

Bible History to Read and Talk About

Jesus's Birth at Bethlehem: Luke 2:1–7 (Prophetically described: Micah 5:2)

- Discuss together the kind of place where Jesus was born. Do you think it was fancy, just fit for a king? Why or why not? Why do you think God allowed His Son to be born in a stable?
- Talk about how everyone throughout the Roman Empire was required to register, each in his or her own city. Then talk about how Micah prophesied that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. This was written around 720 BC—more than seven hundred years before Jesus was born!

The Prophet John and Jesus' Baptism: Matthew 3:1–17 (Prophetically described: Malachi 4:5)

- Discuss together what the Scriptures say about John the Baptist. What similarities do you see between John and Elijah? What does Malachi say about the coming of the Lord?
- Talk about what happened when Jesus was baptized. Did this happen when everyone was baptized? What do you think you would have thought if you had seen the heavens open, the Spirit of God descending on Jesus like a dove, and heard the voice of God?

Jesus' Ministry: Luke 4:16–22 (Prophetically described: Isaiah 61:1–2)

- Discuss together what Jesus' ministry was like. What kind of things did He do? What kind of people did He help? How was this like the prophecy of Isaiah?
- Talk about what kind of responses people had to Jesus. What did the poor people

think? What did the rich people think? What did the "sinners" think? What did the very religious people think? What did the people who were healed think?

Palm Sunday: Mark 11:7–10 (Prophetically described: Zechariah 9:9)

- Discuss together how Zechariah 9:9 was fulfilled when Jesus entered Jerusalem. How did the people act? What did they say? How long did their enthusiasm last?

Jesus' Crucifixion: Matthew 27:1–36, Mark 15:4–27 (Prophetically described: Psalm 22, Isaiah 53:3–7)

- Discuss together how Psalm 22 described the crucifixion of Jesus one thousand years before He died. Do you think God knew all along what was going to happen to Jesus? Why or why not? Read Hebrews 12:2. What joy was set before Jesus? Jesus endured the shame and agony of the cross so that we might be saved and be brought into His family. Why don't you stop right now and tell Him, "Thank you."

Jesus' Resurrection: Mark 16:6 (Prophetically described: Psalm 16:10, 49:15)

- Discuss together what happened after Jesus died. What do you think his disciples felt? How did Jesus show His friends that He was alive again? What do you think you would have done if you had seen Jesus die and then see Him alive again? How would that change your life?
- Talk about how Psalm 16:10 and Psalm 49:15 describe the resurrection. How unusual was this? How has it changed the world?