

Use Week of:

Unit 19 • Session 3

Jesus Was Born

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Luke 2

STORY POINT:

Jesus was born to rescue people from sin.

KEY PASSAGE:

John 1:1

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is both fully God and fully human.



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EXPERIENCE THE STORY
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LEADER Bible Study

After the angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah and predicted the birth of John—the forerunner of the Messiah—he appeared to Mary and predicted that she too would have a baby. This baby would be named Jesus, and He would be God’s Son. “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High ... His kingdom will have no end,” Gabriel said. (See Luke 1:32-33.) Mary visited Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John. Inside the womb, John leaped for joy in the presence of Mary’s unborn baby.

Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth. When Caesar Augustus called for a census, they traveled to Bethlehem—the very place the Messiah was prophesied to be born. (Micah 5:2) There, in a stable, God the Son entered the world as a baby.

Imagine the shepherds’ surprise when an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared. The Bible says that they were terrified! But the angel brought them good news: “Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord” (Luke 2:11). This Savior—the long-awaited deliverer and redeemer—had come.

Not only did Jesus come into the world as the Savior, He came as our King. Some time after Jesus’ birth, wise men came to worship Jesus. They brought Him gifts suitable for a king—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Jesus is the King who will rule forever, just as God promised King David. (See 2 Sam. 7.)

When you share this story with preschoolers, remind them that Jesus came because we needed Him. The purpose of Jesus’ birth was twofold: to bring glory to God and to make peace between God and those who trust in Jesus’ death and resurrection. Celebrating the birth of Jesus is about rejoicing over the greatest gift we could ever receive. God’s own Son came to earth to be our Savior and our King.

The BIBLE Story

Jesus Was Born

Luke 2

Mary and Joseph lived in the town of Nazareth. **When Mary was pregnant with Baby Jesus**, a ruler named Caesar Augustus wanted a list of all the people who were living in the land. He sent out an order:

“Everyone must return to his hometown to be counted!” Since

Joseph was part of King David’s family, he **and Mary traveled to Bethlehem**, the city of David.

While **they** were there, Mary was ready 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 the baby Jesus. Mary wrapped Him in cloth and laid Him in a manger.**

That night, some shepherds were watching their sheep out in the fields. All of a sudden, an angel stood before them. A bright light shone around the shepherds, and they were scared!

But **the angel said**, “Do not be afraid! I have good news for you: **Today a Savior, who is the Messiah and the Lord, was born for you** in the city of David.” Then the angel said, “**Go find the baby. He will be wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.**”



Suddenly, many angels appeared. They praised God and said, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors!”

When the angels left, **the shepherds hurried** to Bethlehem to find Baby Jesus. **They found Him, and then they told others about Him. Everyone who heard about Jesus was surprised and amazed.** Jesus’ mother, Mary, thought about everything that happened and tried to understand it. The shepherds went back to their fields. They praised God because **everything had happened just like the angel had said.**

Christ Connection: Jesus was born! This was very good news! Jesus was not like other babies. Jesus is God’s Son. God sent Jesus to earth from heaven. Jesus came into the world to rescue people from their sins.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Tell the story with manger scene figures:** Use the figures from a manger scene set as you tell the Bible story.
- **Dress up and play out:** Provide Bible times clothes and allow children to dress up. Assign roles and lead preschoolers to play out the Bible story as you tell it.

INTRODUCE the Story



SESSION TITLE: Jesus Was Born

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KEY PASSAGE: John 1:1

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

Welcome time

- “He Came Into the World” song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church’s security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- “Find What Is Hiding” activity page, 1 per child
- crayons or markers

Invite preschoolers to use the key to find and circle the hidden items.

SAY • This picture shows what the place where Jesus was born may have looked like. In today’s Bible story, we will hear why Jesus was born in a place where animals were kept. We will also hear the good news about why God sent Jesus from heaven to earth.

