

## THE THREAD | THE GOSPEL COME TO LIFE

### Lesson 1: Jesus' Birth And The Shepherds

Dear Parents,

Hello! I wanted to remind you about the study we're doing that focuses on teaching students the big-picture story of the Bible. This Bible study is called *The Thread: Discovering The Thread of the Gospel Through the Big-Picture Story of the Bible*, and this week was the first of 13 lessons looking at *The Gospel Come To Life*. The lesson was entitled "Jesus' Birth and the Shepherds," and it was our kickoff lesson for studying the Gospels. We started this journey with a great discussion about the birth of Jesus. The big idea was that people search for salvation from a variety of sources, but we know that salvation comes only through faith in Jesus.

**Lesson Overview:** Jesus is born! The Old Testament is full of God's promises to send a Messiah, a Savior. And now, with the birth of Jesus, the Savior has come. When we think about Jesus' birth, it's easy for us to think about the picture of a baby lying in a manger surrounded by cattle and shepherds, but don't miss the clear connection to God's overarching purpose in this lesson. God sent His Son to rescue people from the clutches of sin and the penalty of death. In this lesson, we'll explore the thread of salvation from the birth of Jesus to the birth of the first church. Along the way, we'll see how easy it is to be tempted to trust in other sources of salvation, forgetting that Jesus alone supplies the remedy to our greatest need.

**What We Want Your Teenager To Learn:** Understand that Jesus' birth was the fulfillment of God's plan to perfectly rescue humankind from the ravages of sin and be reminded that salvation comes only through faith in Jesus and His work on the Cross.

**What We Want Your Teenager To Do With What They've Learned:** Wrestle with the idea of how people look for salvation in lots of other sources besides Jesus.

**Scripture Passages We Studied:** Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-21; Acts 4:12

*Please Take A Few Minutes This Week To Read These Passages.*

### NEXT STEPS...

During the next week, as you engage in conversations with your teenager, remember that one way that will help them to understand and apply what they have learned is to explain it to someone else. Use the following questions to guide your conversation:

- I know in your lesson that you discussed that the purpose of Jesus' birth was so He could rescue people from their sins. How does that truth influence the purpose of our family?
- What are kids your age looking to be saved from? What do they believe will save them?
- It's easy to look for something besides Jesus to save us. What are some ways that our family might be tempted to look for salvation from somewhere else?

Thank you for all you do. As a parent, you are the primary spiritual influence in the life of your teenager, and they desperately need you. I'm praying for you! If you have any questions or if I can help with anything, please don't hesitate to let me know.