

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

- ☐ Starter Activity - Would You Rather Questions
- ☐ 11:00 - Kids Worship



ACTIVATE HEARTS

- ☐ Lesson Review - Jesus was Born
- ☐ Discussion Questions
- ☐ Jesus's Birth Story Puzzle



ENGAGE HEARTS

- ☐ Share and Care Prayer Time
- ☐ Group Game: Snowball Toss and Hungry Reindeer
- ☐ Group Craft: Mosaic Star Activity

SHEPHERD GUIDE

All of creation was eager for the birth of God's promised Messiah. But no one expected the Savior of the world to be born to poor parents in a humble stable. Yet this was God's plan from the beginning of time. Jesus came into the world in a way that demonstrated the kind of King He is: humble, gentle, and offering peace to those who recognize their need for Him.

Though this is one of the most familiar stories in the Christian faith, it is good to look at these events from various viewpoints. As you prepare to teach, consider the following ways that people responded to the birth of Christ.

Mary and Joseph trusted. Jesus' earthly parents were in a tough spot. Mary was a young girl, unwed and expecting a baby. Though she believed the angel's news that this child was the Son of God, not many others in her social circle likely did. To bring Jesus into the world took an enormous amount of courage and faith. Mary and Joseph clung to the promises of God and waited expectantly for Him to show Himself faithful.

An army of angels celebrated. God sent His angelic messengers first to the humble shepherds watching over their flocks at night. The angels announced the Messiah's birth with vibrant praise to God.

The shepherds obeyed. Through their astonishment the shepherds responded to the angels' announcement by going at once to the place where the infant Savior had been born. They too worshiped the Lord when they saw Him, then went out telling others what they had seen.

Throughout the gospel accounts we will uncover the myriad of ways people responded to Jesus. Some worshiped, others trusted, many doubted. One thing is true: everyone is changed by the presence of Jesus. This week, help kids understand that though the birth of Jesus came about in a surprising way, it was all part of God's good plan to redeem us from sin and bring us into His eternal kingdom.

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 10:20 - 10:30 in C1. Your supply bin will be in your classroom.



GRADES 3-4

KNOW + LOVE + FOLLOW

December 14, 2025
2nd Service

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 you arrive and children come and go - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the others. 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 2nd service (by 10:50ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.

**Option - Pen Pal Kit!!*



PREPARE HEARTS

Starter Activity

Welcome and Question of the Day

Gather your class in a circle.

Have everyone stand up and say that you are going to ask "Would You Rather" Questions.

As you ask the questions, have them go to one side of the room or the other, depending on their answer. (Questions are in the bin)

Once everyone picks their "side" have them come back to the middle and ask the next question. Continue as time allows.

WOULD YOU RATHER - CHRISTMAS

WOULD YOU RATHER:

- FLY LIKE A REINDEER OR ROLL LIKE A SNOWMAN?
- EAT 100 CHRISTMAS COOKIES OR 1 GINGERBREAD HOUSE?
- RECEIVE 10 SMALL GIFTS OR 1 BIG GIFT?
- DECORATE A GINGERBREAD HOUSE OR LIVE IN A GINGERBREAD HOUSE?
- A WEEK OF SNOW DAYS OFF SCHOOL OR AN EXTRA WEEK OF SUMMER BREAK?
- PLAY IN THE SNOW OR GO ICE SKATING?
- DECORATE THE CHRISTMAS TREE WITH POPCORN STRINGS OR CANDY CANES?
- STAY UP LATE ON CHRISTMAS EVE OR GET UP EARLY CHRISTMAS MORNING?
- MAKE A SNOW ANGEL OR HAVE A SNOWBALL FIGHT?
- OPEN PRESENTS ON CHRISTMAS EVE OR CHRISTMAS DAY?



KIDS WORSHIP

11:00

Take children to LG2 for combined Pre-K -4th grade Kids Worship.



ACTIVE MINDS

You can use the REVIEW VIDEO on your TV and / or use this lesson as a review of what was taught 1st service.

Jesus was Born

Bibles,
Review Video –
Bible story on TV

Open your Bible to Matthew 1; Luke 2 or John 1. You can use the Kids Sermon Outline as you go through the story.

KIDS SERMON OUTLINE:

Mary and Joseph trusted (Matt. 1:18-25): As miraculous as the birth of Jesus was, it would also have been a very trying situation for Mary and Joseph. Every part of this story, from their social standing to where Mary would give birth, required them to trust God.

