

December 20, 2020

Jesus Brings Joy-Luke 2:1-7

With all my heart I glorify the Lord! In the depths of who I am I rejoice in God my savior. (Luke 1:46-47)

Bible Lesson

Today we finally get to celebrate the greatest joy of all—the birth of Jesus! But this joy did not come easily. There were a lot of surprises, confusions, and changes that led to this miraculous birth. In today's story, Mary and Joseph had to take a long journey to Bethlehem. The emperor forced families to return to their hometowns to be registered. This was not part of these expectant parents' plans, and neither was the news they had received earlier about the upcoming birth of Jesus. After their journey to Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph arrived to find no place to deliver this special baby and were forced to bear the child in a room shared with animals. *Nothing* was going according to plan. Yet, after the long journey, the waiting, and the difficulties, they received with great joy their newborn son, Jesus. Jesus brought joy not only to Joseph and Mary, but also to the whole world.

Today's faith word is *Joy*: a feeling of gratitude and happiness.

Wonder together:

- How does Jesus bring you joy?
- Was there any joy in today's Bible story?
- What do you think is inside our Wonder Box today?
- What might it have been like to be there when Jesus was born?

Jesus brings joy for the whole world. That includes you and me. This is something to celebrate!

Activity

In today's Bible story, Jesus was born in an unexpected place.

WONDER: What do you think it might have looked like? smelled like? felt like?

Re-create the manger scene using your craft and art supplies. This is a great way to use items from recycling.

Pray

Dear God, thank you for the gift of babies, especially baby Jesus. May we use our joy to share your love. Amen.