

Name _____ **Date** _____

Religious Education: God is Holy — Jesus' birth

The God who created the universe gave His special promise to Abraham and His special laws to Moses. God's laws and promises remind us that He is holy. To be holy means to be pure and without defect. Holy also means to be set apart for religious use. God wants us to be holy. God became flesh to show us how to be holy. Holy people follow Jesus' example and obey God's rules. Jesus made it possible for people to hear, see and touch God, since a spirit being cannot be seen, heard and touched by our senses. The earliest followers of Jesus were called Christians because they acted like Jesus Christ.

The Birth of Jesus Christ [Taken from Luke 2:1-20]

It was about that same time that Augustus Caesar sent out an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that everyone's name must be put on a list.² This was the first counting of all the people while Quirinius was governor of Syria.³ Everyone traveled to their own hometowns to have their name put on the list.

⁴ So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee, and went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. It was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David.⁵ Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. (She was now pregnant.)⁶ While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby.⁷ She gave birth to her first son. She wrapped him up well and laid him in a box where cattle are fed. She put him there because the guest room was full.

Some Shepherds Hear About Jesus

⁸ That night, some shepherds were out in the fields near Bethlehem watching their sheep.⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord was shining around them. The shepherds were very afraid.¹⁰ The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid. I have some very good news for you—news that will make everyone happy.¹¹ Today your Savior was born in David's town. He is the Messiah, the Lord.¹² This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in pieces of cloth and lying in a feeding box."

¹³ Then a huge army of angels from heaven joined the first angel, and they were all praising God, saying, ¹⁴ Praise God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace to the people who please him."

¹⁵ The angels left the shepherds and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this great event the Lord has told us about."

¹⁶ So, they went running and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the feeding box.¹⁷ When they saw the baby, they told what the angels said about this child.¹⁸ Everyone was surprised when they heard what the shepherds told them.¹⁹ Mary continued to think about these things, trying to understand them.²⁰ The shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything they had seen and heard. It was just as the angel had told them.

²¹ When the baby was eight days old, he was circumcised, and he was named Jesus. This name was given by the angel before the baby began to grow inside Mary.

Choose the best answer. Use the passage above to help you.

1. Why do you think God became flesh?
a. To show us how to lie b. To show us how to be holy c. To show us how to hate
2. What does it mean to be holy?
a. dirty b. pure c. ruined
3. Why did Joseph have to go to Bethlehem?
a. To visit family b. To have the baby c. Caesar Augustus wanted a list of all the people
4. What were earliest followers of Jesus were called?
a. Jews b. Gentiles c. Christians
5. Why were the earliest followers given that name?
a. They acted like Jesus b. They talked like Jesus c. They wanted to be good
6. From where did Mary and Joseph start their journey?
a. Haifa b. Jericho c. Nazareth
7. Where did Mary and Joseph end up spending the night?
a. Nazareth b. Bethlehem c. Jerusalem
8. Why did Mary and Joseph spend the night in a stable?
a. They had no money for the inn
b. They liked animals
c. There was no room in the inn
9. Where did Mary put the baby Jesus to rest?
a. Manger b. Cot c. Feather bed
10. To whom did a host of angels announce the birth?
a. Kings b. Shepherds c. Carpenters
11. What Gospel did the passage you read come from?
a. Matthew b. Mark c. Luke
12. Who told Mary she was going to have a son?
a. Her doctor b. Gabriel c. Raphael
13. Who told Mary and Joseph to go to Bethlehem?
a. Angel Gabriel b. Caesar Augustus c. Their parents
14. How did the shepherds know how to find the baby?
a. The angels told them he would be lying in a manger
b. They followed a star
c. The angel led them to the stable
15. Who is the baby in the story?
a. The next king of Judea b. God's Son c. A very holy priest