

Jesus Is Born

Lesson At-A-Glance

Scripture Reference
Luke 2:1-20

Lectionary Sunday/
Church Season
Christmas

Lesson Focus
God loves all people.



Gather (10 minutes)

Play Time

Kids interact with the elements of the story Jesus Is Born.

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Nativity sets (unbreakable), blocks, stuffed barn animals, small paper plates, adult scissors, cotton balls, craft sticks, glue sticks, crayons, brown construction paper squares, wooden peg clothespins, cloth strips, craft foam triangles

Circle Time

Kids pretend to travel on a donkey, learn about the church season, and say a class cheer.

Leaflet

Sheep masks from Play Time

Prayer Time

Kids make animal sounds during the prayer.

None

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Jesus Is Born Storytelling

Kids dress up and act out the story Jesus Is Born.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Supplies

Sheep masks from Play Time, stuffed barn animals from Play Time, fabric pieces, garland halos, baby dolls

Who? What? Where?

Kids use stickers and texture rubbings to complete the picture.

Leaflets, Lesson Stickers

Pieces of textured materials (coarse sandpaper, burlap, peg board, bubble wrap, netting, corduroy, etc.), crayons

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Who Does God Love? Kids create and read a picture sentence to show who God loves.	Leaflets, Lesson Stickers	Craft foam hearts, glue sticks, kid-safe scissors
God Is with Us Kids create unique nativity scenes using old Christmas cards and magazines.	Leaflets	Old Christmas cards, Christmas wrapping paper, kid-friendly magazines, kid-safe scissors, glue sticks, crayons or markers
It's a Party! Kids have a little party to celebrate Jesus' birth.	Leaflet, Spark Song CD	CD player, party hats, party noisemakers

Send (5 minutes)

	Spark Resources	Supplies
Good-bye Time Kids review the lesson and say a good-bye cheer.	Leaflet	None
Prayer Time Kids give hugs or high-fives to their neighbors after the prayer.	Leaflets, Family Pages 	None



Looking for additional Spark content to further engage kids? Visit wearesparkhouse.org/kids/SHOSS to learn more about these options for purchase.

- The Director's CD-Rom contains Activity Pages, Coloring Pages, Family Pages, Large Group Openings, and two additional in-class activities for each lesson.
- A Spark Online annual subscription gives you access to all content contained in the Director's CD-Rom and the Spark Leader Guides, plus administrative tools and other extras.

Gather (10 minutes)

Play Time

Before kids arrive, place the nativity sets in an area of the room where they can be handled carefully. Place the blocks and stuffed animals in another open area of the room. Pre-cut eyeholes in the small paper plates. Set the plates and the rest of the craft supplies on a surface where they can be used. As kids arrive, invite them to explore the room. **What stories can you tell using these figures? We're going to hear a story about baby Jesus after awhile. How big is a stable or barn? Do all of the animals fit inside a stable you make with blocks? Who would like to make sheep masks? What does your sheep look like? There are sheep in our story today.** Show kids how to fold the brown construction paper squares into thirds, so two sides stand up. **You can make a manger like this! Then wrap a clothespin in cloth to make baby Jesus, and put Jesus into the manger!** Provide copies of this lesson's Coloring Page for kids to color. Be sure to help them put their names on their papers.

After everyone has had a chance to play, invite kids to help put away the supplies and join you in a circle on the floor in an open area of the room. Invite kids to hold up their sheep masks and use the following rhyme to help the transition.

**Sheep on the hill, sheep in the fold.
Come to the circle where stories are told!**

Circle Time

Welcome kids enthusiastically! **Hello, everyone. I'm so glad to see you all! It's great to be here together. If you made sheep masks, please hold them up. We are going to hear about sheep and the shepherds who take care of them in our Bible story today. Who helped build a stable or barn with blocks?** Allow kids to respond. **What lives in a stable? Raise your hand if you played with people and animals in a different stable. Today, we're going to hear a story about something surprising that happened in a stable!**

