

The Born Legacy, 4-K, December 9

Bible Story: The Born Legacy (Jesus is born) • *Luke 2:1-7*

Bottom Line: God gave us the greatest gift. What will you give?

Memory Verse: “God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.” *John 3:16, NIV*

Life App: Compassion—caring enough to do something about someone else’s need.

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

1. Early Arriver Idea

What You Need: an offering container

What You Do:

Invite the kids to place their offerings in the container, and then invite them to tell about the best gift they have ever received. What was it? Who gave it to them? Was the gift a surprise or did they know it was coming? What made the gift so special?

2. Nothing but the Best

What You Need: paper, crayons or markers

What You Do:

Guide kids to draw the best gifts they could get or would like to give to someone else. Their gifts can be real or imaginary, practical or “impossible.”

What You Say:

“I can tell by looking at your gifts that you are very creative and generous! You have some wonderful gifts you’d like to receive and give! **Today we’ll hear about the best, most wonderful gift God gave to us!**”

Play Video

1. Gift Wrapped (*review the Bible story / application activity*)

What You Need: old-fashioned clothespins, thin strips of muslin, fine-tipped permanent markers, small pieces of cardboard, popsicle sticks, raffia, glue

What You Do:

Briefly explain that when Jesus was born, parents wrapped their babies in swaddling clothes. Swaddling clothes were long strips of cloth. The swaddling clothes were like blankets that helped babies stay warm and feel safe.

Give each child a clothespin “baby Jesus.” Guide them to draw eyes, a nose, and a mouth on the “baby.” Then, lead them to snuggly wrap the “baby” with the muslin strip. (It helps to thread the end of the muslin between the “legs” and then wrap the fabric around the body.) When he or she reaches the end of the strip, a drop of glue can be used to secure the fabric in place.

Next, guide the each kid to glue four Popsicle sticks to a piece of cardboard, side by side. They can then glue some raffia “hay” to the Popsicle sticks and lay “baby Jesus” in the “manger.”

What You Say:

“Long ago, God promised that He would send Someone to save us from our sins. Whom did God send? *(Pause.)* Yes! God sent Jesus, the BEST gift of all time. **[Impress] God gave us the greatest gift. What gift will you give? [Apply] What can you give to show others God’s love?”** *(A toy, a card, a hug, a word of encouragement, a prayer, or the gift of spending time with someone, etc.)*

*** 2. Wrap It Up! (memory verse activity)**

What You Need: Bible; plain brown butcher paper or white banner paper; washable tempera paint; Christmas-themed plastic cookie cutters; alphabet cookie cutters or sponges; smocks; paintbrushes; pie tins or Styrofoam plates; wet wipes

What You Do:

Tell the kids they are going to work together to make wrapping paper as a way to tell others about Jesus. First, hold up a sheet of art paper and read the verse aloud, pointing to the words. Guide the kids to say the verse with you.

Help each child put on a smock. Lay the long paper on tables or on the floor. Assign a Small Group to each sheet of paper. Next, pour the tempera paint onto the tins or plates and spread it in a thin layer. Invite the kids to dip the cookie cutters into the paint and then press them onto the paper. They can use the letters to spell *Jesus*.

They can also creatively add dots or stripes, even make plaid patterns, with the paint and paintbrushes.

(Note: When the wrapping paper dries, use it to wrap one or more boxes. You can make the boxes extra festive by adding ribbons, bows—anything you choose. Set the boxes by your check-in area or on your Power Up stage. The kids will love seeing their work on display.)

What You Say:

“Christmas is about the BEST gift of all time—God’s Son, Jesus. *(Open your Bible to John 3:16.)* John 3:16 tells us that ‘God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.’ *(NirV)* **[Apply] When God gave us Jesus to save us, He gave us the most amazing gift EVER, because when we choose to believe in Jesus, we will live forever with Him. We will also have a relationship with God! [Impress] God gave us the greatest gift. What gift will you give?”**

3. Give It! (application activity / great for boys / can be classroom-wide)

What You Need: dry-erase board and dry-erase markers or art paper and markers

What You Do:

