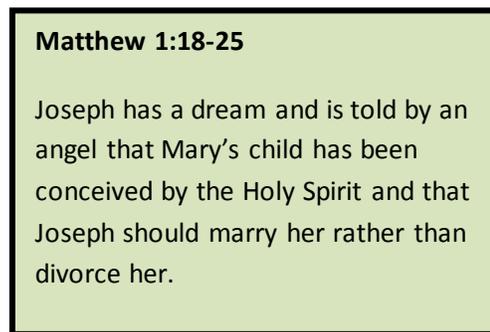


Matthew 2 Study Guide

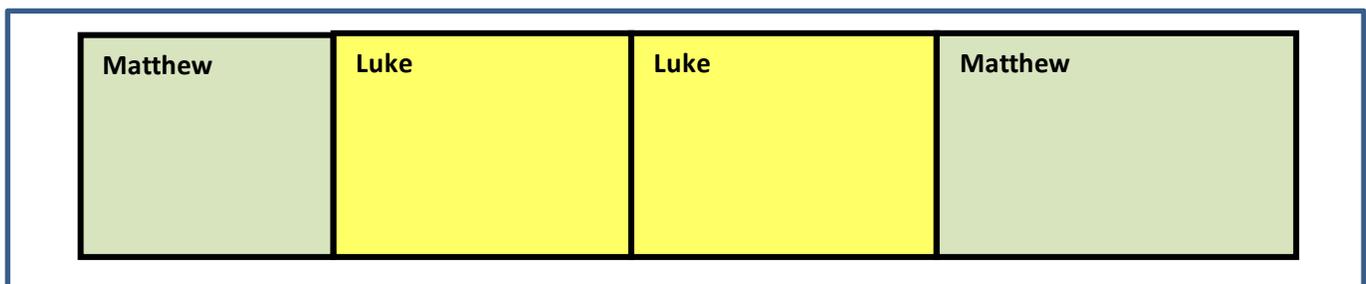
RESEARCH. The story of Jesus' birth is told in two of the gospels, Matthew and Luke. But they tell different parts of the story. In fact they are so different that some people have said that they can't both be true since they seem to be in conflict. Others have said that the two birth (nativity) stories are really two parts of one story. Your task is to read both stories and see how they can be put together. **The Matthew story is in Matthew 1:18-2:23. The Luke story is in Luke 1:26 -2:40.**

Do it this way.

1) Cut out squares of paper. Two different colors will help you more easily identify the Luke story and the Matthew story. Use the blocks to write the parts of the story that comes from Matthew and the parts that come from Luke. Include the chapter and verses for that part of the story. A block will look like this.

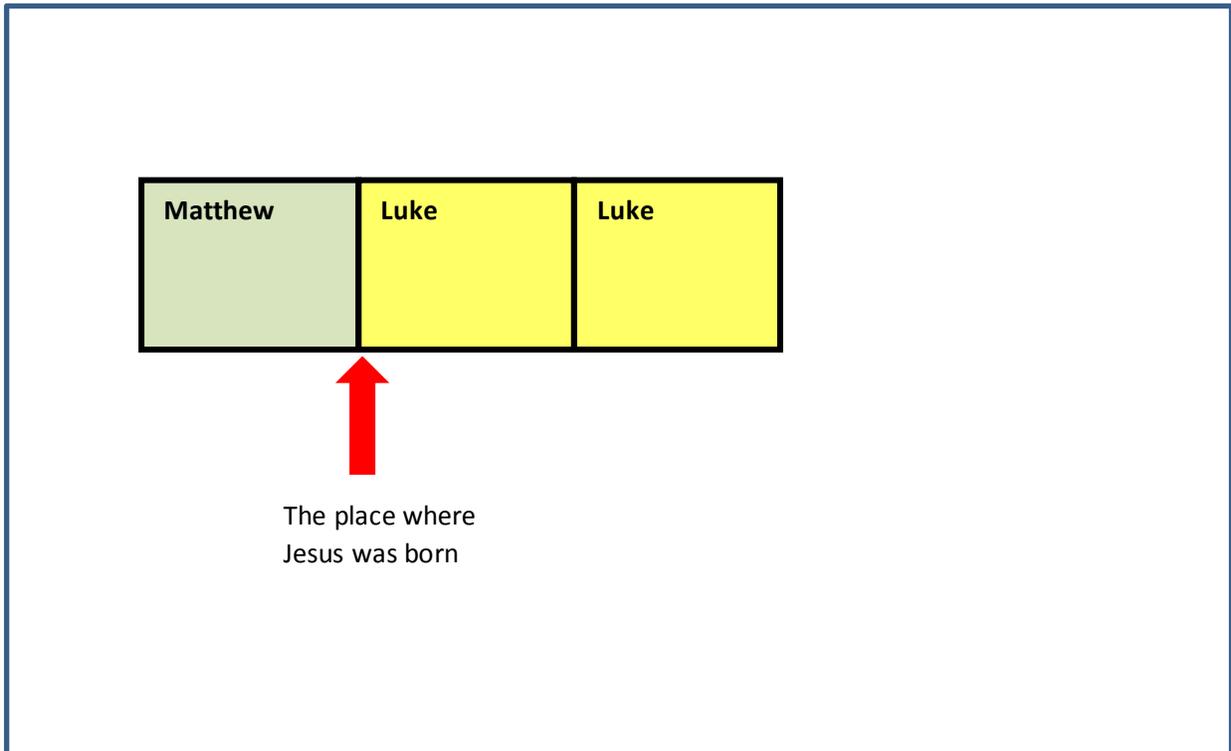


2) Organize the blocks in the order that the events happened. That will look something like this. Paste the blocks on a larger sheet of paper.



If you are doing this as a class, your organization may look different from someone else's because you might divide the parts of the story into larger or smaller pieces. But you should have at least six pieces.

3) There will be some parts of the story in Matthew and Luke that are the same, such as where the events happened. Point an arrow at those points and explain what is the same in the stories. That will look something like this.



You could also do this on the computer as this sample has been done.

WRITE. Once you have done the research and organization project, write a report of what happened. Think of yourself as a historian writing about an event in the past.

- Begin with an introductory paragraph and include a thesis sentence that explains what you are doing in this report.
- Write a paragraph for each of the parts of the story you have identified.
- Refer in the paragraphs to the Bible passages where you find the event described and use a quote from the passage in the paragraph.
- In some places you will have to guess at what might have happened because neither Matthew nor Luke covers that period of time. When you are guessing, make sure you let the reader know that you are filling in for parts that aren't in the Bible.
- End with a concluding paragraph in which you discuss whether you think the two stories can be combined as one story or whether they seem like two conflicting stories. Give reasons.