

Name:
Grade:
Date:

Life Teen
Sunday, September 25, 2022
Unforeseen: Seeing the Word - Jesus' Birth

Directions

- **Make-up work must be completed before the next Life Night.** It should not take you more than 90 minutes to complete.
- **Go to File → Make a copy. Name the file 9-25-2022, Your First and Last Name.**
- Make-up work will require you to research answers, please only use credible Catholic sources, **Wikipedia will not be accepted.**
- You must cite all your sources. To do this, just copy and paste the URL after your answer.
- You may not copy and paste directly from any website, it must be in your own words, (unless stated otherwise).
- **All questions or activities are in bold and highlighted.**
- **All your answers should not be in bold**
- **When you are finished, Go to File → Share → Add People, copy and paste my email address rkriger@romeroparish.org → click the gear → click “viewer” → make sure that the box to “Notify people” is selected → send // If you cannot do so, please email me your assignment with your name as the subject.**

Homework Breakdown

1. Activity
2. Reading
3. Handouts
4. Written Questions
5. Video
6. Challenge of the Week

1. Activity

This week's activity is to draw, write or come up with a creative way to tell me your favorite story in the New Testament relating to Jesus Christ.

Examples include Jesus turning the water into wine at the wedding of Cana, him feeding 5,000 people. Please cite the Scripture passage, even if you are doing an illustration.

2. Reading

Seeing the Word: Jesus' Birth

We all probably have a movie or TV show that we have seen so many times that we can probably quote every single line. We know it so well that we do not need to pay attention when we watch it. That movie or show can be on in the background when we do our homework and we do not worry about missing something because we already know what happens. We have seen it so many times that we can tune out or gloss over the details.

We have heard the story of Jesus' birth, life, death, and Resurrection so often that we might tune out when we hear it at Mass or read it in the Bible. We might treat it like any other story we have been repeatedly exposed to, not finding it as surprising, compelling, or transformational as it really is.

The story of Jesus is not like any other fictional story; Jesus really lived on Earth. He claimed to be God in human form and proved it by rising from the dead — something no other person in human history has ever done. Jesus changed the world as we know it.

Let us take a moment to set aside any preconceived notions, images, or assumptions we have about the story of Jesus. We need to start from scratch, as if we have never heard the story before. If we do not understand the whole story, then the story of Jesus will not make sense, nor will it be as meaningful. We have to go back to the beginning; not the beginning of Jesus' story, but the beginning of the whole story.

Why Jesus?

In the beginning, God created everything out of love. All things He created were good and everything existed in perfect order and harmony. God's plan culminated in the creation of humanity, making us in His own image and likeness. In the same way that children reflect the image and likeness of their parents, God created us to be His divine children.

Genesis 1:26-27 says: "Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

God's plan for all of us was to live together in perfect harmony with Him in the Garden of Eden forever. However, God cannot force us to love him. In order for love to be real, it has to be freely given. He had to give us a choice, and in doing so, God also gave us the choice to turn away from Him and reject His love. Instead of trusting in God's plan, Adam and Eve fell into the temptation of only trusting in themselves, and sin entered into the world.

This was not what God desired for us, so God immediately put into motion a new plan to heal and reconcile us to Him. God promised that a future descendant of Adam and Eve would crush the serpent's head while the serpent strikes his heel. This is called the protoevangelium, which means "first Gospel." This is the first promise that a wounded victor would defeat sin and death, bringing us back into the relationship with God that we were created for.

Genesis 3:15 states: “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

God continued to reveal Himself to others as time went on, repeating His promise throughout the generations. God told Abraham that all of the nations of the earth would be blessed through one of his descendants. Moses told the Hebrew people that the Lord would raise up a prophet greater than himself, whom everyone should listen to. King David was told that God would be a father to one of his descendants, and that this descendant would establish David’s royal throne and lineage forever. When God’s chosen people turned away from Him toward false gods and idols, the prophet Isaiah reminded everyone that the Savior was coming, who would bear the pain and sufferings created by our sins so that we might be healed.