Tell the kids that when we show God’s compassion to others, we can give the gifts of *time, love, gifts, friendship, and Jesus*. As you name each category, print it as a heading

on the dry-erase board or sheet of art paper—hopefully in a different color so they stand out. Next, guide the kids to brainstorm things they can give to show others God’s compassion. Print their ideas verbatim under the appropriate headings. *HINT: Print the kids’ ideas for each category in a different color. For example, print the kids’ ideas for gifts of time in blue, their ideas for gifts of love in red, their ideas for gifts of friendship in green, etc. Brains remember better when they see things in color!* When finished, review that we can give time (point to your wrist as if pointing to a watch), gifts (hold out your hands as if giving something), love (give yourself a hug), friendship (shake a child’s hand), and Jesus (point to heaven).

Next, play an action-packed version of “Bop It!” To begin, teach the kids the motions for the following commands:

- Clock It! (*time*): Point to their wrist as if pointing to a watch.
- Love It! (*love*): Give themselves a hug.
- Give It! (*gifts*): Hold out their hands as if giving something.
- Friend It! (*friendship*): Shake hands with someone.
- Shout It! (*Jesus*): Shout out “Jesus!” and point to heaven.

When the kids know the motions, call out the commands in random order. The challenge for the kids is to perform the corresponding motion as quickly as possible. Keep a quick pace to mimic the challenge of “Bop It!”

What You Say:

[Apply] “When we have a relationship with Jesus, God helps us be more like Him. So, just like God gave us an incredible gift—His Son, Jesus—we can give God’s compassion to the people around us. We can _____ (*name some of the kids’ ideas from the brainstorming session*). **[Personalize]** (*Share a time you showed compassion to someone by telling them about Jesus. Describe how you felt and how the person responded.*) So this week, remember: **[Impress]** God gave us the greatest gift. What gift will you give?”

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: no supplies needed; **What You Do:** Guide the kids to sit in a circle.

“Each of you has a gift you can give others to show them how much God loves them. **[Apply]** What gift will you give to show others God’s love? (*Invite the kids to share a gift they will give. It could be a toy; a card; a hug; a word of encouragement; friendship; spending time with someone; or telling others about the best gift of all, Jesus. As each child names a gift, lead him or her to hold his or her hands together, palms up, as if giving a gift. NOTE: Be very sensitive to shy or introverted children and do not force them to verbalize a gift; instead, invite them to simply think of a gift and then hold out their hands.*) **[Impress]** God gave us the greatest gift. What gift will you give?”

“Dear God, thank You SO MUCH for giving us Jesus—the *greatest* gift ever. Thank You for loving us so much that You gave Your only Son, so that if we believe in Him, we can live forever with You. Thank You for showing us incredible compassion. Help us see ways that we can give and show compassion to others. We love You! Amen.”

The Born Legacy, 1-2 Gr., December 9

Bible Story: The Born Legacy (Jesus is born) • *Luke 2:1-7*

Bottom Line: God gave us the greatest gift. What will you give?

Memory Verse: “God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.” *John 3:16, NIV*

Life App: Compassion—caring enough to do something about someone else’s need.

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

1. Early Arriver Idea

What You Need: an offering container

What You Say:

“What is the best Christmas gift you’ve ever *received*? What is the best Christmas gift you’ve ever *given*? What made it so great?”

2. What Will You Give?

What You Need: white board, dry erase markers, watch/stopwatch/timer

What You Do:

Divide your group into two teams. Play a game of Pictionary in which each round a team member draws a gift they would give to: 1. Mom; 2. Dad; 3. Little Sister; 4. Big Brother; 5. Choose your own to assign to the kid (grandparent, aunt, uncle, teacher, etc). As they draw, the rest of their team members try to guess what item they are drawing. Each time the team guesses correctly, the artist moves on to the next drawing. To complete the round, choose a member from the other team and let the second team guess as their teammate draws an item under the same category. For a little competition, add a time limit (60-90 seconds) and award one point for every correctly guessed drawing!

What You Say:

[Transition] “It’s always fun to give gifts, but sometimes the best thing you can give doesn’t come wrapped in paper with a bow. Today we’ll hear about the greatest gift that has ever been given.”

