

Jesus is Our Rescuer

Luke 2

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 - Invitation to Joy
- ☐ 11:00 - Kids Worship



ACTIVATE HEARTS

- ☐ Lesson Review - Jesus is Our Rescuer
- ☐ Discussion Questions
- ☐ Christmas Hula Hoop Review Game



ENGAGE HEARTS

- ☐ Share and Care Prayer Time
- ☐ Group Craft: Good News Wreath

SHEPHERD GUIDE

We celebrate the birth of Jesus this week. As you ponder this familiar story, try to see these truths with fresh eyes. Let the truth of God's rescue plan wash over you anew and focus your heart on hearing from Him this week. Consider the following teaching points and reflect on the questions to help you prepare your own heart to teach.

The birth of Jesus is good news for all people. The birth of Jesus marks the arrival of God's ultimate gift to humanity. It's the fulfillment of a promise to bring salvation and hope to everyone, regardless of their background or status. Jesus came to offer grace, peace, and redemption to all people, making the good news accessible to everyone who will receive it. What are some ways you can reflect God's love for all people in your daily interactions?

Jesus is fully God and fully human. Jesus is uniquely both fully divine and fully man. As God, He holds all authority and power, yet as a man, He experienced the full range of human emotions and struggles. This dual nature enables Him to empathize with our weaknesses while also providing the strength and authority only God can offer, making Him the perfect mediator between humanity and God. How does the humanity of Jesus challenge you to walk more closely with Him in your own human experiences, knowing He truly understands what you face?

Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise. Jesus is the culmination of God's redemptive plan, the fulfillment of centuries of promises made to His people. From the prophets to the law, God foretold a Savior who would bring salvation, and in Jesus, we see those promises come to life. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus accomplished what was promised—bringing reconciliation and hope to all who trust in Him. How can you live with greater expectation, knowing that Jesus has fulfilled God's promises, and how does that affect your hope for the future? Guide kids to understand the joy and peace that come from knowing Jesus. They need to hear the gospel as good news for them right now, not just for their eternity with God. Lead kids to see how much God loves them, and how He demonstrated that love through the birth of Jesus.

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

MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

- *KNOW that Jesus came to earth to save us from our sins.
- *REMEMBER that Jesus is the greatest gift.
- *SHARE the good news that Jesus is Savior, Messiah and the Lord!



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

Invitation to Joy

- Sticky Notes
- Markers

Distribute the sticky notes and markers. Let kids write a truth about God that they have learned from the Bible. Examples include Jesus is the Rescuer, Jesus brings peace, We can know God, Jesus sets us free from sin, Jesus is our helper, God is our good shepherd. Place the sticky notes on the wall. Then, have the kids grab another note off the wall then sit down in a circle to share what the note says.

SAY: These are all great truths. God invites us to know Him by reading His Word and talking to Him in prayer. Think back to the story. What was the invitation that God sent to the shepherds through the angel? God told the shepherds about His Son, Jesus, being born and invited them to come and see the baby. The shepherds answered God's invitation to come and see the baby Jesus. Not only did they go to see Him, but they also told everyone about what they had seen. The shepherds knew that it was good news that Jesus had been born, and they wanted to share it with their friends!

Did you know that God gives us the same invitation today? The news that the angels shared with the shepherds is for us, too! God invites us to come and meet His Son, Jesus. The angel told the shepherds that Jesus was a Savior for all people. The invitation is to come to Jesus because it is through Jesus that we can know God!



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.

Review video - God's Story - The Good News

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nleiAfrp2kY>

Jesus is Our Rescuer

Bibles,
Review Video –
Bible story on TV

Open your Bible to Luke 2. You can use the Kids Sermon Outline as you go through the story.

KIDS SERMON OUTLINE:

The birth of Jesus is good news for all people (Luke 2:8-20): The birth of Jesus brought joy for all people.

Jesus is fully God and fully human (Luke 2:1-7): Jesus is the Son of God, born as a baby to Mary and Joseph.

Jesus is the fulfillment of God's promise (Luke 2:21-38): It was God's plan from the very beginning for Jesus to come to the world as the Messiah.

