can wait for our drink a long time. When you are waiting in line for your turn, instead of complaining that the line is too long, you may sing while you wait patiently.
3. When the Lord Jesus came to be a man He stayed in the womb of a human virgin for nine months before He was born, even though He was the God of the universe. The Lord Jesus waited patiently to become a man.

Verses:

"... Behold the farmer awaits the precious fruit of the earth..." James 5:7b
"... God waited in the days of Noah ..." 1 Peter 3:20b (100 years - Gen. 5:32; 7:6)

Story:

There was a farmer who planted some wheat seeds in the early spring time. He had to wait patiently through the season until the late summer when the precious grain would be ready for harvest.

He did not force the sprouts to grow by pulling them up to make them look taller, or flood the wheat sprouts with a lot of water. Neither did he put flood-lights in the field over the sprouts to make them to grow faster. Instead he let the sun do its job. He watered the wheat sprouts with just the right amount of water. He patiently waited for the little sprouts to grow.

Day by day, month by month, the farmer patiently waited, watered, and watched for the sprouts to grow. Throughout the season, the farmer watched the little seeds grow from a little sprout into tender plants and into bigger plants. Finally when it was harvest time, he saw that the little wheat sprouts had grown up to be big wheat plants bearing many grains.

This made the farmer very happy. He worked very hard to take care of the plants and he waited patiently for the little plants to grow. Patience is very precious.

Craft Ideas:

1. Have the children decorate a Styrofoam cup.
2. Put damp cotton or dirt in the cup and place or plant the seeds in it.
3. Explain that they need to water the seed every two days at least.
4. The seeds will begin to sprout and grow. Later when the seedlings are bigger, they can replant them in dirt or a larger container.

[Materials needed - Styrofoam cup, cotton or dirt, seeds (Lima beans grow well), water, paper (optional), crayons, larger container]