

THEME: THE BIRTH OF THE PRINCE OF PEACE.

The birth of Jesus.

The Angel Gabriel announced to **Virgin Mary** that she would conceive and give birth to Jesus.

Mary could not believe because she was a virgin.

Joseph was the foster father of Jesus.

Mary gave birth to Jesus in the kraal at night in **6BC**.

Jesus and Mary were in Bethlehem for population census when Jesus was born.

The shepherds were the first people to see baby Jesus.

Other people who came to see baby Jesus were the three wise men (magi) who came from the east.

They brought gifts to baby Jesus that included:

- i. Gold
- ii. Myrrh
- iii. Frankincense

Jesus was circumcised when he was 8days old.

King Herod wanted to kill baby Jesus but Mary and Joseph escaped to Egypt.

Jesus grew up at Nazareth and he became carpenter like his foster father.

The baptism of Jesus.

John the Baptist baptized Jesus on river Jordan when he was thirty years old.

Events that took place during the baptism of Jesus.

- i. the holy spirit came to the head of Jesus in form of a dove.
- ii. A loud voice was heard from heaven saying ‘this is my only son with whom Iam well pleased’.
- iii. Heaven opened.

Types of baptism.

- i. Baptism by water.
- ii. Baptism by the holy spirit
- iii. Baptism by fire.

LENT PERIOD.

This is the fasting period in Christianity.

It began when the Holy Spirit Jesus to the desert to fast 40days and nights. He was tempted three times by the devil.

- i. To turn stones into food.
- ii. To jump down from the top of the temple that the angels of God would protect him.
- iii. To bow down and worship him so that he gives him all the land.

Things Christians are supposed to do during lent.

- i. Praying all the time.

- ii. Helping the needy.
- iii. Fasting.
- iv. Reading the bible all the time.

Things that Christians are not supposed to do during lent.

- i. Breaking the Decalogue (ten commandments).
- ii. Not to eat meat on every Friday for Catholics.
- iii. Not to wed during lent for Catholics.

How to avoid temptations.

- i. By reading the bible
- ii. By singing hymns
- iii. By constant prayers
- iv. By keeping your self busy.

The Lord's Prayer.

Our father in heaven,

May your holy name be honored

May your kingdom come

May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us to day the food we need.

Forgive us the wrongs we have done as you forgive those wrongs that others have done to us.

Do not bring to us hard testing but keep us safe from the evil ones.

Requests from the Lord's Prayer.

- i. to give us food (daily bread).
- ii. To forgive us our sins.
- iii. To deliver us from sins (guidance).
- iv. God's kingdom to come (protection)

Why hymns are sung during prayers (services).

- i. To praise god.
- ii. To show happiness to god.
- iii. To thank god
- iv. To ask for forgiveness
- v. To break boredom.

PARABLES

Parables were the short stories that Jesus used in his teachings to make people his understand.

Parables are also stories with hidden spiritual truth.

Some of the parables told by Jesus.

- i. The Good Samaritan.

- ii. The prodigal / lost son.
- iii. The lost sheep
- iv. The sower
- v. The ten virgins
- vi. The mustered seed
- vii. The thief at night
- viii. The rich fool. Etc

The Passover meal or the last supper.

It was a meal prepared by Jesus before his arrest.

People who were present were:

- i. Jesus
- ii. The 12 apostles

The meal.

- a). Wine represented Jesus' blood
- b). Bread represented the Jesus' body.

Why Jesus gave the last supper.

- i. To teach them to share
- ii. To show that he had come to serve others
- iii. To teach them to love one another.

The arrest of Jesus.

Jesus was arrested on Holy Thursday.

Judas Iscariot betrayed him.

Judas Iscariot led roman soldiers to arrest him in the garden of Gethsemane.

Jesus was tried in before the courts of Herod and Pilate.

He was found innocent but Pilate handed over Jesus to the Jews who wanted to kill him.

NB. Simon Peter tried to resist the arrest of Jesus by cutting off the roman soldier's ear.

Things that happened to Jesus during his arrest.

- i. He was caned / stripped naked.
- ii. He was mocked.
- iii. His cloth was torn.
- iv. He was spat on.
- v. He was rebuked.
- vi. He was blind folded.

Simon Peter denied Jesus three times before the cock crow.

The crucifixion of Jesus.

After being sentenced to death, the soldiers did the following things on Jesus.

- i. They put a purple robe on him.
- ii. They put a crown of thorns on his head.
- iii. They beat his head with a stick.
- iv. They spat on him.

