



Birth of Jesus Handout

Session Theme: Birth Stories

Activity: N/A

Scripture Story: *Matthew 2:1-16*

Video Clip: *The Cotton Patch Gospel*

1 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." 3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 6 "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" 7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." 9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. 13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." 14 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." 16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.

NOTES:

- Moses eventually becomes, in some ways, a prince of his people (the Israelites) and leads them out of Egypt/oppression/infancy.
- Saul/Paul eventually, in some ways, becomes a prince of the Church and leads the church out of oppression/confusion/infancy.
- Jesus ministry is to announce that the Kingdom of God is at hand and to lead his people, the Israelites, into it. Whether he succeeds or not can be debated, but his enemies when they killed Jesus, posted this title above him during his crucifixion: "King of the Jews."
- Here are three individuals all with very different upbringings, but because they pay attention to God, they live lives that have very similar patterns and results: Patterns and results that invite others to pay attention to God and make paying attention to God easier for those who are invited.