An order went out that each person in the Roman Empire should go to his own town to be counted. So, Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was from the family line of David. Mary, who was engaged to Joseph and was pregnant, traveled with him.

While they were in Bethlehem, she gave birth to her firstborn son. There was no guest room available for them, so she wrapped him tightly in cloth and laid him in a manger.

Some shepherds were out watching their sheep in the fields nearby. An angel of the Lord stood before them, and glory shone all around them. They were terrified! But the angel said, "Don't be afraid! I'm here to tell you good news of great joy for all the people. Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. You will know you have found him when you see a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger."

Then many angels appeared, and they all began praising God. They said, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people he favors!"

When the angels had left, the shepherds said, "Let's go to Bethlehem right away to see what the Lord has told us through the angels!"

The shepherds hurried and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. They shared what they had heard from the angels, and everyone was amazed. Then the shepherds returned to their fields, glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard that day.

CHRIST CONNECTION

The angels told the shepherds the birth of Jesus was good news for all the people. Anyone who believes the good news that Jesus lived, died, and rose again for their sin will be saved.

What an amazing story! Did anything surprise you? [Allow responses.] Where was Jesus born? [Read Luke 2:6-7.] Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The King of kings was born in a stable surrounded by animals, and His first bed was a feeding trough. Does that surprise you? We might expect the King of Heaven to be born in a palace. But Jesus didn't come so He could be a rich king in a huge palace. Jesus came to bring peace to all people. **Who were the first people to hear about Jesus' birth?** [Read Luke 2:8.] The angels told the shepherds that the birth of Jesus was good news for all the people. **If you were a shepherd, how would you respond?** Let's keep reading and find out what these shepherds did. [Read Luke 2:16-18; 20.] The shepherds went to see Jesus and they left praising God. God had kept His promise to send the Rescuer into the world. Here was the king God's people had been waiting for for generations. The shepherds were filled with joy and went away praising God.

Jesus came to live the perfect life we can't live. He died the death we deserve. And He defeated death when He rose from the dead. Jesus has won the battle against sin and evil. He has done all the work and offers us life with God forever. Anyone who believes the good news that Jesus lived, died, and rose again for their sin will be saved. This is good news for you and me today and is a message that brings us great joy!



Discussion

Discussion
questions listed
here

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

What makes Jesus' birth such good news? Remind kids that Jesus' birth is good news because He is the Savior who came to rescue us from sin and bring us back to God. Sin separates people from God, but God sent His Son to bring peace, forgiveness, and eternal life to everyone who believes in Him. Jesus' birth shows that God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to save us! (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Luke 2:10-11.)

The angel told the shepherds that Jesus' birth was 'good news of great joy for all people.' **How does Jesus' birth bring joy to all people?** Discuss how Jesus' birth wasn't just for some, but that Jesus had come to offer salvation to all people. Anyone can trust in Jesus to be saved. When we do, we experience lasting joy, knowing we have been saved from the punishment of sin and given eternal life with God forever. Nothing on earth can compare to the joy found in Jesus. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 15:11.)

Who is someone in your life that you can share the good news of Jesus with?

Answers will vary. Remind kids that all people sin and need a Savior. We don't need to be fearful or ashamed of sharing the gospel because God does the work of saving people. We are just called to be obedient and faithful to tell others the truth of salvation. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Mark 16:15-16.)



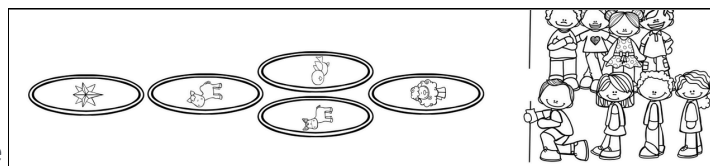
Christmas Hula Hoop Review Game

- Bean bags
- Hula hoops
- Animal circles
- Masking tape

Explain to the class that we are going to play a fun review game about Jesus' birth.

Start by setting out the 5 hula hoops on the ground in an arrangement similar to the picture below.

Place two "start lines" (one for each team) on the floor in front of the hula hoops. Place the start lines close enough that the game is not frustrating.



