

Jesus is . . .

Knowing Him this Christmas



Jesus is . . . Immanuel

Scriptures:

Luke 2:1-20

John 1:14-18

Matthew 1:22-23

Isaiah 7:14

Lesson Goals:

Know Jesus as Immanuel.

Know Jesus wants to be with us.

Memory Verse:

The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.

John 1:14 (MSG)

Annabel. Charles. José. What's in a name? Why are names important? Well, names are a part of who we are, and even though many people pick names for their children because they are family names or because they are pretty, names mean something. For instance, Annabel means "lovable," Charles either simply means "man" or may mean "warrior," and José means "God will add."

The Bible talks about name meanings. But what does all of this have to do with Christmas? Well, we can learn new things about Jesus by the names used for Him in the Bible.

What names for Jesus have we learned? (God and Messiah.) What do those names mean? Jesus being God means that He has been around forever and that He created the world in the beginning. Jesus being Messiah means that He is the special One from God, the One God promised long ago. He is descended from King David.

Read Isaiah 7:14

Does that verse remind you of something we have talked about in the last few weeks? "A virgin will have a son." What virgin have we talked about that is going to have a baby? Mary! And God is saying that this will be a sign for the people. God also says what they should call this baby - "Immanuel." But why would you call a baby that? We find the explanation in the book of Matthew.

Read Matthew 1:22-23

This baby, the one growing inside of Mary who was almost ready to be born, was to be called Immanuel because it means "God with us." But how is this baby "God with us?" What do you remember about who Jesus is? He is God! And Jesus, growing as a baby inside of Mary, is about to be born into the world, our world!

Who remembers where Jesus will be born? (Bethlehem.) Why Bethlehem? Why not Nazareth, in Galilee? (God had promised that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem and He gave the Roman Emperor the idea to count all of the people of His empire. To count them all, they must return to the city of their ancestors and Bethlehem was the town of Joseph's ancestor King David.)

Read Luke 2:6

It's time! Can you imagine the excitement? It doesn't matter if the only room they could find in the busy town of Bethlehem was a stable. Mary is having a baby - her first. Mary gave birth to Jesus and wrapped Him up in strips of cloth. Since there was no baby bed, she placed Jesus - God in a little human body - in the manger. A manger is a feeding box for animals.

What proud parents. Joseph and Mary must have been pleased. But just imagine God's pleasure! What do proud parents do? They tell everyone their news! And did God have some announcement planned!

That same night, some shepherds were living out in the fields around Bethlehem. They were watching their sheep. God sent an angel to them. God wanted them to know about the birth of His Son, but angels can be a little scary. So the angel said, "Don't be afraid. I have good news. The good news is for you. The good news is for everyone. Today, in King David's town, a Savior has been born for you. You'll know I'm telling the truth when you find the baby wrapped in strips of cloth. He'll be lying in a manger." All of a sudden, the sky was full of angels. They were praising God! "Give glory to God. Peace to everyone who pleases Him." And then they were gone.

What a birth announcement! The shepherds couldn't help but go and see. They hurried off to Bethlehem and they found everything just like the angels had told them. After they had seen the baby, they told everyone! They shared about the angels, too, and everyone who heard it was amazed.

How about you? Did you know that God "moved into the neighborhood" for you? Jesus, Immanuel-God with us, left heaven and took on the body of a little baby to show us what God is like. He wants a friendship with you. Have you accepted God's gift of His Son as your own? If you have, God has moved into you in the form of the Holy Spirit. He does this to teach you what is right, to encourage you, and to remind you of all that God has said. He will never leave you.

If you have never invited Immanuel, the God who wants to be with you, into your life, will you do that right now, as the shepherds did, and come to God? You will receive the greatest gift imaginable this Christmas! Don't wait!

Next Week
Jesus is . . . Jesus
Luke 2:21-38

Preschool

Sing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus

Read Luke 2:6-9

Teach Mary and Joseph had arrived in Bethlehem. It had been a long donkey ride from their hometown in Galilee. But when they got to Bethlehem, there was no warm bed for them. The only place for them to stay was in a stable with the animals. What animals might have been there in the stable? Can you make their sounds? Animals or not, the stable would do because it was time for baby Jesus to be born.

