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# Lesson 1: The Birth of Jesus

## BIG IDEA

God declares that baby Jesus, born in a small village in Bethlehem, is his promised king and saviour.



## Luke 2:1-12 (paraphrase)

Caesar Augustus was ruling the Roman world. He made a law – ‘count everyone who lives in the Roman world.’

Everyone went to his home town for the Romans to count them. Joseph went to his home town, Bethlehem. King David had been born there, so Bethlehem was called the town of David. Joseph belonged to the family of David. Joseph took Mary with him because he had promised to marry her. She was pregnant.

Her baby was born in Bethlehem. It was a boy. She put him in an animal feeding box because the rooms for visitors were full.

That night some shepherds were in the fields near Bethlehem. An angel of the Lord appeared to them. The angel said: ‘Do not be afraid. I bring good news. Someone special was born. He will save you. He is the Messiah. He is the Lord.’



## Teacher Preparation

### Read Scripture

- ☐ Luke 2:1–12 in your Bible
- ☐ Luke 2:1–12 paraphrase (on page 5)

### Read *Meet Jesus Book*

- ☐ Chapter 1 - The Birth of Jesus

### Print Resources

- ☐ APPENDIX 1.1 - Print 1 set for the group.
- ☐ APPENDIX 1.2 - Print 1 copy of the text per pair.  
Cut into strips and shuffle.  
There are 2 sets per page.
- ☐ APPENDIX 1.3 - Print 1 set for each pair.  
Cut into parts A & B.
- ☐ APPENDIX 1.4 - Print 1 set for each student.
- ☐ APPENDIX 1.5 - Print 1 for the group (you will use this each lesson, so laminate if possible).

### Other Equipment

- ☐ Whiteboard / table
- ☐ Whiteboard markers

## Activate Prior Knowledge and Build Vocabulary

Display pictures from APPENDIX 1.1

Ask students, 'What do you see?' Write the vocabulary on one side of the board.

Prompt by pointing to things in the pictures to draw out vocabulary.

and/or

Ask students, 'Have you ever been rescued from something?' Invite them to share their stories.

Prepare a short story from your own life, e.g. One day I was about to open the door when my father yelled, 'stop!' There was a funnel web spider on the door handle. My father may have saved my life.

### Pre-teach relevant vocabulary

Angel: a messenger (heavenly being) sent from God

Messiah: God's promised king who would rule forever

## Predict the Content

Write, 'The Birth of Jesus' on the board.

Ask, 'What do you think the story will be about?'

## Read and Comprehend

Depending on the level of your students you might:

- ☐ Read the passage of scripture to them;
- ☐ Direct them to read the passage of scripture in English;
- ☐ Direct them to read the passage of scripture in their heart language; or
- ☐ Read the passage of scripture later in the lesson.

### OWN HEART LANGUAGE

Depending on the level of your students, you might like to invite them to read the passage in their heart language.

Visit [bible.com](http://bible.com) or [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com) to find a number of international translations.



## Activities

### Activity 1: Sequencing story strips

APPENDIX 1.2 - Print 1 copy of the text per pair.  
Cut into strips and shuffle. There are 2 sets per page.

In pairs, students sequence the story and read to each other..

### Activity 2: Listen, collect and rewrite

**Teacher reads Luke 2:1-12 aloud.** Students listen and make notes if they wish. Build a summary of the story with the class (key phrases). Teacher/helper writes phrases on the board exactly as they are spoken.

Teacher leads the class to rewrite the sentences correctly, prompting suggestions and encouraging participation.

### Activity 3: Information gap activity

APPENDIX 1.3 - Print 1 set for each pair.  
Cut into parts A & B.

Half of the students receive copy A, half copy B. In pairs, students take turns to read the completed section of their text to their partner, who fills in the gaps.

### Activity 4: Clarify vocabulary

APPENDIX 1.4 - Print 1 for each student.

Students match each concept from the text with the explanation.

## ? Invite Curiosity

APPENDIX 1.5 - Print 1 for the group.

Place the ? on the table and ask:

