



CHRISTMAS TRAIN | WEEK 2 | DECEMBER 10, 2023

# Preschool Lesson Jesus Is Born

**Bible Story:** *Jesus is born.* Jesus Is Born • Luke 2:1-7

**Memory Verse:** “God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son.” John 3:16, GNT

**Key Question:** How do we know God loves us?

**Bottom Line:** God gave us Jesus.

**Basic Truth:** I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God’s family forever.

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

*Christmas is such a special time of year! Preschoolers will experience a lot of excitement and wonder. We all do! But as they get older—and as we take time to stop and remember—we hope that the good news that God gave us Jesus will become the MOST wonderful part of Christmas. So, get ready because we are hopping aboard the CHRISTMAS TRAIN, and it’s carrying the true story of Christmas!*

Story Focus: **Jesus is born.** Mary and Joseph travel a LONG way to the town of Bethlehem, and Jesus is born in a stable where animals sleep. Jesus wasn’t born in a fancy place, but Jesus is special because Jesus is God’s Son. God loves us so much He gave us Jesus!

### Pre-Service Check List

- HUDDLE AS TEAM → • You're in this together! Pray together and talk about the activities for the day.
- PLAY MUSIC
- PUT OUT TOYS → • A welcoming environment is important! We want it to be obvious from the moment kids walk in that they belong HERE!
- PUT ASIDE DISTRACTIONS
- ENGAGE WITH KIDS

### Morning Flow



## 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.

### OPENING ACTIVITY

(No Supplies)

Kid Connect time is spent building relationships with the kids. Gather your small group together for some intentional connecting time before Large Group. You can do small activities while you chat together (like coloring or building with blocks) or just sit and listen to each other. Ask your kids relationship-building questions like:

- How old are you?
- Do you have a favorite stuffed animal?
- Do you have a brother, sister, or pet? What are their names?
- What do you like to play at home?
- What's your favorite food/color/animal/ice cream flavor?

*Transition to Large Group...*

## LARGE GROUP

### COUNTDOWN

(VIDEO: COUNTDOWN)

Show the countdown video as the children clean up and transition to Large Group.

### SETTING UP FOR SUCCESS

(CG: EXPECTATION SLIDE, BASIC TRUTHS SLIDE, MEMORY VERSE VIDEO; BIBLE)

LGL: "Hello my friends! How are you today? Come sit with me. I am so glad to see you here. I love being here with you!

"Here in KidCity we have three rules. How many rules do we have? (*Kids respond.*) That's right! Three rules. Let's go over our rules now. (*List rules while counting on fingers*)

1. **Be kind.** We can be kind by using our indoor speaking voices, by staying on our blankets (or whatever space you have), and by obeying our leaders.
2. **Be safe.** We can be safe by walking around the classroom and keeping our hands to ourselves.
3. **Have fun!** We are going to have SO much fun, and that's because you are here!

"Can everybody follow those rules today? (*Kids respond.*) Great! KidCity is a place where we learn

about God and Jesus! And there are three big truths that we want you to know. Let's say them all together! Are you ready?

1. **I am made by God.** What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*
2. **I am loved by God no matter what.** What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*
3. **I am made for a purpose!** What is it? *(Kids repeat.)*

"It's time for our memory verse. Let's watch our memory verse motions and do it along with them!"

*Show memory verse motion video and then practice without it.*

**God** (flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down)  
**loved the world** (cross arms over chest)  
**so much** (pull hands away from each other)  
**that he gave his only Son,** (rock arms like a baby)  
**John 3:16.**" (Open hands like a book.)

"Ok, Now let's sing and worship God!"

## WORSHIP

**(VIDEO: JESUS SAVIOR OF THE WORLD, SILENT NIGHT)**

Sing the worship songs together.

## INTRO SKETCH

**(Nativity Set, Story Box)**

*LGL brings the story box with the props inside to the middle. You should have a nativity scene that includes Jesus, Mary Joseph, Shepherds, and 3 Wise Men. You will use this all month.*

"I have my story box ready. I'm SO excited to see what we are learning about God today. Let's see what I have in here..."

*Pull out the Nativity set pieces as you talk about them (barn, manger, Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus).*

Look! It's a barn. Who all lives in a barn? *(Pause for responses like 'sheep', 'cows', etc.).* You're absolutely right. Let's see what else I have in here.

Hmm, a man, a woman, and a baby. I wonder who they are? Oh, I know! They must be Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. Jesus is God's son, and he was born in a barn. His birth is why we celebrate Christmas!

Before Jesus was born, an angel come to Mary and told her that she was going to have a very special baby. This baby was going to save the world AND show the whole world how much God loves us. This baby was Jesus!

Let's watch our Bible story and learn more about this special baby.

## WATCH THE BIBLE STORY

(VIDEO: BIBLE STORY, BOTTOM LINE)

"Mary wrapped Jesus in cloths and placed Him in a manger full of straw. Jesus, God's Son, had been born! *[Bottom Line]* God gave us Jesus!

And that's how we know God loves us! So, when I ask, 'How do we know God loves us?', I want you to say, *[Bottom Line]* 'God gave us Jesus!' Let's try that! How do we know God loves us? (*God gave us Jesus!*)

## SAY THE BASIC TRUTH

(CG: BASIC TRUTH SLIDE)

Let's look at our Basic Truth for today. It says, 'I am loved by God no matter what so I can belong in God's family forever.' God gave us Jesus so we can have a way to be a part of God's family.

