

Christmas

Three Part Biblical Study for Children of all ages

Junior Edition



Cornerstone Christian Fellowship

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For Cornerstone Christian Fellowship

Christmas Part 1: The Shepherds and Angels

The focus of this lesson is on the shepherds and angels and why God choose to make this special announcement in this particular way to these particular people.

Start the lesson by reading **Luke 2:1-20**.

Luke 2:1 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2 This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. 3 So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. 4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. 6 So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. 8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

14 "Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. 17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. 18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.



Students, take notes during your discussion.



• What is the job of a shepherd?

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• What simple tool do shepherds use to help guide and protect their sheep?

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• Shepherd kept their sheep out in pastures in the wilderness. What animals do you think the shepherds needed to protect their sheep from?

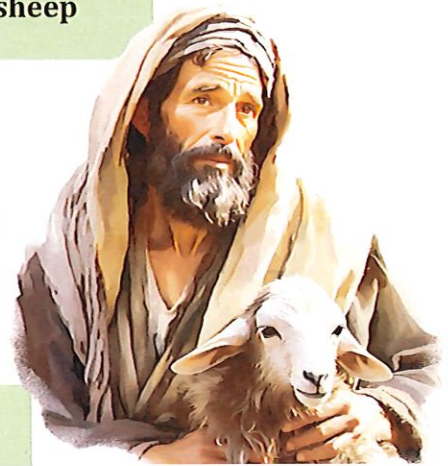
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• Can you think of any other shepherds in the Old Testament?

○

• Do you think shepherding was a job that needed a lot of education? Or was it a simple job that didn't require much skill?

○



• Even though shepherds did not have to have much education, do you think that they could still study what the scriptures and prophets said about the coming of God's son?

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• Can you think of one more person in the Bible that called himself a shepherd, the "good shepherd"?

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Teachers: Now move on to questions about angels...

- **What was a main job of angels?**

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- **So, if you saw and heard an angel speaking to you – do you think it would be something very important?**

○

- **Let's think about what timeframe this message was delivered. Was the passage of scripture we just read from the Old Testament or the New Testament?**

○

- **Do you know what is the last book of the Old Testament?**

○

- **After delivering his message to Israel through Malachi, God did not speak to his people for a long time. Can you guess how many years went by before God spoke to his people again?**

○

- **So, when the angels appeared to the shepherds do you think it was a BIG deal?**

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- **Not only did the angels appear...but what else does verse 9 from our passage say?**

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- **Why do you think the angels told the shepherds not to be afraid? Would you be afraid if you saw an angel surrounded by the glory of the Lord?**

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- **What was the message that the angels brought?**

- Read: Luke 2:10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

- **Did the shepherds understand the message? How do you know?**

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Read what the shepherd did:

- Luke 2:15 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." 16 And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. 17 Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. 18 And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

In conclusion, God choose to make this great, monumental announcement to lowly shepherds. He choose to send angels and His glory to a quiet field in the wilderness after 400 years of not sending any messages to his people. The announcement that God's son had been born was a very exciting and long awaited announcement for those people who believed God and His promises. This is why the shepherds went with "haste" to find the baby born the Son of God. After visiting Jesus, they returned to their field and shared this good news with others. The Bible says they returned to their fields "glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen". What an exciting time this must have been!



Shepherds in the Field Craft

Supplies:

- Green Plates
- Green Crinkle Cut Paper for "grass"
- Shepherd/Sheep/Angel template
- Glue Stick and White School Glue
- Scissors
- Crayons
- Toilet paper tubes (4 per child – with one tube cut in half for each sheep)

