



JESUS IS BORN

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 2:1-7

FOCUS VERSES: Isaiah 53:5; 2 Corinthians 9:15,
Philippians 2:6-8, Ephesians 2:8

Summary: Caesar declared that every man had to return to his hometown to be counted. Mary was very pregnant, but she and Joseph set off for Bethlehem. The town was crowded. There was no room to stay in an inn. The time came for Mary to have the baby. They found shelter where the animals stayed. Mary gave birth to Jesus. He was laid in the manger.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

(LUKE 2:11)

BRITE  *Idea*

Jesus brings love.



We will go deeper in God's truth by answering these questions:



WHY DID JESUS COME AS A BABY?

Jesus was fully God and fully man so that He could show His great love by becoming the perfect sacrifice for our sin.



WHY DO WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?

We celebrate that God loved us so much that He sent Jesus to save us from our sins.



HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

Kids will reflect and respond to the truth they learned about God.

Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: THE ANGRY FAMILY

Let's be honest, this caregiver could be angry at you, the church, a family member, or the hand that life dealt them, but that doesn't mean we can ignore them and hope they go away. We have an excellent opportunity to minister to them. Let's make it count!

- **Pray First.** Only God truly knows what is going on in their heart, life, or home. Commit to pray for them weekly, asking God to give you wisdom and discernment as you interact with them. Ask God to also provide an opportunity for you to get to know them and what is behind their anger.
- **Remain Positive.** Just because the caregiver is angry doesn't mean the kid is, so don't allow it to affect the way you interact with them. Greet this kid and caregiver just as you would anyone else, and when you have something great to share, be sure to share it with that caregiver. It might be the only positive thing they have heard all week.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: MATERIALISM

In a 2024 survey, Americans indicated they would spend over \$1,000 on gifts for Christmas.* Christmas lists written by today's elementary kids and preteens look nothing like those from a generation ago. Thanks to social media, brand-name shoes, clothing, and even hygiene products are more in demand than ever. During the Christmas season, many conversations will focus on material things. Be aware of varying socioeconomic levels within your group. While some kids may worry if they are getting the right brand of shoes, some kids may be worried about if they will get anything at all. Both ends of the spectrum can be overly concerned on the materialistic side of Christmas, though in different ways. Keep your group conversations focused on the real reason we celebrate Christmas and steer away discussions of Christmas gift comparisons.

*For more resources on this topic, check out:
britecurriculum.com/resources

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Prophecy: a message about the future given by God through a person (prophet) to people

Punishment: a negative result or consequence for breaking a rule

Savior: the only One who can save us from our sins

Sin: anything we think, say, or do that disobeys God

Bible TEACHING

JESUS IS BORN LUKE 2:1-7



PRAY: Jesus, You arrived as a baby and brought God's love into the world! You are our true reason to celebrate Christmas, and it all started with Mary and Joseph a long way from home. Thank You! Amen.

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP:

Have carpet or padding for kids that need to get on their hands and knees.

Say: I need your help to tell today's story by becoming living statues!

Say: Caesar Augustus, the ruler of the land, ordered that a census must be taken. Every person had to be counted.

Ask everyone to stand as Caesar Augustus statues by freezing in a pose as though counting on their fingers. After a moment, invite the group to sit back down.

Say: Every Jewish man was ordered to go back to his hometown to be registered, and every adult in the household had to be a part of the census.

Say: Mary was very, very pregnant. She and Joseph set off on an 85-mile journey to Joseph's hometown of Bethlehem, the city of David.

Show teaching illustration: Mary and Joseph Travel to Bethlehem.

Call three volunteers to come to the front to be a donkey, Mary and Joseph. Ask the donkey statue to get down on their hands and knees, have Mary sit on their back and have Joseph freeze in a walking pose. Have everyone applaud the statues then invite the volunteers to return to their seats.

Say: When they arrived, the town was very busy. Hundreds of people had arrived for the census. There was no room in the inns. They had nowhere to stay.

Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Say: However, it was time for the baby to be born! They found shelter in the same place where animals stayed.

Ask everyone to be animal statues by freezing in various barnyard animal positions. After a moment, invite the group to sit back down.