An army of angels celebrated (Luke 2:8-14): The angels shared the good news with the shepherds and gave glory to the Lord.

The shepherds obeyed (Luke 2:15-20): The shepherds followed the angels instructions and found Baby Jesus in the feeding trough.

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.

The birth of Jesus was good news for all people. Jesus was not an ordinary baby. He was God's Son, sent to earth from heaven. The way Jesus came into the world was surprising. He was born to an unlikely couple in a small town. People expected the Messiah to appear powerful and strong, they didn't expect a baby. God sent His messengers first to the humble shepherds watching over their flocks. God chooses unlikely people to be part of His story. Jesus demonstrated the kind of king He would be from the very beginning: One who would humble Himself and bring about an entirely new kind of kingdom.

Jesus, the promised Savior, came into the world to show us what God is like and to deliver us from sin and death. What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead. God has given us the greatest gift of all: His own Son.



Discussion

Discussion
questions listed
here

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

Why is Jesus' birth good news? Remind kids that the Bible teaches us that all people have sinned and need a Savior. Lead kids to understand the depth of our sin before a holy God. Explain that Jesus' birth is such good news because we can never be good enough to cleanse ourselves of sin, but Jesus can. Remind kids that He came to live a perfect life for us. Help kids understand that Jesus never sinned, but took our punishment so we can be saved. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 6:23.)

The shepherds praised God because of the good news they heard and saw. **How have you heard or seen the good news of Jesus at work in the hearts of others? What was your response?** Invite kids to share ways they have heard about lives changed because of people's faith in Jesus or how they have seen God work in people's lives they know. Encourage kids to think about how our response to God's grace in people's lives should be praise and worship. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 1:8.)

How does Jesus show us what God is like? Help kids understand that Jesus' birth shows that God is willing to humble Himself, that He is generous to give His only Son, that He keeps His promises, and that He loves us. Remind kids that Jesus is God in flesh and that He came to rescue sinners. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 1:18.)



Jesus' Birth Story Puzzle

- Jesus' Birth Puzzle pieces

Divide the class into 4 groups. Have each group work together to put the Christmas puzzle together in the order of the Christmas story. Each piece of the puzzle is unique, so the kids will learn the story of Jesus' birth in the correct order.



Share and Care Prayer

Spend some time as a class sharing about:

- Our Global Partner Family of the Month (**The Engleheart Family**)
- Ask for specific prayer requests that any of the kids have to share about something going on in their own lives.

Have the class sit in a circle as you share and care for one another's needs. Ask for and share requests with one another. Review and follow up with any prayer requests from the chain made the week before. Use the Global Partner of the Month spotlight sheet (In the Pen Pal Kit) to talk about prayer requests from the Saragih Family.



Snowball Toss and Hungry Reindeer

- Marshmallows
- Timer (on your phone)
- Plastic cups

Play some fun winter games together:

Snowball Toss:

Have each player pick a partner on their team. Have the partners stand 2-4 ft across from each other each holding a red solo cup. Give one of the partners a marshmallow to hold.

When the timer starts, the players need to toss the marshmallow into their partner's solo cup. They keep tossing it back and forth into each other's cup, counting how many times they make it in the cup in 1 minute.

Hungry Reindeer:

Ask for 2 volunteers. Set them up at opposite ends of a table. Scatter large marshmallows and a paper plate in front of each of them.

Have both of them put large plastic cups on both hands. On your start, they need to gather up as many marshmallows onto their plate as possible, but with plastic cups on their hands! Play until all the marshmallows are collected. As time allows, repeat with other volunteers.



Mosaic Hope Star

- Star worksheet
- Glue sticks
- Yellow tissue paper squares

Explain to the students that they are going to make a mosaic hope star to take home.

Pass out the star worksheets and tissue paper squares. Have the students use glue sticks and the tissue paper squares to fill in their star.

What is the message on this star? (Hope!)

The angels celebrated and proclaimed the hope of Jesus!

God is eternal, so he has always known that Jesus would be the Savior who would come to earth, live a perfect life, then die on the cross to take the punishment for our sin. God first told his plan to Adam and Eve way back in Genesis and continued to pass this promise of hope down through thousands of years. Those who are God's children and have put their trust in Jesus have the hope of living with him in heaven forever. That is a great gift!

