

# “A BABY IS BORN” ADVENT (WEEK 3)

## YOUTH – 6TH - 12TH GRADES

SCRIPTURE REFERENCE: LUKE 2:1-7

### BEGINNING PRAYER ACTIVITY

Connecting with the story:

As Advent and Christmas are a time often consumed by gifts in our consumerist culture, how do we share our lives and God’s love as gifts to others? What about someone who can’t afford to participate in the commercialism of Christmas shopping, spending lots of money and buying lots of gifts? We can see from this story, having a large bank account or a lot of money was not a requirement for God’s blessing! This



divine birth is very important in thinking about your own life’s purpose and helps put in perspective your own spiritual development. Have you ever thought about the possibility of ministry being a part of your birth? We don’t often think about the divine and human natures of Jesus or compare this story to our lives. We usually just accept this story as it is told and don’t think about how it connects to us. Asking questions helps us to better understand this story in the context of our own lives. What’s the story behind your birth or your arrival in your family? What do you think your parents may have been thinking before you came into this world? Were you born in a hospital or do you have another story of your birth? What do you think Mary and Joseph were thinking and feeling on their journey to Bethlehem? Let’s take a moment and pray together as we begin to answer some of these questions and look further into our story!

Say this prayer:

*Creator God, you know us. You knew us before we were born, and you know us now. Open our ears to this story of Jesus. May we remember that we are named and loved by you as well. Amen!*

## BIBLE READING

You will need a Bible – whatever one you have floating around your house is fine. Or, you can use Biblegateway.com (use the NRSV or CEB translations) or a Bible app (search NRSV Bible in your app store).

**Read (LUKE 2:1-7) or watch the video link!**

<https://youtu.be/R6FK8PF45og>

## THINK ABOUT IT

Try to put aside all that you know about the birth narrative of Jesus and focus on only these seven verses. Read the text. The first four verses of the seven are about the political situation at the time. And did you notice that Mary and Joseph are engaged, or Mary “was promised to him in marriage”? She is about to become an unwed mother and not only that, she is told by an angel nonetheless, that she will have God’s son (Jesus). A closer look at the Greek suggests that the couple didn’t go to an inn in Bethlehem but to a private home, maybe the home of a relative of Joseph. The guest room was taken, and the only private place for a woman about to give birth was the stable, likely the back of the ground floor where the animals were kept. In this space away from the family and guests, Mary gives birth and wraps her newborn son in strips of cloth, which was the custom at the time. She lays him in a manger, a feeding trough for the animals. All this reminds us of his humble origin. If you stop with verse 7, the picture is of a new family, parents and baby, poised to begin a new life together. But we know the backstory to this birth, and this is no ordinary family. Read Luke 2:1–7 again with this information in mind. What else do you imagine?

**Think About It..** As you think about this story in relationship to Advent (a time of waiting and preparation) what do you think was going through the mind of Mary as she waited for the birth of this extraordinary child? What about the community she and Joseph lived in. We have a young, unwed, pregnant woman arriving in town where Joseph had friends and family to deliver a child that wasn’t his! What did the space look like that housed Mary and Joseph? What about the conditions of the place where the child was to be born? According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the infant mortality rate (death during the first year of life) in the United States is the highest among comparable countries. The health and care of children in the first three years of life is so important. Do you think the health and welfare of the baby was on the mind of Mary and Joseph as he was born? How might focusing on these seven verses orient the remaining weeks of Advent for you and your family? Thinking about Mary and Joseph during the time leading up to and the birth of Jesus helps us truly consider the real meaning of Christmas. It helps us focus on what’s really important and why we are so blessed to spend this time together with family and friends.