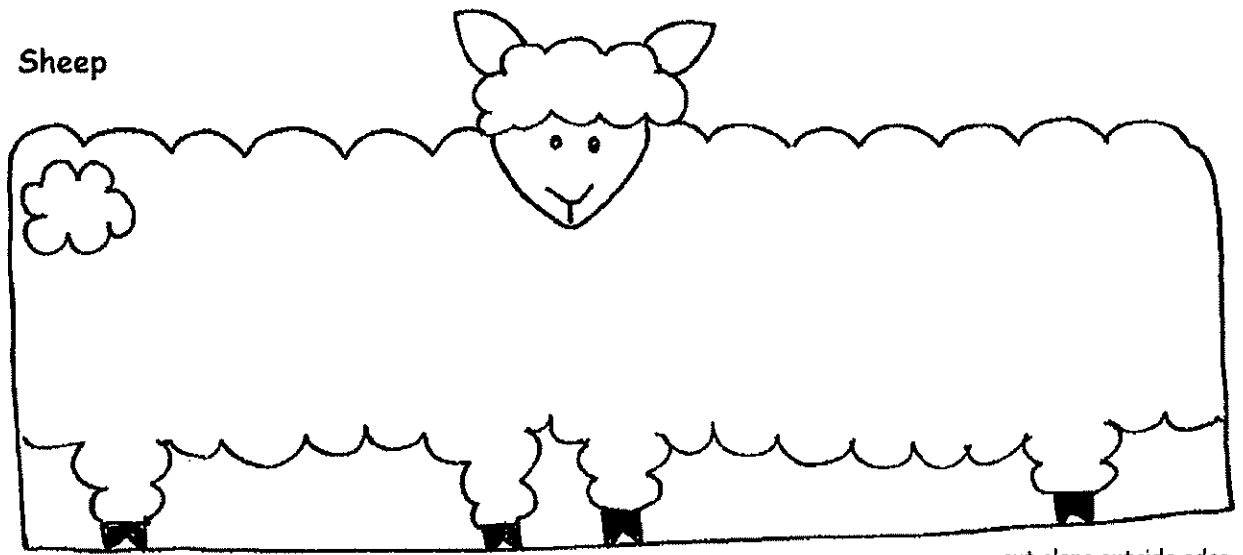
Glue grass around the rim of the plate.
(The center should not have grass so the figures can stand on a flat surface.)

Color shepherd, sheep and angel.

Cut out each figure and glue around toilet paper tubes. (Angel can be glue toward the top of a tube, so it will appear to be in the air.)

Place figures on plate to create the scene.

