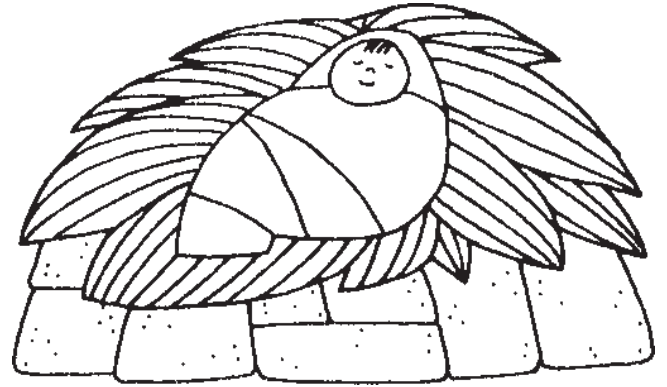


LESSON 7

Joy for Jesus

One of the wonderful things that can give us joy is Jesus. He was part of God's plan right from the beginning - the man through whom God would save His people. His life, death and resurrection give us Hope because through him we can be made at one with God and look forward to eternal life in His Kingdom. And it all started in a very simple way.



One day a young woman named Mary was surprised by the visit of an angel. He came to tell her that God was pleased with her and had chosen her to be the mother of His Son, Jesus. This was a very special honour and Mary was full of joy and very excited.

As the time came closer for God's son to be born, a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that everyone had to return to their home city to be taxed. This meant Mary and Joseph (now her husband) must journey to Bethlehem. This was a journey of around 80 miles - a long way to walk! They finally arrived, tired from the journey only to find that there was no room for them in the inn. They were given a manger to rest in and there Jesus was born and Mary wrapped him up in some warm blankets.

Outside Bethlehem in the countryside there were shepherds in the fields looking after their sheep. Suddenly an angel of the Lord came to them and the glory of the Lord shone around and the shepherds were afraid. But the angel said, "*Fear not: for behold, I bring you tidings of **great joy** which shall be unto all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*" And suddenly there were a lot of angels all singing to God and saying, "*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*" The shepherds rushed to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. When they had seen it for themselves, they joyfully spread the news around of what they had seen and heard.

Later on, when Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple to offer the required sacrifices, they met a man named Simeon. "*...And when the parents brought in the child Jesus, that they might do concerning him after the custom of the law, then he received him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, Now lettest thou thy servant depart, Lord, according to thy word, in peace; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples; a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.*"

Throughout his life, and his death on the cross, Jesus showed what it meant to live a life doing the will of God and not his own. He gave the Law, which the Pharisees and Scribes had made into a checklist, true worth by transforming it to a spiritual mindset.

Student Name: _____

WORKSHEET 7: JOY FOR JESUS

ANSWERS FROM THE BIBLE:

What do these Old Testament prophecies say about Jesus?

Isaiah 7:14 _____

Zechariah 9:9 _____

Isaiah 9:6,7 _____

Psalms 118:22 _____

Micah 5:2 _____

WORD STUDY:

"glad"

Look up the word "glad" in a concordance. What is the Hebrew word and what does it mean? Find some verses in the Psalms that give reasons to be glad.

APPLICATION:

It is sad that the Jews were looking for something big and powerful and missed the small things - the birth of a baby in Bethlehem. What might be some small things in our lives that God does for us and yet go unnoticed?