LOW PREP

- paper
- classroom objects

Count items

Gather several sheets of paper and invite a child to count to discover how many pieces of paper there are. Suggest children count other items in the classroom. Count crayons or pairs of scissors. Count books on a shelf or chairs in the classroom. Count Bibles or blocks. Suggest a child count the boys and girls who have come to class.

SAY • When Mary was pregnant with Baby Jesus, the

ruler wanted to know how many people were in his kingdom, so he made everyone travel to his hometown to be counted. Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem. Listen to the Bible story to hear what happened while they were in Bethlehem.

Collage baby gift wrap

Cut baby-themed wrapping paper into 1-inch pieces. Provide art paper and glue sticks. Show a child how to rub the glue on the paper and attach a piece of gift wrap. Search illustrated Bibles for pictures depicting Jesus' birth or work nativity-themed puzzles.

SAY • These paper pieces make me think of a new baby. In today's Bible story, we will hear about the birth of the most important baby ever born—Baby Jesus! Jesus was not like other babies. Jesus is God's Son. God sent Jesus to earth from heaven. Jesus came into the world to rescue people from their sins. Listen to the story to hear where God's Son was born.

- baby-themed gift wrap
- scissors (adult use)
- glue sticks
- paper
- illustrated Bibles
- nativity-themed puzzles (optional)

Transition to teach the story

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, turn the lights off and on, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Give each child two craft sticks and play a Christmas hymn. Show boys and girls how to tap the sticks together as they make their way to Bible study.

- countdown video (optional)

TEACH the Story



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Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at Luke 2 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • The Book of Luke is where we find today's Bible story. Luke is one of four books of the Bible called the Gospels. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all tell about when God sent Jesus to earth from heaven. Like all the stories in all the books of the Bible, this story is true!

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- "Jesus Was Born" video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • God planned all along to send His Son to earth as a human baby. God knew His people would sin and need to be rescued. **Jesus was born to rescue people from sin.** Jesus lived a sinless life on earth. He kept God's law perfectly, so that one day He could take the punishment we deserve for our sin.

Practice the key passage

Place the key passage marker at John 1:1. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Invite preschoolers to say the key passage using the motions you created in session one.

SAY • John begins with the same three words as the Book of Genesis: “in the beginning.” *The Word* is Jesus. Jesus was with God when the world was made, and Jesus came to live on earth to rescue people from sin.

Sing the key passage song, “In the Beginning,” and the theme song, “He Came Into the World.”

- Bible
- Key Passage Marker
- Key Passage Poster
- “In the Beginning (John 1:1)” song
- “He Came Into the World” song

Learn the big picture question

SAY • When Baby Jesus was born in Bethlehem, God the Son came from heaven to earth to live with His people. Even though He was God, Jesus got hungry and cried. His mother Mary probably rocked Jesus to sleep and sang to Him. *Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is both fully God and fully human.*

- Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

Invite preschoolers to pretend to be missionaries visiting a new city while you pretend to be their new friend from Brazil. Pretend to show them the sites of Brazil, as you show them the “Brazil” photos and read the captions.

SAY • Missionaries make friends so that they can tell people **Jesus was born to rescue them from sin.**

Pray for God to provide friends to missionaries around the world.

- “Brazil” printable

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



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LOW PREP

- baby doll
- illustrated Bibles

Find the baby

Ask boys and girls to cover their eyes while you hide a doll in the classroom. Allow children to search until they find the baby. Alter the game by allowing a child to hide the doll or by adding additional dolls. Hide and find illustrated Bibles; look at a picture depicting Jesus' birth. Recall parts of the Bible story. Remind preschoolers that the angel told the shepherds to go to Bethlehem to find Baby Jesus.

SAY • The shepherds were watching the sheep one night when they were surprised by an angel. The angel told them the Savior had been born. The shepherds went to Bethlehem and found the Baby lying in a manger wrapped in cloth. Baby **Jesus was born to rescue people from sin**, just as God promised. Everyone who heard the shepherd's news was surprised and amazed.

