

## Jesus Was Born

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Luke 2:1-20

**MAIN POINT:** Jesus was born to be God's promised Savior.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Galatians 4:4-5

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us from sin.

2

### KIDS WORSHIP

- Countdown
- Introduce the session (2 min.)
- Giant Timeline (1 min.)
- Big picture question (1 min.)
- Sing and Offering (3–12 min.)
- Tell the Bible story (10 min.)
- The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (option)
- Group demonstration (5 min.)
- Review (4 min.)
- Key Passage (5 min.)
- Group game (10 min.)
- Missions (6 min.)
- Announcements (2 min.)
- Prayer (2 min.)
- Additional idea

## Leader BIBLE STUDY

Do you think it was just by chance that Caesar Augustus called for a census? Did it just so happen that Mary and Joseph were traveling to Bethlehem—the very place the Messiah was prophesied to be born? (Micah 5:2) God is in control of all things, which He showed by using a pagan emperor to bring about His plan.

After Jesus was born, Mary laid Him in a manger. A king in a manger! It was so unlikely. But Jesus was no ordinary baby. He was God's Son, sent in the most humble of positions, "not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life—a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:28).

Imagine the shepherds' surprise when an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared. The Bible says that they were terrified! But the angel said to them, "Don't be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people: Today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David" (Luke 2:10-11).

What a relief! This angel had come to bring good news. First, he proclaimed a Savior. The people of Israel were well aware of their need for a Savior. They made sacrifices daily to atone for their sin. Finally, a Savior had come who would be the perfect sacrifice for sin, once and for all.

Jesus was also Messiah the Lord. The word *Messiah* means "anointed one," especially a king. The Deliverer and Redeemer would be King over His people. And this was all happening in Bethlehem, the city of David—just as the prophet Micah said.

This is the best news ever! An army of angels appeared, praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors" (Luke 2:14). The purpose of Jesus' birth was twofold: to bring glory to God and to make peace between God and those who trust in Jesus' death and resurrection.



Additional resources for each session are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com). For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/tbegospelproject>.

# The BIBLE STORY

## Jesus Was Born

*Luke 2:1-20*

**During the time Mary was pregnant with Baby Jesus, the Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus, announced that everyone needed to be registered for a census.**

Every person traveled to the town where his family was from. Since **Joseph** was a descendant of King David, he **and Mary** left their home in Nazareth and **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 for Mary to have her baby, but every place was full** because of all the people who were in town to be counted.

**So Mary and Joseph found a place where animals were kept, and that is where Mary had her baby. She wrapped Baby Jesus snugly in cloth, and she laid him in a feeding trough.**

**In the same region, some shepherds were staying out in the fields and watching their sheep to protect them from thieves and predators. All of a sudden, an angel of the Lord stood before them. A bright light shone around the shepherds, and they were terrified!**

**But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid! I have very good news for you: Today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David.”**

**Then the angel said, “You will find a baby wrapped snugly in cloth and lying in a feeding trough.”** A king in a feeding trough? That was no place for a king!

All of a sudden, many angels appeared, singing to God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors!”

**So the shepherds went straight to Bethlehem to find Baby Jesus. They found Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the feeding trough. 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 had said.**

*Christ Connection: The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus was not an ordinary baby. He was God's Son, sent to earth from heaven. Jesus came into the world to save people from their sins and to be their King.*

# Kids Worship LEADER

**SESSION TITLE:** Jesus Was Born

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Luke 2:1-20

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## COUNTDOWN

- countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as worship time begins.

## Introduce the session (2 min.)

- leader attire
- suitcases
- boarding passes
- bag of granola

Tip for one leader: If only one leader is available, Uncle Bud can explain how excited he is, since he was just upgraded to first class. He begins telling the kids about it, and as he does, looks at the receipt and realizes that he actually paid for first class tickets and didn't know it because he was distracted.

*[Uncle Bud and Lucy enter. Bud is trying to carry all of their luggage, and he is clearly struggling. They move to center stage, and Bud collapses. Lucy is holding two boarding passes.]*

**LUCY** • Uncle Bud, I can help carry something.

**BUD** • *[Panting, wipe your face with a handkerchief.]* No, no, my dear. I wouldn't dream of it! Anyway, here we are, gate G8. All we need to do now is wait for our flight.

**LUCY** • Here, you look like you need a snack after hauling our bags all through the airport. *[Hand him a bag of granola.]*

**BUD** • Thank you, Lucy. I am a "might peckish," as the English would say. *[Open the snack and start eating.]*

**LUCY** • Uncle Bud, thank you for purchasing our tickets! I was not expecting you to pay. I especially wasn't expecting you to upgrade us to first class!

