



## The Birth of Jesus

*Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20; Matthew 1:18-25*

### Story Context for Leader:

After 70 years in captivity, the people of Israel were allowed to go back to their land. They rebuilt the Temple and the walls of the city. God said He would send a Promised One, called the Messiah. He would fulfill all the promises given to Abraham, Moses, and David. They waited for 400 years.

### Bible-Telling Story

#### Mary

God sent an angel to a young woman named Mary. She was engaged to a man named Joseph who was a descendant of David.

The angel said, "Mary, you are blessed by God. You will give birth to a son, and call His name Jesus. He will be great, and His kingdom will have no end."

Mary said, "How can this be true? I am a virgin."

"You will conceive when the Holy Spirit comes over you. The Child will be called the Son of God!"

Mary bowed her head in submission. "I am the servant of the Lord."

#### Joseph

Soon Joseph found out that Mary was expecting a child, and he knew he wasn't the father. He didn't want to make a public example of her, so he decided to simply break off the engagement and put her away privately.

An angel appeared to him in a dream. "Joseph, don't be afraid to make Mary your wife. The child she is carrying is from the Holy Spirit. When He is born, you are to name Him Jesus. He is the Redeemer and will save people from their sins." Joseph did not hesitate. He took Mary as his wife.

When it was about time for her to give birth to her child, the Roman Empire required everyone to register in their hometown. Therefore, Joseph and Mary had to go to Bethlehem.

When they got there, the inn was full. They found a place to stay the night in a stable. That night, Mary gave birth to her baby. She wrapped Him in strips of cloth, and laid Him in a manger. Jesus was born!

#### Shepherds

Nearby, shepherds were watching over their flock through the night. Suddenly an angel stood among them, and the area was flooded with the glory of the Lord. The shepherds were terrified, but the angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to bring you great news!"

He then pointed toward the town. "Tonight, the Savior was born in Bethlehem. He is Messiah. Go there, and look for a baby wrapped in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

Suddenly the area was filled with angels who were praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest! Peace and goodwill to the earth." Then they disappeared.

The shepherds immediately went to Bethlehem where they found Mary, Joseph, and the baby, just as the angel had said. The shepherds told them what happened out in the field, and everyone was amazed. The men then went back to their flock, praising God for what they had seen.

## Mary

**indicate long hair**

*Mary*

**swing hand as if using a hammer**

**thumb points back**

*engaged to Joseph*

*Who was a descendant of King David*

**indicate long hair – hands up**

*“Mary, you are blessed of God”*

**hands on stomach – touch both palms**

*“You will bear a son – call Him Jesus”*

**right hand in fist – left hand rolls out**

*“He will be great – His kingdom will have no end”*

**both hands out**

*“How can this be?”*

**left palm above head**

**right hand point up**

*“Holy Spirit will hover over you –  
child will be called the Son of God”*

**bow head & hands together**

*“I am the servant of the Lord”*

## Joseph

**hands next to face (shocked)**

*Joseph found out Mary was expecting a child*

**hands on stomach**

*he was not the father*

**one hand held out**

**other down and to the side**

*didn't want to make a public example*

*decided to put her away privately*

**palms out – hands on stomach**

*don't be afraid. – from the Holy Spirit*

**touch both palms**

*call his name Jesus*

**uncross wrists –**

**put hands over face, then open them up**

*Redeemer – will forgive sins*

**move index fingers together**

*took Mary as his wife*

**point hand far out**

*Bethlehem*

**hands around the top of stable**

**baby at the bottom of stable**

**one hand roll around the other**

*stable – Jesus is born*

*wrapped baby in strips of cloth*

## Shepherds

**hands shaking – palms out**

*shepherds terrified – “Don't be afraid!”*

**point to left – right hand points up**

*born in Bethlehem – He is Messiah*

**hand above eyes**

*“Go look for baby”*

**hands make a big circle**

*area filled with angels*

**hands above eyes – hand out from mouth**

*shepherds go find child and tell what happened*

**clap hands**

*back to the fields rejoicing*