## CONCLUDING SONG

<https://youtu.be/ifCWN5pJGIE>

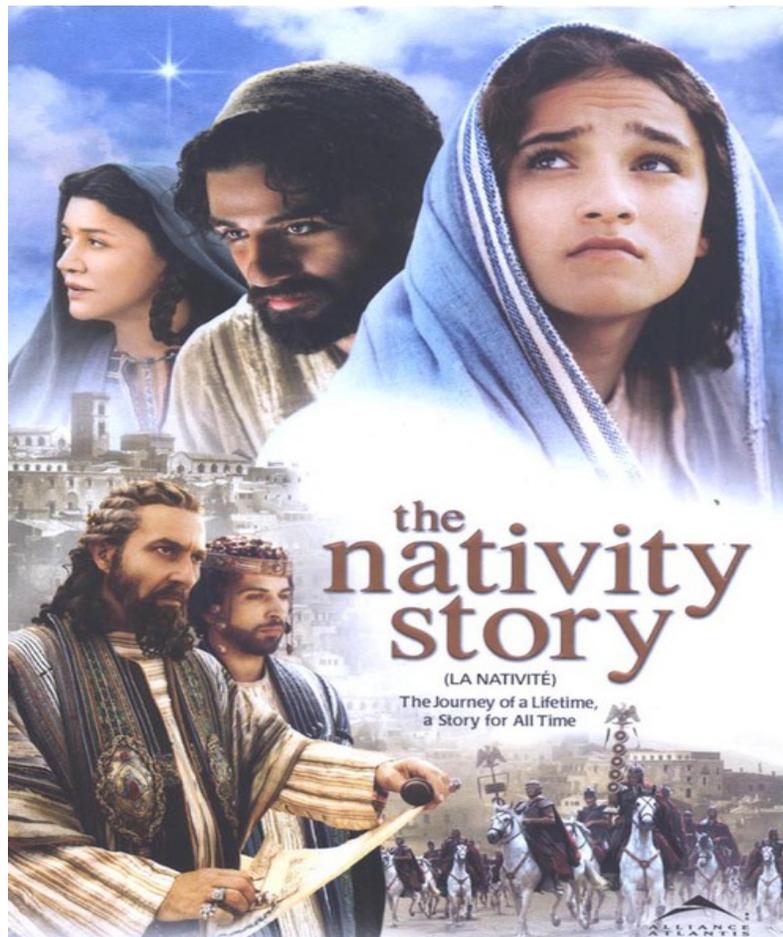
**CHALLENGE WEEK 3!** Finish this week's challenge to have your name entered into a monthly prize drawing!

Watch the recommended movie, complete your family activity, and/or word search below then take a picture to send to Pastor Chrissy or Joseph! Email or text us a picture of your activity and/or tell us what you learned from the movie this week!

Email: [chrissy.westbury@kalamazoofirstpres.org](mailto:chrissy.westbury@kalamazoofirstpres.org) or [joseph.burrel@kalamazoofirstpres.org](mailto:joseph.burrel@kalamazoofirstpres.org)

Or text to Pastor Chrissy at 989-854-1124

**Watch the movie; “The Nativity Story” with your family and tell us your thoughts!**



**The Charades Game** is **played** with the words or phrases listed below. Cut out the squares and shuffle them so the word or phrase isn't seen until each team takes its turn. On each turn, one person acts out the topic, without talking for their teammates to guess. You use a stopwatch or app to track the time, giving a maximum of two or three minutes for each turn. At the end of several rounds, the team with the shortest time, and who guessed the most right wins.

# Charades

## (In the Bible)

Garden of Eden	John the Baptist	Parting of the Red Sea
For God so loved the world	Noah's Ark	5 Loaves and 2 Fish
David and Goliath	Man shall not live on bread alone	The walls of Jericho came crashing down
Bethlehem	Abraham and Sarah	Peter escapes from prison
There is nothing new under the sun	The Lost Sheep	Honor your father and your mother



## Joseph Told About Jesus Word Search



Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.



ANGEL	HUSBAND	MARY	SON
BABY	JOSEPH	NAZARETH	WIFE
CARPENTER	MARRIED		