*[Bud spits out some of the snack in surprise and starts coughing. Lucy pats him on the back.]*

**LUCY** • Uncle Bud, are you OK?

**BUD** • I'm, um, fine. Did you say first class?

**LUCY** • Well, yes. I've never flown first class before. This is such a treat for me!

*[Lucy steps away from Bud and continues talking. While she is talking, Bud is behind her clearly distressed.]*

**LUCY** • This is a once-in-a-lifetime trip! I get to go to London and see my sister and her new baby! And now I get to fly first class. Wouldn't it be awesome if we get to see a movie star?

**BUD** • *[laughing nervously]* Do you remember what I said at the ticket counter, Lucy?

**LUCY** • Sure! You were talking about all of the great places in London that you can't wait to visit, and you were wondering if we were going to have tea with crumpets. And then you started asking other people in line if anyone knew what a crumpet was.

**BUD** • Yes, a cookie shaped like a trumpet, I remember that part very well. I can't wait to get my hands on some of those!

**LUCY** • Then we spoke to the lady at the ticket counter. You asked for two tickets to London, and she said there were two in first class and two in the back of the plane. And you said, "Yes!"

**BUD** • Yes to the tickets at the back of the plane?

**LUCY** • That's what I thought you were going to say, but when lady asked, "Yes to which one, sir?" You said, "The first one!" And she said, "First class, sir?" And you said, "That's what I said!"

**BUD** • Did she happen to say how much first class tickets cost?

**LUCY** • Yes, that was the crazy part. She said they cost three times as much as a regular ticket. *[Bud's legs go weak*

and he seems like he is about to faint. He sits on the suitcases. Lucy, oblivious, gives him a big hug.] Thank you, thank you, thank you!

**BUD** • [Pat her back.] Anything for you, my dear. [Make a “what did I do?” face to the kids.]

**LUCY** • Do you want to go check out the first class lounge?

**BUD** • I actually feel a little light-headed. I need to sit a spell. Why don't you tell us more about the Bible story you were telling me about on the way through security?

## Giant Timeline (1 min.)

**LUCY** • Great idea, Uncle Bud! [*to kids*] If you remember, we're taking a break from our chronological journey through the Bible to celebrate Christ's birth. Last week, we learned **God chose Mary and Joseph to be the earthly parents of Jesus.** Today's Bible story is called “Jesus Was Born.”

- Giant Timeline or Big Story Circle
- Main Point Posters

## Big picture question (1 min.)

**BUD** • Now I remember. Last week we learned a special question that would show us a picture of God's story, but a big picture!

**LUCY** • You mean the big picture question, Uncle Bud? [*to kids*] Do you remember our big picture question and answer? Let's say it together. ***Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us from sin.***

- Big Picture Question Poster

## Sing and offering (3-12 min.)

**BUD** • That is certainly good news. I could use some good news after the morning I'm having!

**LUCY** • What do you mean, Uncle Bud?

**BUD** • Nothing, never mind! Hey, why don't we sing those songs we learned last week?

- “Joy to the World” song and other songs of your choice

Sing “Joy to the World.” Choose other songs as time allows.

Song suggestions:

- “Joy to the World” song (unit theme)
- “Born in Bethlehem” song
- “Let Us Adore Him” song
- “Celebrate Jesus” song
- “Come and Sing” song

## Tell the Bible story (10 min.)

**LUCY** • Let’s get ready to hear our Bible story. If you’ve heard this story before, try to listen for something you may not have noticed before. Don’t forget our big picture question and answer, *Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us from sin.*

Open your Bible to Luke 2:1-20 and tell the Bible story in your own words, using the script provided, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Was Born.”

**BUD** • Wow! Jesus is the eternal Son of God. He was with God at the beginning of time before God created the world. If anyone deserves to travel first class and stay in the finest inn money could buy, it would be Him! But that isn’t how God worked out His plan.

**LUCY** • You’re right, Uncle Bud. **Jesus was born to be God’s promised Savior**, but He was born in the most humble circumstances. Jesus was born in a place where animals were kept in an overcrowded town during a census. The first people who came to see Baby Jesus weren’t kings or religious leaders. They were shepherds, who probably still smelled like sheep and grass!

**BUD** • The shepherds were so excited to see Baby Jesus, they told everyone about Him. People were amazed! Could the Savior really have been born to a couple of newlyweds in Bethlehem? God chose to send His

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- “Jesus Was Born” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Main Point Poster

Son, not first to the rich and powerful, but to very humble people in humble places.

