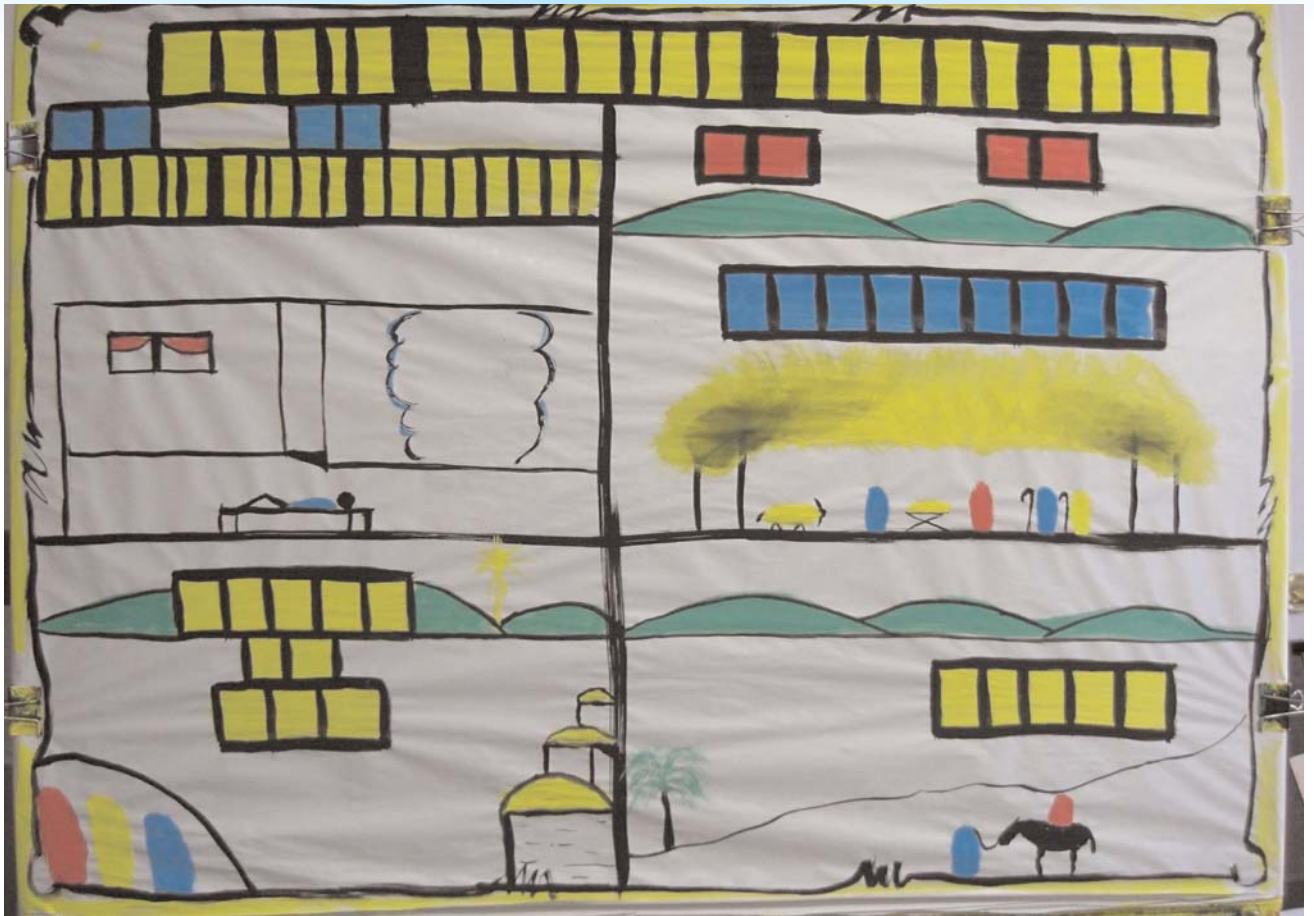


THE BIRTH OF JESUS

BEFORE



AFTER



THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Mark 11:1-10, 14:1,2,10-26

Introduction: Can anyone tell me what Christmas is about?

Christmas is fun because there are presents and fun activities, but really, Christmas is about the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ. Today we are going to talk about the meaning of Christmas which is how God came down to earth to show us who He is.

We can celebrate the meaning of Christmas anywhere, at anytime of the year when we remember that God came down from heaven, and His name is Jesus.

History Timeline B.C. to A.D.

Can anyone tell me what year it is? That's right, 2010 (whatever year it is for you).

