

## **Lesson 7**

### **God With Us**

Objective:

- To understand the term Immanuel – God is with us
- To reflect on God’s love for us in the gift of Christ born to Mary and Joseph.
- To proclaim the birth of Jesus through stories to my friends.

**Introduction:** Story time (summarize the story based on the need)

Joseph and Mary lived in the town of Nazareth. They were planning to get married.

But before Joseph and Mary actually lived together or got married, Mary had a visit from the angel Gabriel to tell her she was going to have a baby. This baby was going to be special and she was to name him “Jesus.” Mary’s baby would be the saviour of the world.

Mary’s unborn baby did not have a father on earth. He was different from all other babies because his father was God.

Something like this had never happened before so it was very difficult for Joseph to understand. The angel came to Joseph in a dream and explained what it meant and what God wanted Joseph to do. After Joseph woke up, he married Mary so he could take care of her and the baby just like a father would.

Joseph and Mary lived in a town called Nazareth. The Romans were in charge of the country. One day, the ruler of the country, called Caesar Augustus, sent a letter to Nazareth saying that all the people had to go to the city where their families came from. Every person in the family had to be counted. This was called a census. He wanted to know exactly how many people there were because he wanted everyone to pay taxes.

Since Joseph’s family had originally come from a little town called Bethlehem, that is where he went to be counted for the census.

Bethlehem was a long way from Nazareth. Of course, there were no planes or cars back then. People had to walk or ride animals. Because Joseph and Mary wanted to do what the King commanded, they packed up their things. Mary rode a donkey, while Joseph walked beside her. They began their trip to Bethlehem.

When they arrived, they found the roads very crowded with people. They looked and looked for a place to stay, but all the houses were filled with other people who had come to Bethlehem for the same reason. It was growing very late. Mary was tired. It was almost time for her baby to be born. Joseph was also tired and needed a place to rest.

But God had not forgotten Mary and Joseph. He took care of them. They found a place where animals were kept and they were glad to find a quiet place to rest from their long journey.

During the night a wonderful thing happened. Mary had her baby. Mary was so happy. It was a son just as the angel had said. He was the Son of God. Joseph and Mary gave him the name of “Jesus”.

Joseph looked for a place to put the new-born baby. He found a box full of straw. This was the kind of box that farmers put hay in so the animals could eat from it. It was called a manger. Mary fixed the straw and put a piece of cloth on it. Then she wrapped the baby up tightly and placed Him in the warm straw.

Meanwhile, outside the city, some shepherds were watching over their flocks of sheep in the quiet night.

Suddenly, a great light filled all the dark sky. They had never seen anything like it before. It was night but a bright light shown around the angel. The angel spoke to them. He said, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly, there was not only one angel but, instead, there were many angels and they were praising God, saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests!”

(Pause and reflect – we also sing this praise in our Holy Qurbana) the song of the angels.

After this, the angels returned to heaven.

One the angels had gone away, the shepherds left their sheep and hurried into the town of Bethlehem. The angel had said that the baby would be born in “the town of David”. Everyone knew that another name for the town of David was Bethlehem so that is where they went!

The shepherds found Joseph and Mary and the baby just as the angels had said. They told Mary and Joseph all about the wonderful sight of the angels in the middle of the great light and the wonderful words they said. The shepherds were glad they found this special baby whose birth made even the angels happy.

Of all the gifts that anyone could ever give, the shepherds knew that God’s gift was the best. God had given this little baby to the world. God sent his son, Jesus, to the earth to save us. The birth of Jesus was the arrival of an amazing gift for the whole world!

**Discussion:**

- Name the characters of the story? Name the main ones?
- Who is Jesus?
- What do we celebrate on Christmas day? What is the feeling around Christmas?
- Who were the visitors from the east?

**Application:** Share this story with your friends. So that everyone knows that Jesus is the saviour of the world and that He is always with us.

**Bible verse:**

“And the word became flesh and lived among us,” (John 1:14)

**Activity :** 1. Please do the role play of the Christmas story.

Or

2. Take out a printout of Nativity scene and give children to colour.