**LUCY** • The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus was not an ordinary baby. He was God's Son, sent to earth from heaven. Jesus came into the world to save people from their sin and to be their King.

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me (option)

**BUD** • Jesus is God's Son, yet He came to earth as a baby. He became fully man, just as He has always been fully God. The Bible says that Jesus humbled Himself and took the form of a servant when He became a man. He was obedient to God the Father even when it came to dying on the cross and rising again to rescue us from sin. [See *Phil. 2:7-8*.] When we turn away from sin and trust in Jesus, we can be forgiven of our sin and we receive His righteousness.

Use your Bible and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Encourage kids to ask their parents or other adults any questions they have about becoming a Christian. Anytime you share how to become a Christian in a large group environment, try to have counselors available to meet one-on-one with kids. Make sure kids know whom they can talk to and when they can talk.

## Group demonstration (5 min.)

### A JOYFUL NOISE

**BUD** • I don't know if I ever told you that I am a musician, Lucy.

**LUCY** • You've never mentioned it, Uncle Bud. What do you play?

**BUD** • [*Take out the rod.*] This is my instrument. My mother—your grandmother—always said that I was extremely talented. She said the sound of my playing

• Bibles

Tip: Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

• 24" solid aluminum rod  
• violin rosin  
• hand wipes (for cleanup)

Tip: Try this before class to make sure you've got it just right.

must have been like angels singing in the heavens when Jesus was born.

To prepare, spread rosin along the rod and on the index finger and thumb of your dominant hand. Hold the center of the rod with two fingers of your other hand, and using your rosined fingers, grip the rod at the center and pull along the length of the metal. Repeat several times, and the resonance will make a loud singing tone.

**LUCY** • [*Make a face and then force a smile.*] That sounds ... well, um ... you certainly created a unique sound. I don't think anything could be compared to the wonderful sound of angels praising God on the night Jesus was born. They celebrated that God had fulfilled His promise to send a Messiah. **Jesus was born to be God's promised Savior!**

## Review (4 min.)

Tell kids that you are going to ask questions based on the biblical account of Jesus' birth and based on traditions. Explain that traditions are things we have come to believe, but we don't know if they happened or not because the Bible doesn't say anything about them. Ask the following review questions:

1. Why did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem? (*The census required people to go to their family homes, Luke 2:1-4*)
2. What animal did Mary and Joseph ride to Bethlehem? (*The Bible doesn't say!*)
3. Where was the only place available that Mary could have her baby? (*a manger, a place where animals were kept, Luke 2:7*)
4. Were the cattle and animals in the stable at the time? (*Don't know! The Bible doesn't say!*)
5. Who were the first people to hear the good news?

*(shepherds, Luke 2:8-10)*

6. How many angels were praising God that night?  
*(The Bible doesn't say!)*
7. What did Mary do when the shepherds told everyone about Jesus? *(She thought about what was happening and tried to understand, Luke 2:19)*

## Key Passage (5 min.)

- Key Passage Poster
- "Adoption as Sons" song
- poster board, 4
- markers

**BUD** • The Bible doesn't tell us all of the details of Jesus' birth. We don't know what Jesus looked like when He was a baby. We don't know if Joseph was a nervous wreck, or if Mary was calm. We only know what the Bible tells us of that night!

**LUCY** • Our key passage, Galatians 4:4-5, tells us that God sent Jesus to earth at just the right time to rescue us from sin. Let's practice our key passage!

Before class, draw a simple clock on one poster, a picture of Jesus on the second poster, write *THE LAW* on top of the word *BORN* with a line between them (born under the law), and draw a bunch of stick figures. These posters will represent parts of the key passage. Divide the room into four parts. Invite a volunteer from each section to hold the poster and guide the kids in that section to say the part of the key passage it represents. Practice with the key passage poster visible, then hide it when kids have memorized their part. Say the key passage together as a group, or sing the key passage song.

## Group game (10 min.)

### SHEPHERD TAG

- masking tape

Make a masking tape box on one side of the room. Choose two kids to be "shepherds" and everyone else will be sheep. Shepherds will run after the sheep and try to tag them. When shepherds tag the sheep, the sheep must move to the

pen. The last sheep to be tagged wins.

**BUD** • Lucy, I've always wondered what the sheep were thinking when the angels appeared and began praising God.

**LUCY** • Umm, sheep aren't very bright, Uncle Bud. They probably didn't think anything!

**BUD** • Oh, well, I just thought it would be interesting to know what a sheep thought. In some books of the Bible, Jesus is called the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. It seems fitting that angels would give the good news to shepherds!

