

Birth of Christ



Key Passages

Luke 2:6–11

Lesson Focus

Jesus was born in a simple way.

Memory Verse

Philippians 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.



Circle Time

Bring your Lesson Flip Chart, Bible, stuffed animal for prayer time, four Lesson Illustrations, Nativity set: Mary, Joseph, Jesus in a manger, angel(s), shepherds (or pictures of these); and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

Begin with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page.

GOD'S WORD

These first five questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? Does God know all things? *Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God.*
- ? Can you see God? *No. I cannot see God, but He always sees me.*
- ? Can God do all things? *Yes! God can do all His holy will.*
- ? Where do you learn how to love and obey God? *In the Bible alone.*
- ? Is God's Word true? *Yes! Every Word of God is true.*

Bible Pass Around

See the Teacher Guide for details about this activity. Refer to Lesson 7 Flip Chart Page. Last week we learned of a surprising message about a special baby.

- ? Who was the baby we talked about? *Jesus.*
- ? Who was the baby's mother? *Mary.*
- ? Yes. And who did God send to tell Mary she would have this baby? *The angel Gabriel.*

That's right! God sent an angel to tell Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus. We even learned a song about that. Let's sing "This Little Baby" together now. Turn to the Lesson 7 Flip Chart Page. Stand and sing the FIRST and LAST verses of the song together to review Lesson 7.

This little baby was Jesus! The angel said Jesus would be born in a special way.

- ? Can you tell me who Jesus was? *God.*

Yes. Jesus is God. And Gabriel, the angel, told Mary that Jesus would be great! He was the one that the people had been waiting for. He would be King forever—His kingdom would never end. How exciting that must have been!

Show Lesson Illustration 1. You would think that the birth of a king would be a huge event! And Jesus was the King of kings and the long-awaited Savior! He was the Messiah, the one that the Old Testament Scriptures talked about. This little baby was the Savior of the world. He would be the one to save us from our sins. Jesus is God! You would think that He would

come like a great king with a great big celebration! But that wasn't in God's plan. Turn Lesson Illustration 1 over and lay on the floor.

- ? So how did Jesus come? What happened when He was born? *Allow discussion.*
- ? Where do we go to find the answers to our questions about Jesus? *Hold up your Bible. The Bible.* That's right! The Bible is God's Word. And it is true. We'll start today by opening the Bible to the book of Luke. Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible, and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is. Show the students where the book is. Let them look at it. Carry it around your circle.

In the Gospel of Luke we read that Mary and Joseph had to take a long trip from their home in Nazareth to a town called Bethlehem for a census. Show Lesson Illustration 2 pointing out the two towns.

A census is when the rulers wanted to find out about the people in their land and count them all. So they told all the people to go back to the towns they were from. Joseph was from Bethlehem, so he and Mary had to go all the way down to Bethlehem. Show route on map.

Joseph and Mary HAD to go on this trip. But Mary was pregnant, remember? She was going to have a baby very soon.

- ? Who would that baby be? *Jesus!*

Luke 2:6–7

Right! Now I'm going to read from the book of Luke. Listen so you can hear what happened! Read Luke 2:6–7 enthusiastically.

- ? Have you heard these verses before? *Show of hands.*
- ? So what happened in Bethlehem? *Luke 2:6. Mary had her baby. Refer to Flip Chart or bring out Mary and Joseph Nativity pieces (or pictures).*
- ? What did Mary do with the baby? What did she wrap Him in? *Swaddling cloths.*

Show Lesson Illustration 3. She wrapped Him in cloth to help Him keep warm and quiet.

After Mary wrapped the baby Jesus in swaddling cloths, she laid Him down in something.

- ? Where did she lay the baby down? *Re-read Luke 2:7. In a manger.*

Right. She laid Him in a manger. Add the baby and manger Nativity pieces (or pictures) to your display.

- ? But, what is a manger? *Allow discussion.*

Show Lesson Illustration 4. A manger holds food for animals. They eat out of it. This manger must have been large enough to use like a cradle for the baby. It may have looked like this.

- ? But why were they in this room where animals normally stayed? *Allow discussion.*

We can find the answer right here in the Bible. Listen! Re-read Luke 2:7 emphasizing the answer.

- ? Did you hear the answer? Why were they in the place where the animals normally ate and slept? *Because there was no room in the inn.*

There were no other rooms for them. It sure doesn't seem like the forever King should be born in a place where the animals ate! But Jesus came very quietly and humbly. Jesus was born in a simple way. Show Lesson Illustrations 1 and 3 again. No one gave a big party for Him. He was born in the place the animals were often kept!

Luke 2:8–9

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart Page. But guess what? God did want someone to know that Jesus was born! Listen carefully. I'm going to read about God's special announcement to some people who were nearby. Read Luke 2:8–9 emphasizing the answers to the questions.

