



JESUS IS BORN

BIBLE PASSAGE *LUKE 2:1-7*

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.

Today's Brite Idea is: Jesus brings love.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

*Unto you is born
this day a Savior.*

(LUKE 2:11)



BIG QUESTION

Why was Jesus born? To save us!



Jesus is born!



We can celebrate
Jesus!



I can celebrate
Jesus!

LEADER TRAINING: EQUIP PARENTS

Partnering with parents means equipping them with resources that make the work of raising kids both practical and Gospel-centered. Sharing books, podcasts, devotionals or simple at-home activities helps parents feel empowered by you as their ministry partner and connected to what their kids are learning in kids ministry. Resource tools reinforce spiritual growth, model healthy rhythms and show that leaders are invested in the family's journey beyond Sunday.

- **Offer accessible and practical resources.** Recommend short devotionals, podcasts or age-appropriate books that parents can use during the week.
- **Highlight everyday moments.** Suggest ways to turn bedtime, mealtime or playtime into opportunities for faith conversations.
- **Encourage consistency, not perfection.** Resources are meant to guide and inspire, helping parents see small wins as significant steps in discipleship.
- **Connect resources to church lessons.** When parents see alignment between home and ministry, kids experience faith as integrated and alive.
- **Celebrate parent effort.** Share encouragement when parents engage with tools, reminding them that God delights in every intentional step they take.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: MATERIALISM

In a 2024 survey, Americans indicated they would spend over \$1000 on gifts for Christmas.* Christmas lists and wants are more extravagant than generations ago. Preschoolers will often focus on material things during the Christmas season. Be aware of varying socioeconomic levels within your group. While some kids may worry if they are getting the right toy, 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 from discussions of Christmas gift comparisons.

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

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Bethlehem: a town

Manger: a box that holds animal food

Lesson ROADMAP

1

BELONG

Small Group (15 MINUTES)

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

THE GREATEST GIFT

SUPPLIES: Gift box, baby clothing, wrapping paper, tape

OR

TELL THE GOOD NEWS

SUPPLIES: None

2

BIBLE TEACHING

Large Group (20 MINUTES)

JESUS IS BORN

(LUKE 2:1-7)

SUPPLIES: Bible, teaching slides, teaching pictures (printed/shown from teaching slides), video player, music player

3

BELIEVE

Small Group (10 MINUTES)

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

PARACHUTE VERSE

SUPPLIES: Parachute, Memory Verse Song, music player

OR

NATIVITY MATCH

SUPPLIES: Printable pages, scissors (prep)

4

BECOME

Small Group (15 MINUTES)

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

JESUS IS BORN CRAFT

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, printable page, scissors (prep), craft sticks (4 per kid), coloring supplies, glue sticks (1 per 3 kids), star sticker (1 per kid)

OR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, party props (hats, noise makers, streamers, 1 per kid)



THE GREATEST GIFT

SUPPLIES:

Gift box, baby clothing, wrapping paper, tape

PREP:

Place the baby clothing inside the gift box. Wrap the gift box in multiple layers of wrapping paper and secure it with tape.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For active learners, strategically place the kids in the circle next to a positive model. Remind kids of criss-cross applesauce during activity or provide a chair if needed.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can you each tell us your name? *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Gather kids to sit in a circle.*
2. **Say:** I have this gift box. I wonder what's inside!
3. *Shake the gift box and pretend to listen.*
4. *Hold up the gift so all kids can see.*
5. **Say:** We will pass this gift around our circle. I will count to five. Whenever I'm done counting to five, whoever is holding the gift can unwrap one layer.
6. *Begin passing the gift around as you count to five.*
7. *Once you're done counting, help whoever is holding the gift unwrap one layer.*
8. *Continue until all the wrapping paper has been removed.*
9. *Hold up the gift for everyone to see what is inside.*
10. **Say:** It's clothing that is really, really small.
11. **Ask:** Who do you think would wear this? That's right, a baby!



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Today, we will learn about when Jesus was born as a baby. Jesus is the greatest gift; let's learn more about Jesus together.



