

the christmas story from the bible for children

The Christmas Story from the Bible for Children is a beautiful tale that captures the essence of love, hope, and joy. It is a story that has been told for centuries, passed down through generations, and cherished by families around the world. This article will take you through the key elements of the Christmas story, making it accessible and engaging for children.

The Background of the Christmas Story

The Christmas story is found in the New Testament of the Bible, specifically in the books of Matthew and Luke. It recounts the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ, who Christians believe is the Son of God. The story begins with a young woman named Mary, who was engaged to a man named Joseph.

The Annunciation

One of the most significant moments in the Christmas story is when the angel Gabriel visits Mary. Here's how it unfolds:

1. **The Angel's Visit:** Gabriel appears to Mary and tells her that she will conceive a child by the Holy Spirit. This child is to be named Jesus.
2. **Mary's Response:** Though confused and afraid, Mary responds with faith, saying, "I am the Lord's servant. May your word to me be fulfilled."
3. **Joseph's Dream:** Upon learning of Mary's pregnancy, Joseph is troubled but is visited by an angel in a dream. The angel reassures him to take Mary as his wife because the child is from the Holy Spirit.

The Journey to Bethlehem

As the time for Jesus' birth approaches, Mary and Joseph must travel to Bethlehem due to a decree from the Roman Emperor Augustus, which requires everyone to return to their ancestral towns for a census. Here are some important details about their journey:

- **The Long Journey:** Mary, who is pregnant, and Joseph travel a long distance, likely on foot or by donkey, to reach Bethlehem.
- **No Room at the Inn:** When they arrive in Bethlehem, they find that there is no room for them at the inn. This teaches children about hospitality and kindness.

The Birth of Jesus

When they finally find a place to stay, it is not a luxurious setting. Instead, Mary gives birth to Jesus in a stable, surrounded by animals. This humble beginning shows that Jesus came for everyone, regardless of their status.

The Significance of the Manger

- The Manger: After His birth, Mary wraps Jesus in swaddling clothes and places Him in a manger, which is a feeding trough for animals. This symbolizes Jesus' humility and His mission to serve others.
- Angels and Shepherds: That night, angels appear to shepherds in the fields, announcing the birth of the Savior. They encourage the shepherds to visit the newborn King.

The Shepherds' Visit

Excited by the angels' message, the shepherds make their way to Bethlehem to see Jesus. Here's how their visit unfolds:

1. Finding Jesus: The shepherds find Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus just as the angels had told them.
2. Spreading the News: After seeing Jesus, the shepherds spread the word about His birth, sharing the good news with everyone they meet.

The Visit of the Wise Men

Another important part of the Christmas story is the visit of the Wise Men, also known as the Magi. They traveled from the East, guided by a bright star.

The Gifts of the Wise Men

The Wise Men brought three gifts for Jesus:

1. Gold: A symbol of royalty, recognizing Jesus as the King.
2. Frankincense: A fragrant incense that signifies Jesus' divinity.
3. Myrrh: A spice used for burial, foreshadowing the sacrifice Jesus would make later in His life.

The Journey of the Wise Men

- Following the Star: The Magi followed the star for many days, showing dedication and faith.
- Meeting with King Herod: They stop to ask King Herod where the newborn King is. Herod, feeling threatened, plots to find and harm Jesus.

The Importance of the Christmas Story

The Christmas story is more than just a tale about the birth of Jesus; it carries deep meaning and lessons for children and families alike.

Lessons from the Christmas Story

1. Faith and Trust: Mary and Joseph showed great faith in God's plan, even when things were uncertain.
2. Love and Kindness: The story encourages us to show love and kindness to others, just as Mary and Joseph welcomed Jesus into their lives.
3. Joy and Hope: The birth of Jesus brings joy and hope to the world, reminding us that even in difficult times, good things can happen.

Celebrating Christmas Today

Many families celebrate Christmas by reenacting the Christmas story through various traditions. Here are some popular ways to celebrate:

Christmas Traditions

- **Nativity Scenes:** Setting up a nativity scene at home to depict the birth of Jesus.
- **Christmas Carols:** Singing songs that tell the story of Jesus' birth and spread joy.
- **Attending Church Services:** Many families attend special services to celebrate the birth of Christ.
- **Reading the Christmas Story:** Gathering as a family to read the nativity story from the Bible.

The Spirit of Giving

One of the most significant aspects of Christmas is the spirit of giving. Children can learn about generosity by:

- Helping Others: Participating in community service or donating toys and food to those in need.
- Creating Gifts: Making homemade gifts for friends and family, emphasizing the thought behind giving.

Conclusion

The **Christmas story from the Bible for children** is a timeless narrative filled with love, hope, and faith. It teaches us valuable lessons about kindness, generosity, and the importance of family. By sharing this story, we can instill these values in the hearts of children, ensuring that the spirit of Christmas lives on for generations to come. As we celebrate Christmas each year, let us remember the significance of Jesus' birth and strive to embody the love and joy that this story represents.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main message of the Christmas story in the Bible?

The main message of the Christmas story is the birth of Jesus Christ, who came to bring love, hope, and salvation to the world.

Who were the first visitors to see baby Jesus?

The first visitors to see baby Jesus were shepherds, who were told of his birth by angels.

Why did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem?

Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem because there was a census, and they needed to register in Joseph's hometown.

What gifts did the Wise Men bring to Jesus?

The Wise Men brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to honor Jesus at his birth.

How can children celebrate the Christmas story today?

Children can celebrate the Christmas story by reenacting the nativity, singing carols, giving to others, and remembering the true meaning of Christmas.

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