

In a couple of weeks, it will be Holy Week and then Easter. That is the time we remember Jesus' sacrifice, His death on the cross and His Resurrection. Let's take this time and explore the story of Jesus' life here on earth with a Story Scavenger Hunt!

Item #1... Christmas Ornament

Jesus is born. (Luke 1:6-7)

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Why did you find a Christmas ornament? (Jesus was born on Christmas!)

Item #2... Hammer

Jesus learns how to be a carpenter like Joseph. (Luke 2:39-40)

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Why did you find a hammer? (It is the tool that carpenters use!)

Item #3... Cell Phone

Jesus is lost in the temple. (Luke 2:43-47)

The boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴ Thinking that he was in the caravan, they journeyed for a day and looked for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵ but not finding him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions, ⁴⁷ and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers.

Why did you find a cell phone? (Now phones help us find and stay connected with one another!)

Item #4... Rock

Jesus grows up, and spends time in the desert. (Luke 4:1-4)

Filled with the holy Spirit,^(b) Jesus returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the desert ² for forty days,^(c) to be tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when they were over he was hungry. ³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread." ⁴ Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

Why did you find a rock? (The devil told Jesus to turn the rocks to bread).

Item #5... Water

Jesus performs the first miracle. (John 2:1-11)

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁶ Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. ⁷ Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. ⁸ Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. ⁹ And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine... ¹¹ Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

Why did you get water? (Jesus changed the water into wine!)

Item #6... Fish

Jesus calls His first apostles. (Mark 1:16-20)

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. ¹⁷ Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." ¹⁸ Then they abandoned their nets and followed him. ¹⁹ He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. ²⁰ Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.

Why did you get goldfish? (Jesus was going to make the apostles fishers of men)

Item #7... Coins

Jesus calls Matthew to follow Him (this is who our church is named for!) (Mark 2:13-14)

Once again he went out along the sea. All the crowd came to him and he taught them. ¹⁴As he passed by,¹⁵ he saw Matthew, son of Alphaeus, sitting at the customs post collecting taxes. He said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

Why did you find coins? (Matthew was a tax collector who collected coins).

Item #8... Blindfold

Jesus heals many, and performs several miracles. (Mark 8:23-25)

He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. Putting spittle on his eyes he laid his hands on him and asked, "Do you see anything?" ²⁴Looking up he replied, "I see people looking like trees and walking." ²⁵Then he laid hands on his eyes a second time and he saw clearly; his sight was restored and he could see everything distinctly.

Why did you bring a blindfold? (Because Jesus healed the blind man)

Item #9... Storybook

Jesus used stories to teach people lessons about God and heaven. (Mark 4:33-34)

With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it. ³⁴Without parables he did not speak to them, but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.

Why did you get a book? (Because Jesus told lots of stories)

Item #10... Leaf

Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem by the people. (Mark 11:8-10)

Many people spread their cloaks on the road, and others spread leafy branches that they had cut from the fields. ⁹Those preceding him as well as those following kept crying out:

"Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! ¹⁰Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is to come! Hosanna in the highest!"

Why did you get a leaf? (The people all waved large leaves as Jesus entered Jerusalem)

Closing...

Jesus' entry into Jerusalem begins the most important part of His story and our story... his sacrifice and death which give us forgiveness and His Resurrection which gives us eternal life with Him!

Together, pray the Our Father to close your story time.