Sheep

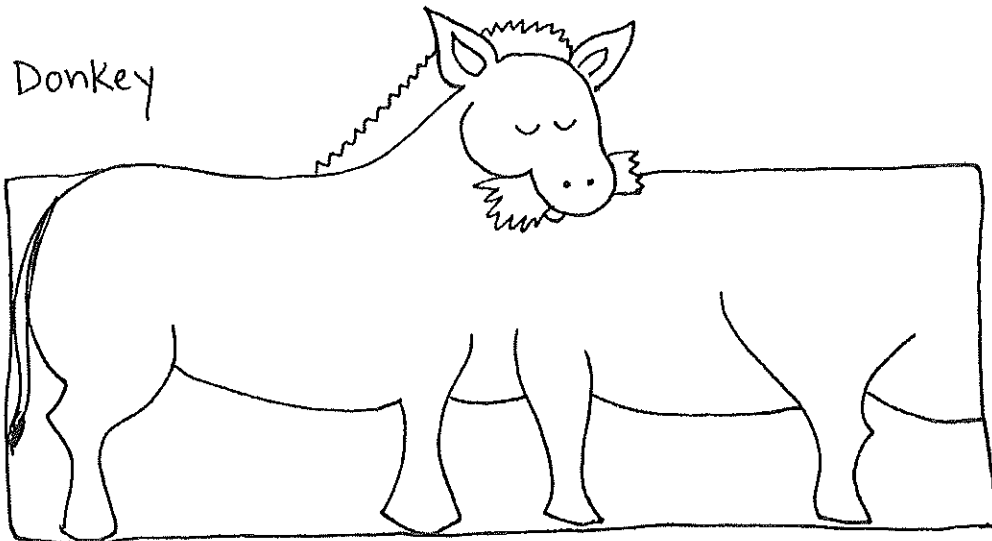


cut along outside edge

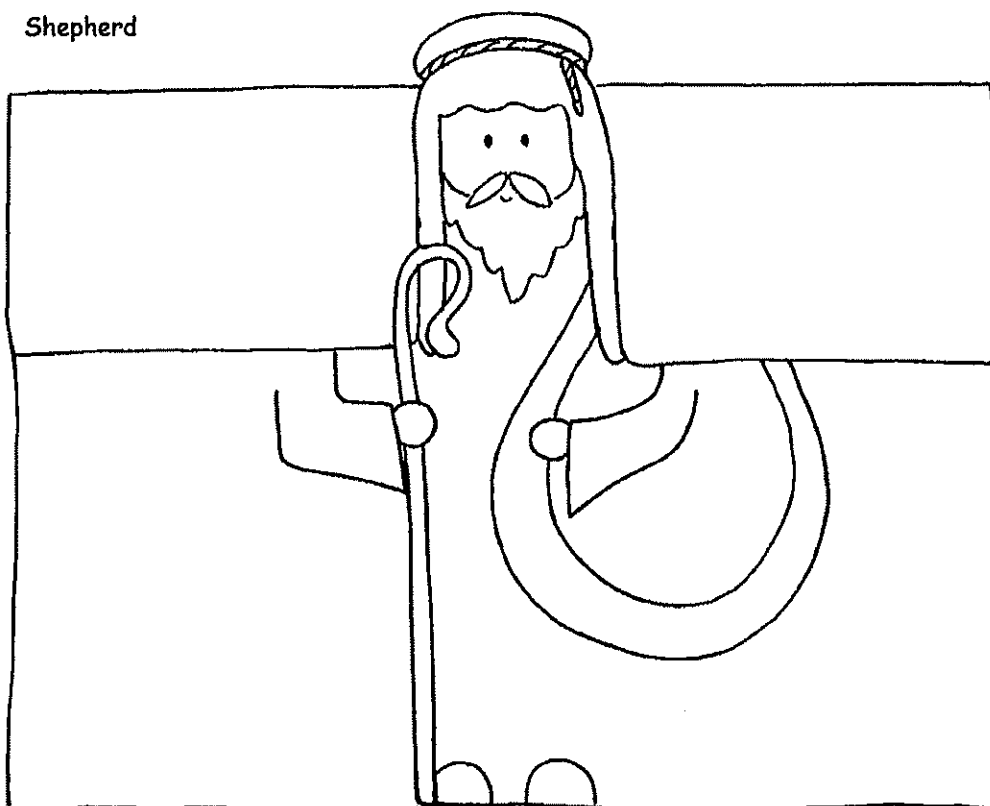
Angel



Donkey

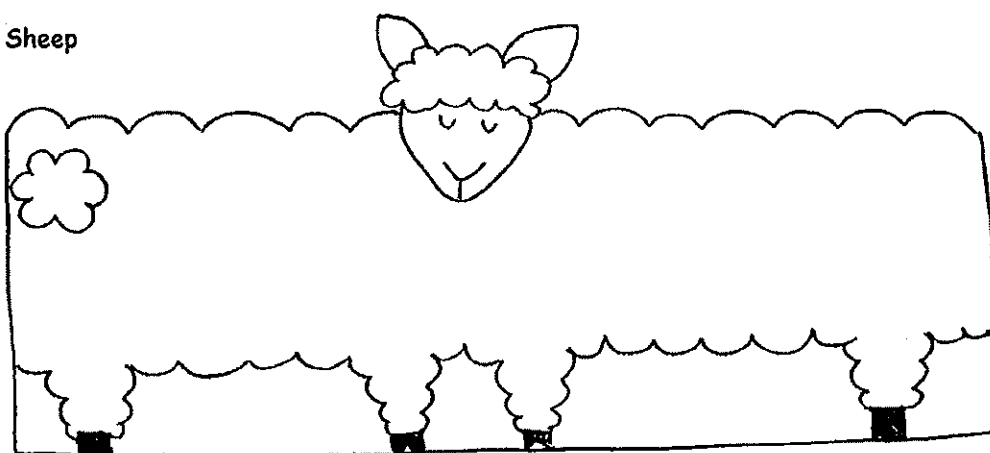


Shepherd



cut along outside edge

Sheep



Cut TP Tube to
this height



cut along outside edge

Christmas Part 2: Joy To all People

The focus of this lesson is to communicate why the message that the angels brought to the shepherds would bring "good tidings of great joy which will be to all people".

Start the lesson by asking everyone to open their bibles to **Luke 2:8-14** (or follow along on their paper).



Luke 2:8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold,[fn] an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

Reread what the angel said in verses 10-14:

10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger:" 13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: 14 "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"



Students, take notes during your discussion.