For thousands of years, no matter how unfaithful we were to the Lord, He continued to faithfully remind and promise us that a savior would come. The story of Jesus is so important and transformational because in Him, that promise was finally fulfilled and God’s radical love for us is revealed. The Incarnation, which is when God assumed a human form in order to redeem all of humanity through Jesus Christ, reminds us that God is faithful to His promises and that we can place our trust in Him. Our Father is always working to draw us closer to Him, bringing out the greatest version of ourselves, even when we cannot see it. God’s plan to redeem us, which was set in motion as soon as sin entered the world, was realized in Jesus Christ.

Unexpected

People had long been waiting for a messiah who was a distinguished priestly father like Abraham, an esteemed prophet like Moses, and a powerful king like David that would come to deliver them from the evil, sin, and oppression they suffered from corrupt and powerful nations. They were praying for a strong militant leader to reinstate the Jewish kingdom and reunite the twelve tribes of Israel. God heard and answered their prayers, but not in the way they expected Him to: cue the most unexpected and upside-down fulfillment of God’s promises that no one but Him saw coming.

Scripture: Luke 2:1-14

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the

people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

End Scripture

Instead of focusing on the powerful leaders that are mentioned at the beginning of the story, we zoom in on a poor, seemingly insignificant couple, Mary and Joseph, traveling from the meager, unassuming village of Nazareth. Mary, who had been told by an angel that she would give birth to the Son of God, does not give birth in a palace or sacred temple. Instead, she has a very humble — and probably quite stressful — delivery surrounded by the filth and smells of animals, laying the Savior of the world in their feeding trough. No one but God could have predicted in a million years that the Messiah would have such a modest beginning.

To Know God’s Love

Why is this surprise reveal so important? The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that one of the reasons for the Incarnation, the act of God becoming man, was so we might know God’s love. (CCC 458)

God did not come in bombastic power and thunderous glory. He positioned Himself among the lowest of the low to show us the depths He is willing to traverse to bring us back into relationship with Him.

He came as a vulnerable baby who was completely reliant on others. He set aside His power and divinity to live a fully human life. Jesus uniquely and fully understands us, as just like us, He endured moments of joy and celebration, as well as moments of deep sadness and suffering. We worship a God who unites Himself to us in every situation and knows what we need because He has experienced them too. He is not distant; rather, He is intimately familiar with our lives.

- End of Reading -

3. Handouts

Please see the handout below: God’s Promises Handout.

Instructions: Look through the various promises. Circle any promises that you are unsure about or disagree with on the handout. After you’re done circling, go to the written questions, as some of them ask about the handout.

SEEING THE WORD

God's Promises

1. The Lord will fight for you (Exod 14:14) 2. God will renew your strength (Isa 40:31) 3. The Lord will help you (Isa 41:13)
4. God's love will not be shaken (Isa 54:10) 5. You are free from darkness (Isa 61:1) 6. God will forgive your sin (2 Chron 7:14) 7. The Lord will never abandon you (Deut 31:8) 8. God has plans for you (Jer 29:11)
9. You have received grace and peace (Phlm 1:3)
10. The Lord hears you (Ps 34:17)
11. God will deliver you (Ps 50:15)
12. God is your stronghold (Ps 9:9)
13. He satisfies your desires with good things (Ps 103:5)
14. God will give you a new heart (Ezek 36:26) 15. God is good (Ps 145:9)
16. God's love endures forever (Ps 100:5) 17. God's word is trustworthy (Ps 19:7) 18. God will make your paths straight (Prov 3:6) 19. The Lord is near (Ps 145:18)
20. God will give you comfort (Ps 23:4) 21. God's love fills the earth (Ps 119:64) 22. God will cleanse you (1 John 1:9)
23. God will come near to you (Jam 4:8) 24. You are set free from sin (John 8:36) 25. God will meet your needs (Phil 4:19) 26. God's peace will guard you (Phil 4:7) 27. God will bless you (2 Cor 9:8)
28. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6)
29. God chose you to bear fruit (John 15:16) 30. God wants to give you eternal life (John 3:16) 31. Jesus is the bread of life (John 6:35) 32. You belong to God (John 8:47)
33. The Holy Spirit will guide you to all truth (John 16:13)
34. God will make you strong and firm (1 Pet 5:10)
35. You have the goodness of God (Rom 3:22) 36. You are filled with grace (Rom 6:14) 37. You are not condemned (Rom 8:1)
38. You are a child of God (Rom 8:15-16) 39. Nothing can separate you from God's love (Rom 8:39)
40. Perfect love drives out fear (1 John 4:18) 41. God is able to keep you from falling (Jude 1:24) 42. Jesus will give you rest (Matt 11:28)
43. God's love is everlasting (Jer 31:3)
44. God will never forget you (Isa 49:15-16) 45. You have a hope and a future (Jer 29:11) 46. God will teach and guide you (Ps 32:8) 47. God provides a way out of temptation (1 Cor 10:13)
48. God will comfort you (Isa 66:13)
49. God is love (1 John 4:8)
50. You will have victory over death (1 Cor 15:54) 51. You are filled with God's divine power (2 Peter 1:3)
52. Nothing is impossible with God (Luke 1:37) 53. God will give you wisdom (Jas 1:5)
54. You are a new person in Christ (2 Cor 5:17) 55. God will finish the work He began in you (Phil 1:6)
56. Your name is written in Heaven (Luke 10:20) 57. Jesus is preparing a place for you (John 14:2-3) 58. The Lord will watch over you (Ps 121:8) 59. You have a spirit of power and love (2 Tim 1:7) 60. Jesus is coming soon (Rev 22:20)

