



UNIT 19 | SESSION 1

JESUS WAS BORN

MATTHEW 1; LUKE 2; JOHN 1

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus came into the world to rescue us from sin.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: Jesus takes away the sin of the world. John 1:29

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
- Jesus is God's Son.
- God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

When Mary was pregnant with Baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem to be counted. While they were there, Mary was ready to have her baby. Mary and Joseph looked for a place to sleep, but every place was full. So, Mary and Joseph stayed where animals slept. After Jesus was born, Mary placed Him in a box used to feed animals. That night, an angel visited shepherds who were taking care of their sheep. The angel told them good news: Jesus was born in Bethlehem! Then many angels came praising God. When the angels left, the shepherds ran to Bethlehem and found Baby Jesus. They praised God and told everyone about what they had seen.



BABIES ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide **handheld Bibles** for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Matthew 1. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the **key passage phrase card**. Pray for the babies.

1 SING KEY PASSAGE SONG

Sing to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It”:

“Jesus takes away the sin of the world.

Jesus takes away the sin of the world.

Jesus is the Son of God who came to rescue us.

Jesus takes away the sin of the world!”

| **SAY** “ Jesus is God’s Son. God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. ”

2 ROLL A GLOBE

Provide an **inflatable globe** for babies to explore. Encourage babies to roll the globe around the room, either to a friend or back and forth to you. Place a **heart sticker** where you live.

| **SAY** “ This globe is like a picture of the earth. God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. God loves [insert baby’s name]. God sent Jesus for [insert baby’s name]. ”

3 FIND THE ANIMALS

Place a variety of **small toy animals** in a **muffin tin**. Place **painter’s tape** over the animal in each circle. Encourage the babies to remove the tape and find the animal. Celebrate with and tell babies about the animals they find.

| **SAY** “ Jesus was born in a place where animals sleep. He was placed in a box used to feed animals. God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



TODDLER ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Matthew 1. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 PAINT THE EARTH

Distribute to each child a piece of paper with a large circle drawn in the middle. Provide blue and green washable paint, paint brushes, painting smocks, cups of water, and paper towels. Encourage toddlers to paint a picture of the earth. Write the key passage phrase on each paper. Review the Bible story as toddlers work. Explain how God loves and sent Jesus for each one of them. Provide wipes for easy cleanup.

SAY “ Our key passage phrase says, ‘Jesus takes away the sin of the world.’ Jesus is God’s Son. God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. ”

3 CHANT THE GOOD NEWS!

Ask toddlers, “What is the good news?” Lead them in answering, “Jesus was born for us!” while doing simple actions each time, such as clapping, stomping, patting knees, or tapping toes with each word. Continue as interest allows.

SAY “ Who told the good news that Jesus was born? The angel! We can share the good news too! God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. ”

4 FEED THE ANIMALS



Provide toy animals and pretend animal feed, such as a sealed ziplock bag of oatmeal, corn, or rice. Guide toddlers act out feeding the animals and then putting them to bed. Toddlers can build a stable with foam or cardboard blocks. (Note: Items are for play, not to be eaten.)

SAY “ Where did Mary and Joseph stay? Where the animals slept! They placed Jesus in a box used to feed animals. Why did God send Jesus to earth? Because He loves us! ”

5 LOOK AT A MAP

Provide a map of your city or country and heart stickers. Explain that this is a picture of where you live. Allow toddlers to place heart stickers on the map. If time allows, display a world map. Place one finger on Bethlehem and another on your city. Review the Bible story.

SAY “ Jesus is God’s Son. God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. God loves [insert toddler’s name], and God sent Jesus for [insert toddler’s name]. Jesus came to rescue us all from our sins. ”

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1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: ROLL A GLOBE

Guide toddlers to gather in a circle. Provide an inflatable globe and encourage toddlers to roll the globe to a friend or pass the globe around the circle. Periodically change the direction and send the globe the other way. Explain that God sent Jesus to rescue all people in the world from sin. Review the Bible story as the toddlers roll the globe.

SAY “ This globe is a picture of earth. God sent Jesus to earth. Why? Because God loves us! God sent Jesus to take away the sin of the world. ”

2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “If You’re Happy and You Know It”:

“Jesus takes away the sin of the world.

Jesus takes away the sin of the world.

Jesus is the Son of God who came to rescue us.

Jesus takes away the sin of the world!”

3 MAKE STICKY EARTH ART

Draw a circle on a large sheet of contact plastic and tape it to the wall, sticky side out. Provide squares of blue and green tissue paper. Show toddlers how to stick the squares inside the circle to make “earth.” Cotton balls can be added outside the circle. Explain how land (the green squares) and water (the blue squares) make up the whole earth. Restate: “God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us.”

SAY “ Why did God send Jesus to earth? Because He loves us! God sent Jesus to earth to take away the sins of the world. ”

4 GO TO BETHLEHEM

Place blankets or mats on the floor to represent different areas. Lead toddlers in “taking a trip.” Play out going to places like the grocery store, a park or restaurant, and then to Bethlehem. Review the Bible story.

SAY “ Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem. They looked for a place to sleep, but every place was full. Mary and Joseph stayed where the animals slept. When the shepherds heard that Jesus was born, they ran to Bethlehem and found Baby Jesus. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.