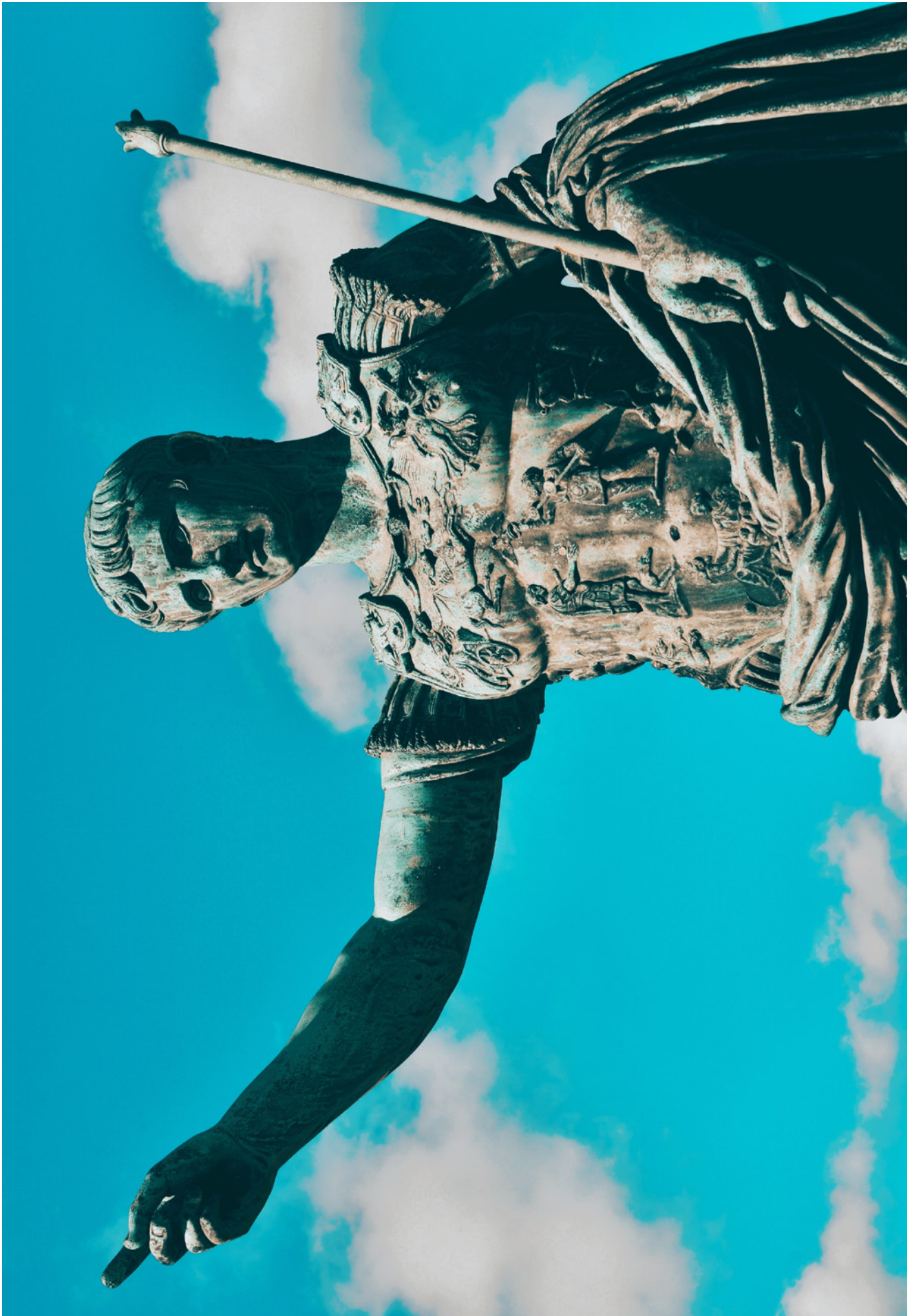
- ☐ Are there any new words?
- ☐ What questions might someone have about this text?
- ☐ What comments might someone have about the text?

## 💬 An Important Question

Ask, 'What does this text say about Jesus?'

## ! Concluding Statement

Spoken by the teacher to the class: 'God says through his angels that Jesus is his promised king and saviour.'







