

Family Faith

Chapter 14

The Savior Is Born

Jesus our Savior was born in Bethlehem.

Chapter Summary

When the time had come for God's plan of salvation to be fulfilled, Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Jesus and Mary traveled to Bethlehem for the census. Jesus was born in Bethlehem in a stable because there was no room for him in the inn. We need to make room for Jesus in our hearts. The shepherds and wise men came, and they told the world about Jesus. The Holy Family is our perfect model of love in a family. Jesus grew up as a child like us; we should try to be like Jesus.

More for Parents

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph can be intimidating. Not only are we painfully aware of our own imperfections, but they really are the perfect family! We look at our families and know we will never be able to compare. God did not come just to demonstrate how perfect he is and remind us how imperfect we are. God came to give us his holiness! He came to bring his goodness and grace into our families. If we allow Jesus, his Mother (Mary), and Saint Joseph to have a constant presence in our home through prayer and learning and practicing Jesus' teachings, we will share in their family life. The Holy Family is not just a model, but it is an invitation. Will we accept it? How can we make Jesus, Mary, and Joseph more a part of our family life?

Our Family Prays Together

Dear Jesus, thank you for coming to earth to be with us and to show us how much you love us and want to be our friend. Help us to love you more and more each day! Amen.

For more family faith formation resources go to www.wordofliveseries.org/parents.

Let's Talk about It as a Family

- *When do we celebrate Jesus' Birth? (Christmas.)*
- *Who is our Savior? (Jesus.)*
- *There was no room in the inn for Jesus, but where should we always make room for Jesus? (In our hearts.)*
- *Who came to see Jesus and told the world the Good News? (Shepherds and wise men.)*
- *What do we call Jesus' family—Jesus, Mary, and Joseph? (The Holy Family.)*

Let's Live Our Faith

- Jesus is a gift to us. Discuss how your family can be gifts to other people by doing kind things for them.
- Discuss some things that your family can do this week to make room in your hearts for God.

Family Faith Activities

We can be a gift to others by doing what are called the corporal and spiritual works of mercy:

The Corporal Works of Mercy

- Feeding the hungry
- Giving drink to the thirsty
- Clothing the naked
- Sheltering the homeless
- Visiting the sick
- Visiting the imprisoned
- Burying the dead

The Spiritual Works of Mercy

- Counseling the doubtful
- Instructing the ignorant
- Admonishing sinners
- Comforting the afflicted
- Forgiving offenses
- Bearing wrongs patiently
- Praying for the living and the dead

Choose one or more of the following to do as a family:

- Talk about how your family might be able to do some of these works of mercy. Some can be done within your own family, and some can be done for others.
- Plan a family outing where your family does one of the works of mercy.

Small Wonders



Another arrival in the Kind Garden gets a mixed welcome.

Read the full Small Wonders story at www.wordoflifeseries.org/parents.