**LUCY** • The good news of Jesus' birth is for all people! *Jesus was born to rescue us from sin!*

## Missions (6 min.)

**LUCY** • Missionary Jason Bishop and his family know the good news that **Jesus was born as God promised** to rescue people from sin. Check out what they do as a family to share the good news!

Show the missions video "Black Belts, Leather Jackets, and Noisemakers."

**BUD** • Whoa! The Bishop family moved all the way to Germany to tell others the good news! They use shared interests like Tae Kwon Do, motorcycle riding, and football to tell other people about Jesus. Hey, Lucy. Why don't we take some Tae Kwon Do classes when we get back home?

**LUCY** • That could be fun, but God can also use the activities that we already participate in to help us share the good news about Jesus with others. Let's pray for the Bishop family, and let's pray that God will give us the opportunity to share the good news.

• "Black Belts, Leather Jackets, and Noisemakers" missions video

## Announcements (2 min.)

**BUD** • Before we get ready to board, I have some announcements for you.

Make any announcements from your kids' ministry.

## Prayer (2 min.)

**LUCY** • Dear Father, thank You for sending Jesus just as You promised! Thank You that His birth is a message to us of who He is. Jesus is the King who came and lived among us as a Servant and gave His life to rescue us from sin. Please help us glorify Him in everything that we do. Amen.

## Additional Idea

### DECORATE A CHRISTMAS TREE

Before class, set up an artificial Christmas tree or cut out a tree shape from large green paper. Write one word from the key passage on separate index cards. If you're using an artificial tree, attach the clothespins to garland and string the garland around the tree. If you are using a cutout, tape the garland in to the tree in a festive zigzag pattern. Invite the kids to line up single file. Mix up the key passage cards and allow the first kid in line to draw a card. He must attach the card to the tree where it would appear in the key passage. Kids may work together to string the key passage in the correct order. When kids have finished, invite them to say the key passage together.

**LUCY** • Our key passage says at just the right time, God sent Jesus to redeem us, or buy us back, from slavery to sin and the law. We can't keep God's laws perfectly, but Jesus always obeys God. Jesus died on the cross and rose again to be our perfect Savior.

- artificial tree or tree cutout
- tape (optional)
- garland
- clothespins
- index cards
- markers

## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:19.



**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.

# Journal Page

## Christmas

**Key Passage:** Galatians 4:4-5

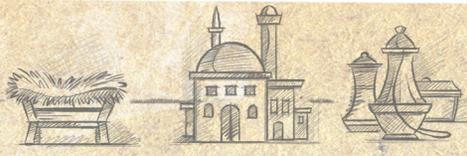
**Big Picture Question:** Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us from sin.

**Session 1:** Angels Spoke to Mary and Joseph  
*Luke 1:26-56; Matthew 1:18-24*  
God chose Mary and Joseph to be the earthly parents of Jesus.

**Session 2:** Jesus Was Born  
*Luke 2:1-20*  
Jesus was born to be God's promised Savior.

**Session 3:** Wise Men Visited Jesus  
*Matthew 2:1-21*  
The wise men worshiped Jesus as King.

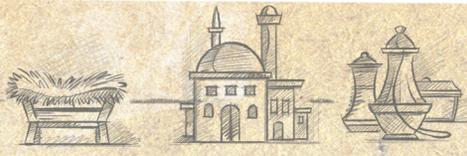




When the time came to completion, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

Galatians 4:4-5

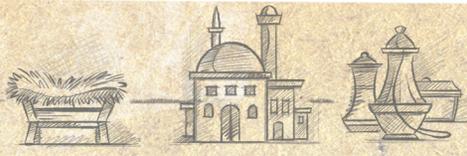




**But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.**

Galatians 4:4-5

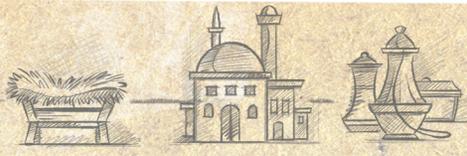




**But when the fullness  
of time had come, God  
sent forth his Son, born  
of woman, born under  
the law, to redeem those  
who were under the law,  
so that we might receive  
adoption as sons.**

Galatians 4:4-5





**But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.**

Galatians 4:4-5

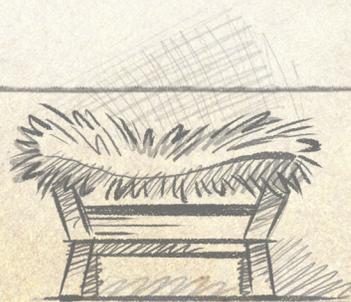


Jesus was born  
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# Why was Jesus born?



# Why was Jesus born?

Jesus was born to rescue us from sin.

