

the christmas story in the bible for children

The Christmas story in the Bible for children is a beautiful tale that tells us about the birth of Jesus Christ, who is considered the Son of God. This story is celebrated around the world each December, and it is a special time for families to come together, share love and joy, and remember the true meaning of Christmas. In this article, we will explore the key characters, events, and messages of the Christmas story, making it easy for children to understand and cherish this important tale.

What is the Christmas Story?

The Christmas story is found in the Bible, specifically in the New Testament. It recounts the miraculous birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. The story highlights themes of hope, love, and the importance of family. It teaches us about the humble beginnings of Jesus and the joy that His birth brought to the world.

Key Characters in the Christmas Story

There are several important characters in the Christmas story. Each plays a significant role in the events leading up to the birth of Jesus.

1. Mary

Mary was a young woman who lived in Nazareth. She was chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus. An angel named Gabriel appeared to her and told her that she would have a special baby, even though she was not married. Mary accepted this incredible news with faith and trust.

2. Joseph

Joseph was Mary's husband. He was a kind and caring man who loved Mary very much. When he learned that Mary was going to have a baby, he was initially worried. However, an angel appeared to him in a dream and reassured him that the baby was from God. Joseph accepted his role and protected Mary and Jesus.

3. Jesus

Jesus is the central figure of the Christmas story. He is known as the Son of God and the Savior of the world. His birth is celebrated by Christians as the moment when God sent His Son to bring love and salvation to humanity.

4. The Shepherds

The shepherds were ordinary people who took care of sheep in the fields. They were the first to hear about Jesus' birth from an angel. The angel brought them good news and told them where to find the baby in Bethlehem.

5. The Wise Men

The Wise Men, also known as the Magi, were learned men from the East. They saw a bright star in the sky that signified the birth of a king. They traveled a long distance, following the star, to bring gifts to Jesus.

The Events Leading Up to the Birth of Jesus

The Christmas story is filled with significant events that lead to the birth of Jesus. Here's a timeline of what happened:

1. Angel Gabriel Visits Mary: The angel Gabriel tells Mary that she will have a special baby who will be the Son of God.
2. Joseph's Dream: Joseph learns from an angel in a dream that he should not be afraid to take Mary as his wife because her baby is from the Holy Spirit.
3. Journey to Bethlehem: Because of a decree from the Roman Emperor, Joseph and Mary must travel to Bethlehem for a census. This long journey was difficult for Mary, especially since she was pregnant.
4. No Room at the Inn: When they arrive in Bethlehem, they find that there is no room for them in the inn. They are given a stable to stay in, where animals are kept.
5. The Birth of Jesus: In the stable, Mary gives birth to Jesus. She wraps Him in swaddling clothes and places Him in a manger, which is a feeding trough for animals.

The Announcement of Jesus' Birth

After Jesus is born, something extraordinary happens. An angel appears to the shepherds in the fields nearby.

The Shepherds' Encounter with Angels

- The angel tells the shepherds not to be afraid and announces the good news of Jesus' birth.
- A multitude of angels joins in, praising God and singing about peace on earth.
- The shepherds hurry to Bethlehem to see the newborn baby. They find Jesus just as the angel had said.

The Visit of the Wise Men

- After Jesus' birth, the Wise Men see the bright star and follow it to find the baby.
- They travel from a faraway land, bringing precious gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- When they arrive, they bow down and worship Jesus, recognizing Him as the King.

The Importance of the Christmas Story

The Christmas story carries deep meaning for people of all ages. Here are some key messages that children can learn:

1. Love: The story teaches us about the love that God has for humanity. God sent His only Son, Jesus, to show us love in its purest form.
2. Hope: Jesus' birth brings hope to the world. It reminds us that no matter how difficult things may seem, there is always a reason to hope for a better future.
3. Faith: Mary and Joseph's trust in God is a powerful example of faith. They believed in the angel's message and followed God's plan, even when it was hard.
4. Joy: The joy brought by Jesus' birth is something that should be shared. The shepherds and Wise Men rejoiced and spread the good news, teaching us the importance of sharing joy with others.
5. Family: The story emphasizes the importance of family. Mary and Joseph

worked together to care for Jesus, showing us that love and support in a family are essential.

Celebrating Christmas Today

Today, people celebrate Christmas in many different ways, but the core message remains the same. Here are some common traditions:

- Giving Gifts: Just like the Wise Men brought gifts to Jesus, many people exchange gifts with family and friends to show love and appreciation.
- Decorating: Families often decorate their homes with Christmas trees, lights, and ornaments. These decorations symbolize the joy and light that Jesus brings into the world.
- Singing Carols: Christmas carols recount the story of Jesus' birth and spread cheer. Singing together is a way to celebrate the season.
- Attending Church Services: Many families attend special church services on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day to remember the true meaning of Christmas.
- Spending Time with Loved Ones: Christmas is a time for family gatherings and creating memories together.

Conclusion

The Christmas story in the Bible is a timeless tale that teaches us about love, hope, and joy. It reminds us of the importance of family and faith, as well as the need to share happiness with others. As children learn about the birth of Jesus, they can carry these valuable lessons in their hearts, making this special time of year even more meaningful. Christmas is not just about presents and decorations; it is about celebrating the incredible gift of Jesus and the love He brings to the world.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Christmas story in the Bible about?

The Christmas story in the Bible tells about the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who was born in Bethlehem to Mary and Joseph. It includes the visit of angels, shepherds, and wise men who came to worship Him.

Who were the first visitors to see baby Jesus?

The first visitors to see baby Jesus were the shepherds. An angel appeared to them and announced the birth of Jesus, guiding them to the stable where He was born.

Why is the Christmas story important for children?

The Christmas story is important for children because it teaches them about love, hope, and the significance of Jesus' birth. It helps them understand the values of giving, kindness, and the joy of family.

What gifts did the wise men bring to Jesus?

The wise men, also known as the Magi, brought three gifts to Jesus: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Each gift had special meanings, representing Jesus' kingship, divinity, and eventual suffering.

How can children celebrate the Christmas story today?

Children can celebrate the Christmas story by participating in nativity plays, reading the Bible story, singing carols, making decorations, and sharing gifts with others to spread joy and love.

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