

# WEEK 3

## JESUS IS BORN



### ICE BREAKER:

Talk about a time where you had to travel a long time to get somewhere.

Are we there yet? Are we there yet? I can hear the sound of my kids asking this question over and over as we travel from place to place. I wonder if Mary and Joseph asked each other this question as they traveled from Jerusalem to Bethlehem? If you remember, Mary was going to have a baby, and His name would be Jesus. Joseph is Mary's husband and they had to travel to their hometown of Bethlehem to be counted, because the man in charge just wanted to know how many people there were. Anyway, it took Mary and Joseph 7 days to get from Jerusalem to Bethlehem!! Have you ever traveled for 7 days straight? Nowadays we have cars and airplanes to get us places fast, while Mary and Joseph walked and rode a donkey the entire way. When they got to Bethlehem, there was not a single room for them to stay in, kind of like a hotel room, every room was taken. However, they needed to find some place fast, because Mary was about to have her baby. One of the owners of a 'hotel' or 'inn' said that he had a stable (we call it a barn sometimes) they could stay in. Now, this stable was not clean and there were animals all around. Have you ever stayed in a barn and slept with animals walking all around you? (wait for response) Let's read together Luke 2:1-7. The best part about these verses is that Jesus, a King, wasn't born in a palace or hospital, but in a humble stable. God didn't need Him to be born in a majestic place, because God wanted everyone to know that Jesus was born for everyone, not just the rich and powerful. He was born to save every single person in this world, every - single - person! Praise God for that!

### PRAY:

Humble God, we thank you for the birth of your Son, Jesus. We thank you that He was born in a humble stable to show that He came for all of us. We thank you for Mary and Joseph and for the love and trust they had in you. Jesus is the best gift we can ever receive. Help us to be humble as well and not judge others, but help lift them up and teach them your word. Amen.

### DIG DEEP

Talk about what it would be like to be born in a stable, and talk about the 'manger' that Jesus lay in and how that was a 'feeding bowl' for animals.

### DIG DEEPER

Where do you need to be more humble in your life?



# WEEK 4

## ANGELS APPEAR TO THE SHEPHERDS

**ICE BREAKER:** What is the best surprise you have received?

(Hold up the candy cane) Take a look at this, what do you see? (wait for response) All of those are great answers. We can see a lot of different things when we look at this candy cane. The one thing that I see is how it looks like a shepherd's staff. Shepherds used their staff for different purposes. They would use them to help them walk, to fight off animals that would try to eat the sheep, and to catch a sheep that would wander off. Shepherds were not men of power and royalty, they held jobs that no one else wanted, and they were considered somewhat dirty. So why do you think an angel appeared to a group of shepherds before appearing to any royal people? (wait for response) We talked a little about this last week, and it is because God wanted everyone to know that Jesus was a King for everyone. Let's read about their encounter with the angels in Luke 2:8-20. Can you imagine a bright light appearing in the middle of the night telling you that a King, a Savior has been born?! How do you think you would have reacted? (wait for response) What was the shepherds' reaction to this news? (discuss) That's right! They didn't just walk, they ran to go see the good news the angel had told them about. When they had seen baby Jesus they were so excited that they went throughout the town shouting and sharing this news with everyone they saw. Can you imagine what they looked like? I'm sure people thought they were crazy, but they knew this was God's Son so they had to share it with everyone. This is exactly how God wants our faith to be! We should be crazy excited to tell everyone we meet, about the love of God and share the news of salvation with them. Praise God for the shepherds' faith!

### PRAY:

Awesome God, I pray that you will help fill us with the excitement of the shepherds. May we know, trust, and have faith in You so much that we may share your story with those we meet. Take down any walls of fear, and fill us with joy and excitement for you. We love you so much! Amen.

### DIG DEEP

Have you ever been so excited about something that you couldn't wait to tell others? (Discuss)

### DIG DEEPER

Who in your life right now can you share the story of Jesus with?