Can anyone tell me why it is the year....? What happened 2000 years ago that was so special that we all date our calendar by this event?

Jesus was born. Jesus' birth changed history.

UPPER LEFT BOX

Jesus is the center of history because all of history is really HIS story. History is HIS-story.

1. Draw in BC and OT.

2000 years ago Jesus came. So, before Jesus came we call that B.C. or B.C.E, which is everything in the Old Testament before Jesus, from creation to Jesus.

2. Draw in AD and NT

Now after Jesus came, call that AD which means the year of our Lord. Everything after Jesus is what we call the New Testament (NT)

Tell the Story of Joseph and Mary

Over in the country of Israel (a map or globe would be helpful here), a man and a woman were chosen. Their names were Joseph and Mary. They were engaged and were going to be married soon. Joseph finds out that Mary is pregnant, but he, Joseph, is not the father. How could Mary get pregnant and have a baby! "I thought Mary was faithful and loved only me." Joseph probably thought.

But Joseph got a big surprise!

3. Paint over the wax for the angel to appear and the dots coming up from Joseph.

Share the story in your words while filling in the other boxes and items (Matthew 1:18-25)

4. Paint over the word, "Jesus"

Jesus means Savior. Jesus came to save us from our sins.

5. Write in the word "Immanuel"

Who is Jesus? What does Immanuel mean? Jesus is Immanuel and Immanuel means...

6. Paint over the words "God with us"

Think about what the angel is saying to Joseph. Your wife-to-be is going to have child. The child won't be your baby, and it's not a baby from another man.

Mary was a pure woman and a virgin.

7. Draw in the words "Virgin Birth"

A virgin means Mary had never kissed a man, or slept in the same bed with a man, or had never done any funny stuff.

740 years before Jesus came, a book in the Bible called Isaiah in chapter 7 verse 14 said that a young woman, or a virgin, would have a child, and the child's name would be called "Immanuel" which means God with us.

Stop here and see if the kids are understanding what is happening in the story. Ask questions like:

- * Can anyone explain what is going to happen to Mary?
- * Whose child was she going to have?
- * How could this happen?

God came to live inside Mary and be born as a baby. His human name would be Jesus, even though He is God in the flesh. Jesus is both God and man. Jesus is the God-man.

Teachers Note:

Be theologically accurate, but don't get bogged down with a lot of details which may slow down the story!

TRANSITION TO BOX 2...

Mary, as well, had a visit from the same angel sharing the same information that she would have a son, but the son would not be her son from Joseph but the Son of God.

Both Joseph and Mary trusted God's Word. And sure enough, Mary became pregnant and started getting bigger and bigger. (Sometimes I act this out to be funny).

Mary was nine months along, and it was time for her to give birth.

UPPER RIGHT BOX

Use your own word and explain the Christmas story (Luke 2).

As you explain the story...

1. Draw in the word "Bethlehem"
2. Paint in the heads and arms of the people at the manger scene

Can you image being Mary and Joseph there at the manger looking at this child? Is He their child or not? How were they going to raise the Son of God?

What would He be like?

One thing they did know by looking at Jesus is...

Fill in the title: God's Promise Comes True

Everything God had told them came true. God is always faithful to do what He says!

LOWER LEFT BOX

God did not keep Jesus' birth quiet. Not only did thousands of angels appear to shepherds to announce Jesus' birth, but God put a special star in the sky over the place where Jesus was.

1. Draw in the star.

People called Magi, who were star watchers, or what we call astronomers, saw the star in the sky and wondered what this might mean.

2. Paint in the heads of the Magi

They inquired about a prophecy in Micah 5:2 (point to the Old Testament) that a King would be born in Bethlehem. They followed the star by camel which took almost two years to reach Jesus (Share the story Matthew 2:1-12).

When they met Jesus, he was a little boy, probably age two. Even though He was a child, they worshipped Him.

Ask the children why the Magi would worship a child?

Because...

3. Draw in the words "Jesus is God"

Lower Right Box

Share the story in your own words (Matthew 2:13-23).

God directed Joseph and Mary to take Jesus to Egypt. Why? To keep Him safe from King Herod's evil plan...

As you tell the story, fill in...

1. The heads of Mary and Joseph

2. Draw in the word "Egypt"

CONCLUSION:

- * The baby in the manger was the Son of God.
- * And as man, He was to be the Savior for mankind
- * God, Himself, had come to earth as a man.

So, this Christmas, let's remember the real meaning of Christmas: The God that made the world came near to us on earth in Jesus Christ.

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