

NEW TESTAMENT 2023

Come, Follow Me with *Living Scriptures* STREAMING

Good Tidings of Great Joy

Matthew 2; Luke 2

Objectives:

- Talk about the joyful news of Jesus's birth, the gifts He's given us, and the gifts we can give Him.

Reinforces Principles of:

- Birth of Jesus Christ, Gifts, Testimony

Reverence Time

Song:

Stars Were Gleaming

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/music/library/childrens-songbook/stars-were-gleaming>

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-2

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him."

Video:

Watch this week's clip from the Living Scriptures Streaming Library. Find the clip at <https://www.livingscriptures.com/fhe-lesson-tidings>

Lesson Time

Good Tidings of Great Joy

Lesson

Summary:

Angels appeared to humble shepherds, announcing the birth of Jesus Christ. The shepherds were invited to go and see the baby Jesus. After they had seen Jesus, they went about telling others what they had seen. When Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus to the temple, Simeon and Anna both bore testimony of the special child, that he would bring salvation and redemption to his people. Later, Wise Men traveled far to see little Jesus. They were filled with joy when they saw the star that led to where He was. They visited Jesus, bringing Him gifts and falling down to worship Him. The wise men, Simeon, Anna, and the shepherds were all seeking for the Savior and bore testimony of Him to others. Just as the wise men brought gifts to the Savior, we can give Him the gift of our hearts, our time, and our obedience.

As Jesus grew he increased in wisdom, stature, and in favor with God and man. (See Luke 2:52). Each of us can grow and improve ourselves physically, increase our learning, learn to love and take care of others, and seek to follow our Heavenly Father as Jesus did.

Quote:

"I believe that each of us can re-create that familiar scene in Bethlehem in our own lives. We can have a star to follow just as the Wise Men did... The scriptures can light our way, and our testimonies can be a light from within. The voices of angels can be the voices of our beloved prophet and His servants. We can kneel at the feet of our Savior just as literally as the shepherds and the Wise Men, but we do it in prayer. The gifts we bring are our talents." Betty Jo N. Jepsen, October 1992 General Conference

Questions:

What is the joyful news that the angel brought to the shepherds?

What is the greatest gift that Heavenly Father has given us?

Why is Jesus Christ the greatest gift of all?

What gifts has the Savior given us? (Discuss ideas.)

The wise men brought the Savior gifts. What gifts can we give our Savior?

How can we learn and grow as Jesus did?

Description: Write down some of the gifts your family can give to the Savior. Encourage family members to work hard to give these gifts to our Savior this year.

What you need:

- A copy of the "Our Gifts for Jesus" activity (artwork included with this lesson), scissors, glue, card stock or poster board and pen or pencil.

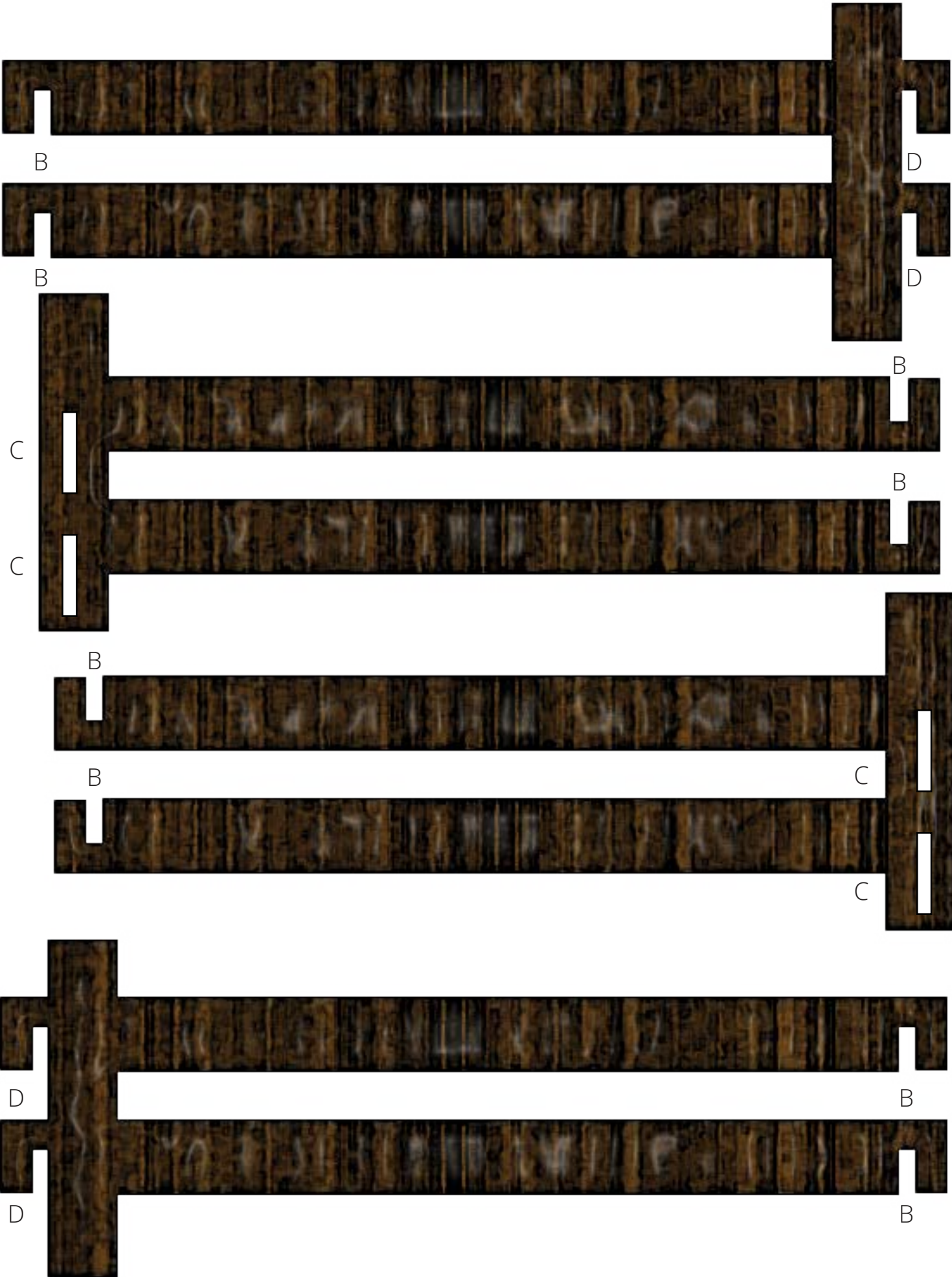
Preparation:

1. Print out the artwork.
2. Glue artwork to card stock or poster board.
3. Cut out artwork (set presents aside).
4. Glue matching fence pieces together, right sides out. Glue stable together, right sides out. Assemble Nativity scene by inserting "B" tabs into "A" slots and "D" tabs into "C" slots.
5. Place "Nativity" family into Stable by sliding tabs on sides of Mary and Joseph over the top of the bottom fence rails.
6. Glue or tape star and sheep on stable.

Activity:

1. Display the "Nativity Scene."
2. Ask: Why do we give gifts at Christmas time? (Discuss ideas.)
3. Ask: Do all gifts cost money? (Discuss ideas. Conclude with the idea that the best gifts are gifts of obedience and service.)
4. Ask: What gifts has Jesus Christ given us? (Discuss ideas.)
5. Explain: Because we believe in Jesus Christ we should give Him gifts to show Him that we love Him: gifts of service, obedience and sharing His gospel.
6. Play Game:
 - A. Place the "gifts" in a pile to the side of the Nativity scene.
 - B. Take turns choosing a gift and then telling what you will give to Jesus (help children to be specific; such as inviting a non-member friend to primary, paying a full tithe, visiting an elderly neighbor or the sick, obeying parents, sharing your toys, caroling to neighbors, etc.)
 - C. Write the answer on the back of the gift and place it in front of the manger.
 - D. Encourage family members to work hard to give these gifts to our Savior, not just at Christmas time, but throughout their lives.







Treat Time

Gift Cakes (Fattigmann Bakkels)

Prep Time: 10 minutes
Cook Time: 10-15 seconds per cake



Ingredients: Cakes
1 egg
3 egg yolks
1/4 cup heavy cream
4 teaspoons white sugar
1 tablespoon melted butter
1/4 teaspoon ground cardamom (may substitute nutmeg or cinnamon)
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
Shortning for frying (may substitute oil)

Icing
3 tablespoons softened butter
1 tablespoons shortening
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
1 1/2 tablespoons milk
Food coloring

Instructions: Beat egg and egg yolks together in large bowl. Stir in the cream, sugar, melted butter and cardamom (nutmeg or cinnamon). Mix in flour to make a soft dough. On a floured cloth, roll the dough out to 1/8-inch thickness. Let stand until treat time. To make icing, combine cream butter, shortening and vanilla in a mixing bowl. Beat in powdered sugar and milk to achieve desired consistency. Divide into two bowls; tint one red and one green.

Let children cut dough into 2x2 inch square shapes. Heat shortning (or oil) in a deep skillet to 365 degrees F. Have an adult carefully place a few squares at a time into the hot oil. Cook until the cakes return to the surface and then turn over to finish cooking until lightly golden (about 10 seconds). Drain on brown paper or paper towel. When cool (about 1 minute), decorate with icing to look like gifts.