It’s time! Can you imagine the excitement? Mary is having a baby - her first. Baby Jesus was born and his mother Mary wrapped Him up in strips of cloth. Since there was no baby bed, she placed Jesus in the manger. A manger is the box that animals eat out of.

What proud parents. Joseph and Mary must have been happy. But just imagine how happy God was! What do proud parents do when they have a baby? They tell everyone! And God had a big announcement planned!

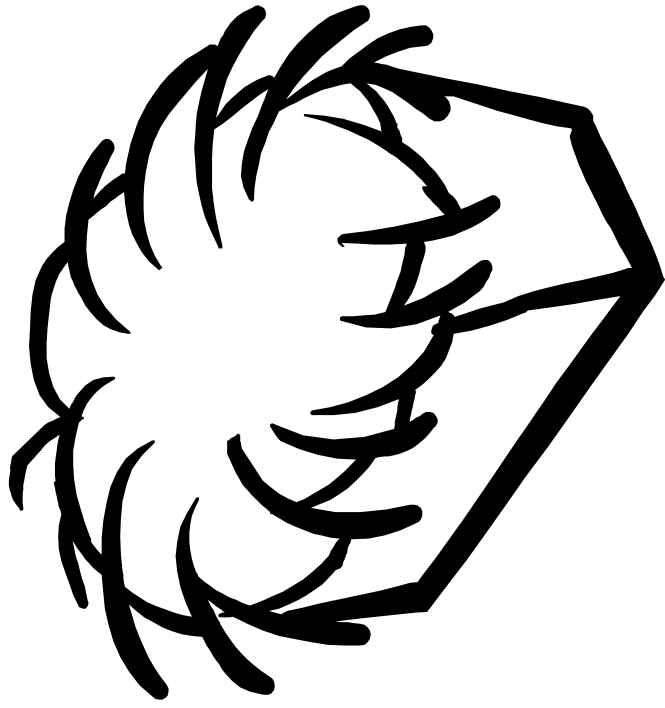
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Pray Thank you, God, for sending Jesus to the world. Help me tell others the way the shepherds did.

A C T I V I T E S

- Memory Verse Activity - Practice the verse with repetition this week. Break the verse into smaller “chunks” for easier practice. Try, “The Word
Became flesh and blood
And moved into
The neighborhood.” John 1:14
- Make Birth Announcements. Bring old Christmas cards, ribbon, stamps of hand and foot prints, etc. Encourage your students to be creative. Remind them that a birth announcement isn’t something you hold on to and keep quiet about. Prompt them to think of people they can share the good news with today.
- Make a welcome sign for Jesus. Have you ever seen ribbons or balloons at a home where a brand new baby has been born? Make your own welcome sign in the shape of a Christmas wreath. Cut a circle out of the middle of a paper plate. Decorate the remaining area of the plate with silk leaves, tissue paper, or small squares of green construction paper. Be sure to add red for berries.
- Bring a small box and many strips of yellow paper. Explain that the box represents the manger. Talk about the “padding” the manger needs, the hay. Encourage your students to share the birth of Jesus this week with everyone they talk to. When they do, encourage them to write the name of each person on a separate strip of paper and place it into the manger. Watch the manger as it is filled with “hay.”
- Act out today’s lesson for the parents of your children. Have someone read the Biblical account and dress your students for the part.
- Provide the word “peace” in many different languages for your students. Discuss the angels’ message in Luke 2:14. Remind your students that God’s good news is for everyone, no matter what language they speak, and His peace is for those who accept the good news.
- Try giving candy canes for snack today. Talk about how they are shaped like a shepherd’s crook.
- Sing “Angels We Have Heard on High,” “Away in a Manger,” “Go, Tell it On the Mountain,” “Hark, the Herald Angels Sing,” “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,” “Emmanuel,” or “Silent Night.”



The Word became flesh and blood,
and moved into the neighborhood.

John 1:14

Trace the letters to find the meaning of the name Immanuel.

