



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

Large Group ROADMAP

1**WELCOME****(8 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, large glass container, peppermints to fill the container, table, index cards (1 per kid), writing supplies (1 per kid)

2**FIND IT IN
THE BIBLE****(2 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slides

3**BIBLE
TEACHING****(10 MINUTES)****JESUS IS BORN
(LUKE 2:1-7)**

SUPPLIES: Bible, teaching slides

4**REVIEW****(8 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides

5**LARGE GROUP
WRAP-UP****(5 MINUTES)**

SUPPLIES: Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

Welcome



Say: Hello everyone and Merry Christmas! Today's story includes counting, so let's see how well we can estimate. Each of you look closely at the peppermints. Write down how many peppermints you think are in the container. The closest guess wins.

Invite everyone to write down a number on the card. Announce the actual number to the group. Ask if anyone's guess was within 20 of the right number. Of those, discover who was the closest to the right answer. Applaud the winner.

Say: That count was tricky! Mary and Joseph had to travel a long way—about 85 miles—just to be counted. Even far from home, God's plan to bring love to the world occurred through the miraculous birth of Jesus.

SUPPLIES:

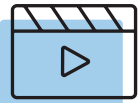
Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides, large glass container, peppermints to fill the container, table, index cards (1 per kid), writing supplies (1 per kid)

PREP:

Fill the container with peppermints and note how many fit inside. Place the container on the table at the front of your space.

LEADER TIP:

Give everyone a peppermint after the activity.



INTRO VIDEO

Play Intro Video then transition into discussion.

Say: I wish I could ride the Christmas Light Bus! Everyone seems so nice and loving to each other, even during the games.

Discuss: What do other people do to make you feel loved?

Say: Jesus' birth was God's gift of love to the world! Today's Brite Idea is: Jesus brings love.

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea

Show teaching slide: He/We/Me Questions

TODAY WE WILL ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS:



Why did Jesus come as a baby?



Why do we celebrate Christmas?

AT THE END OF OUR TIME TODAY, THE QUESTION YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER IS:



How is God inviting me to respond?

FIND IT
IN THE



Bible

WHAT IS GOD'S BIGGER STORY?

Show teaching slide: God's Big Story

Say: The Bible is real and true. God gave us the Bible so we could know Him. The Bible is filled with many books and stories, but they are all a part of one BIG story — God's story.

Creation: God is the one true God and He has always existed. He is the Creator of all things, including you and me. He is good, He loves us, and we are made in His image.

Fall: Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God. Sin broke the world, and people were separated from God. People could not fix their sin problem on their own.

Redemption: God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross, to take the punishment for our sins, and to rise from the dead to conquer death. When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, our relationship with God is made right again through His grace, and He gives us new life.

Restoration: When we walk with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit and learn God's Word, He renews us. One day, Jesus will return to renew all things.

WHERE IS TODAY'S BIBLE STORY?

Show teaching image: Family Line

Say: Two weeks ago we learned about Jesus' genealogy and how He brings hope.

Show teaching image: Angel Appears to Joseph

Say: Then we learned about Joseph and the angel and how Jesus brings salvation.

Show teaching slide: Books of the Bible

Say: This week's story comes from the book of Luke. Luke is right between the books of Mark and John in the New Testament.

Show teaching slide: Find It in the Bible Timeline

Say: This story falls in the "Arrival of Jesus" period of the Bible. Today's true story tells us what happened during the actual events leading up to Jesus' birth!

Show teaching slide: Biblical Theme

Say: This month we are focusing on the truth that Jesus is our Savior.

Say: This week we will learn that Jesus was born and brought never-ending, never-failing love into the world.

LET'S FIND IT IN OUR BIBLES!

Open your Bible and show the kids the title page for the book of Luke. Help kids turn in their Bibles to today's Bible passage (Luke 2:1–7).

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.

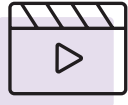
Say: Jesus coming to Earth as a baby is our true reason to celebrate Christmas! He is our Savior!

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.



BIBLE REVIEW VIDEO

Play Bible Review Video. Play the game below using teaching slides: Review Game

SUPPLIES:

Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides

PREP:

Designate each corner of your space as A, B, C, or D.

INSTRUCTIONS: Kids will go to a corner to indicate their answer.

1. Why did Mary and Joseph have to travel to Bethlehem?

- A. To see Mary's cousin Elizabeth
- B. To be counted in the census**
- C. For Joseph to find a job
- D. To follow a star in the sky

2. What major event happened in Bethlehem in a shelter meant for animals?

- A. Moses struck a rock to find water.
- B. David played a harp.
- C. Paul saw a great light in the sky.
- D. Baby Jesus was born.**

3. Who were the first people to know the God of the Universe had come to Earth?

- A. Caesar Augustus
- B. Wealthy merchants
- C. Mary and Joseph**
- D. Wise men from the East

4. How many promises from Old Testament prophets about the coming of a Savior came true?

- A. All of them**
- B. None of them
- C. Some of them
- D. Most of them

5. Why did Jesus come as a baby?

- A. To become the perfect sacrifice for our sins**
- B. To be wealthy
- C. To live in a palace
- D. To be born in Nazareth

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

6. Why do we celebrate Christmas?

- A. Presents are awesome.
- B. Families spend time together.
- C. God loved us so much that He sent Jesus.**
- D. Christmas music is the best.

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



Wrap – Up

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea



SUPPLIES:

Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

PREP:

None

Show teaching slide: He Question and Answer

HE

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.

Show teaching slide: We Question and Answer

WE

Why do we celebrate Christmas?

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



MONTHLY Memory Verse

Choose an older kid to look up the verse and read it aloud to the group. Have the whole group repeat it together.

Show teaching slide: Memory Verse

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

(LUKE 2:11)



VERSE VIDEO

Play Memory Verse Video
after the verse is read.



PRAY: God, above everything else this Christmas we celebrate Your great love. You sent Your Son to save us from our sins. Help us remember and praise You before doing anything else this season. Amen.