

## Jesus is Born

**Bible Story:** Luke 2

**Memory Verse:** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. **John 1:1-2**

**Big Picture Question:** Is Jesus God or a human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

**Bottom Line:** Jesus is the only Savior; no one is like Him.

**Christ Connection:** The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus was not an ordinary baby. He is God's Son, sent to earth from heaven. Jesus, the promised Savior, came into the world to deliver us from sin and death.

### Leader Notes:

#### CONTEXT

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 kids, 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.

## TEACHING FOCUS (Luke 2)

Teaching the story of Jesus' birth may seem strange in April, but it is the perfect way to point kids to Easter. Every part of Jesus' birth is good news for you and for me because of what Jesus did on Easter weekend. When Jesus gave His life to save us, He did what He was born to do. Jesus is a baby like no other because He is the one Savior of the world. He proved it by how He lived (performing miracles, teaching people, and loving God). He also proved it by how He died. An innocent man died because we all guilty. He ultimately proved it when He was raised again from the dead. There is no Christmas without Easter.

**Christ Connection:** The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus was not an ordinary baby. He is God's Son, sent to earth from heaven. Jesus, the promised Savior, came into the world to deliver us from sin and death.

**Bottom Line:** Jesus' family was not a list of perfect people. All of Jesus' ancestors were sinners, just like we are and just like our ancestors were. Even so, God used them in His miraculous plan to bring forgiveness to sinners because nothing could stop God's plan to save the world.

### **Today's Takeaways**

- Jesus was born to be God's promised Savior.
- He was born fully human and did not stop being fully God.
- **Bottom Line:** Jesus is the only Savior; no one is like Him.
- Jesus completely understands our struggles and gives us the power to love and obey God. He is the best friend we could ever have.

### **PRAYER AND TIME OF COMMITMENT**

Give kids a chance to believe in Jesus for the first time. Remind them that God loves them so much that He sent Jesus to earth to pay for their sins. Lead them to pray as you pray. Pray that believers will submit their lives to the Holy Spirit, follow Jesus, and tell others about Him.

### **Worship and Story Time**

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

**Play the DVD of All Star Kids worship (choose 1 song for today)**

**What You Say:** "Way to go! You are such amazing singers. Now let's sit down to learn from the Bible Story today."

**What You Do: Introduce the Story**

"The Roman Emperor said that everyone in Judea must return to his homeland to be counted. Joseph was in King David's family, so he traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem with Mary. While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Jesus- God's Son- to be born. Mary wrapped Him tightly in cloth and put Him in a manger because there was no room where they could stay. Some shepherds were watching their sheep at night, when an angel appeared. The angel said, "Do not be afraid! Today a Savior was born for you in Bethlehem. He is the Messiah!" Then more angels praised God, saying, "Glory to God and peace on earth to people He loves." The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and found Baby Jesus. They went home, praising God for sending a Savior."

### **PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO**

Check diapers and serve snack.

## **Activities**

Depending on the size of your group, you may lead each activity two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in the activities. That's okay.

### **1. Make Baby Jesus**

**What You Need:** large craft stick (1 per kid), gauze (1 square per kid), tape or string, Bottom Line sticker

**What You Do:**

- Draw a smiley face with sleeping eyes on each craft stick.
- Help kids wrap the gauze around the stick to make a swaddled Baby Jesus.
- Tape it closed or tie the string around to hold the gauze in place.
- Help kids place the Bottom Line sticker to the back of the stick.

- Retell the Bible Story

**What You Say** " Jesus was born in Bethlehem as God promised. Jesus is the Son of God. The shepherds praised God because Jesus came into the world to rescue us from sin. There is no one like Jesus.

## 2. Practice signing the Memory Verse

**What You Need:** Memory Verse Poster

**What You Do:**

- Show the poster to the kids.
- As you say the words point to them on the poster.
- Create simple hand motions to teach toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include, "**In the beginning** (draw world in air) **was the Word** (open book), **and the Word** (sign Jesus) **was with God, and the Word** (sign Jesus) **was God. He** (sign Jesus) **was with God**(sign God) **in the beginning**(draw world in air). **John 1:1-2**

**What You Say** "When the verse says Word, it means Jesus. The Word, Jesus was God. They are the same! People knew Jesus was not an ordinary baby. They knew He was the Savior who had come to save people from sin. Help me with the Big Picture Question: **Is Jesus God or a human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human. We worship Him because He is God.**

### Pray and Dismiss:

**What You Need:** no supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Pray: "Father, thank You for sending Jesus. We know that we do not deserve Him. Thank You that Jesus humbled Himself to be born as a human and even to die as we deserve to die. Help us honor You and obey You out of love each day. Amen.
- Tell parents one thing you did today and encourage them to check out the Family Resources online, app and in paper copy on the slat wall.