



Experiencing the Genuine Jesus

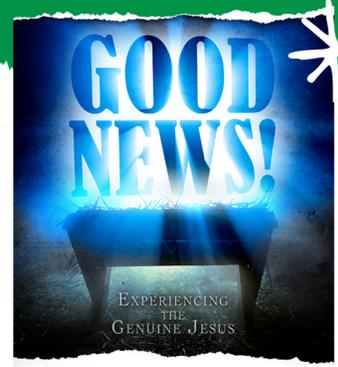
THEME:

JOY SEES BEAUTY WHEN WE FEEL BROKEN

Verse:

"She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them."

(Luke 2:7b)



Materials: See choices below (geo rock, butterfly...)

Message:

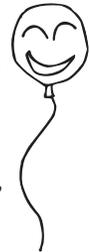
I have a fun question for your today.

ASK: If you could have anything you want, what would it be?

Our lesson today is about NOT getting all of our wants and still being happy.

Do you remember the story of Mary and Joseph and how they traveled far away to Bethlehem? When it was time for baby Jesus to be born, there wasn't a normal room for him in the town. Do you think that might have made Mary and Joseph sad because they didn't get a room like they wanted? Maybe. Mary didn't have a pretty baby bed for baby Jesus but instead she laid him in a manger. A manger is a container that holds food for the farm animals. Wow! Mary had to use a wooden trough for animal food as a bed for baby Jesus. Do you think Mary was disappointed? But the Bible tells us that angels appeared in the sky and were praising Jesus. They even told the shepherds about Jesus. They then hurried to the manger to praise Jesus. It didn't matter where He was born!

So maybe not getting what Mary and Joseph may have hoped for turned out to be even better! Mary and Joseph chose to be happy!



Sometimes when people are really sad they say their heart is breaking. But if we give our hurts, disappointments, and broken hearts to Jesus, he can make them better and have something beautiful come from our sadness.

Pick an example below or make one of your own:

- ◆ Break open a Geo rock and demonstrate that through breaking it open you see the beauty.
- ◆ Show a picture of a chrysalis breaking open to see a beautiful butterfly.

(Teacher Note: Use an object below to illustrate that beauty/joy comes from things that might not look like it at first; our expectations of what we want might be changed into something more beautiful if we look deeper.)

Boys and girls, if you become sad this week, I want you to think of how that sadness could be turned into joy.

- ✓ Maybe a friend won't play with you at recess but that gives you an opportunity to make a new friend.
- ✓ A special toy breaks but that may give you extra time with mom or dad trying to fix it.

Remember, we can find beauty and joy even when life is tough.

