



PRAY *Have a parent open up this lesson in prayer*

“Dear God, we thank you for keeping your promises! As we learn more about you, may it help us worship You. Amen”

OPENING ACTIVITY

Zipped Lips: Invite kids to take turns acting out something that they associate with Christmas, such as twinkling lights, snow, the nativity. Challenge the other kids to guess what the volunteer is acting out.

Say: It might seem odd that we are acting out Christmasy things, but it’s because today we are learning about Jesus’ birth. Jesus was born as God’s promised Saviour! We just celebrated Christmas, but everyday is a perfect time to celebrate God’s faithfulness in sending a perfect Saviour to rescue us from sin.

Ask: As we prepare to read about Jesus’ birth—what is one thing that you love about Christmas?

Say: There many things to love about Christmas: the time off from school, family time, singing at church. All of these can help us remember how remarkable it was that God came to earth, as a baby. Let’s read more.

READ

Read Luke 2 or the summarized story below.

The BIBLE Story

Jesus Was Born

Luke 2

Mary and Joseph lived in the town of Nazareth. During the time Mary was pregnant, the Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus, announced that everyone needed to be registered for a census.

Since Joseph was a descendant of King David, he and Mary traveled to Bethlehem, the city of David.

While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. Mary and Joseph looked for a safe place to stay, but every place was full. So Mary and Joseph found a place where animals were kept, and that is where Mary had her baby. Joseph named Him Jesus. Mary wrapped the baby tightly in cloth and laid Him in a feeding trough.



That night, some shepherds were watching over their sheep in the fields near Bethlehem. Suddenly, an angel stood before them and the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified! The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! I have very good news for you and for all the people: Today a

Savior, who is the Messiah and the Lord, was born for you in the city of David.” Then the angel said, “You will find a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly, a whole army of angels appeared, praising God and

saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors!”

When the angels left and returned to heaven, **the shepherds** decided to go see if the angel’s words were true. They **hurried to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in the feeding trough. Then the shepherds went and told others about the baby Jesus.** Everyone who heard about Jesus was surprised and amazed. Mary thought about everything that was happening and tried to understand it. **The shepherds returned to their fields, praising God because everything had happened just as the angel said.**

Christ Connection: The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus was not an ordinary baby. He is God’s Son, sent to earth from heaven. Jesus, the promised Savior, came into the world to deliver us from sin and death.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use props:** As you tell the story, display a nativity scene. Allow kids to move the pieces around as you tell the story.
- **Adjust lighting:** Dim the lights to simulate a nighttime setting. Shine a bright light when describing the angel’s appearance.

Take to Heart

*As a family, take time to memorize the Key Bible Passage over the next several weeks!
Take it to heart and notice how God's Word becomes alive in you!*

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning”

— John 1:1-2

TEACH *Take turns reading as parents, OR have kids read parts of the lesson.*

Say: Time and time again, God told His people that the Messiah was coming. Despite their continued sin and inability to obey, God remained faithful and kept His promise to send Jesus. God is faithful!

Ask: What do you find so remarkable about Jesus' birth?

Say: What is so remarkable is that despite our inability to ever earn God's love, He still loves us. God would have been right to choose not to save people who were lost in sin. But God chose to send His only Son to become a human life us!



Say: It is also remarkable because everything seems backwards from how we might have expected it. A king was born in a manger. A big event happens in a

small town. Angels tell shepherds the news, not “big, important people.” God the creator and the King of all creation steps into a human body. This is truly a miracle!

Ask: Why is it important that Jesus came as a human?

Let everyone wrestle and try to answer before proceeding

Say: This is important, because Jesus is both fully God and fully human. Because of this, Jesus completely understands our feelings, thoughts and temptations. Jesus knows what we are going through. And Jesus was perfect. Because he is human, he able to take our sin to the cross. Because he is God—he is able to forgive our sins. In all of this, Jesus has all power and majesty and worthy of our praise because Jesus is God’s Son!

PRACTICE YOUR FAITH

An important part of faith is practicing what we read about in the Bible! Take some time to think of ways to live out what we read in Nehemiah.

Ask: *What are some ways God can use us to point people to Jesus?*

Encourage kids to think about their friends and family members who may not love Jesus. Discuss ways to show them God’s love and share the gospel with the. Remind kids that even people who know and love Jesus need to be pointed to Jesus to help them remember how good Jesus is. Use the “God’s Plan for Us” as a helpful way to tell others about Jesus.

PRAY *Have someone in the family volunteer to read the closing prayer*

“Dear God, thank you for being faithful. Thank you for sending people to point us to Jesus. May we be able to point others to Jesus too. In Jesus’ name, Amen”

THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN for US

The gospel is the good news, the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use these prompts to share the gospel with your kids.



GOD RULES. Ask: "Who is in charge at home?" Explain that because God created everything, He is in charge of everything. Read Revelation 4:11.



WE SINNED. Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell kids that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin separates us from God. Read Romans 3:23.



GOD PROVIDED. Explain that God is holy and must punish sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to take the punishment we deserve. Read John 3:16.



JESUS GIVES. Ask: "What is the best gift you've ever received?" Say that Jesus took our punishment for sin by giving His life, and He gives us His righteousness. God sees us as if we lived the perfect life Jesus lived. This is the best gift ever! Read 2 Corinthians 5:21.



WE RESPOND. Explain that everyone has a choice to make. Ask: "Will you trust Jesus as your Savior and Lord? You can turn from self and sin and turn to Jesus." Read Romans 10:9-10.

Hint for next week: Guess at what the story is about?

