



THE
GOSPEL
PROJECT[®]

FOR PRESCHOOL

—★ **CHRISTMAS EDITION** ★—

Babies, Toddlers, and Preschool Leader Guide



Use Week of:

Christmas • Session 3

Jesus Was Born

BIBLE PASSAGE: Isaiah 9; Luke 2

STORY POINT: Jesus was born.

KEY PASSAGE: Galatians 4:4

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus was born to bring peace between us and God.

Bible Story for Toddlers

When Adam and Eve sinned, God promised to send a Rescuer. Many years later, Isaiah the prophet said, “A son will be given to us. He will be called the Prince of Peace.” Isaiah said the Prince of Peace would be from Galilee. God chose to send His Son, Jesus, to earth as a baby. God chose Mary to be Jesus’ mother. Mary and Joseph lived in Galilee, but they went to Bethlehem to be counted. God’s Son was born, and they named Him Jesus. That night, an angel said to shepherds nearby, “A Savior was born in Bethlehem!” A sky full of angels praised God. The shepherds ran to Bethlehem and found Baby Jesus. They praised God and told everyone about what they had seen.

Babies Gospel Gems

- * People waited a long time for Jesus to be born.
- * Jesus is God’s Son, the Prince of Peace.
- * God loves us and sent Jesus to earth to forgive us.

Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com.

For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

BABIES Activities

Look in the Bible

Provide hand-size Bibles for babies to handle. Open your Bible to Luke 2. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage card.

SAY: Jesus is God's Son, the Prince of Peace. People waited a long time for Jesus to be born. God loves us and sent Jesus to earth to forgive us. **JESUS WAS BORN** to bring peace between us and God. [*Pray for the babies.*]

Sing a Bible story song

Sing to the tune of "Jingle Bells":

"Jesus is, Jesus is, Jesus is God's Son! God sent Jesus to be born
Because He loves us so!"

SAY: God loves us and sent Jesus to earth to forgive us. **JESUS WAS BORN** to bring peace between us and God.

Make jingle bell art

Place a sheet of paper inside a ziplock bag with jingle bells and a squirt of paint. Seal the bag with duct tape. Guide the babies to squeeze, touch, and jingle the bag as they sit or lay on their tummies. Remove the artwork and set it aside to dry. Write the Christ connection or story point on each child's art.

SAY: At Christmas, we celebrate when **JESUS WAS BORN**. People waited a long time for Jesus to be born. God can do anything!

Tell the story with sock puppets

Draw simple faces on sock puppets to represent Isaiah, Mary, and Joseph. Briefly tell the Bible story to the babies. You may also use a Bible storybook.

SAY: Jesus is God's Son, the Prince of Peace. **JESUS WAS BORN!**

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 gospel gems and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.

TODDLER Activities

Circle time (5 minutes)

Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle. Say the Bible is God's words. Read the key passage card and guide toddlers to say it. Open your Bible to Luke 2. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the Bible story. Say the story point and gospel gems. Pray for the toddlers.

Herd sheep

Make sock "sheep" by balling up white socks. Turn a plastic bin onto one side. Invite toddlers to play with the sheep in the pen.

SAY: People waited a long time for Jesus to be born. Angels told shepherds that **JESUS WAS BORN.** Jesus is God's Son, the Prince of Peace. God loves us and sent Jesus to earth to forgive us.

Read about God's plan

Assemble the "God Sent Jesus Book" printable. Read the story to the toddlers, pointing out today's Bible story. Remind toddlers that God sent Jesus because of His great love for us.

SAY: People waited a long time for Jesus to be born. **JESUS WAS BORN** to bring peace between us and God. Jesus is God's Son, the Prince of Peace.

Sheer sheep

Tape contact plastic, sticky side out, to the sides and top of a box or plastic bin. Attach strips of quilt batting or large cotton balls to the contact plastic. Invite toddlers to remove the "wool."

SAY: Shepherds are people who take care of sheep. Angels told shepherds the good news: **JESUS WAS BORN!** God loves us and sent Jesus to earth to forgive us. God can do anything!

Play out the story

Print the "Nativity" printable and tape the figures to large interlocking or wooden blocks. Show toddlers the figures and help them play out the Bible story.

SAY: Jesus is God's Son, the Prince of Peace. **JESUS WAS BORN** to bring peace between us and God. God loves us and sent Jesus to earth to forgive us.

BONUS Teaching Hour

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Was Born

BIBLE PASSAGE: Isaiah 9; Luke 2

KEY PASSAGE: Galatians 4:4

STORY POINT: Jesus was born.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus was born to bring peace between us and God.

Transition activity: Make play dough families

Provide play dough, rolling pins, and people-shaped cookie cutters. Demonstrate how to roll out the play dough until it is flat and use a cookie cutter. Invite toddlers to talk about their families as they play. Briefly retell the Bible story.

SAY: People waited a long time for Jesus to be born. **JESUS WAS BORN** to bring peace between us and God. Jesus was born as a human baby, and God gave Him a family. God loves us, and He sent Jesus to earth to forgive us.

Sing songs about Jesus

Sing favorite Christmas carols that focus on Jesus' birth, such as "Away in a Manger," "O Come All Ye Faithful," and "Angels We Have Heard on High." Remind toddlers that we sometimes celebrate Jesus' birth with songs.

SAY: People waited a long time for Jesus to be born. In our Bible story, many people praised God for Jesus: angels, shepherds, and Mary and Joseph too. God loves us and sent Jesus to earth to forgive us. **JESUS WAS BORN.**

Look for Baby Jesus

Wrap a vinyl baby doll in a blanket and place it in a small box filled with strips of yellow paper. Place it on one side of the room. You may also use the Bible story picture. Lead the toddlers around the room until they reach the doll. Briefly retell the Bible story.

SAY: Jesus is God's Son, the Prince of Peace, but He was put in a manger. God loves us and sent Jesus to earth to forgive us. **JESUS WAS BORN!**

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, story point, or gospel gems throughout the week.