



Christmas Session

Jesus Was Born

John 1

Story Point: Jesus came to bring us life.

Open your Bible and read aloud John 1, or tell the story from the following Bible story script.

John, one of Jesus' disciples, wrote to tell people about who Jesus is. John wrote that the Word—Jesus—existed in the beginning, before the world even began. The Word has always existed with God, and the Word has always existed as God. He was with God in the beginning. When God spoke at creation, all things were created through His Word. Not one thing was created apart from Him.

The Word brought life into the world and light for all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness could not hide it.

God sent a man named John the Baptist to be a witness to the light. John was not the light, but he came to tell people about the light so they might believe. The true light was coming into the world to give light to everyone.

When Jesus came into the world, people did not recognize Him. His own people did not accept Him. But this is good news: to everyone who did accept Him, He gave them the right to be part of God's family—to be children of God.

The Word became a human and lived among us. People saw His glory—the glory of the one and only Son of God. **He was full of**

grace and truth. John the Baptist told people that even though Jesus came into the world after him, Jesus is greater because He existed before John. **People received blessings from Jesus, grace upon grace.** Long ago, God gave people the law through Moses, but now He has given us grace and truth through Jesus Christ.

No one has ever seen God, but Jesus—God's one and only Son—has shown us what God is like.

Christ Connection: The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus was no ordinary baby. He was God's Son, sent to earth from heaven. Jesus came into the world as a human to bring us life. He brought light into darkness and showed us what God is like.



INTRODUCE the Story

WELCOME TIME

Greet each preteen as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. Prompt kids to think of a time they heard good news. What was it? How did it make them feel?

OPTION 1: What's in a name?

Instruct kids to form a circle. Invite kids to introduce themselves with a title describing them. (Examples: "The Firstborn" or "The Reader") One kid will start by saying her nickname. The kid next to her will say the first kid's nickname and then share his own nickname. Continue around the circle so each kid says the previous kid's nickname and then his own.

- Can you think of any nicknames from the Bible?

OPTION 2: Flashlight freeze

Supplies: flashlight, Christmas song of your choice

Dim the lights in the room and begin playing a song. Direct kids to begin walking around the room. Take turns shining the flashlight on each kid. As soon as you shine the flashlight, that kid should immediately freeze or she is out. Continue shining the light on each kid until the song ends or everyone is frozen.

- Could there ever be a room so dark that a flashlight would not work in it?
- How is Jesus like a light in a dark world?



TEACH the Story

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Today we are going to hear about Jesus' birth. Whether this is your first time or your tenth time hearing this story, there is always something new to learn in God's Word.

Read John 1:1-18.

- What does this story teach us about God?

God the Son has always existed. He was with God the Father before the world began. **God created the world through His Word, Jesus.** The Word became flesh when Jesus was born. He has always existed, but Jesus came to earth as a human to dwell with people. But Jesus wasn't just a man; He was also fully God.

- Why do we obey God?

We obey God's commands for living—not because we think our obedience will save us but **because we love God and want to honor Him.** Nothing we do ourselves could ever save us from our sins or earn us a place in heaven. True forgiveness for sin comes only through the once-and-for-all sacrifice of Jesus.

- Form groups of two or three and practice retelling the Bible story in your own words. Think of someone you could share the story with this week.

CHRIST CONNECTION

The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus was no ordinary baby. He was God's Son, sent to earth from heaven. Jesus came into the world as a human to bring us life. He brought light into darkness and showed us what God is like.



TEACH the Story

MISSIONS MOMENT

Tell kids that missionary Lottie Moon lived more than 100 years ago. Lottie died on Christmas Eve in 1912 after serving in China for 39 years. She knew that Jesus came to bring us life, and she wanted the people of China to have the eternal life that Jesus offers.

PRAY

Thank You for sending Jesus, the Word, to earth to bring us life. Thank You that through Him, we won't live in darkness. Thank You for the life we have in You and the eternal hope we have through faith in Jesus. Help us share this hope with others and be Your light in the world. Amen.

THE GOSPEL: GOD'S PLAN FOR ME

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use Scripture and the guide provided below to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.



GOD RULES. Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED. Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



GOD PROVIDED. Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



JESUS GIVES. Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND. Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.



APPLY the Story

Big Picture Question

How does the Holy Spirit help Christians?
The Holy Spirit comforts us, shows us our sin, and
guides us as we live for God's glory.

God did not intend for Christians to deal with hard times on our own. He sent the Holy Spirit to comfort all who believe in Jesus. The Holy Spirit comforts us by reminding us of the truth about God and ourselves.

- What else do you know about Jesus' birth?
- What do your families do to celebrate Jesus' birth?

Distribute Bibles. Guide preteens to open their Bibles to John 1. Choose a volunteer to read aloud John 1:12. Emphasize that Jesus came to bring us life and invite us to become children of God. Choose another volunteer to read aloud John 1:12 again. Then lead the group to discuss the following questions.

1. How can we know God if no one has ever seen Him?

Help kids recognize Jesus is God and has revealed who God is. Jesus showed us what God is like and taught about the kingdom of heaven. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 1:2-3.)

2. What does it mean to be a child of God?

Through Jesus' work on the cross, people who turn from their sin can be adopted as God's children. As our Father, God frees us from sin and gives us everything we need. Help kids recognize that as children of God, we have access to all of God's blessings. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Gal. 4:4-5.)

3. Because we know Jesus brought life and light to a dark world, how should we live?

Help kids recognize that God wants us to be lights in a dark world by the way we live and by telling others the good news of Jesus. We can show Jesus' love to others and live in a way that shows that Jesus is our greatest treasure. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Matt. 5:14.)



APPLY the Story

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

Supplies: Bibles, ball of yarn

Instruct kids to open their Bibles to 2 Peter 1:3. Lead the kids to read the key passage together. Guide kids to stand in a circle. If you have more kids than number of words in the key passage, form two or more smaller groups. Give one kid a ball of yarn. Direct him to hold the end of the ball of yarn, say the first word of the key passage, and then toss the yarn to another kid. That kid should say the next word. As kids toss the yarn to one another, a “web” will begin to form. Play until kids say the entire key passage.

PRAY

Invite volunteers to share prayer requests. Then pray, thanking God for sending His Son, Jesus, to bring life and light into darkness. Tell Him you love Him and want to honor Him with your life.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY: Light of the world luminaries

Supplies: craft sticks (16 per kid), 4-inch parchment paper squares, LED tealights (1 per kid), glue or hot glue gun (adult use)

Demonstrate how to create a luminary. Lead kids in following these steps:

1. Glue the ends of four craft sticks to form a square.
2. Glue a parchment paper square to the back of the craft stick square.
3. Repeat steps 1 and 2 three more times to form the four sides of the luminary.
4. Glue together the four sides to form the luminary box.
5. Position an LED tealight in the center and watch the luminary glow.

Emphasize that Jesus brought light into darkness and showed us what God is like. We are to be lights in the world by carrying the truth of the gospel to all people. Encourage kids to display their luminary at home as a reminder of why Jesus came and how we can share Him with the world.