

The Birth of Jesus

December

Luke 2:1-7

Mary and Joseph must make the difficult trip to Bethlehem, the city of David, to register for the census that has been ordered by Caesar Augustus. When Mary and Joseph reach Bethlehem, it is so crowded that there is no room for them at the inn. The only place for them to rest is in a stable, where Mary soon gives birth to Baby Jesus. Mary wraps the baby in bands of cloth and lays him in a manger.

The Gospel Story Through Gameplay

This setting for this story is the very rough and rocky terrain between Nazareth and Bethlehem. Children begin the game looking for a Bible just outside the city of Nazareth. They watch a cinema of Luke 2:1-3, where they see the people leaving the city to go to their own towns to be registered.

Children are then asked to find Mary and Joseph traveling to Bethlehem. Kids must travel along the road outside of Nazareth to find them. Children watch a cinema of Luke 2:4-5. They observe Mary riding on a donkey that is being led further up the mountain by Joseph.

Children must then find Mary and Joseph three more times as they make the journey over the difficult terrain to Bethlehem. Kids are asked to collect a star each time they find Mary and Joseph. After collecting each star, children see Mary and Joseph travel a little further toward Bethlehem. Children are then told to find Joseph and Mary in a stable in Bethlehem. Upon finding them, they watch a cinema of Luke 2:6-7 and see Mary lay Baby Jesus in a manger. Children then enter the Bonus Round.

As kids make the journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, they are encouraged to help two other groups of travelers. The first group needs help finding their blankets. The second group is thirsty and needs to find water jars. Helping these people find their lost items gains kids extra points.

In Bethlehem, children meet a young boy who needs help tying up the donkeys for the night. Unfortunately, the donkeys won't move until their water trough is filled with water. Kids can also earn extra points by moving rocks from the path to Bethlehem and helping other visitors find a place to rest for the night.

THE GAME IN 30 SECONDS

Find the Bible outside of Nazareth and watch a cinema of Luke 2:1-3.

Find Joseph and Mary traveling to Bethlehem and watch a cinema of Luke 2:4-5.

Find Joseph and Mary three times as they travel to Bethlehem and collect three stars.

Find Joseph and Mary in a stable in Bethlehem and watch a cinema of Luke 2:6-7.

Find the Faith Focus.

Collect bonus tokens; then find the cross to end the game.

LIGHT THE FIRE

This month, children will be asked to find Mary and Joseph as they travel to Bethlehem through a mountainous region. The terrain is rocky and, at times, difficult to navigate.

Ask the kids: As Mary and Joseph travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem, what type of land do you think they will encounter? Desert? Flatlands? Mountains?

(Each month, "Light The Fire" will contain some fun gameplay activities related to the Gospel story. Use it to start a discussion with your children about this month's Bible story game.)

Saint of the Month

Saint Nicholas

Kids find this special saint token just outside of Bethelehm.

Children learn that Saint Nicholas once gave money to a poor man who couldn't afford to give his daughters weddings. He is also known as Santa Claus.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Jesus was born in a manger because there was no room at the inn. What will you do this week to welcome Jesus into your life?



Corporal Works of Mercy

Give Drink to the Thirsty

Children find women who are thirsty along the road between Nazareth and bethelehem. Find water jugs and give them to the women.