Say: Mary gave birth to Jesus, her firstborn son.

Show teaching illustration: Mary Holds Jesus.

Read Luke 2:7 directly from the Bible: *And she gave birth to her firstborn Son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

Call two volunteers to come to the front to be Mary and a manger. Ask the "manger" to freeze in a pose low to the ground. Ask "Mary" to freeze in a pose as though placing Jesus in the manger. Have everyone applaud the statues then invite the volunteers to return to their seats.

Say: Jesus, the God of the universe and the Savior, was born in a shelter surrounded by animals. He didn't come to Earth in a way that was flashy and attracted a lot of attention. At the moment, Mary and Joseph were the only ones who knew.

Say: Jesus coming to Earth as a baby is our true reason to celebrate Christmas! He is our Savior!

Show teaching slide: Point to Jesus.



POINT TO JESUS

Say: All of the promises the Old Testament prophets made were coming true. Jesus was born as a baby in Bethlehem. Philippians 2:7 says that Jesus *emptied Himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men*. Jesus became like us, just like God had promised. Because He was born as a baby, He grew up to live a human life and die on the cross. We can be saved from our sin because of Jesus.

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

SUPPLIES: 2 large beanbags, painter's tape

OR

FRIEND CENSUS

SUPPLIES: Printable page, writing supplies

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

NATIVITY VERSE CARD

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, printable pages, coloring supplies, glue sticks (1 per kid), scissors

OR

HUMAN OR GOD?

SUPPLIES: Bible, printable page

3



DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom

4

BECOME (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

STAR OF SALVATION

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, colorful craft sticks (5 per kid), glue dots (5 per kid), ribbon, scissors

OR

PRAISE PRAYERS

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, upbeat Christmas worship music, music player



JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

SUPPLIES:

2 large beanbags, painter's tape

PREP:

Mark a starting line and finishing line with painter's tape on opposite sides of your space.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For kids with mobility needs, allow extra space and time for specialized equipment or buddy them up with a familiar friend to assist.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. **Discuss:** What was the best and worst part of your week?
3. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that Jesus is our Savior! How have you seen this week that Jesus is the Savior?
4. **Say:** Let's play a game!
5. **Say:** Let's pretend we are going on a long journey. We will be gone for several days, so we need to bring all the things we will need. A beanbag will represent what we bring.
6. *Divide kids into two teams and line them up behind the starting line.*
7. **Say:** Our journey won't be easy. We will be carrying our luggage on our feet!
8. **Say:** When it is time for you to go, you will put your feet together and balance the beanbag on top. You will walk very slowly without dropping your luggage. If you drop your luggage, you have to go back to the starting line. Once you cross the finish line, toss your beanbag back to your team so the next person can go.
9. *Start the game and cheer kids on!*
10. *Continue until everyone has had a turn to travel with the beanbag on their feet.*

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

Our journey was hard! Today we are learning about a long journey that Mary and Joseph made. They made it just in time for the birth of Jesus!



FRIEND CENSUS

SUPPLIES:

Printable page, writing supplies

PREP:

Print the printable page (1 per kid).

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Pair kids who may struggle with this activity with a friend who can help.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. **Discuss:** What was the best and worst part of your week?
3. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that Jesus is our Savior! How have you seen this week that Jesus is the Savior?
4. **Discuss:** Does anyone know what a census is?
5. **Say:** A census is a count. Let's spend some time talking to our friends and counting up everyone's favorite things!
6. *Hand out a printable page and writing supplies to everyone.*
7. **Say:** You will walk around and talk to different friends. For each row on your paper, ask them what their favorite is. Then put a line in that box, like a tally mark! When we are all done, we'll come back together and talk about which one we like most!
8. *Give kids time to walk around and talk to as many kids as possible.*
9. *Gather kids together.*
10. *Discuss the results of the census.*

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

We took our own small census today! Today, we are learning about how Joseph and Mary had to travel back to Joseph's hometown to be counted!



NATIVITY VERSE CARD

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide, printable pages, coloring supplies, glue sticks (1 per kid), scissors

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide. Print the printable pages and cut out (1 star card, verse strip and nativity picture per kid).