Show kids the front of the leaflet. **What color do you see here? The color white is the color we use for the church season of Christmas! Can you guess what season we are celebrating now? Christmas! What do we celebrate at Christmas? We celebrate Jesus' birth!** Show kids the manger symbol. **This symbol is a manger. It reminds us of Jesus' birth! Who made a manger today? Who did you put in your manger? (Jesus) A manger is a very important part of the story we will hear today!**

Invite kids to stand in a circle. **If you were going on a trip somewhere far away, how would you get there?** Accept kids' suggestions. Pretend to travel around the circle in the ways they suggest. **Have any of you ever traveled by riding on a donkey? Let's pretend to ride a donkey to a faraway place.** Pretend to ride donkeys. **Now let's get**

Spark Resources

Coloring Pages



Supplies

Nativity sets (unbreakable)
Blocks
Stuffed barn animals
Small paper plates
Cotton balls
Craft sticks
Glue sticks
Crayons
Craft foam triangles
Adult scissors
5" (13 cm) brown construction paper squares
Wooden peg clothespins
3" x 4" (8 x 10 cm) cloth strips

Spark Resources

Leaflet

Supplies

Sheep masks from Play Time

ready to hear about Mary and Joseph's long trip with a donkey!

Before we get started, let's do our class cheer together! Cheer with me, and move your bodies in the ways the cheer tells you to!

Snap, clap, turn around!

Jump up high and wiggle down!

We're glad to be here with our friends.

We'll learn that God's love never ends!

Prayer Time

Invite kids to stand for the prayer. **There are some animals mentioned in our prayer today. When I name an animal, you make the sounds the animal makes. Let's pray.** Pause after each line to allow kids to make animal noises.

Dear God,

Sometimes I'm wild like a tiger.

Sometimes I'm cuddly like a cat.

Sometimes I'm noisy like a rooster.

Sometimes I'm quiet as a mouse.

Please help me to listen now

While I'm in your house.

Amen.

Spark Resources

None

Supplies

None

Open the Bible (15 minutes)

Jesus Is Born Storytelling

It's time to hear a story from God's Word, the Bible. Our story begins with Mary and Joseph traveling far away with their donkey. Later in our story, something surprising happens in a stable. Let's read the story together.

Spark Resources

Spark Story Bibles

Hand Spark Story Bibles out to the kids and help them find Jesus Is Born on pages 212-217. Read the story. Encourage kids to follow along, indicating when it's time to turn the page. **Let's read the story again. This time, you can pretend to be someone in the story, Mary, a cow, an angel, whomever you'd like.** Invite the kids to choose among the props and act out the story as you read it a second time through.

Supplies

Sheep masks from Play Time

Stuffed barn animals from

Play Time

Fabric pieces

Garland halos

Baby dolls

Let's talk about what we've read. Point to the picture on page 213. **Who was traveling far away?** (*Mary and Joseph*) **What surprising thing happened in the stable?** (*Baby Jesus was born.*) **What would you have done if you were one of the shepherds in the field and an angel came to see you?** Accept kids' answers. **Baby Jesus is baby Immanuel—which means, God with us. God loves us and wants so much to be with us. God came to be with Mary, Joseph, the shepherds—and us!**

God loves all people!

Who? What? Where?

Gather kids at a space where they can work. Hand a leaflet out to each of them. Place the remaining supplies where kids can easily access them. Direct their attention to the front of the leaflet. **Where have you seen this picture before?** (*our story today*) **What special thing happened in the stable?** (*Baby Jesus was born.*) **Who are the people in the picture?** (*Mary, Joseph, shepherds, baby Jesus*) **God sent baby Jesus to live with us because God loves all people. Does God love you?** (*Yes!*) **Draw yourself in the picture. Baby Jesus came for you, too!**

Why are there animals in the picture? (*Animals live in the stable.*) **Let's add some more animals to the picture.** Hand out the circle stickers to the kids. **Something else is missing in this picture. What's missing?** (*some texture, on the walls especially*) **Let's color different patterns for the stable walls.** Demonstrate how to position textured items under the paper and use crayons to fill empty areas of the picture with rubbings.

God loves Mary, Joseph, the shepherds—and us! God loves us and came to live with us. God loves all people!