- v. They made him carry his cross to Golgotha.

NB. A man called Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus to carry his cross.

Jesus was crucified at Golgotha (place of skulls) on Friday.

Things that happened immediately after the death of Jesus.

- i. the whole country was covered by darkness.
- ii. The curtain in the temple got torn from top to the bottom
- iii. The earth shook and the rocks split apart.
- iv. The grave broke open.
- v. Many of God's people who had died rose to life.

Some people who were present during the crucifixion of Jesus.

- i. Mary the mother of Jesus.
- ii. Mary Magdalene
- iii. John the beloved disciple.
- iv. Mary the wife of Cleopas

The burial of Jesus.

Jesus was crucified and died on Friday. Christians call this day **Good Friday**.

Joseph of Arimathea buried the body of Jesus.

Nicodemus helped Joseph to bury the body of Jesus.

The resurrection of Jesus.

Jesus rose on Sunday in the morning. Christians call this day **Easter Sunday**.

Thomas is the disciple who doubted resurrection of Jesus.

People who were present during the resurrection of Jesus.

- i. Mary Magdalene.
- ii. Mary the mother of James and Salome.

NB. By rising to life this demonstrated that Jesus overcame death.

Jesus lived with his people for 40 days after resurrection; he then took his disciples on Mt. Olives where he ascended into heaven.

Christians call this day **Ascension day**.

He left Simon Peter to lead the church.

Jesus promised the Apostles a helper (holy spirit).

After 10 days the Holy Spirit came over to the Apostles in the upper room in Jerusalem.

Christians call this day the **Pentecost day**.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

There are seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

- i. Wisdom
- ii. Understanding.
- iii. Counsel
- iv. Courage
- v. Knowledge

vi. Devotion / piety

vii. Fear for God.

Fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Some of the fruits of the Holy Spirit are:

i. Kindness

ii. Joy

iii. Love

iv. Happiness

v. Peace

vi. Patience.

vii. Faithfulness

viii. Honesty

ix. Obedience

x. Gentility etc

The seven sacraments in Christianity.

a). Baptism

This makes one a member of God's family.

It also washes one's original sins.

b). Confirmation.

Strengthens one's faith.

Makes one a true witness of Christ and a mature member of the church.

c). Holy Eucharist.

Reminds us the death of Jesus for our sins.

d). Holy Matrimony

Unites man and woman as husband and wife.

e). Penance / Reconciliation.

Reconcile man with God.

f). Holy Order.

Ordains one into priesthood. It is for Catholics.

g). Anointing the sick.

Give hope and courage to the sick.

Important Christian days.

NO	DAY	IMPORTANCE
1	Christmas day	When Jesus was born
2	Palm Sunday	When Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey
3	Ash Wednesday	Marks the beginning of lent
4	Good Friday	When Jesus was crucified
5	Easter Sunday	When Jesus resurrected
6	Ascension day	When Jesus went into heaven
7	Pentecost day	When the Apostles received the Holy Spirit

VOLUNTARY SERVICE IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S LOVE

Voluntary means doing work on your own without pay.

Examples of voluntary work include:

- i. caring for the sick.
- ii. Feeding the hungry
- iii. Looking after orphans
- iv. Looking after refugees
- v. Repairing wells and roads.

Examples of free services in the bible

- i. the story of the good Samaritan.
- ii. Jesus feeding the hungry.
- iii. Samuel left his parents and served in the temple

Example of free services in the church.

- i. Cleaning the compound
- ii. Washing the floor
- iii. Grass thatching the church
- iv. Directing people where to sit
- v. Collecting offerings

Examples of services in the community.

- i. Fetching water
- ii. Cleaning the house and compound
- iii. Looking after animals
- iv. Washing clothes and utensils

The work of some voluntary organizations.

a). The Uganda Red Cross Society (URC)

- i. It treats soldiers who are wounded in wars
- ii. It gives relief food to the refugees and hunger stricken people.
- iii. It aids people who are affected by disasters ie floods, earthquakes etc
- iv. It donates blood.

b). The AIDS Support Organization (TASO)

This helps people with HIV / AIDS by giving them medical care, food, and employment services.

c). Uganda Women's Effort to Save Orphans (UWESO)

It was started by Mrs. Janet Museveni.

It helps widows in starting their own business.

It also pays school fees for orphans.

Others include:

d). International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

e). World Vision

f). Save the Children Fund

g). Rotary Club International.

h). Young Women Christian Association

i). Lions Club International.

j). Guides and Scouts