LEADER TIP: Provide sparkly crayons and glitter pens to make the cards extra special.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Support active learners by allowing them to stand during the activity and/or do frequent check-ins with them while working. Praise positive behaviors.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Luke 2:11 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** Who was born in our story today?
3. **Discuss:** Why was this baby special?
4. **Discuss:** Why did Jesus come as a baby?
5. **Say:** Jesus was fully God and fully man so that He could show His great love by becoming the perfect sacrifice for our sin.
6. **Discuss:** Do you know any person who could save you from your sins?
7. **Say:** Jesus was like us in some ways; He had an earthly family. But He was different in other ways. Jesus is fully God and fully human. He is the Son of God but came to Earth in human flesh so that He could take the punishment for our sins.
8. *Say the verse together several times.*
9. **Say:** Let's create a Christmas card with our memory verse!
10. *Pass out coloring supplies, glue sticks, a star card, verse strip and nativity picture to everyone.*
11. *Help kids glue their memory verse on one side of the card and the nativity scene on the other.*
12. *Encourage kids to decorate their star card.*
13. **Discuss:** Who can you share your card with? What will you tell them about Jesus' birth?

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Christmas is all about Jesus! He is the greatest gift we could ever receive.



HUMAN OR GOD?

SUPPLIES:

Bible, printable page

PREP:

Print the printable page.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** Who was born in our story today?
2. **Discuss:** What was special about this baby?
3. **Discuss:** Why did Jesus come as a baby?
4. **Say:** Jesus was fully God and fully man so that He could show His great love by becoming the perfect sacrifice for our sin.
5. **Say:** Let's discuss if verses from the Bible show Jesus as human or as God.
6. **Say:** I will read a verse from Jesus' life. If the verse shows us that Jesus was human, put your hand on a friend's shoulder. If the verse shows that Jesus was God, point up.
7. *Read the verses from the printable page and discuss them with kids.*
8. **Discuss:** Does it matter that Jesus was fully God and fully human? Why?
9. **Read:** Philippians 2:6–8.
10. **Discuss:** What do these verses tell us about Jesus?
11. **Say:** Jesus was like us in some ways; He had an earthly family. But He was different in other ways. Jesus is fully God and fully human. He is the Son of God but came to Earth in human flesh so that He could take the punishment for our sins.

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

Christmas is such a special time because we get to celebrate God's great love in being the perfect sacrifice for our sin.



Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

Discuss: How does this true story from the Bible show us that God is good?

Say: The Savior came to Earth! God has always desired to be with His people, and now Jesus came in the flesh to make a way for us to live with Him forever. God kept all His promises. The Savior was born as a tiny baby and grew up to rescue us from sin. We can celebrate God's goodness!

Read Luke 2:7a directly from the Bible: *And she gave birth to her firstborn Son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... MATERIALISM?

Discuss: Why do people talk so much about Christmas presents this time of year?

Discuss: Do you think kids your age focus too much on presents? Why or why not?

Discuss: What do you think God has to say about that?

Say: Giving and receiving gifts is such a fun part of the Christmas season. Sometimes, though, we can become so focused on the material things that we lose focus on what is most important. Jesus is the whole reason we celebrate Christmas. If we catch ourselves thinking way more about presents than we think about Jesus, we may be focusing on the wrong things. Consider ways to put Jesus first this week. Read the Christmas story from Luke 2 as a family, start each day with a prayer of thanksgiving to God or find a way to serve someone else this week. James 1:17 says: *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights.* Every good thing in the Christmas season is ultimately a gift from God. Let's celebrate Him above everything else!



STAR OF SALVATION

SUPPLIES:

Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, colorful craft sticks (5 per kid), glue dots (5 per kid), ribbon, scissors

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Make an example to show kids. Cut the ribbon into 12-inch pieces (1 per kid).

LEADER TIP: Provide additional decorating supplies such as glitter, buttons, stickers, etc.

