

Jesus is Born

Bible Story: Luke 2

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

Sequences Dice Game

What You Need: 6 dice (per group), score chart, pencils

What You Do:

- Everyone rolls one die. Highest roll starts the game, play moves clockwise.
- First player rolls all 6 dice. If he rolls a number sequence that begins with "1", he scores. If he does not roll a sequence that begins with 1 he does not score.
- Play continues to the next player.
- The first player to 100 points wins.
- Game scoring: If you roll
 - 1 = 5 points
 - 1-2 = 10 points
 - 1-2-3 = 15 points
 - 1-2-3-4 = 20 points
 - 1-2-3-4-5 = 25 points
 - 1-2-3-4-5-6 = 30 points

Example rolls: 1-2-4-5-6 = 10 points, 1-2-3-1-2 = 15 points, 3-4-2-5-4 = 0 points, 1-4-1-5-1 = 5 points

Only one sequence per roll is allowed.

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*

Activity: Promises, Promises

What You Need no supplies needed

What You Do:

- Instruct kids to stand in a circle.
- Select a kid to start the game by saying “I promise I can...” finishing the statement with a cool or unexpected action.
- Call on other kids to vote whether they think the kid can do it or not.
- If any kids think he cannot do what he promised, he must either prove he can do it, or sit out.(remind kids to be kind)
- If he can do it, the kids who challenged him must sit out.

What You Say “That was a fun game, but some of you bluffed! You said you could do something you could not. God always tells the truth. He is always faithful and keeps all His promises. He promised to send a Rescuer.

Imagine God’s people who had been waiting for thousands of years. They did not know exactly when the Messiah would come, but they knew God would be faithful. When Jesus was born, it was somewhat unexpected. If it hadn’t been for the angels proclaiming the news to shepherds, only Mary and Joseph would know the Messiah was there! But all that waiting was worth it when Jesus was born to be God’s promised Savior.

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 love each day. Amen.

5 Minutes HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE



All Star Kids

April 5, 2020
Kinder – 2nd grade

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage your kids to tell their parents about our Big Picture Question: **Is Jesus God or a 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.**