

STORIES WITHIN THE TRUE STORY



Week Twenty One - Jesus Is Born

A Note to the Parents/Teachers

The whole Story of the Bible has been pointing us to Jesus. Yet, when he came, many could not see who he was. Pray that though this lesson the Spirit will open the kids' eyes to see Jesus more clearly.

- **Big Idea:** God has come to seek us out - are you looking for Him?

Starter

- **Evidences of Grace**

Ask kids to share ways they've seen God at work lately. Anything, big or small, which is good is from God. When a kid shares, encourage everyone to thank God together.

- **I Spy**

Play a game of 'I Spy' for fun. You may use the game to talk about how today's story shows examples of people who could not see what God was doing and others who could. We want to be a people who see Jesus!

Sing Together

Story - from Luke 1 & 2

So much time had passed since God's people were told about a Rescuer who would come and make all things right. Time after time they put their trust in human kings and rulers, judges and generals, and even the gods of other nations. But none of these could rescue them from the real threat of death and their own selfishness. So, they were waiting for the one God would send - the Messiah.

One day a priest named Zechariah was serving in the temple when a heavenly messenger named Gabriel appeared to him. "You and your wife Elizabeth will have a son!" He said. "Name him John. He will help open people's eyes to see the Messiah who is about to come."

"But how in the world could that happen?" Zechariah asked. "My wife and I are too old to have a child!"

Even though he could see the messenger from God, he had a hard time seeing how God could do what He said.

A few months later, the same messenger Gabriel visited Elizabeth's younger cousin, Mary. He told her that she was going to have a child too, even though she hadn't married yet or known a man. Of course, Mary was also confused how this could be, but she saw the messenger from God and she knew God could do all things. "Whatever the Lord says, let it be!" Mary exclaimed.

Then Mary went to go visit Zechariah and Elizabeth. As soon as Elizabeth saw her cousin, the baby John inside of her womb started leaping and dancing around for joy! Somehow, even from inside the womb this baby knew there was something special. Elizabeth saw it too. "How blessed I am to be visited by the mother of my Lord!", she said. The Spirit helped Elizabeth and her baby to see that Mary was pregnant, but not just with any baby. She was carrying the Messiah! The Promised Rescuer all of God's people had been waiting for was here.

After Mary's baby was born, she and her new husband Joseph named him Jesus, just as the messenger told them to do. Jesus was a Jewish name, Yeshuah, which means 'God Saves!'

When they went to present their son in the temple (because that was their custom at the time), most people had no idea who Jesus was yet. But a few unexpected people got to see...

One man named Simeon said, "Now that I have seen the Messiah promised by God, I can die an old happy man knowing God will save His people!"

And when a prophetess named Ana saw Jesus she began worshipping God and went to tell everyone the Messiah had come.

Also, there were a group of shepherds laying out in the field after a long days work when all of a sudden an army of God's messengers came chanting praise because King Jesus had come to claim his kingdom over all the earth!

As Jesus grew, many people had trouble seeing who he really was. But Holy Spirit opens the eyes of those who know they are in need and ask God to see.

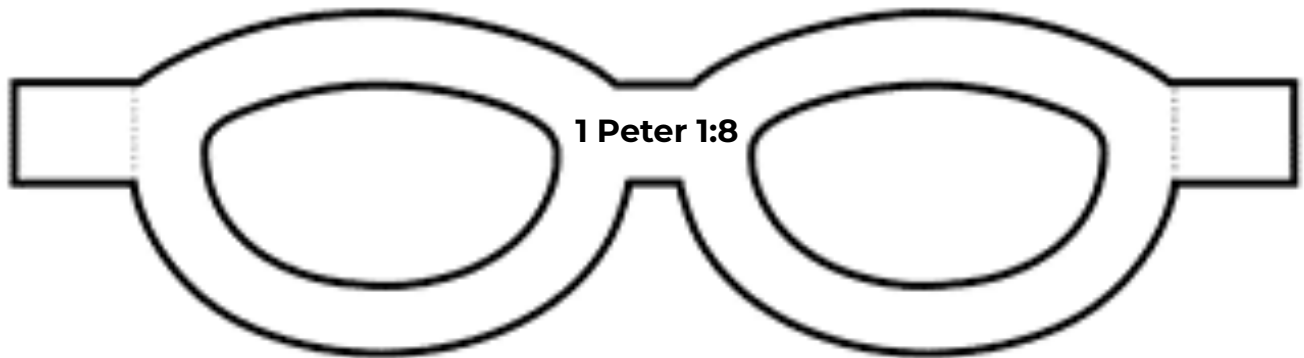
[Dialogue Questions - you may use some or all]

- Why do you think some people could see who Jesus was and others could not?
- Even though you and I have never seen Jesus physically with our own eyes, do you think God's Spirit could help us to see Jesus' salvation at work?
- How have you seen God at work in your life so far?

Breakout Time

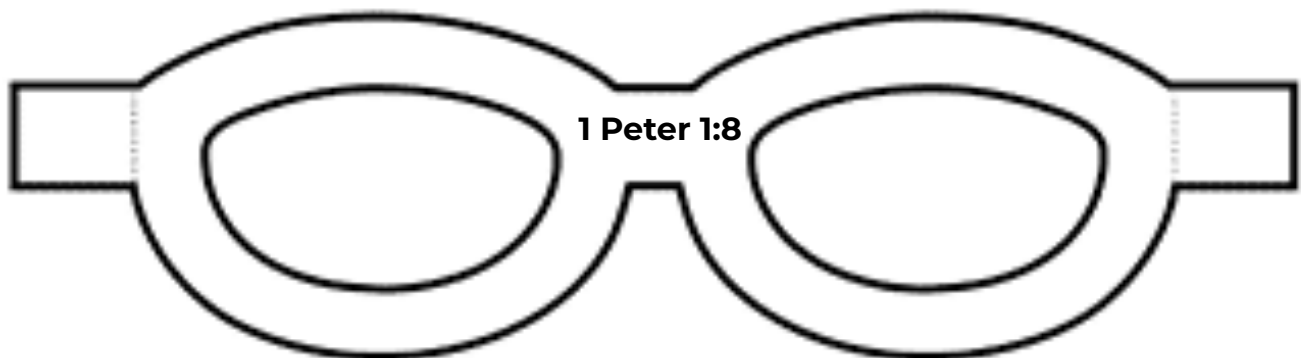
- **Prayer:**
God, open our eyes to see how you are at work rescuing your world. Thank you that we get to be part of that. Save us by your Son, Jesus. Amen.
- **Craft:**
Use the attached sheet to color and cutout glasses and talk about how we can trust Jesus even though we haven't seen him physically yet.
OR
You may choose to use toilet paper rolls to create binoculars and have the same discussion using the same 1 Peter 1:8 verse.
- **BLESS Activity:** **For kids to do during the week**
Because this Story is true, we want to be faithful to live in it. We ask Spirit to help us Bless, Listen, Eat, Speak, and Sabbath (rest & celebrate) in ways that tell the good news of God's Story.

This week, focus on the **Listen** rhythm. Ask your parents and family to help you take time this week to listen to God. You can do this by reading the Bible, going for a hike or walk in His creation listening to music that helps you reflect on God, or sitting in silence and asking to hear from Him.



You never saw him, yet you love him.

You still don't see him, yet you trust him.



You never saw him, yet you love him.

You still don't see him, yet you trust him.