- Do you remember from last week's lesson why the angel said to not be afraid?
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- What kind of news did the angel speak about? Was it sad news, happy new, exciting news? Look back at the verse and see what it says.
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- What exactly was this news that was said to bring great JOY?
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- When did the angel say the Savior was born?
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Before the angels came to the shepherds, scripture says an angel visited Mary to tell her about this baby that would be born to her. Let's go back into Luke chapter 1 and see what the angel said when he spoke to Mary about this Savior. Read Luke 1:30-33 and have the students read along in their own bibles.

Luke 1:30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. 32 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. 33 "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

The angel told Mary that she would have a son and name him Jesus. The angel explained that Jesus would be the One who will sit on David's throne. He will reign as king forever and his kingdom will have no end!

Why do you think the angel is talking about David's throne? Does anyone remember the promise that God made to David back in the Old Testament? We can find this promise in 2 Samuel 7:12-16:

12 "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 "I will be

his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. 15 "But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 "And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever." ' ' "

Way back in the Old Testament, God promised David that from his own family line God's son would be born. God promised that He would establish his Son's kingdom and that He would reign forever and ever. So, around 1,000 years (that's a long time!) after making this promise to David, an angel appears to Mary and then to the shepherds announcing that the Savior, the one promised to David, has been born!

- **Back to our scripture in Luke chapter 2 -- where does the angel tell the shepherds the Savior has been born?**

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- **Do you think the Jewish people at this time had read the scriptures and had been taught about the God's promise to David? Do you think they were watching and waiting for this Savior to be sent to earth?**

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- **God was fulfilling a promise that he made to His people. God, the Creator of the universe, loves His people so much that he would send His son to earth to complete his promise. When the news spread of Jesus' birth, how do you think the Jewish people might of felt?**

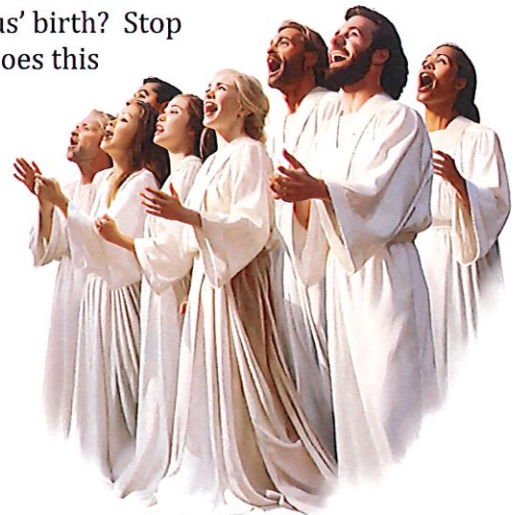
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How should we feel when you study the scriptures about Jesus' birth? Stop and think for a minute about God sending His son to earth. Does this make you feel happy, excited and joyful?

- **Why should we feel JOY when we learn about the first coming of Jesus?**

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This Christmas season, when we read about Jesus' birth, let's remember the why His birth is so important and why we should find JOY in it!



"Joy" Craft

Supplies:

- White Foam Board
- Colored Tissue Paper cut into squares
- Mod Podge Glue
- Small Paintbrushes



Before class, cut out three large letters ("J", "O", and "Y") from the foam board.

Have students use paintbrushes to apply glue on the foam board letters in sections. Then place the tissue paper squares on top of glue. Over lap and layer the tissue paper to create a stained glass look. Let dry completely. Then apply a layer of Mod Podge glue over each individual letter.

Christmas Part 3: A Sign to You

The focus of this lesson is to help gain understanding regarding the 'sign' of the "Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger", which was given to the shepherds by the angels.

To review, read aloud the scriptures used in the two previous lessons: Luke 2:8-12.



8 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. 10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11 For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

Luke 2:12 "And this will be a sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

Students, take notes during your discussion.

- **What do you think the word 'sign' means in this verse?**
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 - **Can you think of an example of a sign that God gave in the Old Testament having to do with Noah?**

Let's read what the next part of the verse says. *"You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."*

So, we need to figure out how this part of the verse points to something that is yet to come.

- First, do you remember what language the New Testament was originally written in?
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- If we were to look up the phrase, '*wrapped in swaddling cloths*', the Greek translation is to wrap with strips. Which comes from a base word that means to rend or to tear.
- Remember, a sign points to something that is yet to come. Think about Jesus' life on earth. Can you think of anything in Jesus' life that 'to wrap with strips' or 'to rend or to tear' would point us to? (Think about the very end of His life.)
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- What happened to Jesus' body as He died?
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 - *John 19:34 But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.*
- After Jesus was taken off the cross, what happened to His body?
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 - *John 19:40 Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.*

So, the fact that Jesus was wrapped in swaddling cloths, not only tells us how Jesus looked when He was first born, but gives us a sign that points to His future sacrificial death. It points to His body being torn on the cross and then His burial when His body was wrapped in strips of linen. (How neat is that!)

