



Everyday FAITH Family Page

New Testament 1

Law/Gospel

Because of sin, I am afraid and helpless before God and deserve to die. **God sent His Son, Jesus, to save me from sin and death, and He makes me His own dear child through faith in Him.**

Bible Words

For unto you is born . . . a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11

Fun Facts

David's family lived in Bethlehem. After he became king, it was known as "David's city." Jewish scholars anticipated it as the Messiah's birthplace from the prophecy in Micah 5:2: "But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days."

Just Joking

Why did the shepherds go see baby Jesus? Because they herd the news.

How did the sheep feel about seeing baby Jesus? Baa-shful.

The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1–20

How did people who lived about eighty miles north of Bethlehem have a baby there? God worked through people to make it happen.

Near the time of Jesus' birth, Roman Emperor Caesar Augustus demanded that everyone go to their ancestral homes for a census. Joseph, a descendant of King David, and Mary traveled from their hometown in Nazareth of Galilee to Bethlehem in Judea. Most likely, this was not a pleasant journey for pregnant Mary.

When Jesus was born, Bethlehem was a small village in Judea, just six miles southwest of the capital city of Jerusalem. About 300–1,000 people lived there. Today, about 28,000 people call Bethlehem home; one-third of them are Christians.

Bethlehem means "house of bread." How appropriate for the Christ, the bread of life, to come to earth and be born in this city. Jesus said, "The bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. . . . I am the bread of life; whoever comes to Me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in Me shall never thirst" (John 6:33, 35).

Sing

Remember Jesus' birthplace by singing "O Little Town of Bethlehem" as a family this Christmas.

Phillips Brooks wrote this hymn after seeing Bethlehem and the surrounding area on vacation from his work as pastor of the Church of the Holy Trinity in Philadelphia. First sung in a Sunday School Christmas service in 1868, the hymn finds a home in many similar services today.

Prayer

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Immanuel!*

Lutheran Service Book 361:4

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