Christmas Bible Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. Which angel visits Mary in Nazareth in Luke 1:26–31?
   A. Gabriel
   B. Michael
   C. Raphael
   D. An unnamed angel
   Correct answer: A. Gabriel
   Luke names Gabriel as the angel sent to Mary with a message about the child she will have.

2. In Luke 2:1–3, who issues the decree calling people to register?
   A. King Herod
   B. Quirinius
   C. Caesar Augustus
   D. Archelaus
   Correct answer: C. Caesar Augustus
   Luke assigns the decree to Caesar Augustus. Quirinius is mentioned as governor of Syria in the same opening passage.

3. In Luke 2:6–7, where does Mary place Jesus after wrapping him?
   A. In a woven basket
   B. In a manger
   C. In a wooden cradle
   D. On a bench
   Correct answer: B. In a manger
   Mary lays the newborn in a manger, a feeding trough for animals.

4. Which gifts do the visitors from the east present in Matthew 2:11?
   A. Gold, olive oil, and wool
   B. Gold, silver, and myrrh
   C. Silver, frankincense, and linen
   D. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh
   Correct answer: D. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh
   Matthew names gold, frankincense, and myrrh as the gifts these visitors bring.

5. In Matthew 2:13–15, where does an angel in a dream direct Joseph to take Mary and the child?

A. Syria
B. Egypt
C. Galilee
D. Samaria

Correct answer: B. Egypt
The angel directs Joseph to Egypt. Matthew describes him taking Mary and the child there.

6. In Luke 1:39–44, what does Elizabeth say happened when she heard Mary’s greeting?

A. The child she was carrying leaped.
B. The neighbors gathered outside her house.
C. Her husband began speaking again.
D. Mary prepared to return home at once.

Correct answer: A. The child she was carrying leaped.
Luke describes movement from the child Elizabeth is carrying. Elizabeth connects it to hearing Mary’s greeting.

7. In Luke 1:59–64, people signal to the baby’s father to ask what the child should be called. How does he confirm the name John?

A. He repeats the name aloud as soon as they ask.
B. He points to the name in a family register.
C. He asks a neighbor to speak the name for him.
D. He writes the name on a tablet.

Correct answer: D. He writes the name on a tablet.
The father asks for a writing tablet and puts the name John on it. He regains his speech afterward.

8. In Matthew 1:18–21, what does Joseph intend to do before an angel speaks to him in a dream?

A. Ask Mary to postpone a visit to Elizabeth.
B. Announce his separation from Mary in public.
C. End his marriage arrangement with Mary privately.
D. Ask his family to arrange a public wedding at once.

Correct answer: C. End his marriage arrangement with Mary privately.
Joseph plans to end the arrangement quietly to spare Mary public exposure. The angel’s message comes while he is considering that plan.

9. In Luke 2:22–24, the family brings Jesus to Jerusalem. Which offering does Luke name?

A. Two turtledoves or two young pigeons
B. One turtledove and one young pigeon
C. Two lambs or two young goats
D. One lamb and one young pigeon

Correct answer: A. Two turtledoves or two young pigeons
Luke describes the offering as a pair of birds. The passage gives two alternatives, turtledoves or young pigeons.

10. What does Anna do when she comes up to the group at the temple in Luke 2:36–38?

A. She sends the family to speak with the governor.
B. She takes the child in her arms and names him John.
C. She asks the family to return after the next festival.
D. She gives thanks and speaks to others about the child.

Correct answer: D. She gives thanks and speaks to others about the child.
Luke describes Anna giving thanks and telling people about the child. Those listeners are described as waiting for Jerusalem’s deliverance.

11. A fictional study guide leaves the women out of Matthew’s genealogy. Which pair is named before King David appears in Matthew 1:2–6?

A. Rebekah and Rachel
B. Elizabeth and Anna
C. Tamar and Ruth
D. Mary and Martha

Correct answer: C. Tamar and Ruth
Matthew names Tamar in the entry for Judah’s children and Ruth in the entry for Obed. Both entries come before the one for King David.

12. Which pair of reversals does Mary’s song describe in Luke 1:51–53?

A. People in power keep their places, and hungry people are sent away empty.
B. People in power are brought down, and hungry people receive good things.
C. People in power are brought down, and wealthy people receive all the good things.
D. People in power are given higher places, and hungry people receive good things.

Correct answer: B. People in power are brought down, and hungry people receive good things.
The song describes rulers losing their positions and hungry people being provided for. The same verses depict people of low status being lifted up and the rich leaving empty-handed.

13. Which sequence follows the order of events in Luke 2:21–32?

A. The family brings the child to Jerusalem, the child is named Jesus, and Simeon takes him in his arms.
B. Simeon takes the child in his arms, the child is named Jesus, and his family brings him to Jerusalem.
C. The family brings the child to Jerusalem, Simeon takes him in his arms, and the child is named Jesus.
D. The child is named Jesus, his family brings him to Jerusalem, and Simeon takes him in his arms.

Correct answer: D. The child is named Jesus, his family brings him to Jerusalem, and Simeon takes him in his arms.
Luke gives the naming first. The family then brings Jesus to Jerusalem, where Simeon receives him in his arms.

14. Joseph hears that Archelaus rules Judea in Matthew 2:19–23. After another warning in a dream, which region and town does Joseph choose for the family?

A. Galilee and Nazareth
B. Judea and Bethlehem
C. Judea and Jerusalem
D. Galilee and Capernaum

Correct answer: A. Galilee and Nazareth
Matthew says Joseph withdraws to Galilee. The account identifies Nazareth as the town where the family settles.

15. Four exhibit captions describe the visitors and where they meet the child. Which stays within the details given in Matthew 2:1–2 and 2:9–11?

A. Visitors from the east go into a stable and find the child with Mary.
B. Three named kings go into a house and find the child with Mary.
C. Visitors from the east go into a house and find the child with Mary.
D. Visitors from the east find the child and Mary at a palace in Jerusalem.

Correct answer: C. Visitors from the east go into a house and find the child with Mary.
Matthew identifies visitors from the east and places their meeting with Mary and the child in a house. The passage leaves the visitors’ number and individual names unspecified.