G O O D W I F E S

Jesus is Immanuel

Word Search

H P E S U S A N G U M W
S H E U H T L E G N A J
J O S E P H E R D S N E
E E U M T H U T I M G Y
S D S G O D W I I O E R
O G T U G O A W M R R A
S H E P S M R Y M A R Y
J O S H P A T O A A O W
E O W T A M M A N U R I
N G O D W I T H U S Y U
I T S D R E H P E H S S
A M T H S G O L L A W N

ANGEL

IMMANUEL

NO ROOM

GOD WITH US

JOSEPH

MANGER

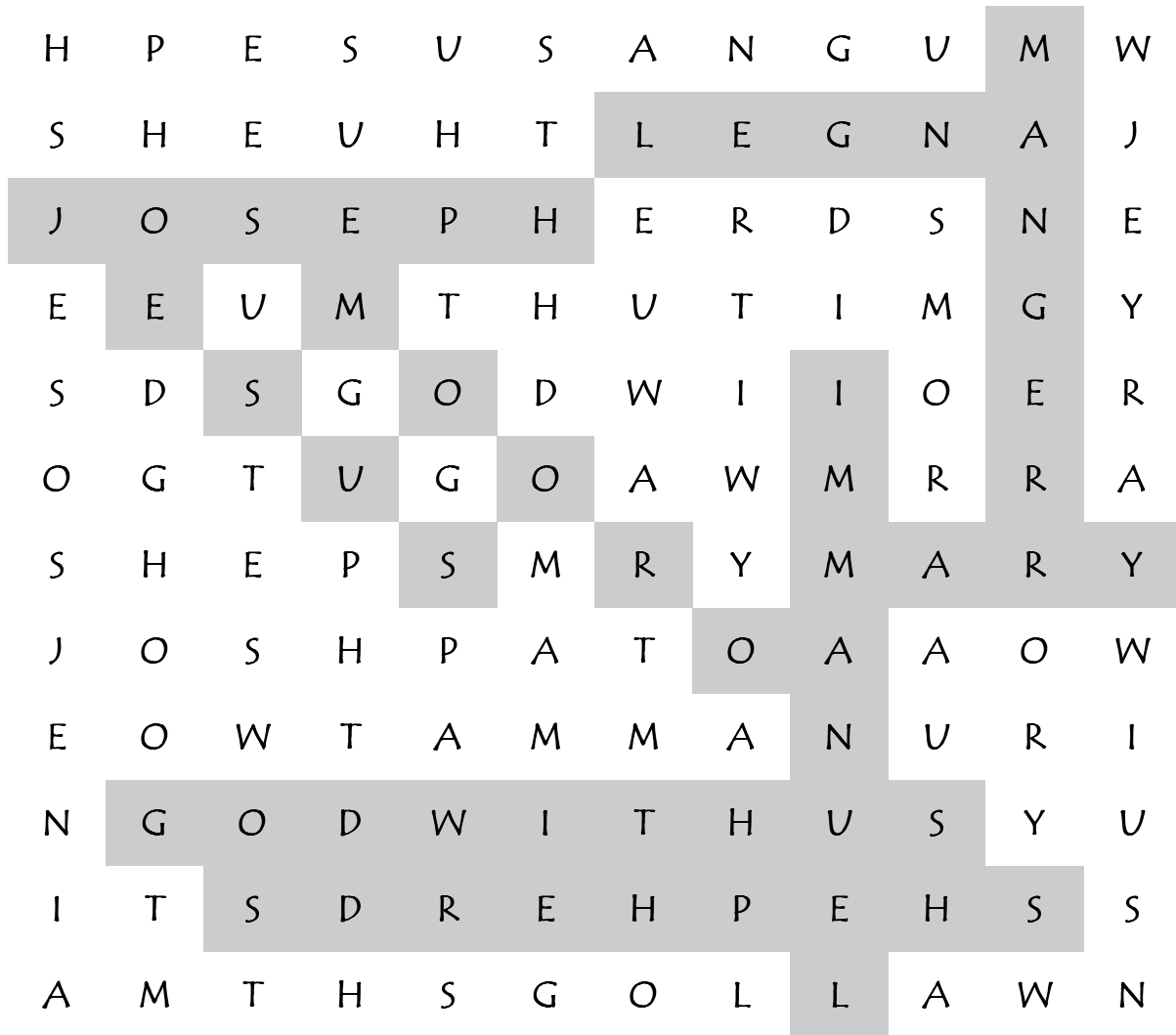
SHEPHERDS

JESUS

MARY

Jesus is Immanuel

Word Search



ANGEL

IMMANUEL

NO ROOM

GOD WITH US

JOSEPH

MANGER

SHEPHERDS

JESUS

MARY