

May 1

Luke 2:1-20

These verses tell the story of the birth of Jesus.

Question to Consider:

Verse 19 says that Mary “treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.” What do you think she wondered about? How do you suppose Mary *felt* about all that had happened?

Prayer:

Loving God, thank you for sending Jesus. It is amazing to me that he entered the world the same way we all do – as a baby. Help me to be faithful to Jesus each and every day. In his name I pray, Amen.

May 2

Luke 2:21-38

Mary and Joseph were careful to follow the Law of Moses, so not long after Jesus was born they took him to the Temple to dedicate him to the Lord. **NOTE:** This is the first of three readings that pertain to events shortly after Jesus was born. Biblical scholars remain unclear about the exact sequence of these events.

Question to Consider:

In these verses we read of two very faithful people (Simeon and Anna) who patiently waited for the coming of the Lord’s Messiah. Are you patient? Sometimes we are called to “wait upon the Lord,” and Simeon and Anna did – for years. Are you patient enough to do that?

Prayer:

Gracious God, your ways are not my ways and your time is not my time. You do things in your own time. Help me to remain faithful while I strive to be patient and wait on you. I pray in the name of Jesus, Amen.

May 3

Matthew 2:1-12

In this passage, we read of the visit by the Magi (the wise men) to Jesus.

Question to Ponder:

King Herod felt threatened by Jesus. Why do you think he felt that way? Think of a time when you have felt threatened. Was your fear justified, or did it turn out to not be a threat after all?

Prayer:

Almighty God, at times I will feel threatened and afraid. When those times come, help me to depend on you. Increase my faith. Lessen my fear. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

May 4

Matthew 2:13-23

In this passage we read about Mary and Joseph taking Jesus to Egypt because of the threat from Herod.

Question to Consider:

It is hard for us to imagine someone ordering something as cruel as what Herod ordered – killing baby boys, and yet cruelty continues today in different parts of the world. Think of an area of the world where people are suffering. Is there something *you* could do to help? Don't forget, you can always pray.

Prayer:

Father God, I know that today your children are hurting in places like (name some that were in the news recently). Guide me to respond as you would have me respond. Help me to see how I can make a difference in your world and for your kingdom. I pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

May 5

Luke 2:41-52

This is the only story we have of Jesus growing up – the story of his visit to the Temple when he was 12.

Question to Consider:

The people in the Temple who heard Jesus were “amazed at his understanding and his answers.” Have you ever been amazed at what someone was able to do? What happened?

Prayer:

Loving God, Jesus was amazing, even as a child. Help me to never take Jesus for granted, but instead help me to be continually amazed at the things Jesus said and did. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.