



UNIT 16 | CHRISTMAS | DECEMBER 14-15, 2019

## 4s-5s 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.

**Big Picture Question:** Why do we pray? We pray because we trust God, and we know that He hears us.

**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.

### MAKE A PRAYER ORNAMENT

(“Prayer Ornament” printable – 1 per child, ½ a red or green pipe cleaner per child, crayons, stickers per group)

*Distribute* one ornament for each preschooler. Provide decorating materials such as stickers and crayons. When a child finishes decorating, allow her to help you place a pipe cleaner through hole and twist the ends to make a circle. Talk about how God hears us when we pray and encourage children to hang the ornament on their Christmas trees at home.

*SAY* • *Why do we pray? We pray because we trust God, and we know He hears us. God loves us so much that He sent His one and only Son into the world. Jesus is God with us. God showed His love for us when He sent Jesus to earth to be punished for our sin. We can trust Him to hear and respond to our prayers.*

## 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 • Our stories lately have been from the Old Testament Book of Daniel. Because Christmas is coming soon, today’s story is from the other part of the Bible, the New Testament. 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 • Jesus was born just like God promised. God always keeps His promises. Jesus is God with us. God’s Son came to earth as a baby. God lived on earth as a real person. Jesus never did anything wrong the whole time He lived on earth, but He was punished for our wrong choices. Jesus saves us from our wrong choices so we can be with God forever.

## 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.

## LEARN THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION

### (CG: BIG PICTURE QUESTION)

SAY • God reminded His people of His promise to send someone to rescue them. God kept that promise when He sent Jesus. God always does what He says. That’s a reason to pray! *Why do we pray? We pray because we trust God, and we know He hears us.*

## 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.

**Big Picture Question:** Why do we pray? We pray because we trust God, and we know that He hears us.

## SING “HAPPY BIRTHDAY” TO JESUS

(1 party hat per child - optional)

*Invite* preschoolers to sing the “Happy Birthday” song with Jesus’ name after “Happy birthday, dear [name].” Consider providing birthday hats if available. Invite children to sing shout “hooray!”

**SAY** • We celebrate Jesus’ birthday at Christmas because His birthday is the most special birthday ever! Jesus was born like God said He would be. Jesus is God with us. God sent His Son from heaven to earth. Jesus came into the world to save people from their wrong choices so we can be with God forever.

## PASS THE PRESENT

(CG: CHRISTMAS MUSIC)

(gift bag, Bible, key passage marker – 1 per group)

*Gather* children in a circle. Mark the key passage in a Bible and place it in a decorative gift bag. Play a Christmas song and begin passing the gift bag around the circle. Pause the music. Invite a child to take the Bible out of the bag and open it to the key passage marker and say the key passage. Return the Bible to the bag and continue to play.

**SAY** • This key passage reminds us that we can talk to God any time. One of the things we can do when we pray is say “thank You” to God. God gives us His Word in the Bible. God gave us His Son when He sent Jesus to earth. Jesus is God with us. God’s Son came into the world to save people from sin so we can be with God forever. That is the best present of all to say “thank You” for!

## KEY PASSAGE WITH MOTIONS

*Practice* the key passage using motions. Repeat several times and encourage the children for trying. “Pray constantly (*press hands together*), give thanks in everything (*bow with hands pressed together*)” 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18.

## REVIEW AND PRAYER

(1 Bible story picture poster per group)

Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

How did Joseph find out Mary's baby would be God's Son, Jesus? (*An angel told him.*)

What does *Immanuel* mean? (*God with us*)

Where did Mary and Joseph stay when they got to Bethlehem? (*In a place where animals were kept.*)

What were some things the angel told the frightened shepherds? (*"Good news: A Savior is born! He is wrapped in cloth lying in a manger. Go find this baby."*)

What did the shepherds do next? (*They found Baby Jesus and told others about Him.*)

*Why do we pray? We pray because we trust God, and we know He hears us.*

## CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

**(Preschool Activity Page, 1 per child and crayons)**

Preschoolers may color the Story Point coloring page as parents arrive. Encourage them to do the activity page at home with their family this week.