TELL THE GOOD NEWS

SUPPLIES:

None

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP: Offer choices for physical touch. Let kids decide between a side hug, high-five or wave so everyone feels safe, respected and included in the activity.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Developing a visual choice sheet can assist with kids struggling verbally.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can you each tell us your name? *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Today we will do something special together to remind us that we belong and that Jesus brings love to our families.
2. *Gather kids to stand in a circle.*
3. **Say:** When it's your turn, you'll give the person next to you a gentle side hug, a high-five or a wave and say, "Jesus is born!"
4. *Model a gentle side hug, high-five or a wave with a nearby leader or kid.*
5. **Say:** You can choose between a side hug, high-five or a wave!
6. *Guide kids around the circle, helping prompt them if needed.*
7. **Ask:** What makes Jesus so special?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Jesus came as a baby because He loves us so much. We can share about Jesus and His love with others. Let's remember—Jesus is our Savior, and He brings love to our families. Let's learn more about Jesus and His love in today's Bible story.

INTRO:

Play the Countdown Video and guide kids to sit together for large group teaching time.

WELCOME:

Say: Welcome! I'm so glad you are here today. Let's review what we have learned so far.

RECAP FROM *Last Week*

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

Show teaching image: Family Line.

Say: Then last week we discovered that an angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him to name his baby Jesus because He would save people from their sins.

Show teaching image: Angel Appears to Joseph.

Say: Today, we will learn a true story from the Bible about the time Jesus was born around a bunch of animals.



BIG QUESTION

Say: Let's take a look at this month's Big Question. Can you help me do a drumroll? Ready? 1, 2, 3 ... drumroll!

Show the Big Question Teaching Image.



PLAY FIND IT IN THE *Bible Song*

Say: Why was Jesus born? We will find out more in today's Bible story!

Play the "Find It in the Bible" song.

Hold up a Bible.

Say: Who can tell me the name of this book? *Allow kids to respond.*

Say: Yes! This book is called the Bible. The Bible is the most important book of all. The Bible is full of true stories about how God takes care of His people and loves them. Today we will hear a story from the New Testament in the book of Luke. The New Testament is filled with lots of stories about how Jesus came to earth to save us!

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, teaching pictures (printed/shown from teaching slides), video player, music player

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP:

You may want to have celebratory Christmas music ready to play for dancing with joy that Jesus is born.

JESUS IS BORN (LUKE 2:1-7)

Say: Today's true story from the Bible comes from the book of Luke. Let's open up the Bible to Luke chapter 2. *Pick a kid to help you open the Bible and then hold it up for everyone else to see.*

Say: The ruler of the land decided to count all the people. That meant that every man had to go with his family back to where his family was from to make sure no one was missed in the big count. Let's count everyone in our group today!

Lead the kids to count the group one by one.

Show teaching image: Mary & Joseph Travel to Bethlehem.

Say: Mary and Joseph had to travel a very, very, very long way to get to **Bethlehem**. The trip was hard for Mary because she was almost ready to have a baby. She might have ridden on a donkey. Let's all make the sound of donkey hooves: clip, clop, clip, clop! Now everyone say heehaw like a donkey! Joseph might have walked all the way. Let's all stand up and march in place!

Say: Lots of people were in **Bethlehem** when Mary and Joseph got there! It was so busy that there weren't any more rooms in the inns for them to sleep in. Everyone say, "Oh no!"

Say: It was time for the baby to be born! They stayed in a place where animals slept and ate. Maybe there were sheep. Can you make a sheep sound? Maybe there were cows. Can you make a cow sound? Maybe there were chickens. Can you make a chicken sound?

Say: Mary gave birth to Jesus and wrapped Him real tight in cloths. She used a **manger**—a box that held the animal's food—as the baby's bed.

Show teaching image: Mary Holds Jesus.

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Bethlehem: a town

Manger: a box that holds animal food

 (CONTINUED)



Say: Jesus, God's only Son, was born around a bunch of animals! There were no parades, no horns blasting, no parties. Right in the beginning, Mary and Joseph were the only ones who knew. Let's all pretend to hold baby Jesus and rock Him back and forth. Shhhhh...He's sleeping.