Paint with jingle bell brushes

- chenille craft stems
- large jingle bells
- chunky-handled paintbrushes
- smocks
- washable paint
- foam plates
- Christmas songs

Thread a few large bells onto a chenille stem. Wrap the stem around the end of a chunky-handled paintbrush. Assemble a paintbrush with bells for each preschooler. Put a smock on each child. Squirt washable paint onto foam plates. Give each preschooler a sheet of paper. Show a child how to dip the brush in paint and decorate his paper. Play Christmas

hymns as children work and listen for the bells to jingle as a child creates.

SAY • The sound of jingle bells reminds me of Christmas, when we celebrate the time when God sent Jesus to earth. *Is Jesus God or a human?* As a baby, Jesus got tired and took naps, but He also did things no one else could do because *Jesus is both fully God and fully human.*

Shine a light

Write each word of the story point on index cards and randomly tape them around the room. Provide flashlights for boys and girls to shine. Dim the lights and guide children to shine flashlights at each word of the story point in order. Continue shining lights on each word, increasing your speed each time. Recall the Bible story as children play. Suggest a child shine a light on other items in the classroom. Open a Bible and shine a light on John 1:1. Read it.

- index cards
- markers
- tape
- flashlights
- Bible
- Key Passage Marker

SAY • Our key passage tells us that Jesus is God. Jesus is God's Word come down to earth. Jesus' birth was very good news! Jesus was not like other babies. Jesus is God the Son. God sent Jesus to earth from heaven. **Jesus was born to rescue people from sin.**

Play out the story with a manger scene

Set out a nonbreakable manger scene. Invite preschoolers to use blocks to build the scene. Guide preschoolers to play out the Bible story with the manger scene figures.

- nonbreakable manger scene
- blocks

SAY • How surprised the shepherds must have been when an angel told them a Savior had been born! They found His mother, Mary, and Baby Jesus. He was

wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger. Jesus left heaven and became a baby boy who had a family. ***Is Jesus God or a human*** like you and me? ***Jesus is both fully God and fully human.*** The shepherds were surprised and amazed, and the angels praised God.



Make clay sheep

- waxed paper
- modeling clay
- craft sticks

Give each preschooler a lump of clay on a sheet of waxed paper. Invite preschoolers to form a sheep from their clay. Offer craft sticks for preschoolers to use for shaping their clay. As children work, remind them that the shepherds were taking care of their sheep when an angel appeared to them. If preschoolers prefer, allow them to mold other things besides sheep, like bowls, flowers, or other animals. Set completed clay work aside to dry.

SAY • Arts and crafts are very popular in Brazil. Many artists enjoy painting, making things out of clay, weaving baskets, and making colorful jewelry. Missionaries enjoy meeting the artists and telling them about Jesus. God wants people all over the world to know that **Jesus was born to rescue people from sin**, including artists in Brazil. Let's pray for them now.

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve sugar cookies with frosting and sprinkles as snack. Show a child how to spread frosting on her cookie with a craft stick. Guide a child to add red or green sprinkles to the top. Mention that today's snack is often served at Christmas, the time when we celebrate that Jesus, God's Son, was born. Remind preschoolers that **Jesus was born to rescue people from sin.**

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. Where did Joseph and Mary travel when she was pregnant with Baby Jesus? (*to Bethlehem*)
2. Where did Joseph and Mary stay in Bethlehem? (*in a place where animals were kept*)
3. Who appeared to the shepherds? (*an angel, angels*)
4. What was the angel's message? (*Today a Savior was born for you. Go find the baby.*)
5. ***Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is both fully God and fully human.***

Transition

When preschoolers finish their snack, they may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- sugar cookies (optional)
- frosting (optional)
- red and green sprinkles (optional)
- craft sticks (optional)

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "In the Beginning (John 1:1)" song
- "He Came Into the World" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers