

Lesson 23 Additional Lesson Extensions



Discovering

Story Questions

- After reading the story *The Birth of Jesus* (page 257 of the Catechist/Teacher Guide), ask the following questions.
- Who welcomed him when he was just born?
- Have you ever welcomed someone?
- Where?
- How did you do this?
- Do you like it when someone makes you feel welcome? (Encourage answers.)

Additional Activity Ideas

1. Since the story title is “Mary and Joseph’s Journey,” the activity might begin by talking with the children about some of the foods Mary and Joseph might have eaten on their journey to Bethlehem — (a form of whole wheat or barley bread (bread being a staple food of biblical times, a piece of flatbread such as whole wheat pita would work well for this), water, and some fruit such as dried or fresh figs and dates.
2. Or keeping with the breakfast theme of the original idea, you could talk about what foods Mary and Joseph may have packed to eat while they were in Bethlehem, — the morning of Jesus’ birth, breakfast, next to the manger, etc. These foods would be essentially the same foods as in suggestion #1.

3. Or maybe on the day Jesus was born, the owner of the barn may have been kind and given Mary and Joseph something to eat for breakfast or during the day. He would most likely have given them water, flatbread, and if he were more generous, some olive oil to dip the bread pieces in, some fresh fruit of dates, figs, grapes (though grapes were usually reserved for wine and commerce, I think). The children could dip pieces of bread in the oil, have some fruit, and share with Mary and Joseph the joy of Jesus’ birth. You could also share that these are the same foods Jesus would have eaten as he grew from a baby to a boy.



Exploring

3. Welcoming and Caring for Baby Jesus (Dramatic Play) (Activity Variation)

- Along with the props for baby care play, provide angel wings and costumes to enhance the dramatic play.



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Lesson Extension 3

Prayer Time Variation

- Create a manger made out of one toilet paper roll. Cut the roll in half. One roll is inverted and placed over another. The manger is filled with yarn. The Baby Jesus stick puppet is wrapped with felt and placed in the “manger.”
- Have the children bring their stick puppets (see Lesson Extension 2) to Prayer Time to use as they sing along to a Christmas song.