Say: Jesus coming to Earth as a baby is our true reason to celebrate Christmas! Do you know how I like to celebrate? I like to dance and shout!

Finish by leading the kids to dance around and shout, "Yay! Jesus is born!"

Show teaching slide: Point to Jesus.



POINT TO JESUS

Say: Jesus was born as a baby. We celebrate that He came to Earth to save people from their sins.

Say: Let's close in prayer as we wrap up our Bible story time together. Reach your hands up really high.

Reach hands up high.

Say: Now clap them together like this.

Clap hands together.

Say: Let's pray.

Pray: Jesus we celebrate You! You came to Earth to save people from their sins. You are the reason we celebrate Christmas! Amen.



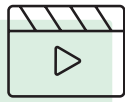
BIG QUESTION

Say: Now it's time to answer our Big Question. Can you all help me do a drumroll?
1, 2, 3... drumroll!

Show the Big Question and Answer Teaching Image.

Say: Why was Jesus born? To save us!

Say: That's right! The Bible teaches that our hope comes from Jesus. He is the One who loves us and forgives all our sin.



VERSE VIDEO

*Play Memory Verse
Motion Video after
the verse is read.*

MEMORY VERSE MOTIONS:

Help kids recite and retain the memory verse by teaching it with motions. Before you teach the verse, be sure to explain what it means.

- Unto you (point out)
- is born (rock a baby)
- this day a (point downwards)
- Savior. (jump up)
- Luke 2:11 (open hands like a book)



MONTHLY Memory Verse

*Unto you is born this
day a Savior.*

(LUKE 2:11)



REVIEW:

Say: It's been so great being with you today, friends! Before we end our teaching time, let's review what we have learned. Let's all point up really high and say, "Jesus is born!"

Have the kids point up and say, "Jesus is born!"

Say: Now let's reach our hands out to the side and say, "We can celebrate Jesus!"

Have the kids reach out and say, "We can celebrate Jesus!"

Say: Now let's point to ourselves and say, "I can celebrate Jesus!"

Have the kids point to themselves and say, "I can celebrate Jesus!"



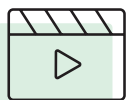
Jesus is born!



We can celebrate Jesus!



I can celebrate Jesus!



**Consider showing the Bible Review Video as kids eat snack, are waiting for pick-up, or another time that fits your church's schedule.*



PARACHUTE VERSE

SUPPLIES:

Parachute, Memory Verse Song, music player

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP: If you don't have a parachute, use a bedsheet instead.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: This activity could be very exciting and overwhelming for some. For added structure, stand behind a struggling kid with hand-over-hand assistance to lift the parachute, adding safety and boundaries.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned that Jesus is our Savior and that He was born as a baby.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lay out the parachute on the floor.*
2. **Say:** Our memory verse comes from the Bible. It says, *Unto you is born this day a Savior (Luke 2:11).*
3. *Have kids repeat the verse with you once.*
4. **Say:** We will sing our Memory Verse Song and move the parachute together while *we sing!*
5. *Invite kids to stand around the parachute and hold it with both hands.*
6. **Say:** When we sing "Unto you," lift the parachute up high.
7. *Model the movement.*
8. **Say:** When we sing "is born this day a Savior," gently lower the parachute down.
9. *Start the Memory Verse Song and guide kids through the motions.*
10. *Repeat the song if time allows, encouraging kids to sing the verse words together.*
11. **Ask:** Who is the Savior the Bible is talking about?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

You did a great job singing God's Word! Luke 2:11 tells us that Jesus is our Savior. He was born as a baby because God loves us, and we can remember that every time we say this verse.



NATIVITY MATCH

SUPPLIES:

Printable pages, scissors (prep)

PREP:

Print the printable pages and cut out. Mix up the matches and lay them out in a grid facedown.