- Let's look at the last part of this verse: 'lying in a manger'. Does anyone know what a manger was used for?

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- Was this a normal place to lay a baby?

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- Remember, the angel said that this is a sign, pointing to something yet future. What does a feeding trough point us to in Jesus' life? Did Jesus ever speak of himself as a certain kind of food?

○

○



- *John 6:35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst,*
- *John 6:48 "I am the bread of life."*
- *John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world." 52 The Jews therefore quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?" 53 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. 55 For My flesh is food indeed,[fn] and My blood is drink indeed.*

Jesus was born and laid in a place that provided food. He then grew up preaching and teaching the truths of God and referred to himself as the 'bread of life'. As early as Jesus' first moments on earth, as Mary laid him in a manger, everything was pointing to Jesus being the Living Bread, the Bread of Heaven, to those who believe in Him and His message.

We can find one more very interesting item in the Christmas story that points to Jesus' death and burial...

- Does anyone remember what gifts the Wise Men brought to Jesus?
○

These gifts all point to something yet future – they point to Jesus' death and burial:

Gold: Gold was a precious metal and that was worth a lot of money. A gift of gold was considered worthy of a king. Gold signifies Jesus' kingship and deity. A baby born in a barn and placed in a feeding trough got gifts worthy of a king! The wise men must of known what the scriptures said about God's promise to send His Son, the One who would have an everlasting throne! *Read Isaiah 9:6-7, an Old Testament scripture that speaks of this.*



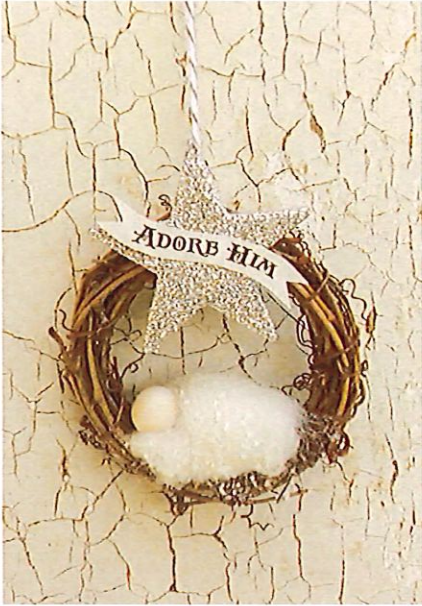
*Isa 9:6 For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 Of the increase of His government and peace
There will be no end,
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice
From that time forward, even forever.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*

Frankincense: This was a spice that was placed on the shewbread in the tabernacle and temple. The shewbread would have been eaten by the priests as it was most Holy. So – a spice put on bread...remember how Jesus is the 'Bread of Life'?

Myrrh: This was an oil that was used together with frankincense to be placed on the dead for burial. This is what was used in the verse from John we just looked at: *John 19:40 Then they took the body of Jesus, and bound it in strips of linen with the spices, as the custom of the Jews is to bury.*

Isn't it amazing that all these details from Jesus' birth are all pointing to Him growing up and fulfilling God's plans and purposes? Jesus' birth, death and resurrection all happened so that we can have an inheritance and rule and reign with Him one day in the kingdom to come! We can see and know that God has a specific plan set in place from the very beginning! *Read and explain Isaiah 46:9-10 to close.*

*Isa 46:9 Remember the former things of old, For I am God,
and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me,
10 Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient
times things that are not yet done, Saying, 'My counsel shall
stand, And I will do all My pleasure,'*



Baby Jesus Ornament Craft

Supplies:

- Small vine wreath
- Wooden "boy"
- White gauze fabric
- Foam glitter star
- Baker's twine
- "Adore Him" banner
- Hot glue gun, school glue

Thread baker's twine through wreath and knot to make a loop.

Have children glue the banner on the star with school glue.

Next, let children wrap "baby Jesus" with the gauze and secure with hot glue.

Using the hot glue gun, glue wrapped baby and star onto wreath.