## PRAY

"Let's pray together. (*Have kids "put both hands up in the air, clap them together once [keep hands clasped], and then lower them down to their lap."*)

Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You gave us Jesus. Jesus is very special because Jesus is Your Son! We love You, God. In Jesus' name, we pray, amen.

## PRAY AND TRANSITION TO SMALL GROUP

## SMALL GROUP

**Bible Story:** *Jesus is born. Jesus Is Born • Luke 2:1-7*

**Memory Verse:** “God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son.” John 3:16, GNT

**Key Question:** How do we know God loves us?

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## CHRISTMAS STORY BAG

(“Christmas Story Bag Cards” Activity Page on cardstock; four baskets/buckets/or boxes; painter’s tape; and small gift bags or zip locks with Christmas stickers)

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Copy “Christmas Story Bag Cards”, one set per child. Create train tracks on the floor around your area with painter’s tape. Space the four baskets along your train tracks. Put the Angel and Mary story cards in one basket, the Mary and Joseph story cards in a second basket, the Jesus is Born story cards in a third basket, and the parent note in a fourth basket.

*During the Activity:* Give each child a gift bag. Pretend to ride a train around the room, saying, “Chugga-chugga, choo-choo” as you go. Tell the children to put a card in their bag as you come to each basket. Review that part of the story before moving to the next basket.

*After the Activity:* Talk about how Christmas is when we celebrate that Jesus was born.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* “Who wants to go on a pretend train ride with me? *(Pause.)* Come get in line!”

*During the Activity:* “We heard more about the true story of Christmas in our Bible story today. I have story cards for you to collect in these baskets along the train tracks. Let’s pretend we’re riding a train and collect the story cards in this bag. *(Give each child a bag.)* Ready? Here we go! Chugga-chugga, choo-choo! We’ve come to our first stop. Everyone, take one card. *(Pause.)* Look! This card has an angel and Mary on it. Put your card in your bag. God sent an angel to tell Mary she would have a baby named Jesus. Jesus is special because Jesus is God’s Son! Let’s keep riding!

“Chugga-chugga, choo-choo! We’ve come to our second stop. Everyone, take one card. *(Pause.)* This card has a picture of Mary and Joseph on it. Put your card in your bag. Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem. When they got there, they had to sleep in a room where animals sleep, because there were no other rooms. Let’s keep riding! Chugga-chugga, choo-choo! We’ve come to our third stop. Everyone, take one card. *(Pause.)* This card has a picture of Baby Jesus on it. Put your card in your bag. When Jesus, God’s Son, was born, Mary wrapped Him in strips of cloth and laid Him in a manger. Okay, we’ve got one more stop to make. Let’s ride! Chugga-chugga, choo-choo! We’ve come to our last stop. Everyone, take one card. *(Pause.)* This card is a note and has fun games you can play with your Christmas story cards when you get home.”



*After the Activity:* “Friends, we know that God loves us A LOT because **[Bottom Line]** God gave us Jesus. How do we know God loves us? **[Bottom Line]** God gave us Jesus!”

## WHO LIVES IN THE STABLE

(No Supplies)

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Gather in an open area of the room.

*During the Activity:* Call out an animal that you might find in a stable, such as a cow, horse, sheep, dog, donkey, chicken, rooster, etc. Encourage children to move around the room pretending to be that animal. Just for fun, add in some animals that obviously DON'T belong in a stable!

*After the Activity:* Say the Bottom Line.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* “Friends, join me over here and spread out. I’ll call out an animal name, and you can move around the room acting like that animal. These are animals that you might find in a stable. A stable is a place where animals live.”

*During the Activity:* “Okay, friends, are you ready? Act like a cow. Moo! *(Pause.)* Good job! Wow, you moved and sounded just like cows! You might find a cow living in a stable. Let’s do another animal. Act like a donkey. Hee-haw! *(Continue with different animals.)* You are amazing! It really sounded like we had all those animals in our room!”

Jesus was born in a stable surrounded by all kinds of animals. **God gave us Jesus** to save us from our sins! Can we say ‘**God gave us Jesus**’ together? *(Say together)*

## MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

(Memory Verse Motions Poster – 1 per group)

Say the memory verse using motions from the Memory Verse Motions poster. Repeat several times and encourage children for their efforts.

**God** (flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down)  
**loved the world** (cross arms over chest)  
**so much** (pull hands away from each other)  
**that he gave his only Son,** (rock arms like a baby)  
**John 3:16.”** (Open hands like a book.)

## PRAYER

“Let’s pray together. *(Have kids “put both hands up in the air, clap them together once [keep hands clasped], and then lower them down to their lap.”)*

Dear God, there are so many different places people can sleep. We can sleep in a house or a room where animals stay, like Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus did. Thank You that where we sleep doesn’t change how special we are. It didn’t change how special Jesus is! Jesus will always be special

because Jesus is Your Son! Thank You, God, for giving us Jesus. We love You. In Jesus' name, amen.”

## **CONNECT WITH PARENTS/INFLUENCERS**

**(First Look Placemats - 1 per child)**

Hand out placemats to parents as they arrive. Encourage parents/influencers to review the Preschool lesson with their child this week.