Play Video

* 1. Story Order (*review the Bible story*)

What You Need: “Story Order” (Activity Page)

What You Do:

Pass out one or two strips to each child in your group. Explain that the events on the paper are from the Bible story they just heard, but they need to be put in the correct order. Give students two to three minutes to work as a team and put the story in chronological order. Once the story is complete, choose one person, or ask for a volunteer to be the “narrator,” and read the strips of paper out loud in the order they decided on together. If the order is incorrect, tell your group the number of errors or

strips that need to be moved around or corrected. Then, allow for a “take two” by giving the group 60 more seconds to determine the correct order and choose another “narrator” to read out the new order.

What You Say:

“Sometimes, I see a gift in September that I know my friend would love for Christmas. But that’s about as far ahead as I plan. God knew He was going to give us Jesus—the greatest gift *ever*—hundreds of years before Jesus arrived in that stable in Bethlehem. In fact, Micah told the people of Bethlehem about Jesus long before Mary and Joseph were even born. God planned and thought about the gift of a Savior. And He gave us the greatest gift at the perfect time, in the perfect way. **[Apply] So, what gift will you give someone? It may not be a Christmas gift. It may not be a present with a bow. All it takes is a little compassion to care enough to give someone something they really need. [Impress] God gave us the greatest gift. What will you give?”**

2. Help! (application activity / great for boys)

What You Need: “Help!” (Activity Page)

What You Do:

[Personalize] Begin by telling your group about a time when someone gave you something you really needed. Try to make the example something somewhat intangible. (A listening ear, a ride home, help with a project or assignments, etc.)

Line your kids up in two lines facing each other—as if they were about to play Red Rover. Pass out one word to each child and tell the kids that this is what they have to offer. (So their hands are free, kids can place their cards on the floor in front of them.) Next, call out a situation from one of the situation cards. The kid who has what is needed to help the situation runs across to break through the other team’s line just like in Red Rover. If he breaks through, he says with the other team, but his need card goes back to his original team. If he doesn’t break through, he leaves his card with the team and goes back to his original team. After you’ve read through all the situation cards, the team with the most needs cards wins!

What You Say:

[Apply] “We all have things other people need. Whether it’s something you can see like a screwdriver or something you can’t see like the ability to listen, it’s important to think about what you have that someone else could use. That’s what compassion is all about: giving someone something to help with their need—just like God gave us Jesus to help with our need of a Savior! [Impress] God gave us the greatest gift. What will you give?”

3. Word Wrap (memory verse activity)

What You Need: Bible, three small boxes (or bags that look like presents), paper, pens/pencils

What You Do:

Ask your group if anyone can remember the book of the Bible where this month’s memory verse is located. (John) See if anyone can remember the chapter and verse. (3:16) Turn to the verse in your Bible and read it aloud. Read it a second time along with

your group. Ask your students which words in this verse are most important and why.

Write the memory verse on a piece of paper (or chalkboard from “What Will You Give?” activity) for everyone to see, making sure to leave out or erase ONE word (e.g.: God _____ the world so much that He gave ..., etc.). Secretly write three words on smaller pieces of paper. Each word should be able to fit in the blank, but only one should be the correct word for the verse (e.g.: loved, missed, created). Make the words as silly as you want!

Put each slip of paper with a word in a different box and mix the boxes all around so no one knows which word is in which box. Have one child choose a present to “unwrap.” If it is the correct word, that child reads the complete memory verse aloud and helps you choose the word to leave out for the next round. If it is not the correct word, another student unwraps a present. You can play multiple rounds by picking a different word to erase and putting three new possible words that fit in the boxes. Get kids involved as much as possible.

What You Say:

“Just like in this game, we all find ourselves missing or needing something. Thousands of years ago, the whole world needed a Savior. And because God loved the world so much, He sent the very thing we were missing—a Savior. **[Apply] And just like God saw what was missing in our lives, we should look around to see how we can help—what we can give. [Impress] God gave us the greatest gift. What will you give?**”

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: note cards, chairs, pens/pencils, low-key music, music player

What You Do:

Set up the chairs in a circle facing out like in the game Musical Chairs. Sit with your group, away from the chairs. Holding the note cards and a writing utensil, brainstorm different categories of people in need. (*People without clean water, children without a mom or dad, people who have never heard of Jesus, etc.*) Write down one category on each card. Lay one card face up in the seat of each chair. Play low-key music. As the music plays, your group walks slowly around the chairs. When the music stops, each child kneels in front of the closest chair and spends 15 seconds praying for the group of people written on the note card on their chair. Play two or three more times allowing children to pray for different needs.

