

Christmas: The Birthday Celebrated around the World!

1. One day, over 2000 years ago, an angel visited a young Jewish woman named Mary. He told her that she was going to have a baby. She was told to give Him the name, Jesus. Mary was troubled by the news. She asked the angel how this could happen because she was only engaged to Joseph and was still a virgin. The angel explained that Joseph was not the baby's father but that she would have this baby by the power of God's Holy Spirit. Mary told the angel that she was willing to serve God by being the mother of this special baby.



2. When Joseph heard that Mary was expecting a baby, he was shocked and not very happy. He loved Mary, but he began to think about breaking off his commitment to marry her. He thought that Mary had been unfaithful to him. He knew that others would think the same thing when they heard that she was pregnant. However, as he was thinking about this, God spoke to him in a dream and said to him, "Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife."

3. During this period of time, the Jewish people were under Roman rule. Caesar Augustus ordered that a census be taken to learn about the people who were under his control. He ordered the people to return to their birthplace to register. Joseph was from a small town called Bethlehem and so he took Mary with him to register there.



4. Weary from their journey, Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem to find that every hotel was full and there was no place for them to stay. Mary was about to deliver her baby and one hotel owner (innkeeper) had compassion on them and offered them a place to lie down. It was in the cattle stall where the animals were kept. They accepted his offer.



5. That night, Mary gave birth to a baby boy. She wrapped him up in long strips of cloth and laid him on the straw. Mary and Joseph named their boy, Jesus, just as the angel had instructed them. People in every country of the world celebrate His birthday.



This was the first Christmas.

By Arlene Sorenson

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Questions:

- A. Who told Mary that she was going to have a baby?
- B. What reasons did Mary give that it was not possible for her to have a baby?
- C. Why was Mary's attitude when she heard what the angel told her?
- D. What was Joseph think when he heard that Mary was going to have a baby?
What did he think he should do next?
- E. Why did he take Mary to be his wife?
- F. Why did Mary and Joseph take a journey just before Mary's baby was born?



Where did they go?
Why did they go to that town?

- G. Where did they stay that night?
Why did they stay there?
What happened that night?

Something to Think about and English Conversation Practice:

1. Why was Mary troubled when she learned that she was going to have a baby?
2. What made this baby so different from all other babies?
3. Who was Jesus' father?



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Spontaneous

Scene & Passage of
Scripture

Scene #1

Luke 1:26-38 "...God
Luke 1:39-45

#2

Luke 2:4 -7

"...Because Joseph

Scene #3

Luke 2:8-20

Scene #4

Matt. 2:1-14

Each group prepares their
part as they like!
Interesting!! Fun!!

Christmas

Characters:

Mary
Angel
Joseph
Elizabeth
Zachariah

Mary
Joseph
Donkey
Mr. Innkeeper
Mrs. Innkeeper
Travelers (6)

MANGER SCENE

Shepherds
Sheep
Angel
Angel Choir
Shepherds
Shepherdess (2)
Mary
Joseph

King Herod
Herod's counselors
Wise men (1)
Wise woman (2)
Mary
Joseph
Young boy Jesus
King Herod's
Grandchildren

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Program

People in Group

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Bangkok Christmas party
2004