**Adapted from Garments of Splendor*

4. Written Questions

***Please remember to cite any source that you use.**

***Helpful resources include the Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.**

*The Catechism is available at this link:

https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM

Q1: [Whip Around Question] – Of the people in your life, who is the one person to whom you always keep your promises? Why is that person so important?

Q2: Of the many promises that you read through, which one stands out to you the most? Why?

Q3: Which of these promises have you already seen fulfilled in your life? How was that promise fulfilled? Please choose a minimum of two (2).

Q4: Which of these promises are you not so sure about? Why? Please choose a minimum of two (2).

Q5: Of these promises, which do you still have hope that it will be fulfilled? Please choose a minimum of two (2).

5. Video

Please watch the following video.

Link: <https://youtu.be/r3J5cKve9Qo>

**If you cannot click on the link, please go to Ascension Presents YouTube channel and search “Why Did God Take On Our Humanity?” You can also search my name, Rachael Kriger, and go the playlist that says “Life Teen Videos.”*

6. Challenge of the Week

The second handout is called “The Litany of Trust.” (Next Page) Pray the Litany of Trust once or twice, whether it’s in the morning or at night. No writing required for this challenge, just some prayer!

Homework Due by 12 PM Noon on October 9, 2022!

SEEING THE WORD

Litany of Trust

Litanies are ancient forms of prayer that can either be done alone or as a community. For every prompt, try to focus on each individual prayer before responding.

From the belief that I have to earn Your love, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear that I am unlovable, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the false security that I have what it takes, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear that trusting You will leave me more destitute, **Deliver me, Jesus.** From all suspicion of Your words and promises **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the rebellion against childlike dependency on You, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From refusals and reluctances in accepting Your will, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From anxiety about the future, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From resentment or excessive preoccupation with the past, **Deliver me, Jesus.** From restless self-seeking in the present moment, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From disbelief in Your love and presence, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear of being asked to give more than I have, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the belief that my life has no meaning or worth, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From the fear of what love demands, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

From discouragement, **Deliver me, Jesus.**

That You are continually holding me, sustaining me, loving me, **Jesus, I trust in You.** That Your love goes deeper than my sins and failings and transforms me, **Jesus, I trust in You.** That not knowing what tomorrow brings is an invitation to lean on You, **Jesus, I trust in You.** That You are with me in my suffering, **Jesus, I trust in You.**

That my suffering, united to Your own, will bear fruit in this life and the next, **Jesus, I trust in You.** That You will not leave me orphan, that You are present in Your Church, **Jesus, I trust in You.** That Your plan is better than anything else, **Jesus, I trust in You.**

That You always hear me and in Your goodness always respond to me, **Jesus, I trust in You.** That You give me the grace to accept forgiveness and to forgive others, **Jesus, I trust in You.** That You give me all the strength I need for what is asked, **Jesus, I trust in You.** That my life is a gift, **Jesus, I trust in You.**

That You will teach me to trust You, **Jesus, I trust in You.**

That You are my Lord and my God, **Jesus, I trust in You.**

That I am Your beloved one, **Jesus, I trust in You.**