Place the animal circles inside of the hoops.

Divide your class into two teams. Ask team "A" a question and give them a limited time to answer it. For younger kids, this game works best with team play so they can help each other out. If the students answer the question correctly, they can toss a total of three bean bags at the hoops.

Then, have the front person move to the back of the line so the next student has a chance to play. See below for scoring ideas. Ask team "B" the next question and continue playing back and forth until your questions are finished, making sure that both teams get the same number of questions.

Scoring:

- You may want to have younger kids throw just for fun without counting points so there is not too much competitiveness or pressure.
- You could have your kids try to get one of each animal in order to win.
- You could count how many times your kids get each animal. ("Team A" got 4 sheep and 1 camel while "Team B" got 3 stars, 1 donkey, and 1 sheep.) Again, this is less competitive

Questions:

- What was the name of the angel that visited Zechariah? (Gabriel)
- What did the angel tell Zechariah? (He and his wife would have a baby)
- What would Zechariah's son be named? (John)
- Why was John's birth a miracle? (Zechariah and Elizabeth were too old to have a baby)
- What was the name of the angel that God sent to Mary? (Gabriel)
- What would Mary's Son be named? (Jesus)
- Who is Jesus' true Father? (God or the Holy Spirit)
- What happened to Elizabeth's baby John when Mary went to visit her? (John jumped in Elizabeth's womb)
- What did Elizabeth and Zechariah's relatives want to name Elizabeth's and Zechariah's son? (Zechariah)
- What happened after Zechariah and Elizabeth named their son John? (God made it so Zechariah could speak again.)
- What did the angel tell Joseph to name Mary's child? (Jesus)
- What did Joseph first plan to do when he found out that Mary was pregnant? (Quietly end the engagement.)
- What does "Immanuel" mean? (God with us)
- What city were Mary and Joseph from? (Nazareth)
- What city did Mary and Joseph travel to? (Bethlehem)
- Where did Mary lay Jesus? (In a manger)
- Who did the angels tell about Jesus' birth? (Shepherds)
- How did the shepherds respond to the angels' news about Jesus? (They hurried to see and worship Him)

- What did the wise men or magi see that made them want to travel to Jerusalem? (A Star)
- How did the wise men or magi feel when they saw the star again in Jerusalem? (Joyful!)
- Did King Herod go to worship Jesus? (No)
- Was the "inn" a hotel? (No - probably a "guest room" in a house.)
- What were two of the three gifts that the wise men brought to Jesus? (Frankincense, Gold, or Myrrh)
- What led the Wise Men to Jesus? (a star)
- Why did Herod want to know where Jesus was? (To kill Him)
- Why didn't the Wise Men go back to Herod and tell him where Jesus was? (God warned them not to in a dream)

Jesus was the fulfillment of the prophecies and promises of a Savior in the Old Testament. We just looked at a few of them, but there are many more! Jesus came for a special purpose—to save us from our sins. He is the Savior God promised to send from the beginning.



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.



Good News Wreath

- Paper plate – with center cut out
- Green yarn
- Red and Yellow pom-poms
- Gems
- Glue
- Index cards
- Markers/Pens

Before the session, create a paper plate wreath for each kid by cutting out the center of a paper plate. (This will be done for you!)

Provide each kid with a paper plate, green yarn, and pom-poms and/or gems. Guide kids to wrap the yarn around the paper plate until it is completely covered. Tie the end of the yarn or glue it to the plate.

Then invite kids to glue the red and yellow pompoms and/or gems to the wreath to represent “berries.”

Next, provide each kid with a small note card. Lead kids to write a Bible verse on their note card that shares the good news about Jesus coming to earth. Lead kids to write Isaiah 9:6 on their card (or just part of it - Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.)

Provide kids with a Bible so they can copy down the verses. Also consider writing it on the board. Direct kids to glue their card around the wreath.

SAY: Today, we heard about how Jesus is the promised Messiah who came from heaven to rescue us from sin. This is the best news we can hear! God loved us so much that He sent Jesus to be our Rescuer! He is our good Father, He takes care of all our needs, He brings us peace.

