

**Story Time - Read the story to the children**  
**Lesson 167: THE BIRTH OF JESUS**  
**LUKE 2:1-7**

It was about that same time that Augustus Caesar sent out an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that everyone's name must be put on a list. This was the first counting of all the people while Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone traveled to their own hometowns to have their name put on the list. So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee, and went to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. It was known as the town of David. Joseph went there because he was from the family of David. Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him. (She was now pregnant.) While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. She gave birth to her first son. She wrapped him up well and laid him in a box where cattle are fed. She put him there because the guest room was full.

## 167. THE BIRTH OF JESUS

(LUKE 2:1-7)



"And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation." LUKE 1:50

# 167. THE BIRTH OF JESUS

## LUKE 2:1-7

### MEMORY VERSE:

*“And she had her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths.” Luke 2:7*

### **Review Questions**

#### True or False

1. Augustus Caesar sent out an order for everyone's name to be put on a list.
2. This was NOT the first counting of people since Quirinius was governor of Syria.
3. Everyone had to travel to their own hometown to have their name put on the list.
4. Joseph was from the family of Nebuchadnezzar, so he went to Bethlehem.
5. Joseph was from the family of King David.

#### Questions

1. What city did Joseph and Mary live in? Was it Galilee?
2. Where did they have to go? Was it Bethlehem?
3. Why did Joseph register with Mary?
4. Was it time for Mary to have her baby?
5. After Mary had her baby, where did she put him?
6. Why did she put him in a box where cattle are fed?

**PRAYER** Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for coming to live among us and for dying to save us from our sins. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

## Lesson 167 Activity

### The “Census” Game

Put up four signs in four different places in the classroom. These signs should say “east,” “west,” “north,” and “south.” Pass out corresponding notes to each of the children in the class. Have each child go to the place that corresponds with his note. (let the younger children look at the letters – maybe put a heart, star, cross and crown on each sign to help them identify which one to go to).

When each child has arrived at his location, appoint one child from each group to count his group and report the number to you.

Explain that this is what Joseph and Mary had to do when they traveled to Bethlehem to be counted in the census.

Caesar thought that he had the greatest position, the grandest place, and the highest throne, but he was wrong. Jesus was about to be born; the only one worthy of that place.

God is in control of all things.

## Lesson 167 Discussion

### Where Did You Come From?

Tell the children a little bit about your family heritage and where you are from.

Allow one or two of the children to share their heritage and origin. Mary traveled with Joseph to Bethlehem. She was betrothed to him and was considered a part of his family. She was also a descendant of King David. It was very close to the time she would give birth to her baby, but she had to obey the Roman Emperor as well.

More than 600 years before the birth of Jesus, God had written that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). Caesar Augustus thought he was the supreme ruler of the world, but he was actually being used by God to bring about the fulfillment of prophecy. God intended all along for Jesus to be born in Bethlehem, because **God is in control of all things**. So Mary and Joseph, two seemingly unimportant people among the multitude traveling to be registered, were of the greatest importance to God. Young Mary, carrying in her womb the very Son of God, and Joseph, the man who loved her and assumed the responsibility of caring for her and her unborn baby, together traveled the hard journey to Bethlehem, just as God intended, because **God is in control of all things**. They weren't really marching to the orders of Caesar, they were fulfilling God's eternal plan.

### PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for coming to live among us and for dying to save us from our sins. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.