

A Trip to Egypt

Lesson 52

Matthew 2:1-23

Memory Verse

Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11

Introduction

Have you ever had to take a trip somewhere in your car? Sometimes it's fun riding together and sometimes it seems like it takes forever to get somewhere. Let's see why Jesus and His family traveled.

We celebrated Christmas when Jesus was born. We learned how Jesus was born in a stable barn and used an animal feed box (manger) as his crib. The angels came to the shepherds in the fields and told them the good news. They ran to see Jesus and told many people what they saw.

Scripture

Matthew 2:1-3

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

Discussion

Ask: Where did the Magi go?

At first they stopped at the most important city called Jerusalem to see Jesus but discovered that King Herod knew nothing of a baby being born.

Ask: What did the Magi ask?

"Where is the king of the Jews?"

Matthew 2:4-6

When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

" 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.'"

Ask: What did Herod do?

He had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born.

Ask: What did the religious leaders tell Herod?

Someone remembered that God told His people that a special baby would be born in Bethlehem.

Matthew 2:7-8

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

Ask: What did Herod ask the Magi to do?

Herod asked the men to come back and tell him exactly where Jesus was when they found him.

Matthew 2:9-12

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Ask: What led the Magi to Jesus?

In the sky a beautiful, bright star shone in the sky. The star moved and guided them to Jesus' country. It was not like the stars that we always see in the sky.

Matthew 2:11

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

Ask: What did the Magi do?

The men traveled and found Jesus in Bethlehem. These wise men brought special presents because they knew he was the king of the Jews. They brought gold, incense and spices called myrrh. They worshiped Him and gave Him the special gifts.

Matthew 2:12

And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Ask: Why didn't the Magi go back to Herod?

As they were returning, God used a dream to tell them to go back home a different way and not tell King Herod the news.

Ask: Why did Herod want to do?

King Herod wanted to kill baby Jesus because he was afraid that Jesus would take over his kingdom.

Matthew 2:13-15

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him." So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

Ask: What warning did Joseph receive?

An angel also came to Joseph in a dream. God told him to get up and leave Bethlehem.

Ask: What did Joseph do?

Joseph got up in the middle of the night and took Mary and Jesus to another country.

Ask: Where did they go?

They traveled to the country of Egypt which is in Africa. A very long time ago, people built big triangle buildings called pyramids. Joseph obeyed God and followed immediately.

Matthew 2:16-18

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

"A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

Ask: What did Herod do?

King Herod decided to kill all the baby boys in Bethlehem to make sure that Jesus did not live.

Herod had no idea that God was protecting Jesus and they had escaped to another country.

Matthew 2:19-23

After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: "He will be called a Nazarene."

Discussion

Ask: What happened after Herod died?

After Herod died, an angel told Joseph in a dream that it was safe to return to their country. They traveled back and lived in a town called Nazareth. God had told His people very long ago that Jesus would grow up in Nazareth. Again, God kept His promise.

Application

Ask: What did Joseph do?

Joseph listened and obeyed God when He spoke.

Ask: What does God want us to do?

God wants us to listen and obey Him also. He probably won't tell us something in a dream like Joseph or the wise men. However, God will help us know what to do through the Bible.

God took care of Jesus and He will take care of us too. Jesus was a special person because He was God's only Son. He was born for a special reason and plan. Jesus had a mission to help us. When He grew up, Jesus helped many people know more about God. He shared things that helped people learn and know more about God.

Best of all, Jesus did something to help all of us. Jesus lived a perfect life. He never sinned or did wrong. That is important because He took our place for all the wrongs that we have done. He died on the cross for all the sins that we have done not anything He had done wrong. Then, three days later, Jesus resurrected. If we believe in Him and ask Him to forgive our sins, He will clean out our hearts. He will make them clean and help us do things God's way. He will come into our lives and help us do right and live for God.

Ask: Would you like to invite Jesus to be a part of your life?

God wants to change our lives and our hearts. God wants us to know Him and to know His love. God does not force us to follow Him. God waits for us to invite Him to be a part of our lives.

Romans 10:9-10

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Romans 10:9-10 tell us that we need to do two things. First, we have to confess with our mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord. Second, we have to believe in our heart that God has raised him from the dead. Then we will be saved and have new life.