
Matthew Chapter 2

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. Talk about how most people act when they are about to have a baby. Discuss the preparations that take place and how people feel. Does it make a difference if the baby was planned or not?

- b. Do you think dads and moms think about different things when they are getting ready to have a baby? What do you think some of those things might be? Do you think it's good or bad for two people to have a different focus on the same event? What other kinds of events might this happen with?

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

Have you ever wished you could ask God a question and He would answer in a voice as clear as your mom or In this part of the story (Matthew 1:18-2:23) Joseph and Mary were both surprised by the fact that Mary was pregnant. This was such an important pregnancy that both Mary and Joseph were visited by angels (Mary's angelic visit is recorded in the gospel of Luke) to receive instructions on what to do next and to make sure they knew it was a miracle from God.

Do you think Mary and Joseph felt differently about Jesus' birth? Why/why not? What impact do you think the angelic visits had on the way they felt? How would you feel if an angel came to you with a special message? How would you know it was really an angel and not a trick from the Devil?

The next thing this passage talks about is some kings visiting from a foreign land. Do you know how old you were when you received your first out of town visitor? How do you think it made your parents feel to know people loved them so much that they wanted to come and meet you? How do you think Joseph and Mary felt about their foreign visitors and the amazing gifts they brought?

Next the passage talks about Mary, Joseph and Jesus fleeing to Egypt and then a few years later coming back. Do you think that the angel that told them to flee to Egypt was the same one that told them they were going to have a baby? How do you think Mary and Joseph knew it was God and not a demon talking to them in dreams (or maybe just really bad indigestion)? What would have happened if Joseph and Mary hadn't believed the angel on any of the 3 different occasions that he visited them?

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Discuss how important it is for you to learn to recognize the voice of God and what kinds of messages He might send to you through angels. Think of three ways that you can be more like Mary and Joseph and learn to recognize His voice while you are still young.

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Pray for God to remind you to spend time with Him everyday and for Him to make His voice known to you. Ask Him to be your best friend and to make the Bible easier to understand when you read it.

5. Outreach Idea

Find a local women's shelter and ask if they need any clothes or toys for newborn babies. Organize a baby clothes drive to collect these needed supplies for these babies that may or may not have been expected by their parents who must be living in difficult circumstances. Make sure to include a book that talks about baby Jesus.