



— **Week 2** —

*The Promise Perfectly Kept:
The Birth of Jesus*



Week 2

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP TIME

Set aside ten minutes one night this week to talk about God's mercy in sending a Savior. The only materials needed are five candles, matches, and a Bible.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Have one member of the family light last week's candle and a second candle.

SCRIPTURE READING

Have one person read the following passages out loud.

And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. LUKE 2:3-7

And there, in the stable, amongst the chickens and the donkeys and the cows, in the quiet of the night, God gave the world his wonderful gift. The baby that would change the world was born. His baby Son. THE JESUS STORYBOOK BIBLE



REFLECTION

Have an adult read the commentary below.

Do you remember the promise we talked about last week? God's promise to send a Rescuer? His promise to send Jesus? Well, Jesus came, just like God said He would!

After thousands of years of waiting, on an ordinary night, Jesus came. God gave His people hints and clues about how Jesus would come. He told them that Jesus would come from Bethlehem, be a Ruler, and bring peace. Many expected a soldier; some expected a politician. No one expected a baby. But that's how Jesus came.

Ask: If you had been an Israelite, how would you have expected the promised Savior to come?

Mary and Joseph lived in a town called Nazareth. One day, the king gave an order that everyone was to go back to their hometown to be counted for something called a census. Mary and Joseph traveled a long way to the town of Bethlehem, where Joseph's family was from. When they got to Bethlehem, the town was full of other travelers, and there was nowhere for Mary and Joseph to stay. So they found a stable to sleep in. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby, and Jesus, the Savior, was born.

Ask: How do you think Joseph and Mary felt when they finally got to Bethlehem and realized they had nowhere to stay? Do you think God knew that they felt this way?

Jesus, the King of heaven, left His perfect home to be born as a baby to a young man and woman. He became fragile and helpless. His room that night was a stable—dirty, smelly, and full of noisy animals. His bed was not kingly and luxurious; it was a feed box that animals ate out of. Mary had to wipe old, rotten food out of the manger and cover it with poky straw before she laid her tiny baby in it.

Ask: Is a stable the place you would expect the Savior to be born? Why do you think God decided for His one and only Son to be born there?

But everything that happened that night was exactly what God had planned and promised. Jesus came, just like God said He would. God saw that we needed to be rescued from sin. He cared about us in our need, and He acted. He sent Jesus.

The events of that night, in that stable in the little town of Bethlehem, would change the world forever.



God shows us many things about what's He's like in the birth of Jesus. How do you see that God is compassionate—that He sees, cares, and acts when His children are in need—in this part of the Advent narrative? What other attributes of God do you see?

PRAYER

Have one family member say a prayer to thank God for sending Jesus to be born as a baby who would save us from our sins.

SONG

As a family, sing or listen to “Away in a Manger.” As you do, read carefully through the lyrics and explain any words that might be unfamiliar to your kids. Ask them what they learn about Jesus from this song.

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

FAMILY ACTIVITY

This week, keep the promise you made to your family during last week's family Advent time. Talk about how you fulfilled the hints and clues you gave them. Discuss the experience of waiting: What was it like to wait? What was it like to finally experience what you had been waiting and hoping for? Remember together God's faithfulness in sending a Savior. It happened just as He said it would.



ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

(Examples can be found on The Village's Pinterest board.)

Continue making your nativity set. This week, create the baby Jesus piece and add it to the set.

Create a set of ornaments that show the Old Testament prophecies of Jesus' birth and their fulfillments in the New Testament.

Create a nativity scene out of Legos.

Use a sock and stuffing to create a baby Jesus doll, wrapped in fabric scraps. Make a manger for the doll out of a paper sack. Let your preschooler care for baby Jesus and have him/her use it to retell Jesus' birth story throughout the week.