

## Jesus is Born

**Bible Story:** Luke 2

**Memory Verse:** <sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>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.

### 10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

Aces in the Pot /LCR Dice Game

**What You Need:** 2 dice (per group), 2 tokens per player, a "pot"/bowl

**What You Do:**

- Each player starts with 2 tokens.
- Decide who goes first.
- Players take turns in a clockwise fashion. A player rolls the dice and loses tokens according to the following rules.
  - If one of the dice show a "1", he puts one of his tokens in the pot.
  - If he rolls double "1s", he puts two tokens (or one if that is all he has) in the pot.
  - If he rolls one "6" (the number 6, not a combination that adds to six) he must pass one token to the player on his left.
  - If he rolls a double "6", he passes two tokens (or one, if that is all he has) to the player on his left.
  - If he rolls neither a "1" nor a "6", he takes no action and passes the dice.
  - If a player has no tokens, he is out of the game and can still receive tokens! He is unable to roll the dice, and passes his turn until such time as he has gained one or more tokens.
  - Play continues until all tokens are in the pot except for one. The player with the last remaining token rolls the dice three times in a row. If he does not roll a "6" he wins. If he rolls a "6", he passes the dice to the next player who rolls the dice three times, and so forth. The first player to roll the dice three times without rolling a "6" wins.

**What You Say** "That was a fun game. I love playing games with you guys. It helps me learn more about you. Like today I learned ... Let's clean up and get ready to hear about how we can Follow the Leader today.

### 10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

### 15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

#### 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.

### 25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

#### Discussion Questions:

- **Why did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem?** *(to be registered in the census, Luke 2:1-5)*
- **Why was Jesus laid in a manger?** *(There was no guest room available, Luke 2:7)*
- **Who were Jesus’ first visitors?** *(shepherds, Luke 2:8, 16)*
- **Why is Jesus’ birth so incredible?** *Guide kids to discuss both the unusual circumstances of Jesus’ arrival—such as the angel choirs proclaiming His birth—and the miraculous nature of Jesus’ full divinity being wrapped in full humanity. Remind kids that Jesus the Messiah had been promised to come for thousands of years, and God is faithful.*
- **Why is it important that Jesus came as a human baby?** *Help kids understand that God’s plan to destroy sin required a perfect sacrifice. Jesus’ birth as a human meant that He could grow up and lay down His life for us. He could live the perfect human life we are unable to live and die the kind of death we deserve. Jesus’ full humanity is why He could die to save humans.*

- **Why is it important that Jesus remained God?** *Explain that Jesus' nature as fully God is what allowed Him to bear the weight of God's punishment for sin in a human body. The complete power of God in Jesus also gave Him the power to reject temptation and live a perfectly sinless life.*

**Activity: Becoming small**

**What You Need:** paper (1 per kid), crayons, markers, or colored pencils

**What You Do:**

- Form groups of 2-4 kids.
- Invite each group to choose a small animal (Cat, hamster, ladybug, turtle, squirrel, and so on)
- Guide them to choose one person in the group to draw a picture of the animal.
- One person should be the writer.
- Group members should discuss what it might be like to live as that animal.
- Prompt kids to write a journal entry from the perspective of the animal about their activities in a day.
- Encourage kids to write several sentences.
- Choose volunteers to read the stories aloud and share their drawings.

**What You Say** “Those were some interesting stories. I’m not sure I would like to be an animal for a day. It would definitely be a step down from everything I get to enjoy as a person. Have you ever thought about what it was like for God the Son to come down to earth as a man? What do you think, tell me about it. When Jesus was born, Mary wrapped Him tightly in cloth. The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus came because we needed Him. Jesus was no ordinary baby; Jesus was born to be God’s promised Savior! Is Jesus God or human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human. He is the greatest gift we could ever receive. God’s own Son came to earth to be our Savior and our King. (Talk about how all of this could change how we celebrate Easter)

**Activity: Memory Verse Activity**

**What You Need:** Memory Verse Poster, Bible Memory Verse Grid Poster laminated or put in page protector, sticky notes, dry erase markers

**What You Do:**

- Show kids the Memory Verse Grid and have them say the verse with you 3 times.
- Then cover all the words with sticky notes.
- Split the group into 2 teams and give each team a different color dry erase marker.
- Get teams to take turns in choosing a space and saying which word should be under the post it note.
- If they are correct, they can circle the word in their team color. They can discuss answers in their team but a different person must speak each time.
- The first team with 3 words in a row/across is the winner.

**What You Say** ” Jesus life as a human started when Mary became pregnant, but God the Son existed long before that. In fact, He has no beginning and no end. He has always existed and will always exist. That what our memory verse teaches. Jesus was with God the Father and the Holy Spirit at the start of creation, and He is God the Son.”

**Pray and Dismiss:**

**What You Need:** no supplies needed.

**What You Say:**

“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



## All Star Kids

April 5, 2020  
3<sup>rd</sup>- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

love each day. Amen.

**5 Minutes HOME:** PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCEAs adults arrive to pick up, encourage your kids to tell their parents about our Big Picture Question: : **Is Jesus God or human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human. Encourage families to pick up the Family Study Guide online or on the slat wall.**