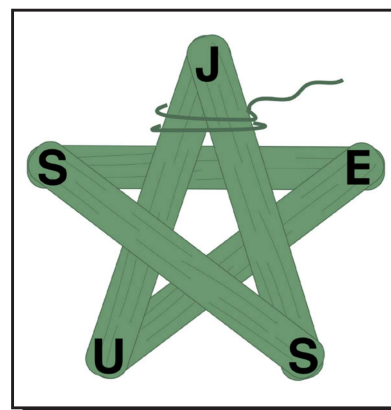
ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Provide assistance with glueing for kids struggling with sensory needs and who prefer to not get their hands messy.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What gift came at Christmas?
2. **Discuss:** Why do we celebrate Christmas?
3. **Say:** We celebrate that God loved us so much that He sent Jesus to save us from our sins.
4. **Read:** Ephesians 2:8.
5. **Say:** We are saved by having faith in Jesus. When we trust that Jesus is the only one who can forgive us and we believe in Him as our Savior, we are saved by His grace, not by anything we do.
6. *Distribute craft sticks and glue dots. Lead kids to form a star shape by overlapping sticks at ends and using glue dots to glue them together.*
7. *Help kids write the letters J-E-S-U-S, one letter at each point of the star.*
8. *Help kids tie a ribbon at the top. Kids can hang it up at home on their Christmas trees and remember the importance of trusting Jesus as their Savior.*
9. **Say:** God gave us the gift of Jesus as our Savior. We can trust in Him to forgive us of our sins and make a way for us to live with Him forever.
10. **Pray:** God, thank You for the gift of Jesus. Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to be our Savior. Amen.
11. **Say:** Jesus brings love. Let's take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages. Ask fun, relationship-building questions while kids wait to be picked up. As parents arrive, connect with them and point out the Take-Home page.





PRAISE PRAYERS

SUPPLIES:

Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, upbeat Christmas worship music, music player

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).

LEADER TIP: To make it even more fun and festive, give kids noisemakers, ribbon streamers or confetti party poppers after praying.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For kids who are hard of hearing, give a visual cue for starting and stopping (e.g., open hand when starting and closed hand when stopping).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What gift came at Christmas?
2. **Read:** Ephesians 2:8.
3. **Discuss:** Why do we celebrate Christmas?
4. **Say:** We celebrate that God loved us so much that He sent Jesus to save us from our sins.
5. **Say:** Let's praise Jesus together! I will play some music and we will all dance around together. When I stop the music, you will freeze and I will call on someone to say a praise to Jesus!
6. *Play the music and dance around together.*
7. *Stop the music and call on someone to say a praise to Jesus.*
8. *Start the music again.*
9. *If kids need help, encourage them to say things like, "Thank You, Jesus!" "Thank You for Your love!" "Thank You for saving us!"*
10. *Continue praising God together as long as you have time for.*
11. **Pray:** God, thank You for the gift of Jesus. Thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus as a baby. Thank You for sending Him to be our Savior. Amen.
12. **Say:** Jesus brings love. Let's take time to respond to Him.



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

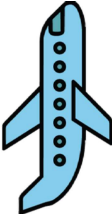
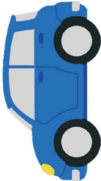
Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages. Ask fun, relationship-building questions while kids wait to be picked up. As parents arrive, connect with them and point out the Take-Home page.



FRIENDS CENSUS

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
JESUS IS BORN

PAGE 1 OF 1 **PREP:** Print the printable page (1 per kid).

OTHER			
			
			
			
