

Jesus was Born

**Matthew 1; Luke 2;
John 1**

What did Jesus do to save us?

Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
-Isaiah 9:6



PREPARE HEARTS

- ☐ Welcome - Word Ladder
- ☐ Starter Activity - Christmas Charades



ACTIVATE HEARTS

- ☐ 9:20 - Bible Lesson in LG2
- ☐ Review and discuss the Bible Story
- ☐ Reflection and Prayer
- ☐ Questions from Kids Video



ENGAGE HEARTS

- ☐ Key Passage Activity - Christmas Sticker Cover Up
- ☐ Group Activity - Born to Save
- ☐ Group Activity - Christmas Tree Cup Stack

SHEPHERD GUIDE

How many times have you read or heard the narrative of Jesus' birth? When

interacting with a familiar Bible story, it is easy to simply skim over it and assume we understand all there is to know about it. Rather than taking that approach, spend time this week meditating on Luke 2:1-20.

The detailed account of His conception and birth, as well as the details between those two events provide the believer with a gift of God's grace that is far too important to gloss over. This event preceding Jesus' ministry, death, and resurrection lays the foundation for a close and thoughtful study of the Gospels.

The details around the conception and birth of Jesus provide reason for amazement and strengthen our faith. Consider the detail of Mary having been a virgin, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14. Jesus was born in the small town of Bethlehem, fulfilling the prophecy of Micah 5:2. He was born into the family line of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob — fulfilling God's promises in Genesis 12:3; 17:19; 28:14.

All of this ought to cultivate a sense of wonder at the divine intervening in the human world, and an amazement at the detail to which God worked out His plan.

Additionally, recalling the details of Jesus' birth ought to generate affirmation in the believer's heart and mind. The uniqueness surrounding the birth of Jesus affirms His claims of being the Son of God.

Finally, the birth narrative should grow the anticipation of the believer. At the end of the New Testament, the book of Revelation sheds light on the end of sin and death, the final judgment of the living and the dead, and the new heaven and the new earth. These promises can seem distant or unlikely; however, the joy and gratitude that comes from understanding Jesus' birth narrative can cultivate confidence in and anticipation of the future promises of Jesus.

Luke 2 invites us to behold our God, who— out of His great love for us—"emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity" (Phil. 2:7). Jesus came to earth to rescue sinners. The angels' announcement to the shepherds in Luke 2:10 is also for us and for the nations: "Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 8:30-8:40 in C1. Your supply bin will be in your classroom.

MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

- *KNOW that God kept His promise to send a Savior by sending His one and only Son Jesus. He came to show us what God is like and to save us from our sins.
- *SHARE the good news of Jesus' birth this Christmas season.



As children arrive - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the other children. Use this time to get to know your kids - ask them about their week, about their likes and dislikes and about their school, family and friends.

Ways to connect - Play a game from the closet, color or draw together, build with legos/blocks, etc. When most kids have arrived for first service (by 9:05ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.
**Pen Pal Kit!!*



PREPARE HEARTS

OPENING QUESTIONS:

WELCOME

What's the Good News

activity page,
pencils,
markers

How would you share some exciting or good news? Would you shout it? Would you fly it across the sky using an airplane?

Invite kids to complete the "What's the Good News" activity page.

Jesus is the Savior God promised long ago. He came to save us from sin and death. This is such good news!



STARTER

Christmas Charades

- Charades cards
- Timer (on your phone)

Welcome the children and explain that they are going to play Christmas Charades and that all the actions they will be guessing are related to Christmas or winter.

Have students take turns selecting a card and acting out the phrase without speaking or making sound effects. Other students will try to guess what is being acted out.

You may want to use a timer and set a limit on how long students have to act and guess each card.

The student who guesses correctly gets to be the next person to act or you may have everyone take a turn in order.

Continue playing as time allows or until all cards are used. If you still have time, encourage the students to think of their own ideas to act out



ACTIVE MINDS

Taught by the Bible Teacher:

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY (Quick 1 minute review!)

9:20 – 9:35

K – 4th Grade in LG2

BIBLE STORY:

Jesus was Born

Bibles, Powerpoint slides

Quick Review of where we are in the Big Story of the Bible and Big Picture Question:

What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

Open your Bible to Matthew 1, Luke 2 or John 1.

STORYTELLING OPTIONS / TIPS:

Act it out: Choose volunteers to act out the parts of Mary, Joseph, the angels, and the shepherds as you tell the story.

Display a nativity: Display a nativity scene and point to Mary, Joseph, Jesus, the angels, and the shepherds when you mention them in the story.

Mary was engaged to be married to Joseph. One day, an angel told Mary she was going to have a very special baby. The angel explained, “This baby will be God’s Son.” Then an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife. Her baby was put there by the Holy Spirit. Name Him Jesus because He will save His people from their sins!” This was amazing news! Jesus—God in the flesh—would come as a light into the dark world.

Mary and Joseph lived in the town of Nazareth. During the time Mary was pregnant, the Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus, announced that everyone needed to return to their own towns and be registered for a census. Since Joseph was a descendant of King David, he and Mary traveled to Bethlehem, the city of David.