LEADER TIP: Help younger kids by giving clues or pairing them with a buddy to find letters.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Allow for extra time and cueing of ideas to support struggling learners.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned that Jesus is our Savior and that He was born as a baby.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Our Bible verse tells us, *Unto you is born this day a Savior (Luke 2:11)*. That Savior is Jesus!
2. **Say:** Let's play a matching game! When it's your turn, you will flip over two cards. If they are a match, you can keep them. If not, then flip them back over.
3. **Say:** Let's work together to find all the matches.
4. *Help kids take turns flipping over two cards to see if they are a match.*
5. *Repeat until all the matches have been found.*
6. **Ask:** What was your favorite part of today's Bible story?
7. **Ask:** Who was born for us?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Great job finding all the matches! The Bible tells us that Jesus is our Savior. Jesus is born, just like God promised, and that is very good news for us.



JESUS IS BORN CRAFT

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, printable page, scissors (prep), craft sticks (4 per kid), coloring supplies, glue sticks (1 per 3 kids), star sticker (1 per kid)

PREP:

Print the printable page on cardstock (1 per kid).

LEADER TIP: Check out [britecurriculum.com/resources](https://www.britecurriculum.com/resources) for a craft example.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** We can celebrate the good news of Jesus being born!
2. **Say:** Let's make a nativity scene to remember why we celebrate Christmastime.
3. *Pass out the printable page and coloring supplies. Lead kids to color it in. Then pass out four craft sticks to each kid.*
4. *Help place glue onto the sides of the picture to form the "walls," and then two more craft sticks to make an X-shape and form the "roof."*
5. *Help kids place a star sticker on top of their nativity scene.*
6. *Write their name on their craft.*
7. **Say:** God sent Jesus to forgive the sins of everyone who believes in Him and make us right with God. This is good news worth celebrating!
8. **Say:** Who can you tell that Jesus was born?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why did Mary and Joseph have to travel?
- Where was Jesus born?
- Who is Jesus?
- Why should we celebrate Jesus?

PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear Jesus, thank You for sending Jesus as a baby to the world. He changed everything! Amen.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies, party props (hats, noise makers, streamers, 1 per kid)

PREP:

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

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Today we are having a special birthday party for Baby Jesus!
2. *Pass out the party props to help kids celebrate.*
3. **Say:** Let's put on party hats, wave streamers and make some noise to celebrate Jesus' birth!
4. *Lead kids in singing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus. Lead kids in clapping, singing and celebrating together.*
5. **Say:** As we celebrate, remember that Jesus was born and we can share this good news with everyone!
6. **Ask:** Why are we celebrating?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why did Mary and Joseph have to travel?
- Where was Jesus born?
- Who is Jesus?
- Why should we celebrate Jesus?



PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus as a baby to the world. He changed everything! Amen.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.

CENTERS:

Set up 3-4 centers around the room for kids to explore and learn as they play. While kids explore the centers, leaders can work with individuals or small groups to make the craft. Set up each center in a separate part of the room, making sure all kids are visible at all times. Show the whole group what is in each center and give simple instructions of what kids should do in each center.

- **Sensory Bin:** Fill a sensory bin with crinkly paper and nativity figurines. Lead kids to look and find the nativity figurines and then play out the Bible story.
- **Block Play:** Provide blocks for kids to build their own stables with. Have them share the good news that Jesus was born.
- **Musical Center:** Provide musical instruments for kids to shake and play as they celebrate the good news of Jesus' birth.

BONUS SCRIPT:

Preschoolers learn best through repetition. Use the script below to review the story at any opportunity. You could review the story while kids play in centers, while they work on their craft, during snack time, or while waiting for parents.

Say: Caesar was the ruler of a very big empire called Rome. He made a law that everyone had to go back to their hometown to be counted. Even though Mary was going to have a baby soon, she and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem. The town was full. There was no room at the inn, so when it was time for the baby to be born, they found a place where the animals stayed. Mary gave birth to Jesus and laid Him in a manger. Even in this simple place, Jesus was God's promised Savior who came to the world to love and save us.



BIG QUESTION

Why was Jesus born?
To save us!