			
1	2	3	4

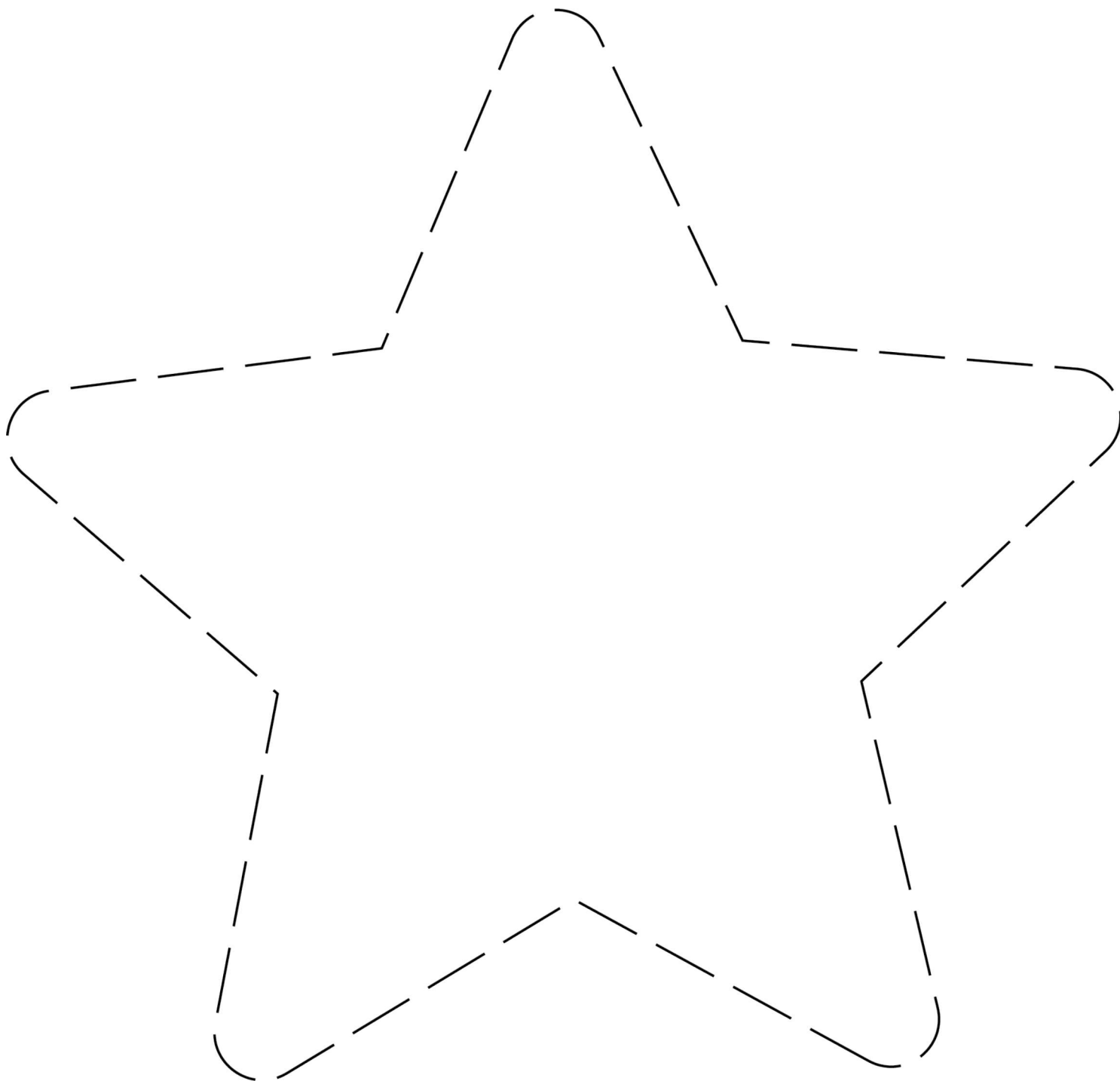


NATIVITY VERSE CARD

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
JESUS IS BORN

PAGE 1 OF 3

PREP: Print the printable page on cardstock and cut out (1 per kid).





NATIVITY VERSE CARD

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
JESUS IS BORN

PAGE 2 OF 3

PREP: Print the printable page and cut out (1 per kid).

