

LESSON : THE DISTRACTED INNKEEPER

In this lesson, the children will learn about the innkeeper. We will discuss some of the distractions that can get in the way of focusing on Jesus as we celebrate Christmas. We will provide some practical ways to "make room" for Jesus this Christmas.

AS KIDS ARRIVE

Distractions of Christmas (Activity) -Attached



MEMORY WORK

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things." Colossians 3:1-2 NIV

SCRIPTURE READING AND DISCUSSION

Introduction:

Today we are going to look at some of the people that were part of the Christmas story. The Christmas story is all about the birth of Jesus Christ, and it is one of the most important stories in the Bible. When we read from the Gospel of Luke, we learn details about where Jesus was born, and He was not born in a hospital like most babies today are, nor was He born at home. Since Mary and Joseph were traveling, you would think Jesus was born in an inn or hotel, but He was not born in one of these places either. Listen to our Bible passage for today and how the innkeepers might have been part of Jesus' birth story.

Read Luke 2:1-7- Ask the students to listen to details about how Mary and Joseph traveled and imagine how difficult it might have been for Mary since she was pregnant.

Discussion Questions:

1. Who decrees that a census must be taken in the entire Roman world? *(Caesar Augustus.)*
2. Why do Joseph and Mary have to travel to Bethlehem?
(It was Joseph's hometown and they had to register there.)
3. Why does Mary travel with Joseph? *(Mary is pledged to be married to Joseph.)*
4. While they are in Bethlehem, what happened? *(The time comes for the baby Jesus to be born.)*
5. When the baby is born Mary wraps Him in cloths and places Him in a manger. What is a manger?
(A place where animals eat food from, like a trough.)
6. Why is Mary using a manger as a crib for baby Jesus? *(There was no guestroom available for them.)*
7. If you were an innkeeper and you did not have a room in your hotel for a lady getting ready to have a baby what do you think you would you do? *(Answers will vary. Make room for them in my own house. Let them stay in my bedroom. Send them to another place they could stay.)*
8. What do you think about the innkeepers treatment of Mary and Joseph?
(Answers will vary. They were just too busy to help. They were distracted because they had so much going on with their business. They were overwhelmed with too many different things.)

ALTERNATE CLASS EXERCISE

Find Your Focus (Maze) -Attached

APPLICATION

The Bible doesn't tell us much about the innkeepers, but we know that they did not have room for Jesus that very special night. Maybe they did not have any rooms available for Jesus. Maybe the innkeepers were too busy helping other people to notice Mary and Joseph and how much they needed a place to stay. But, when we look at this story, we must realize that sometimes we get so caught up in all the exciting things that go on around Christmas we forget to "make room" for the whole reason we have to celebrate—God's gift of Jesus. Jesus was not just a baby! Jesus was God's one and only Son! He deserves to be at the center of everything we do at Christmas. He was a King worth celebrating, worshiping, and showering with gifts. We must remember to celebrate Jesus at Christmas through generosity, seeking Him, and worshipping Him!