

The Christmas Story

Huddle 1 - *Mary and Joseph*



SETTING THE ATMOSPHERE

As children arrive, collect the “In” slips and see which grade they are in for their huddle teams. Remember to check all slips to make sure children are to be in Up & Out this hour.

Team Time

Each team leader (student leader) should spend time getting a conversation started within the team to find out more about each child. Spend time today discussing the following questions up front...

- What's your favorite family tradition?
- What are we celebrating this month?
- Are you going anywhere fun over Christmas?

Huddle Teams

- 1st & 2nd grade girls
- 1st & 2nd grade boys
- 3rd & 4th grade girls
- 3rd & 4th grade boys

Opening Prayer

Leader prays for the group.

LESSON HUDDLE

Let's all come over together and get started this morning. Good morning, Up & Out! Where we look up (pause for the group to respond) **TO GOD** and look out (Pause) **TO OTHERS**.

This week we are going to begin a new unit. We are going to be learning about the Christmas story and the greatest gift we have ever been given. Does anyone know any of the characters from the Christmas story? *(let them respond with Mary, Joseph, the wise men, etc.)* That's right, and today we are specifically talking about Mary and Joseph.

How many of you are asking for gifts for Christmas? In your opinion, what would be the greatest gift you could ever receive on Christmas morning? *(let kids respond)* What if I told you we have all already been given the greatest gift we could ever ask for? This gift came as a baby named Jesus. Jesus was God's son and God sent Him to us to save us all from our sins. This is the whole reason we celebrate Christmas.

Does anyone know who Mary and Joseph were? Right, Mary and Joseph were the two people God chose to become Jesus' parents. Joseph was a carpenter. A carpenter is someone who builds things and makes things out of wood. Mary was a young teenage girl who was engaged to be married to

Joseph. Therefore, God chose two very normal people to be the parents of the King of the world. They were not rich or super famous. They were just like you and me.

The angel Gabriel came to tell Mary that she was going to have a baby that would be God's son. They went to a town called Bethlehem for Mary to give birth to Jesus. Luke 2: 6-7 says "And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them." The only place they could stay was in a stable where the farm animals lived. So Mary had Jesus in a barn and laid him in a manger to sleep. Does anyone know what a manger is? *(let kids respond)*. A manger is a wooden trough used to feed all of the animals. Can you believe that? The greatest gift ever given to the world was born in a barn and slept in a manger.

As a result of being given the gift of Jesus, Mary and Joseph gave God their love. They agreed to take care of Jesus and love Him with all of their heart. God wants us to do the same thing as a result of Him having given us the gift of Jesus. He wants us to believe that He sent Jesus to save us and then to love Him with all of our hearts just like Mary and Joseph did.

This week I want you all to give the gift of love like Mary and Joseph did. What are some ways we can love God and others this week? Let's ask God to show us how to love Him and others well.

Huddle Up, Pray, & Break

ACTIVITY: Nativity Ornament



Materials Needed:

- 2 popsicle sticks
- Tan and brown construction paper
- Straw (raffia)

1. Cut a triangle out of brown paper
2. Cut a circle out of tan paper
3. Glue the popsicle sticks together crossing at the bottom
4. Glue brown triangle to the popsicles
5. Draw a face onto the tan circle
6. Glue the tan circle to the brown triangle
7. Glue the straw around the face
8. Glue a longer piece of straw to the top ends of the manger to hang the ornament



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