<i>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11)</i>	<i>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11)</i>
<i>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11)</i>	<i>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:11)</i>

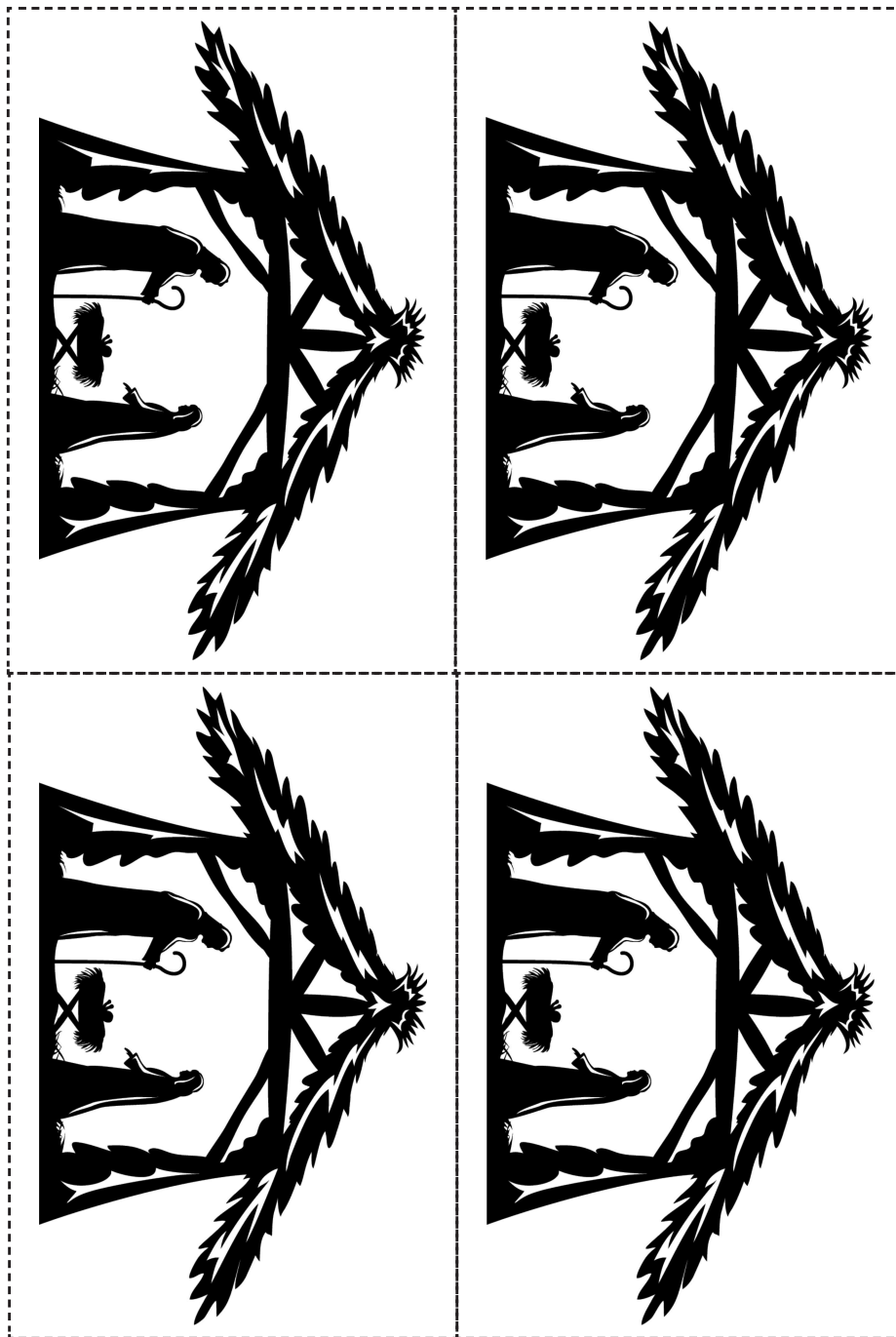


NATIVITY VERSE CARD

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
JESUS IS BORN

PAGE 3 OF 3

PREP: Print the printable page and cut out (1 per kid).





NATIVITY VERSE CARD

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
JESUS IS BORN

CUSTOMIZABLE

PREP: Print the printable page and cut out (1 per kid).

