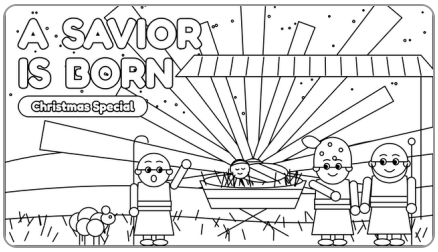
The Bible Under the Baobab · Discussion sheet for the Christmas special

A Savior Is Born

Luke 2:1-21 · For ages 3 to 10 · Video: 5 min 17



The story in brief

Joseph and Mary go up from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Mary gives birth to her firstborn son and lays him in a manger. Out in the fields, an angel brings the news to shepherds: “A Savior has been born to you.” The shepherds hurry to Bethlehem and find the newborn baby.

> **Note for parents.** The episode follows Luke 2, verses 1 to 21, closely and adds nothing to it. Luke’s text mentions no ox, no donkey, no innkeeper, no stable and no snow, so there are none here, neither in the words nor in the pictures. The wise men and the star come from the Gospel of Matthew: they will have an episode of their own. Mary and Joseph do not speak, as in the text. The angels “say” the praise; Kofi and Nia are the ones who sing it at the end. The child is a baby wrapped in cloths, with no halo; God is never pictured; the angel and the crowd from heaven are figures of light. Nothing frightening is shown: the shepherds’ fear is brief. The governor Quirinius (verse 2) and the circumcision (verse 21) are not mentioned. “To the people he loves” is a common way today of putting the end of verse 14.

Let’s talk about it

1. Why do Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem?
2. Where does Mary lay her baby? Why?
3. Who hears the news first? What does the angel say?
4. What does the huge crowd from heaven say?
5. What do the shepherds do after they have seen the child? And Mary?
6. Kofi lends his mat and Nia her cloth for Auntie Abena’s baby. And you, who can you make room for? How?

> **Notes for the grown-up.** Because the emperor Augustus has ordered that all the people be counted: everyone goes to be registered in his own town, and Joseph is from the family of David. In a manger, because there was no room for them in the place where the travelers stayed. Shepherds, who were keeping watch over their flocks in the fields; the angel says: “Do not be afraid! Today, in the city of David, a Savior has been born to you.” “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to the people he loves!” The shepherds tell what was said to them about this child, then they go back praising God; Mary keeps all these things and thinks about them in her heart.

To remember

Glory to God in the highest: rejoice! Peace on the earth: Jesus is born, lift up your voice!

The song: Glory to God in the highest

Glory to God in the highest: rejoice!
Peace on the earth: Jesus is born, lift up your voice!

To do

Make room for someone: a chair at the table, a corner of your room, a toy to lend. Then draw the manger and the child, and the shepherds arriving.

Watch the episode and hear the song: labiblesouslebaobab.com/en/episodes/a-savior-is-born/

From the Gospel of Luke, chapter 2, verses 1 to 21 (Luke 2:1-21). Free for home, Sunday school and children’s ministry.