



REFERENCES: LUKE 2:15-20; MATTHEW 2:1, 10, 11; *THE DESIRE OF AGES*, PP. 48, 59-67.

The Best Gift

Can you think of the best gift you've ever received? Were you excited? Is that the way you feel about Jesus, the really, truly best gift ever?

M

ary stared at her precious tiny baby sleeping soundly in her

arms. She looked up at Joseph. "He's so per-

fect!" she breathed. "He's so perfect!"

Joseph smiled back. Baby Jesus was finally born! And God had given Him to *their* family! Joseph could hardly believe it. He leaned over and took one of the baby's little hands.

All mothers and fathers are proud of their new babies. They think their babies are special. But Mary and Joseph *knew* that their baby, Jesus, was truly the most special baby that would ever be born. He was God's Son. And God had picked them—Mary and Joseph—to take care of this priceless gift that He had sent to the world.



Memory Verse

"Today . . . a Savior
has been born."

LUKE 2:11, NIV.

The Message

Jesus is the best
gift from God.



Joseph heard scuffling noises behind him in the stable. He turned around to see what was going on. Shepherds were coming softly through the door. They tiptoed awkwardly across the floor to the place where Mary and Joseph rested on the hay. “We’ve come to see the baby,” they explained. “Angels told us that our Saviour has been born tonight!”

“Angels?” Mary asked wonderingly. “Angels?”

The shepherds told Mary and Joseph all about the most marvelous sight they had seen in the sky only a little while before. They told Mary and Joseph about the glorious music they had heard.

The shepherds lingered a long time in the stable. They believed what the angels had told them. They knew that this baby was God’s own special Son. They didn’t want to leave.

Some time later, after Joseph and Mary had moved from the stable to a little house, a group of strangers arrived at their door. They had been following a special star for a long, long time and for many, many miles. And the star had stopped over this house. One of their servants went up to the door. *Knock! Knock! Knock!*

The door opened and Joseph looked out. He saw camels and servants and important, richly dressed travelers outside—Wise Men from a faraway country. “Come in,” Joseph said in a surprised voice. “Come in.”

The Wise Men went in and saw Mary sitting quietly, holding her baby. They bowed down and worshiped Jesus. Then they gave Mary and Joseph the presents they had brought. They worshiped Jesus with their gifts and their love.

And Mary and Joseph smiled. God had given them a wonderful gift—the Saviour of the world.

Do and Say

SABBATH

Each day this week, read the lesson story, and review the memory verse:

Today . . . a Savior Point upward.
has been born. . . . Pretend to hold a baby in your arms.
Luke 2:11 Palms together, then open.

SUNDAY

Encourage your child to share the angel star ornament they made in Sabbath School with someone and tell them about Baby Jesus' birth. (Or draw a star shape, cut it out, and decorate it. String yarn or thread through one point.)



MONDAY

Read together Luke 2:8-20 and Matthew 2:1, 2, 10, and 11. Ask: How do you think the stable in which Jesus was born smelled? Who came to see Baby Jesus? How do you think they felt when they saw Him? Why did Jesus come to earth?

Let your child pretend to be a shepherd and run to a designated location to find Baby Jesus.

TUESDAY

Have your child count how many Wise Men visited Jesus and how many gifts they brought.

Ask: What kind of gifts were they? (gold, frankincense [incense], and myrrh) Explain the value and use of the gifts. Let your child smell some perfume.

Sing "Away in a Manger" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, No. 141); then thank God for Jesus.

WEDNESDAY

Go outside at dark and look for stars in the sky. Ask: What do you think the star that the Wise Men saw looked like? When will people see many angels in the sky again? (When Jesus comes again.)

THURSDAY

Light some candles on a small cake or muffin to celebrate Jesus' birthday and to remind your child that Jesus is the best gift from God! Ask: Why do we give gifts to one another on Christmas?



FRIDAY

Have the whole family "dress up" and act out the nativity story. (Robes and towels make costumes.) Use a box as a manger, and add a baby doll. Ask: What gift would you have given Jesus?

Look at some unopened gifts. Ask: What is God's best gift to us? (Jesus) Why did Jesus come to earth?

Sing about Jesus' birth; then thank Him for dying for your family.