(Luke 2:11)	(Luke 2:11)
(Luke 2:11)	(Luke 2:11)



1. Read: Hebrews 10:12

Discuss: Does this verse show Jesus as human or God? **(God)**

2. Read: John 11:35

Discuss: Does this verse show Jesus as human or God? **(Human)**

3. Read: Mark 4:38a

Discuss: Does this verse show Jesus as human or God? **(Human)**

4. Read: Mark 4:39

Discuss: Does this verse show Jesus as human or God? **(God)**

5. Read: Mark 5:41-42

Discuss: Does this verse show Jesus as human or God? **(God)**

6. Read: Matthew 14:19-21

Discuss: Does this verse show Jesus as human or God? **(God)**

7. Read: John 4:6

Discuss: Does this verse show Jesus as human or God? **(Human)**

8. Read: Matthew 21:18

Discuss: Does this verse show Jesus as human or God? **(Human)**

9. Read: Matthew 14:25

Discuss: Does this verse show Jesus as human or God? **(God)**



TAKE-HOME

JESUS IS BORN

JESUS IS BORN (LUKE 2:1-7) Caesar Augustus ordered everyone to return to their hometown to be counted. Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem, but it was crowded with no room to stay. Mary gave birth to Jesus and laid Him in a manger.

POINT TO JESUS: All the Old Testament promises were coming true. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, becoming like us just as God promised. He lived a human life and died on the cross so we can be saved from our sin.



MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

*For unto you is born this day in the city of
David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
(LUKE 2:11)*

FAMILIES, ASK THESE THREE QUESTIONS!



**WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU'VE LEARNED
ABOUT THE CHRISTMAS STORY YOU
DIDN'T KNOW BEFORE?**



WHY DID JESUS COME AS A BABY?
Jesus was fully God and fully man so
that He could show His great love
by becoming the perfect sacrifice for
our sin.



WHY DO WE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS?
We celebrate that God loved us so
much that He sent Jesus to save us
from our sins.

HOW IS GOD INVITING **ME** TO RESPOND?

CHOOSE ONE:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ I can talk to God about ... | ☐ I wonder ... |
| ☐ I can remember ... | ☐ I can ... |



DRAW OR WRITE YOUR RESPONSE

YOUR FAMILY'S WIN THIS WEEK ...

Choose 5 items from your home to give to a local ministry. As you gather them, discuss why showing Jesus' love to your community matters.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD

Materialism can be a tough topic for kids. We can help kids view this topic through the lens of Scripture. Learn more about this and how to have a conversation at home here. [Britecurriculum.com/tough-topics](https://britecurriculum.com/tough-topics)

**WANT MORE
AT-HOME
DISCIPLESHIP
DISCUSSION?
SCAN ME!**



GOING DEEPER

Read God's Word this week!

Read each passage with a grown-up and answer the three questions together.



DAY 1

Read: Luke 2:1-7

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?



DAY 2

Read: Isaiah 9:6-7

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?



DAY 3

Read: John 15:9-12

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?



