



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

1

BELONG

Small Group (10 MINUTES)

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

COUNTING TIME

SUPPLIES: None

2

BIBLE TEACHING

Large Group (15 MINUTES)

JESUS IS BORN (LUKE 2:1-7)

SUPPLIES: Bible, Bible story cards

3

BELIEVE

Small Group (10 MINUTES)

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

MEMORY VERSE GO!

SUPPLIES: Memory Verse Song, music player, painter's tape

4

BECOME

Small Group (10 MINUTES)

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

JESUS IS BORN ORNAMENT

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable page, hole punch, string, scissors (prep)



COUNTING TIME

SUPPLIES:

None

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP: Use easy objects you have on hand for kids to physically count such as crayons, craft sticks, books and toys.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome everyone! My name is _____. *Greet each kid by name as you welcome them to your group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Say:** Let's all stand up together. I will call out a number and we will do a movement as many times as our number is. We will all count together as we do the movement.
- Call out numbers 1–5 and lead kids in the movements.*
- Movements:**
 - Clap
 - Stomp your feet
 - Jump
 - Open and close your hands
 - Spin
 - Tap your shoulders
 - Reach arms up and down low
- Ask:** Do you know how old you are? Can you show me your age on your fingers?

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

Today, we will learn about when Mary and Joseph went all the way to Bethlehem because they needed to be counted! Something really important happens when they are in Bethlehem. Let's find out what it is in our Bible story!

JESUS IS BORN (LUKE 2:1-7)

Use the Bible story cards to teach the Bible story or read the script to the kids.



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

Say: The ruler of the land wanted to count all the people. To make sure no one was missed in the big count, every man had to take his family and go back to the place where his family was from. Let's see if we can count all the people in our group.

Count the kids in the group.

Say: Mary and Joseph had to travel a very, very, very long way to get to **Bethlehem**—the town where Joseph's family was from. Let's all get up and pretend to walk to **Bethlehem**. The trip was hard for Mary because she was almost ready to have a baby. Let's sit down and say, "Whew."

Say: There were lots of people in **Bethlehem** when they got there! There was nowhere to sleep! They had to stay in a place for animals. Do you think it was noisy? Let's all make animal sounds!

Say: It was time for the baby to be born! 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. Let's all pretend to rock the baby to sleep.



POINT TO JESUS

Say: Jesus, God's only Son, was born around a bunch of animals! At first, only Mary and Joseph knew He came. But now, we all celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas. He is the reason we celebrate!

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Bethlehem: a town

Manger: a box that holds animal food

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WRAP-UP:



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!



Jesus is born!



We can
celebrate Jesus!



I can
celebrate Jesus!



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)



MEMORY VERSE GO!

SUPPLIES:

Memory Verse Song, music player, painter's tape

PREP:

Tape a path on the floor for kids to follow.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned that Jesus was born! We can celebrate this good news because Jesus is the Savior.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Our memory verse teaches us that Jesus was born. It says, *Unto you is born this day a Savior (Luke 2:11).*
2. **Say:** In our Bible story, Mary and Joseph had to go all the way to Bethlehem. While our Memory Verse Song plays, we will go and move along the path on the floor. (*Point out the path.*) As the song plays, we can walk, hop, and tiptoe along the path.
3. *Play the Memory Verse Song and lead kids to move along the path.*
4. *Repeat the song and call out various movements for kids to follow along to.*
5. **Ask:** Who is Jesus?

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

Jesus is God's Son. Jesus was born and is the Savior. We can share this good news with others!



JESUS IS BORN ORNAMENT

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable page, hole punch, string, scissors (prep)

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable page on cardstock and cut out (1 ornament per kid). Hole punch the top of the ornament. Cut the string into 8-inch pieces (1 per kid).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Today we learned Jesus was born. We can celebrate this good news!
2. **Say:** Let's make an ornament to remember Jesus was born. He is the Savior.
3. *Pass out a printable page and coloring supplies.*
4. *As kids color and decorate their ornament, talk to them about who they can tell about Jesus.*
5. *Once kids are done, thread the string through the hole at the top of the ornament and secure it with a knot.*
6. **Say:** We can celebrate the birth of Jesus! *Hold up your ornament!* God kept His promise and sent a Savior! Jesus was born to save us!
7. *Write each kid's name on their paper/craft and set aside for parent pickup.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Where was Jesus born?
- Why was Jesus born?
- Did God keep His promise by sending Jesus?
- How can you celebrate Jesus?

**PRAY TOGETHER:**

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to save us. Help us to celebrate Jesus and tell everyone we know about Him! 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.

- **Stable Center:** Provide animal figurines. Lead kids to play with the animals and make their sounds. Ask what they think it was like for Mary and Joseph to be in the place where the animals were kept.
- **Celebration Center:** Provide musical instruments and scarves. Lead kids to make music, dance and wiggle as they celebrate Jesus was born.
- **Mural Center:** Lay out butcher paper. Provide stickers, coloring supplies, stamps and washable ink pads. Lead kids to make a mural celebrating the birth of Jesus.

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 said everyone had to return to their hometown to be counted. Mary and Joseph traveled all the way to Bethlehem. While there, the town was so crowded. There was no room to stay in an inn. It was time for Mary to have the baby. They found a place where the animals stayed. Mary gave birth to Jesus. He was laid in a manger. Jesus is our Savior. He was born to save us!



BIG QUESTION

Why was Jesus born?
To save us!