



UNIT 19 | SESSION 3 | MARCH 14-15, 2020

2nd-3rd Lesson

Jesus Was Born

Bible Passage: Luke 2

Story Point: Jesus was born to be God's promised Savior.

Key Passage: "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

Christ Connection: Jesus was not an ordinary baby. He is God's Son, sent to earth from heaven.

**KID CONNECT:
10 MINUTES**

**LARGE GROUP:
30 MINUTES**

**SMALL GROUP:
20 MINUTES**

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

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.

KID CONNECT

WELCOME TIME

(VIDEO: INTRO/OUTRO MUSIC)

Play intro music and greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group.

BECOMING SMALL

(Paper, Crayons, Markers)

Form groups of two to four 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 several sentences from the perspective of the animal about their activities in a day. Choose volunteers to read the stories aloud and share their drawings.

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's Son to come down to earth as a man? Think about that as we hear our Bible story.

LARGE GROUP

COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as you transition to Large Group. Set it to end as the session begins.

LARGE GROUP GAME

(CG + SFX: GAME INTRO SLIDE + MUSIC, SFX: FUN MUSIC)

BABY RATTLES

(2 Custom Designed “Baby Rattles”, Table)



SAY • Hey guys! It’s game time again! For this game, I need 2 contestants – 1 boy and 1 girl. *Choose 2 kids and display the 2 “Baby Rattles”.* OK, this game is called Baby Rattles. What we have here are 2 custom designed baby rattles made out of 2-liter bottles and filled with gum balls. When I say “GO” you have to turn over your baby rattle (like an hourglass) and shake it to get all of the gum balls to fall into the bottom. The first person to get all of them to fall down wins! Oh, and in case you couldn’t figure this out, the game is called Baby Rattles because this is going to sound a LOT like some baby rattles. Ready to act like some babies?? Get ready, get set, GO!

WORSHIP

(VIDEO: BURN, VIDEO: GOD IS FOR US)

SAY • Let’s worship God!

INTRODUCE THE SESSION

(CG: AWKWARD FAMILY PHOTOS – CHRISTMAS EDITION)

(No Supplies Needed)

SAY • Hey everyone! I’m glad you could make it today. If you’ve been here the past few weeks you know that we have been talking about families and looking at some pretty funny photos that families have taken. Well, we’re going to do that again today but *this* time our Bible story is about when Jesus was born. What holiday is that? *Allow kids to yell out Christmas.* That’s right - Christmas! Raise your hand if you like Christmas. Hopefully all of you. Raise your hand if your family has ever tried to capture the Christmas spirit by taking Christmas photos of the family. Yeah, mine has too. Hopefully your photos turned out better than these though. Check it out!

Show Awkward Family Photos – Christmas Edition. Respond accordingly to each one.

Wow, those are some funny/awkward photos. But at least these families wanted to capture the Christmas spirit in their own way! I am very excited to share this story with you guys. It may feel weird because we’re talking about Christmas in the middle of March, but that’s OK! That’s where we are in the story timeline.

GIANT TIMELINE

(CG: GIANT TIMELINE)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY • Two weeks ago, we learned that Jesus' family line proved He is the Messiah. God had promised to send a Rescuer through Abraham's family to be born into David's family as an eternal King. Last week, we learned about the birth of John, whom God used to fulfill Malachi's prophecy that a messenger would come before the Messiah. John was born to prepare the way for Jesus. This week, we will learn why Jesus was born as a human.

WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

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

(Bible)

Show the Bible story video "Jesus Was Born."

SAY • God always proves Himself faithful. Time and time again, God told His people that the Messiah was coming. Despite their continued sin, God remained faithful and kept His promise to send Jesus.

Despite our inability to ever earn God's love, He still loves us. God could have chosen not to save people, but instead He chose to send His only Son to become a human like us. Jesus is the King of Kings, but He came to earth as a humble baby to ordinary people, and He was visited by lowly shepherds.

