

Promises Fulfilled

ADVENT AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Advent: Week 2

Set aside approximately 10 minutes one night this week to talk about God's promise of rescue through His Son, Jesus Christ. The only materials you will need are 5 candles, a lighter, and a Bible.

Advent Candle

Have one member of the family light the **second** advent candle.

Scripture Reading

Have one person read the following passages out loud.

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

MICAH 5:2

3 And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4 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, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6 And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7 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

Briefly describe a time when you looked forward to an event for a long time. [For example, your birthday or the first day of school or vacation.]

- What emotions did you feel as you waited?
- How did you feel when the wait was finally over?

Have an adult read the commentary below.

[Ask the kids this question] Do you remember the promise we talked about last week? God's promise to send a Rescuer?

- Who was the Rescuer? [Jesus!]
- Did He arrive, just like God said He would? [Yes! He came as a baby...]

After thousands of years of waiting, on an ordinary night, Jesus came as a baby boy. Through His

Prophets, God promised His people by giving hints and clues about how Jesus would come. He told them that Jesus would come from Bethlehem and that He would be a Ruler [Micah 5:2], and that he would bring peace [Isaiah 9:6]. And with these prophecy's, many of God's people thought that the Messiah would come as a mighty soldier or a ruling King...no one expected Him to come as a baby. But, that's how God chose to send His Son into this world.

Quick Question: If you had been an Israelite, how would you have expected the Messiah - the promised Savior - to arrive? [as a king? as a soldier? as a rich person?]

Back to our story...Mary and Joseph lived in a small town called Nazareth. One day, the king gave everyone an order to go back to their hometown so that they could be counted - this is called a census. Joseph's hometown was Bethlehem, so Joseph and Mary had to walk from Nazareth all the way to Bethlehem. This means they would have had to travel about 90 miles and it would have taken them about 3-4 days to travel - depending on how fast they could walk since Mary was pregnant. **But guess what?** When they got to Bethlehem, they found out that there were so many people in Bethlehem to be counted for the census also! This mean there was no place for them to stay. So, they had to stay in an unusual place - they stayed where they kept the animals. And this is where Jesus - the Son of God - was born.

Jesus, the Son of God, was born in the most unexpected way and came in the most unusual place. As a baby, he was helpless and had needs. His room was a stable filled with sheep - dirty, smelly, loud. His bed was not soft for a king, but it was a feeding trough [manger] where animals normally ate out of. This means that Mary and Joseph probably had to wipe out old, nasty food and cover the trough/ manger with straw before she laid baby Jesus into it.

Quick Questions: Would it surprise you if you found out you were born in a barn - instead of a hospital? Why do you think God decided for His One and only Son to be born there?

But everything happened that night was exactly how God had planned and how He promised. Jesus came, just like God promised He would. God saw that we needed to be rescued from our sin. He cared about us AND He loved us...AND He acted. He sent us Jesus. **His arrival would change the world FOREVER!**

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.

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?

Encourage them to remember how God was faithful in sending His Son to save us - even though the people had to wait a long time. It all happened just as He had promised.