What You Say:

[Apply] “One of the best gifts we can give is the gift of prayer. It helps us focus on others’ needs and figure out what we can do about those needs. Sometimes when we see a need, the first step is to pray!

“Dear God, thank You for giving us Your Son. We cannot imagine a greater gift. Help us show others the compassion You have showed us. Help us to always be aware of others’ needs and know what to do to help. We love You. Help us to love others. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

The Born Legacy, 3-4 Gr., December 9

Bible Story: The Born Legacy (Jesus is born) • *Luke 2:1-7*

Bottom Line: God gave us the greatest gift. What will you give?

Memory Verse: “God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life.” *John 3:16, NIV*

Life App: Compassion—caring enough to do something about someone else’s need.

Basic Truth: I should treat others the way I want to be treated.

1. Early Arriver Idea

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

Ask the kids about the “top” gift they’re asking for this year. Why do they want it? How likely are they to get it? Is there something that would make them more likely to get it?

2. Compassion Poems

What You Need: papers, pencils

What You Do:

Ask everyone to get into groups of two or three and then write the word “compassion” down the side of the page. Let them work together to make an acrostic poem with the word, using words or phrases of things they can give away. These things shouldn’t just be presents or stuff they can buy, but also things they can do for people. Once they’ve all completed their poems, instruct groups to share their ideas with everyone else. If a group’s word is original they get a point, but if anyone else has it, they don’t get a point. The group with the most points wins! If you tell them about this rule in the beginning, it will help them be more creative as they think of words that work.

Examples:

C: Compliments

O: Obedience

M: My friendship

P: Patience

A: Attention

S: Smiles

S: Share what I have

I: Insight

O: Offer prayers for others

N: Notice other people

What You Say:

“I like what you all came up with—you thought of some great stuff to give away and some great things to do to show compassion! **Today we’re going to talk about the greatest gift.**”

Play Video

1. Trivia Time (*application activity / review the Bible story / great for boys*)

What You Need: jingle bells, bag of candy, paper, pencil, Christmas costumes (*optional*)

What You Do:

Divide your group into two teams and have them line up single file with the first person from each team facing each other. They are going to play a “Family Feud” style Bible story trivia game. Explain that you will read a question out loud and the first person to ring their bells gets to answer the question. If they get it correct, then their team wins 100 points. If they get it wrong, the other team can “steal” by answering correctly for 50 points. Keep score on your paper. After the first kids in line have a turn, they both go to the end of the line, and the next two compete. Continue this for all the questions below. The team with the most points at the end of the game wins and gets the bag of candy. They get to decide whether to have compassion and share some candy with the other team. (*Optional: If costumes are provided, the people at the front of the lines have to put them on to show it's their turn.*)

Review Questions:

- 1) Who was the angel that God sent to the elderly priest? (*Gabriel*)
- 2) Who was the elderly priest? (*Zechariah*)
- 3) Who was Zechariah's wife? (*Elizabeth*)
- 4) When Elizabeth had a baby, what did they name him? (*John*)
- 5) Who was Elizabeth's cousin? (*Mary*)
- 6) When Gabriel came back a second time, whom did he come see and what did he tell her? (*Mary; God had chosen her to give birth to His Son, Jesus*)
- 7) Who was Mary getting ready to marry? (*Joseph*)
- 8) Caesar Augustus issued a decree that said what? (*They had to go to their hometown to be counted in a census*)
- 9) Where did Mary and Joseph have to go to be counted? (*Bethlehem*)
- 10) When they got to Bethlehem, where did they have to stay? (*A stall where animals live*)
- 11) Where was Jesus placed after He was born? (*Feeding trough/manger*)
- 12) What book in the Old Testament told us that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem? (*Micah*)

What You Say:

“I really love this story because it just shows us over and over again how much God loves us, what an amazing gift He gave us, and how His plan was so perfect. **[Impress] God gave us the greatest gift. What will you give?** How will you respond? What can you do for others to show them God's love? (*Pause for answers.*) **[Apply] You know, it doesn't have to be a physical gift—sometimes just paying attention and noticing someone else and responding is the best gift! If you notice someone is sad, what can you do?** (*Pause for answers.*) **What about if someone is having a really bad day?** (*Pause for answers.*) When we do this, we show others that they are important and that their feelings matter, like Jesus did for us.”

