

The Early Life of Jesus

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Chapter 5**.

❖ Early Christians focused their attention on Jesus' recent death and Resurrection. Only later did they begin to wonder about his birth.

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❖ The Infancy Narratives are stories about the events leading up to Jesus' birth and what happened to him as a baby.

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❖ We do not know where the stories of the Infancy Narratives come from. The stories may be factually true or symbolic. Either way, we know these stories are the Word of God. The Infancy Narratives appear in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. These Evangelists wrote the stories to show who Jesus was.

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❖ Inerrancy is the idea that the Scriptures contain the truth that is necessary for us to know for our salvation.

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❖ The Infancy Narratives are known as the "Gospels in miniature" because they tell the same Good News as the Gospels—Jesus is Lord, the Son of God who saved us.

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❖ Mary conceived Jesus by the work of the Holy Spirit in the Annunciation. This story shows us how the Holy Spirit acts for our salvation. Read the story in Luke 1:26–28.

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❖ The Visitation is the event in which Jesus' presence was recognized by Elizabeth and John. Read this story in Luke 1:36,39–56.

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❖ Jesus' miraculous birth is known as the Nativity. You can read about the birth of Jesus in Luke 2:1–20.

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❖ The story in which the child Jesus is offered to God at the Temple is called the Presentation. You can read the story in Luke 2:22–28.

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❖ The Immaculate Conception is one of the special doctrines of Mary. According to this doctrine, Mary was never in the state of sin, either original sin or personal sin.

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❖ We believe that Mary was taken body and soul into heaven at the end of her life. This doctrine is called the Assumption.

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❖ Mary has appeared to many people in history. In Mexico in 1521, she appeared to Juan Diego. Today, she is honored in Mexico as Our Lady of Guadalupe. Thousands of people visit her church in Mexico to see the cloak with her image on display.

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