While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. Mary and Joseph looked for a safe place to stay, but every place was full. So Mary and Joseph found a place where animals were kept, and that is where Mary had her baby. Joseph named Him Jesus. Mary wrapped the baby tightly in cloth and laid Him in a feeding trough.

That night, some shepherds were watching over their sheep in the fields near Bethlehem. Suddenly, an angel stood before them and the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified! The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! I have very good news for you and for all the people: Today a Savior, who is the Messiah and the Lord, was born for you in the city of David.” Then the angel said, “You will find a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly, a whole army of angels appeared, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors!”

When the angels left and returned to heaven, the shepherds decided to go straight to Bethlehem to see what had happened. They hurried to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in the feeding trough. Then the shepherds went and told others about the baby Jesus. Everyone who heard about Jesus was amazed. Mary thought about everything that was happening and tried to understand it. The shepherds returned to their fields, praising God because everything had happened just as the angel said.

CHRIST CONNECTION

The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus was not an ordinary baby. He is God's Son, sent to earth from heaven. Jesus, the promised Savior, came into the world to show us what God is like and to deliver us from sin and death.



REVIEW AND DISCUSS

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Allow time to have the children think and process - however this works best for your class. We want our kids to feel known and heard!

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In small groups (or as a large group), use the coloring page (on the other side of the worksheet) and have children color while you talk through these questions.

The promised Savior had finally come, but He didn't come in the way many people expected. He came as a baby, and He was born in a lowly manger. **What was special about this baby?** [Allow responses.] Jesus is God's Son. Only Jesus is fully man and fully God. And He had come to be the Light of the world. Because of sin, we all live in darkness. But when we look to Jesus, the light of His salvation overcomes the darkness of sin.

Why did the angel tell Joseph to name the baby Jesus? [Allow responses.] Jesus means 'God saves,' and Jesus had come to earth to save His people from their sins. Anyone who trusts in Jesus as his or her Savior will be saved. This is good news!

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, angels appeared to the shepherds and announced His birth. **Who did the angels say this the good news was for?** Look at Luke 2:10. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud Luke 2:10.] The good news of Jesus' birth is for all people. Not just wealthy people, important people, or people from a certain background. The good news is for all people because all people need a Savior. Just as the shepherds praised God and shared this good news with others, so should we!



Reflection and Prayer

Journal Page

Have children use their journal page. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions. Or, just talk about it together.

- **What does this story teach me about God?**

That God kept His promise to send a Savior by sending His one and only Son, Jesus. He came to show us what God is like and to save us from our sins.

- **What does this story teach me about myself?**

That I can have joy and peace when I trust and follow Jesus.

Pray together.



Questions from Kids Video

USB on TV

Show the “Unit 19, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

- Why did the angels tell the shepherds, “peace on earth to people God favors”? What does this mean?
- How does Jesus bring you peace with God?



ENGAGE HEARTS

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Isaiah 9:6 together.

Key Passage Activity:

Christmas Sticker Cover Up

- Key Passage Poster
- Memory Verse Sheet
- Christmas Stickers

Pass out the memory verse sheet and Christmas stickers to each child.

Write the memory verse on the board.

Say the verse with your kids a couple of times. Then, have a volunteer come up and circle a word.

Then, have them cover that word on their individual sheet with a christmas sticker. Erase the word on the board.

Have them repeat the verse, filling in that word from memory. Continue, until the whole verse is covered with stickers and the children are saying the verse from memory.

Pray together:

God, we are called to bring glory to You in all that we say and do. Help us love You and obey You no matter what. Give us hearts that desire to please You. Amen.



Born to Save

- Bibles
- References on index cards
- Wall tape

Tape the red and green cards to a wall with the following references: (without the references showing)

- Matthew 1:21
- John 3:17-18
- Acts 13:23
- 1 Timothy 1:15
- Titus 3:4-6
- 1 John 4:14

Form kids into two teams and provide each team with Bibles. Designate one as the green team and one as the red team.

When you say “go,” invite a kid from each team to race to the wall, choose a card of their color, and take it back to their teams.

Then direct the teams to look up the verse and read it aloud. The first team to raise their hand and then read the verse aloud gets a point. Continue playing, allowing different kids from each team an opportunity to choose a card. Award the team with the most points as the winner.

SAY: Each Bible verse you read reminded us that Jesus was born to save us. We need a Savior because we cannot save ourselves from our sin. Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead. Only by faith in Jesus can we be saved.



Christmas Tree Cup Stack

- Green and red solo cups
- Yellow Star
- Tape

Divide the class into 4 teams. Give each team a stack of green and red plastic cups and a yellow star with tape.

The goal is to work together as a team to create a Christmas tree using plastic cups.

Stack them up, and then finish off your masterpiece by placing a bright yellow star on top.

The challenge? How high can you stack the cups before time runs out?

Extra challenge - Who has the most creative pattern with their red and green cups? Set a timer for one minute and see who has the highest tree.

