



## CURRENT THEME:

**Characters at the Cradle**

## MEMORY VERSE

"...Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." **Luke 2:10,11 NIV**

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**DECEMBER 28 | LIFE APPLICATION**

**How will you respond to Jesus?**

## Today's Scripture: [Luke 2:8-21](#)

### Characters at the Cradle: "How Do We Respond?"

#### Review

- Gabriel appears to Zechariah (the promise of a son named John)
- Gabriel appears to Mary (the promise of a son supernaturally conceived in her by the Holy Spirit)
- Gabriel appears to Joseph and assures him Mary's child is conceived by the Holy Spirit
- Mary's response to this amazing news: a song of praise, often called the Magnificat
- John the Baptist is born, the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth
- Zechariah prophesies over the life of John and the coming of Jesus.
- **Jesus is born in Bethlehem! ([Luke 2:1-7](#))** If you did not attend Christmas Eve services you may want to take some time to read through the story of the birth of Jesus with your family!

#### Review the birth of Jesus, [Luke 2:1-7](#)

*1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register. 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.*

1. **What did the Roman government tell everyone they must do?** (*Go to their own town to register for the census.*)
2. **Do you remember what is important about Bethlehem? Who else was from Bethlehem?** (*David, the king — it was prophesied that the Messiah would be born in the lineage, or family of, David. And, Joseph was in the lineage of David!*)
3. **Who went with Joseph to Bethlehem?** (*Mary, who was pledged to be married to Joseph — she was with child.*)
4. **What happened while Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem?** (*Jesus was born, and Mary wrapped him in swaddling cloths and placed him in a manger.*)

## Read **Luke 2:8-21**

### **Describe how each of these responded to the birth of Jesus, the Messiah and the Son of God:**

- The angels
- The shepherds
- Mary

#### **The angels:**

*9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." **Luke 2:9-14***

- They bring the news that Jesus was born
- They proclaim that He is Savior (the One who saves us from sin and separation with God), Christ (the chosen One that the scriptures promised and the people of God were awaiting), and Lord (the One that should reign in every aspect of our lives)
- They praised God and worshipped

#### **The shepherds:**

*"16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them." **Luke 2:16-18***

- They rushed to see Jesus with urgency
- They relayed to Mary and Joseph what the angels proclaimed
- They glorified and praised God
- They told everyone!

#### **Mary:**

*"But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." **Luke 2:19***

- Mary marveled at all that had happened.
- She "treasured up" or stored all of this in her heart and pondered (thought) about it all.

This is how the angels, the shepherds, and Mary responded to the birth of Jesus.

Now that you know about this amazing thing God has done for us — sending His Son into the world to live among us, to reveal God’s love for us, and die for our sins — **how will YOU respond to Him?** (*Discuss together.*)

### **A note from Shawn Sandler**

**How will you respond to Jesus?** We should:

- Realize Jesus is not just a baby and not just someone who taught us good things. We must embrace that **He is Savior, Christ, and Lord**
- Share what we have heard with others/EVERYONE
- Share what we have experienced and your life change with others/EVERYONE
- Don't delay
- Glorify and praise God in every way
- Treasure every amazing thing about Jesus in your heart

**Prayer:** *Dear God, Thank You for working all things together, bringing the gift of Your Son, Jesus, into this world. We know that because of Him, we can be saved from our sins and live with You forever. Help us to treasure all that we have learned in our hearts forever and share what we have learned with others. In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.*