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

Pieces of textured materials
(coarse sandpaper, burlap,
peg board, bubble wrap,
netting, corduroy, etc.)
Crayons

Activate Faith (15 minutes)

Who Does God Love?

Direct kids to the activity Who Does God Love? on the back of their leaflets. **God came to live with us as a baby. What was the baby's name?** (*Jesus*) Point to the box on the left. **Let's put a baby Jesus sticker in this box.** Hand stickers out to the kids. **Why did God come to live with us?** (*God loves us.*) Point to the box in the middle of the leaflet. **Let's glue a heart in this box to remind us of God's love.** Assist kids in gluing the foam hearts inside the boxes.

Point to the window on the right of the leaflet. **Can you see anyone through this window?** (*no*) **Let's cut an opening in the window so we can see through it.** Demonstrate first how to fold the leaflet on the center vertical fold line and cut across and then up and down on the cutting lines to create an opening in the window. Help kids then fold the window halves up and down so they can see through. **Now look through the window. Who do you see?** Accept responses. **Who does God love?** (*all people*) **God came to live with us and all people because God loves us! Look at someone through your window and let's read the pictures.** (*God [Jesus] loves [name of person in window].*) **God loves all people!**

Spark Resources

Leaflets
Lesson Stickers

Supplies

Craft foam hearts
Glue sticks
Kid-safe scissors

God Is with Us

Direct kids' attention to the activity God Is with Us on the back of the leaflet.

Were any of us in the stable when baby Jesus was born? (no) That means none of us really knows what it looked like inside the stable. We have to use our imagination. Set the cards, magazines, glue sticks, and scissors where kids can easily reach them. **We're going to create our own pictures of what it might have looked like when baby Jesus was born. You can cut pieces out of these cards, wrapping paper, and magazines to glue on your leaflet to make your own stable picture.** Allow kids time to create.

We may not know what it looked like in the stable when Jesus was born, but we know one thing for sure. God came to live with us because God loves us. God loves all people! Encourage kids to draw or add figures of themselves and loved ones to their scenes.

Spark Resources

Leaflets

Supplies

Old Christmas cards
Christmas wrapping paper
Kid-friendly magazines
Kid-safe scissors
Glue sticks
Crayons or markers

It's a Party!

Show kids the front of the leaflet. **What color do you see here? The color white is the color we use for the church season of Christmas! Can you guess what season we are celebrating now? (Christmas) What do we celebrate at Christmas? We celebrate Jesus' birth! Show kids the manger symbol. This symbol is a manger. It reminds us of Jesus' birth!**

It's Christmas! Jesus is born. That is a very happy occasion! When you celebrate your birthday, what do you do? Accept responses. **Let's have a short party for Jesus' birthday! We will wear these party hats, listen to music, dance, and blow our noisemakers as we celebrate!**

Play several songs, inviting kids to dance and celebrate.

Spark Resources

Leaflet
Spark Song CD

Supplies

CD player
Party hats
Party noisemakers

Send (5 minutes)

Good-bye Time

Gather the kids together in a circle on the floor. **We've had fun today, playing with animals and a stable, and making sheep masks. We learned that something surprising happened in a stable. What was it?** (*Baby Jesus was born.*) **Who did the angels tell this great news to?** (*shepherds*) **We also learned that God came to live with us because God loves us. God loves all people! When you take your leaflet home today, show your parents or caregivers the Faith on the Go! idea on the back. There's a fun way to remember God loves all people all week long.**

Before we go, let's do our class cheer together!

Snap, clap, turn around!

Jump up high and wiggle down!

We had lots of fun here with our friends.

We learned that God's love never ends!

Spark Resources
Leaflet

Supplies
None

Prayer Time

Invite kids to stand and repeat your words. **At the end of the prayer, share God's love with your neighbor by giving him or her a hug or high-five.**

Dear God,

Thank you for sending Jesus to live with us.

Thank you for loving all people.

Help me to love others this week.

Amen.

Spark Resources
Leaflets
Family Pages



Supplies
None

Thank kids for coming and encourage them to return next time.

Be sure to send the leaflets and Family Pages home with kids.