- ? Add the shepherds (or pictures) to your display. Place them away from Mary and Joseph—in the "fields." Who was out in the fields? *Luke 2:8. The shepherds.*

- ? What were the shepherds doing? *Re-read Luke 2:8. Watching over their sheep.*

- ? And who did God send to tell the shepherds about Jesus's birth? *Re-read Luke 2:9. An angel of the Lord. Add the angel to your display near the shepherds in the "fields."*

An angel of the Lord. Another special messenger from God! You see, the shepherds were not far away. They were taking care of their sheep, like shepherds do! And that is who God chose to tell about the birth of Jesus.

- ? Do you remember who God sent to tell Mary that she would have a Son? *An angel.*

Yes. God sent an angel to tell Mary that she would have a Son. And Mary had that Son, Jesus. And now God sent an angel again. This time, the angel brought a message to the shepherds. God wanted the shepherds to know about Jesus!

- ? How did the shepherds feel when they saw the angel? *Re-read Luke 2:9. They were afraid.*

Yes! They were afraid! It was dark in the fields. And I'm sure the angel scared them! Let's see what happened next!

Luke 2:10–11

The angel spoke to the shepherds. Listen to this! Read Luke 2:10–11 with enthusiasm.

The angel told them not to be afraid because he brought tidings of great joy!

- ? What was this wonderful news of joy? Listen again. The Bible tells us! *Re-read Luke 2:11. The Savior is born. It is Christ the Lord!*

Jesus, the Savior was born! And God sent an angel to tell the simple shepherds first! Now, even though the people didn't give Jesus a huge party when He was born—the angels had a celebration!

Refer to Lesson Flip Chart Page. Right there in the wilderness for the shepherds to see! The Bible says that suddenly the glory of the Lord was shining all around when the angel came. And then a whole multitude of angels appeared! A multitude is like a huge crowd! Lots of angels came. And they were all praising God saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

- ? What do you think the shepherds did after the angels left? *Allow discussion.*

The Bible says the angels went away. Remove the angel(s) from your display. And the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and found the baby Jesus, just like the angel told them. Move the shepherds near to Mary and Joseph in your display. They told other people about Jesus, too! And the people who heard what had happened were amazed!

God didn't send His angels to kings, rulers, or religious leaders. The shepherds weren't important, rich people! But God sent His angels to them. Jesus was born in a simple way. He came quietly into the world. But He would change the whole world. Our memory verse tells us how Jesus would do that. Let's say our verse together. Turn to Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Recite Philippians 2:8.

Refer to Lesson Flip Chart Page. Jesus came humbly and simply into the world. And He always obeyed His Father. He wanted to do His Father's will.

- ? Who knows why Jesus came? *Allow discussion.*

Jesus came so He could die for sinners. The Bible says that whoever will turn from their sin and believe in Jesus can have everlasting life with Him in heaven!

Jesus came into this world in a simple way, but He came for a very special reason—this little baby is the Savior of the world.

SONG

- Musical instruments, marching, and motions can be added to this section to add interest and help learning. Lyrics to the songs can be found on the Flip Chart Song Page and on the Song Sheet at the back of the Teacher Guide.

Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page. Let's sing "This Little Baby" together. Stand up with me. Ready? Sing the song together two or three times. You may want to add some hand motions.

God sent an angel to Mary. And God sent angels to the shepherds! God sent a star to the wise men. We'll hear about that next week! The birth of Jesus was simple. But God made it very special! This little baby Jesus was the Savior of the world.

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Our memory verse tells us that Jesus humbled Himself to obey God and die on the Cross. He did that so He could take the punishment for sins! Jesus is the only one who can forgive us of our sins. When we are truly sorry for our sin and turn away from it, Jesus will forgive us. Let's practice our memory verse now. Sing it with me. Here we go! Sing the Memory Verse Song with enthusiasm!

- Refer to the Teacher Guide for the activities to be continued in Circle Time.
- Oversee an orderly way to get the children back to their seats, especially if the chairs were moved for Circle Time.

Jesus was born
in a simple and
quiet way.



God sent His
angels to tell the
shepherds Jesus
was born!

Song Time!



THIS LITTLE BABY

(To the tune of "The Muffin Man")

God sent an-angel-to-tell Mary

(Oh! Do you know the Muffin Man?)

That-she would have a ba-a-by.

(The Muffin Man, the Muffin Man.)

She would have a ba-a-by—

(Do you know the Muffin Man,)

The Savior sent from God!

(Who lives on Drury Lane?)

God sent angels-to-the she-e-pherds,

The she-e-pherds, the she-e-pherds.

They ran to find the ba-a-by—

The Savior sent from God!

God sent-a-star to the wi-ise men,

The wi-ise men, the wi-ise men.

The wise men-gave-gifts to the ba-a-by—

The Savior sent from God!

This-little-baby was Je-e-sus,

Je-e-sus, Je-e-sus!

This-little-baby was Je-e-sus—

The Savior sent from God!