

JESUS IS BORN

INTRO/SONG

"Joy"

K: Welcome back to the Holly Jolly Kitchen! Over the past few weeks we've been talking about some stories leading up to the birth of Jesus. We've also been hearing a lot of baking stories that tell us more of God.



S: Karli, what is the best moment in baking for you...besides the eating part? K: Oh man, the best part, for sure, is when the waiting is over and you get to see the end result - like fresh chocolate chip cookies right out of the oven. It makes me so happy!

S: The same for me! I love that warm, fresh smell - all the mess and waiting is worth it. Well, today's Bible story is kind of like that. After many hundreds of years of waiting God's promise of sending a Savior, He was finally here! The waiting was over! Today, we celebrate Jesus' birthday! That's what Christmas is all about!



And that leads us into our question for today:

WHEN DO WE CELEBRATE JESUS?

WE CAN CELEBRATE JESUS EVERY DAY!



It was kind of trick question. We celebrate Jesus' birthday at Christmas but that's not the only time we can celebrate Jesus and what He has done for us. Holidays, like Christmas and Easter, are specific celebration days, but we can be thankful for and talk to Jesus everyday.

But it does start with Jesus' birth. So let's get to this story that we've been leading up to these past 3 weeks - the story of Jesus birth!

Now we're going to do this differently and are going to need your help. Each small group has been assigned different parts of the story, and as we read, when you hear your character mentioned, you will say your part. We'll give you a minute to get organized and learn your parts. (small group leaders gather their kids and review their roles).

K: Shepherds & Cows 1st: Wise Men & Sheep 2nd: Joseph & Cows 3rd: Mary & Cows 4th: Baby & Sheep 5th: Angel & Sheep



(Practice: Go through list of roles, having each role repeat their phrase.)

There once lived a girl named **MARY** and a boy named **JOSEPH**. They were engaged to be married when an **ANGEL** came from heaven and told **MARY** that she was going to have a **BABY** named Jesus who would be God's Son!

When it was almost time for **MARY** to give birth to Jesus, the Roman government wanted everyone to return to the town where their families were from so they could take a census. **MARY** and **JOSEPH** had to travel a long way from Nazareth to Bethlehem because that is where **JOSEPH** was from.

When they reached Bethlehem, every house was full, and every bed was taken in all of the inns. The only place they could find to rest was in a stable with **SHEEP**, **COWS**, and other animals. Soon the time came, and **MARY** gave birth to **BABY** Jesus, God's Son! She wrapped him in cloths and laid him in the manger where the **SHEEP** and **COWS** ate their hay.

That night, there were **SHEPHERDS** looking after their **SHEEP**. Suddenly, an **ANGEL** appeared! The **SHEPHERDS** were very scared, but the **ANGEL** said, "I have good news for you and everyone. Today in Bethlehem a Savior has been born for you. You will find the **BABY** lying in a manger."

Then more **ANGELS** appeared singing praises to God. They sang, "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to everyone." When they left, the **SHEPHERDS** said, "Let's go to Bethlehem to see this **BABY**." They hurried straight there and found Jesus lying in the manger, just like they had been told. They told everyone what the **ANGEL** had said, and everyone who heard the story was amazed. The **SHEPHERDS** returned to their **SHEEP**, praising God for sending His Son!

When Jesus was born, a bright star appeared in the sky. Some **WISE MEN** in faraway countries saw the star and followed it. The **WISE MEN** followed the star towards Bethlehem. It seemed to shine directly down on the place where Jesus was. The **WISE MEN** entered the house where **MARY** and **JOSEPH** and the **BABY** lived, and when they saw Jesus, they worshiped him. Then they gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. THE END

What did the angel tell Mary would happen? (She would have God's Son, Jesus) What did the shepherds do when they heard the news about Jesus' birth? (They went to Bethlehem to see Him and worship him, then told everyone about him) Why did Jesus come? (to save us from our sins)

Can we only celebrate Jesus at Christmas? (No) No way! Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus' birthday, but we can celebrate Jesus every day!



2 CORINTHIANS 9:15

Lead kids in reading the verse. And it is this amazing gift of God coming to earth to with us - Emmanual - that we celebrate at Christmas. Let's sing about that glorius night.



SONGS

"Oh What a Glorious Night"

"The Best Gift Ever"

Intro ornament:

ornament and these royal looking jewels - remind us that our "heavenly king sent from above...come to our world, light up the dark" - God, our king has come to rescue us - just like the angels told the shepherds



PRAY

God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, we want to celebrate him every day! We love you, amen! love You! Amen.