DAY 4

Read: 1 John 4:15-19

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

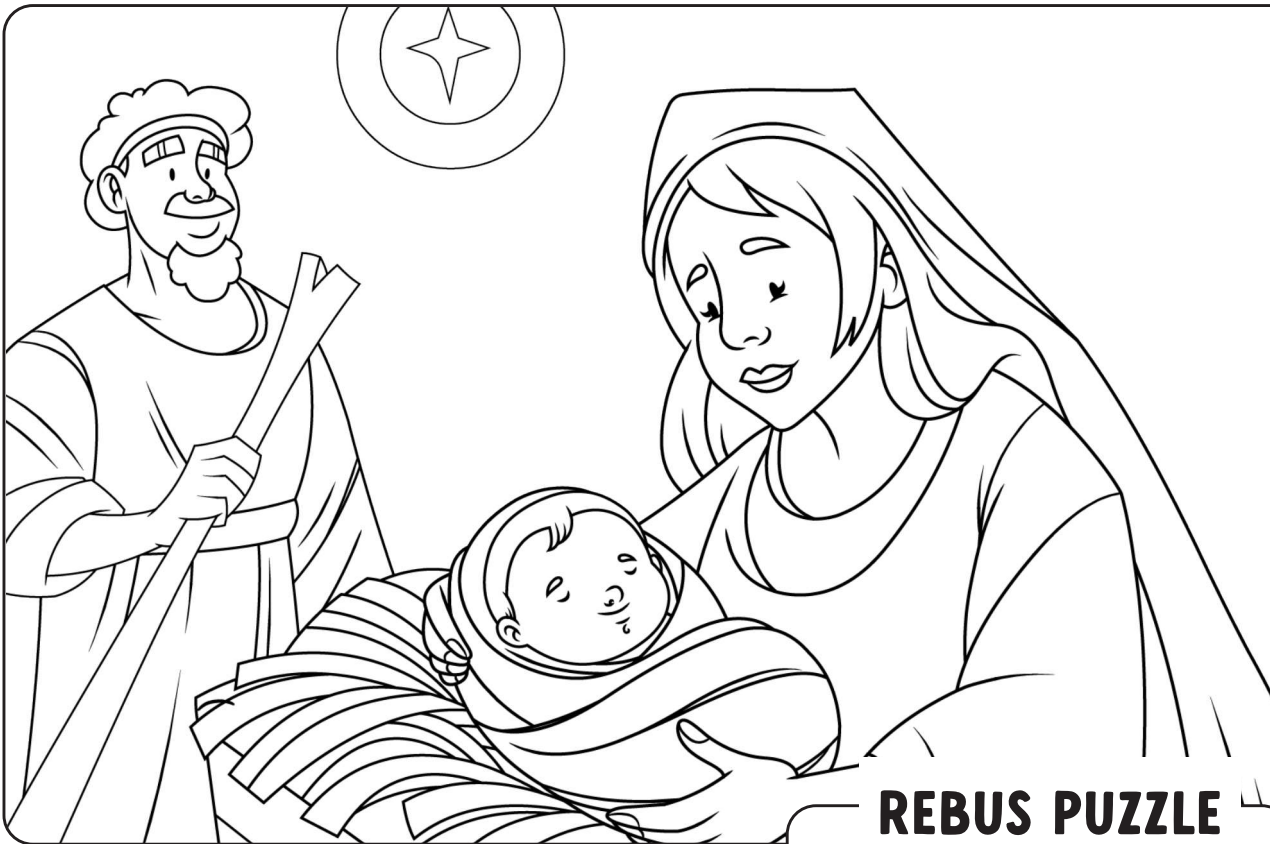
ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?



TAKE-HOME ACTIVITIES

JESUS IS BORN

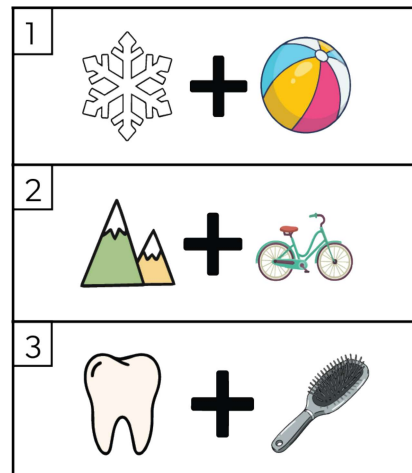
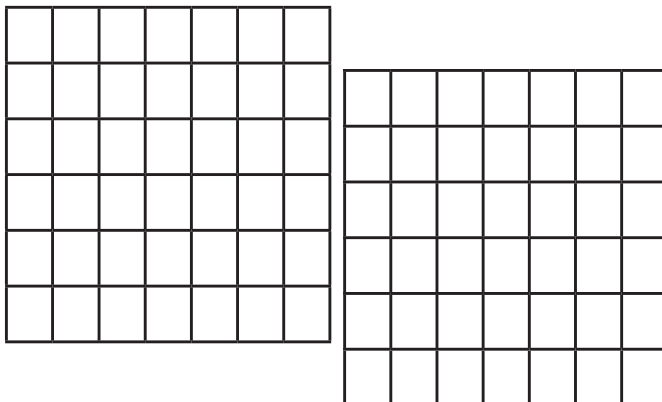


COLOR THE ILLUSTRATION

REBUS PUZZLE

CONNECT FOUR

- Find a partner.
- Take turns putting an "x" or "o" in boxes. You must put your shape in the lowest box in the column.
- The first player to get four in a row in any direction wins!



1. snowflake 2. mountain bike 3. toothbrush