[Personalize] Tell the kids about a time that someone noticed when you were sad/mad/unhappy/discouraged and how their noticing helped you to feel better/important/loved.

* 2. Gifting (*application activity*)

What You Need: “Gifting” (Activity Page), colored pencils

What You Do:

Give everyone an activity page and colored pencils. Explain that they need to fill in the gift tags with a person’s name and then, inside the gift itself, draw what they can give that person. It’s like a Christmas list for others, except it doesn’t just have to be stuff they buy and it doesn’t just have to be people in their family. They can think about others outside their house and what they can give to them. Remind them that it’s about having compassion—caring enough to do something about someone else’s need.

What You Say:

[Impress] “God gave us the greatest gift. What will you give? (Ask kids to share one or two things they drew on their papers.) When we think about what God did for us and how He sent us His Son, it shows us just how much He compassion He has. **[Apply]** If we want to be like God, we need to show compassion to others and be willing to give of our time, our stuff, and ourselves to meet their needs. That’s what God did for us.”

3. To: Us; From: God (memory verse activity)

What You Need: cardboard box with memory verse written on it, timer, gift tag

What You Do:

Start by asking for a volunteer to look up and read the verse once. Then ask your group to stand in a circle and hand the box to someone. Explain that when you say “go” you will begin timing them as the first person finds the first word from the verse on the box. Once they do, they will show it to everyone and then toss it across the circle to another person to find the next word. Explain that they will keep going until they complete the entire verse but that the same person can’t have it for a second time until everyone has had it a first time. After they’ve made it through once, instruct them to do it again, but see if they can cut 30 seconds off their time. (If that seems like too much or too little time, feel free to adjust to what’s best for your group.)

What You Say:

“You know the best part about the memory verse? It’s all about the very best gift we could ever receive, and God gave it to us because He loves us so much! I want someone to take this gift tag and write that it’s to our Small Group from God and then stick it on the box. (Hand someone the gift tag.) How amazing is it that God would send His very own Son for us? **[Impress]** God gave us the greatest gift. What will you give? **[Apply]** When we give to others—whether it’s gifts, our time, our love, or something else—we are loving others like God loves us.”

Optional 5th Grade Discussion Questions

If you lead fifth graders, consider asking these discussion questions:

- We always think of the “best” gifts as the most expensive stuff, but is that true? Give an example.
- What makes God’s gift of His Son the best gift ever? What makes it so irreplaceable? How would you explain it to a younger sibling? Would you explain it differently to a friend at school if they asked?
- How does that change your way of thinking when it comes to giving? Does that make other gifts—like actual stuff—wrong? Explain.

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: small slips of paper, pencils, stocking

What You Do:

Give everyone a piece of paper and a pencil and ask them to write out some need they have at school or at home and how that need could be met. It can be really big, really hard, really messy, really complicated, or really personal. However, they need to realize that others will be reading these needs, so they shouldn't use specific names. Then ask them to write down the way they think their need could best be met. Ask them NOT to put their name on it. When they have finished, ask them to drop it in the stocking.

Then point out that one way to show compassion for others is to pray for them. Take turns drawing a piece of paper from the stocking and read the need aloud for everyone. Brainstorm a way that they or their family or someone they know could meet the need. Even if they draw their own need, it's okay; they don't have to say that it's theirs or let anyone know. Continue this for each need.

Then give everyone a few minutes to pray silently over the need they hold in their hand.

What You Say:

[Apply] "We've got to keep reminding ourselves of this week's bottom line.

[Impress] God gave us the greatest gift. What will you give? When we keep our focus on what God did for us and what He gave us, it reminds us to also show compassion to others. Let's keep praying this prayer for our group!"