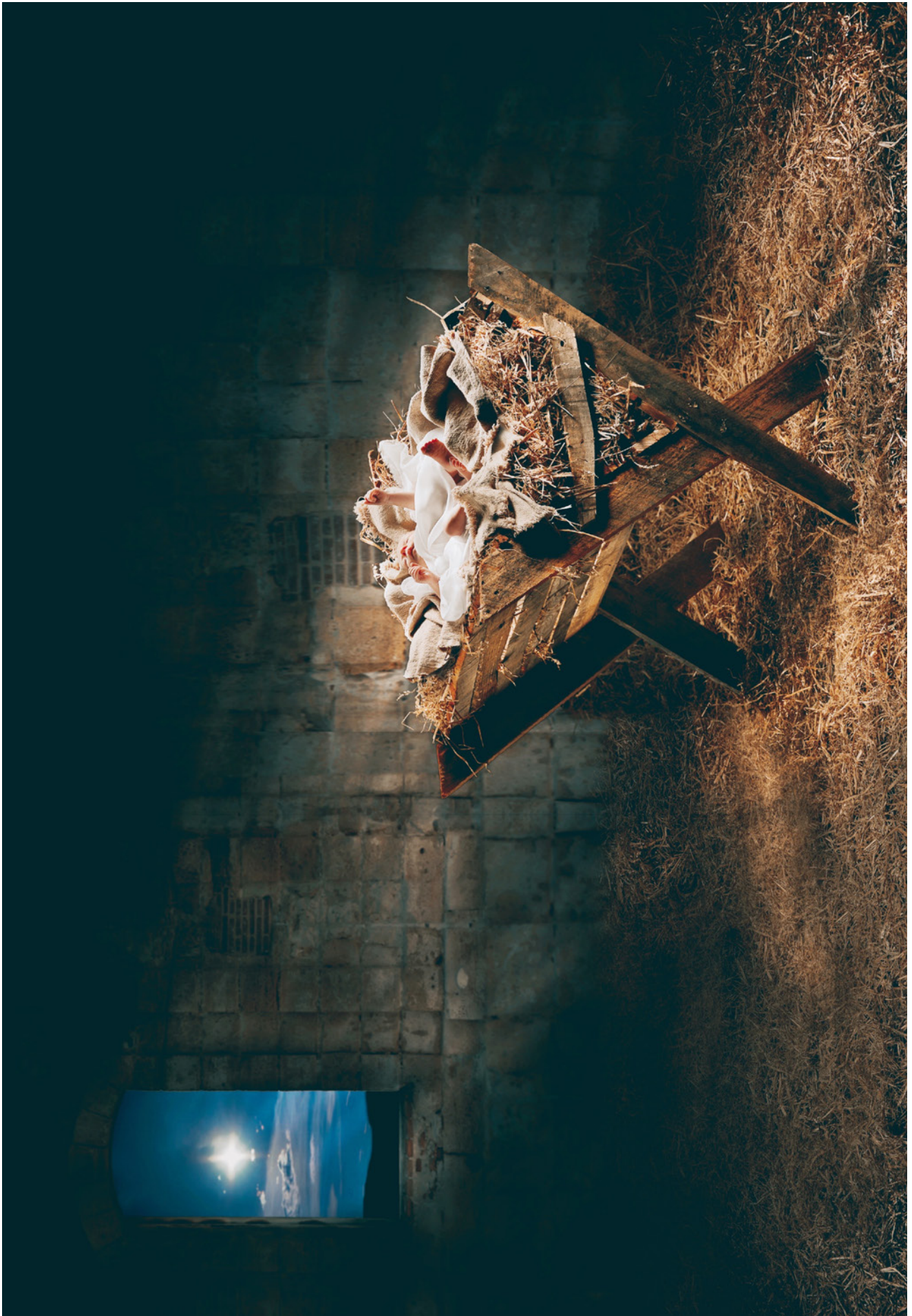


















Caesar wanted everyone in the Roman world to be counted.

Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem to be counted.

Mary was pregnant.

The baby was born in Bethlehem.

Mary put the baby in an animal feeding box.

An angel appeared to some shepherds near Bethlehem.

The angel said: "Good news - God's king has been born. He will save you."

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## Student A

A

\_\_\_\_\_ Augustus was ruling the Roman world. He made a \_\_\_\_\_ –  
'count everyone who lives in the Roman world.'

Everyone went to his home town for the Romans to count them. Joseph went to his home town, Bethlehem. King David had been born there, so Bethlehem was called the town of David. Joseph, \_\_\_\_\_ to the family of David.

Joseph took Mary with him because he had promised \_\_\_\_\_ her.  
She was \_\_\_\_\_.

Her baby was born in Bethlehem. It was a boy.

She put him in an animal feeding box because the rooms for visitors were full.

That night some shepherds were in the fields near Bethlehem. An angel of the Lord appeared to them. The angel said: 'Do not be afraid. I bring good news. Someone special was born. He will save you. He is the Messiah. He is the Lord.'

## Student B

B

Caesar Augustus was ruling the Roman world. He made a law – 'count everyone who lives in the Roman world.' Everyone went to his home town for the Romans to count them. Joseph went to his home town, Bethlehem.

King David had been born there, so Bethlehem was called the town of David.

Joseph belonged to the family of David.

Joseph took Mary with him because he had promised to marry her. She was pregnant.

Her baby was born in Bethlehem. It was a boy.

She put him in an animal feeding box because the rooms for \_\_\_\_\_ were full.

That night some \_\_\_\_\_ were in the \_\_\_\_\_ near Bethlehem.

An angel of the Lord \_\_\_\_\_ to them.

The angel said: 'Do not be afraid. I bring good news. Someone special was born. He will save you. He is the \_\_\_\_\_. He is the \_\_\_\_\_.'

Join the word/phrase from the text with its meaning

Caesar	an area of open land
law	going to have a baby
to belong	the Roman Emperor
to marry	people spending time in a place that is not their home
pregnant	a rule that must be followed
visitors	people who look after sheep
shepherds	to become someone's husband or wife
field	God's promised king
appear(ed)	to be a member of a group
Messiah	to be there (suddenly)

