



UNIT 16 | CHRISTMAS | DECEMBER 14-15, 2019

2s-3s Lesson

Jesus Was Born

Bible Passage: Matthew 1; Luke 2

Story Point: Jesus is God with us.

Key Passage: “Pray constantly, give thanks in everything” 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18.

Christ Connection: Jesus was born like God said He would be. Jesus is God with us. God’s Son came into the world to save people from sin so we can be with God forever.

**KID CONNECT:
30 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:
15 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:
15 MINUTES**

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Throughout the Old Testament, God reminded His people through the prophets of His promise to one day send a Rescuer. People cannot save themselves; instead, God planned to save people by sending His Son. God revealed that He would come from the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and He would bless the nations (Gen. 12:3; 17:19; 28:14). He would come from David’s family, and His kingdom would last forever (2 Sam. 7:12-13). He would be born in Bethlehem to a virgin (Micah 5:2; Isa. 7:14).

But after God’s people returned home from exile in Judah, God was silent. For 400 years, God remained quiet. The silence was broken in Luke 1 when an angel told Zechariah he would have a son—John. John would be the forerunner of the Messiah, preparing people for the Promised One. At just the right time, Jesus was born. The Old Testament whispers, “He’s coming ... He’s coming ... He’s coming ...” and the declaration of Luke 2 is, “He’s here!”

Help preschoolers understand the significance of Jesus’ birth. Jesus’ birth is not just the beginning; rather, it is a pivotal fulfillment in the story of God’s rescuing sinners. God’s people could not save themselves, so God came to them. This tiny baby was the hope of the world. He would grow up to show people what God is like and to lay down His life to provide forgiveness and eternal life to all who trust in Him.

After Jesus was born, an angel appeared to the shepherds and said, “Don’t be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is Messiah, the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).

Jesus’ birth was God’s gracious gift to us—God with us, for His glory and our peace.

KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: ARRIVAL MUSIC)

Play intro music in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow the KidCity check-in procedures. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

LOOK FOR THE FAMILY

(2-3 people figures, 1 shallow plastic bin, fabric or paper scraps – per group/class)

Place people figures in a shallow plastic bin. Conceal the people with scarves or fabric scraps. Encourage the preschoolers to look for the family. Talk about the story.

SAY • Jesus is God’s son. God gave Jesus a family on earth. God sent Jesus to be with us. Jesus will always be with us. WE CAN TALK TO GOD to thank Him for sending His Son, Jesus.

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as the children move to Large Group.

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: JUMP, CLAP, TWIST, VIDEO: CHRISTMAS MEDLEY)

(barn animal paper masks – 1 per child)

Pass out a barn animal paper mask to each child. Then sing “Jump, Clap, Twist” and “Christmas Medley”.

SAY • Our story today talks about how baby Jesus was born in a barn. Let’s pretend to be some of the animals there on the very first Christmas day. We have cows, chicken, sheep, donkeys, and camels.

Can I hear all my cows moo? (allow children to respond) Can I hear all my chickens cluck? (allow children to respond) Can I hear all my sheep baa? (allow children to respond) Can I hear all my donkey's say hee-haw? (allow children to respond) Can I hear all my camels grunt? (allow children to respond) Is everybody ready? Let's get ready to dance and praise Jesus!

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(CG: GIANT TIMELINE)

(Bible, Bookmark)

Place a bookmark at Matthew 1 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Display the open Bible.

SAY • Christmas is coming soon, and today's story is from the Bible. Let's hear the true story of Christmas from the Books of Matthew and Luke.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues people through His Son, Jesus.

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: JESUS WAS BORN, CG: BIBLE STORY PICTURE, CG: STORY POINT)

(no supplies needed)

Show the Bible story video.

SAY • God's Son was born in Bethlehem, 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. God's very own Son was born—God with us! The shepherds praised God and told everyone about what they had seen.

CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY • Jesus was born like God said He would be. Jesus is God with us. God's Son came into the world to save people from sin so we can be with God forever.

PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

(CG: KEY PASSAGE)

(Bible, Bookmark)

Place the key passage marker at 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage.

SAY • "Pray constantly (*press hands together*), give thanks in everything (*bow with hands pressed together*)" 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18. A bright light shone on the shepherds when they heard the

angel. The shepherds found Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus. They worshiped God and thanked Him for sending His Son. We can give thanks to God when we pray.

PRAY AND TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

SMALL GROUP

Bible Passage: Matthew 1; Luke 2

Story Point: Jesus is God with us.

Key Passage: “Pray constantly, give thanks in everything” 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18.

Christ Connection: Jesus was born like God said He would be. Jesus is God with us. God’s Son came into the world to save people from sin so we can be with God forever.

PRAISE PARADE

(VIDEO: CHRISTMAS MUSIC)

(instruments, shakers, or scarves – several per group)

Provide toy instruments, shakers, or scarves for children to play. March or dance with the preschoolers. You can walk in a circle or stay in place. Return and retell the Bible story.

SAY • Jesus is God the Son, and Jesus is a man. After the shepherds saw Jesus, they told everyone about Him. They went back to their fields praising God. Jesus is God with us.

COUNT SHEEP

(10 large cotton balls or circles or quilt batting per group)

Provide 10 large cotton balls or circles of quilt batting for preschoolers to touch as you count aloud. Talk about how the shepherds took care of sheep. Retell the story.

SAY • Jesus is God’s son. An angel told the shepherds Jesus was born to save people. Jesus is God with us.

CIRCLE TIME

(small Bibles – 2-3 per group, key passage card and Bible story picture – 1 per group)

Provide small Bibles for preschoolers to handle. Say the Bible is God’s words. Read the key passage card and guide preschoolers to say it. Open your Bible to Matthew 1; Luke 2. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the Bible story. Say the story point and gospel gems. Pray for the preschoolers.

GOSPEL GEMS

- God gave Jesus a family on earth.
- Jesus is the Son of God, and Jesus is a man.

- Jesus is God with us.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Big Picture Card, 1 per family)

At pickup or drop off, hand this week's Big Picture Card to each child's influencer. Encourage them to discuss the Big Picture Question & Answer with their preschooler this week.