Everything about this story seems backwards from what people might have expected. A king born in a manger? The Creator and King of the universe in a helpless human body? Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve. Jesus was born to be God's promised Savior.

CHRIST CONNECTION

(CG: CHRIST CONNECTION)

Note: You may use this opportunity to use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

SAY • 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. Although He is fully God, the Bible tells us that He humbled Himself to become fully human. He humbled Himself not just to become human, but to die the death we deserved. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sins and gives us eternal life with Him.

KEY PASSAGE

(CG: KEY PASSAGE)

(Bible)

Show the key passage slide. Open the Bible and lead the kids to read John 1:1-2 together.

SAY • Our key passage helps us understand that Jesus—the Word—is God the Son and was with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit all along, even in the very beginning.

PRAY AND DISMISS TO SMALL GROUPS

SMALL GROUP

Bible Passage: Luke 2

Story Point: Jesus was born to be God’s promised Savior.

Key Passage: “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

Christ Connection: Jesus was not an ordinary baby. He is God’s Son, sent to earth from heaven.

MINUTE GAME

(Timer, 1 per group)

Gather the kids together and instruct them to stand up. Challenge them to sit down when they think exactly one minute has elapsed. Use a stopwatch and keep track of who sits closest to a minute without going over. Play additional rounds using different lengths of time.

SAY • In that game, we didn’t know exactly when a minute would be up, but we had the ability to count seconds to try and come close. Waiting for something can be especially hard if you don’t know when it will happen.

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 have even known the Messiah was there! But all that waiting was worth it when Jesus was born to be God’s promised Savior.

DISCUSSION

(Bibles)

Distribute Bibles. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Luke 2. Explain that the Book of Luke was written by a doctor named Luke. Point out that in today’s Bible story, Joseph and Mary traveled from their home in Nazareth to the town of Bethlehem. Then read aloud Luke 2:10-11.

SAY • Jesus’ birth was good news! Jesus wasn’t born into the world to just show people the right way to live or be kind to people; Jesus was born to be God’s promised Savior. A *savior* is someone who saves from danger or destruction. Jesus was born to save people from sin. Sin separates us from God.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

Why do you think Jesus was born in such a simple way rather than in a palace to a wealthy family? *Guide kids to consider how Jesus can relate to ordinary people because of His upbringing. He gave up His glory and power in heaven to live a simple life. Jesus' birth shows how God cares about different things than the world does. We can come to God just as we are. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 4:15-16.)*

Why was Jesus' birth good news? *Help kids understand that Jesus came because we needed Him. God showed His love for us by sending His Son into the world. We were separated from God because of our sins, but God was working out His promise to save people through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 3:16.)*

Why should we tell others about Jesus? *Lead kids to recognize that salvation through Jesus brings the joy and responsibility of sharing the gospel with the world. God calls us to show Jesus to those around us—in what we say and how we live. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 66:16.)*

KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY

(Key Passage Poster, 1 per group, Paper, Marker, Ziplock Bag and Scissors, 1 of each per kid)

Display the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud John 1:1-2 together. Give each kid a piece of paper and a marker. Instruct kids to write the key passage, filling up as much of the paper as they can. Then provide scissors and invite them to cut their papers into puzzle pieces.

Direct kids to mix up their puzzle pieces and assemble them to practice saying the key passage. If time allows, let kids trade and complete a partner's puzzle. Provide Ziplock bags for kids to take home the puzzles.

SAY • What does our key passage tell us about God the Son? [*Allow kids to respond.*] Jesus was no ordinary baby. He is God's Son who came to earth as a human.

REFLECTION AND PRAYER

(Journal Page - 1 per kid, Pencils)

Ask the kids the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Make time for prayer requests and pray for your group. If time allows, have kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session.

CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS

(Older Kids Activity Page, 1 per kid)

Hand each 2nd-3rd grade kid an Older Kids Activity Page and encourage them to do it at home with their family this week.