

4. Jesus Is Born (Luke 2:5-7)

The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people.” (Luke 2:10)



PLAN

Session Outline

1. Gather

Greeting
Nativity Dress Up:
Baby Jesus
Nativity Coloring
Transition to Explore

2. Explore

Sacred Conversations
Hear and See the Bible
Story
Interact with the Bible Story
Say the Bible Verse
Transition to Respond

3. Respond

Loving God,
Loving Neighbor
Nativity Ornament
Baby Swaddle Relay
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: Tape | Stickers |
Markers | Crayons | Pencils | Glue | Paper |
Scissors

Gather: “Angels” basket | “Mary and
Joseph” basket | “Animals” basket | Laundry
basket or other large basket | Blankets |
Pretend baby care items | Baby dolls

Explore: No additional supplies needed

Respond: Battery-operated tea light
candles | Baby dolls | Small blankets |
Laundry baskets | Stickers or sweet treats

Bless: Heart-shaped ink stamp or stickers

Before You Teach

Messiah. Savior. Promised Leader. God’s Son. One would think that the story of the birth of such a child would warrant pages of narrative. Surely the story of such an important birth would require many words to tell. In fact, although the circumstances of Jesus’ birth and the events following add depth to the story, Luke wrote of the actual birth of Jesus in just two verses. Matthew, the only other Gospel to provide a birth narrative, is even more brief. Matthew simply wrote that Mary gave birth to a son and Joseph named him Jesus.

As the only Biblical account of Jesus’ birth, these two verses from Luke have been intently studied. In these two verses we learn: Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Jesus was Mary’s firstborn, Mary wrapped him in bands of cloth, he was laid in a manger, and there was no room in the guesthouse. Wrapping babies in bands of cloth was a common practice at the time. Infants were wrapped in wide strips of cloth which demonstrated maternal care and may have helped keep the child’s limbs straight. The manger Jesus was placed in was probably a feeding trough. Such a setting certainly was not the splendor anyone would imagine God’s Son might have been born into.

There are many details of Jesus’ birth that we are not told. For example, we are not told what time of year it was, whether they were in a stable or a cave, or whether there was an innkeeper. Oftentimes in the retelling of the story of Jesus’ birth, the few details we know are enhanced and expanded upon using elements of tradition. As you celebrate the birth of Jesus this month with the children in your class, help them to understand that no matter how the story is told, the important thing is that God loved the world so much God sent Jesus to be born as a baby in Bethlehem.

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display the Attendance Chart (Class Kit—pp. 15–18) at eye level. Put together the model of the school and the figures of Mr. Maxwell, Rachel, and Armen (Class Kit—p. 9).

- Play, “Come to Us, Emmanuel” (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD) as you welcome each child.
- Show the children where to place their offerings.
- Help each child mark the Attendance Chart with a sticker or permanent marker.
- Place the Deep Blue Shores Map (Class Kit—p. 11) and the school and the Mr. Maxwell, Rachel, and Armen figures (Class Kit—p. 9) on a table or on the floor for the children to play with and explore. If available, add the Deep Blue Shores Maps, buildings, and figures from previous quarters.

TIP: *Have a quiet space in your room with books and soft toys for children who are not quite ready to join in an activity when they arrive.*

A—Nativity Dress Up: Baby Jesus (Dramatic Play)

Before class: Gather dolls, blankets, and pretend baby care items and place them in a laundry basket or other large basket. Label the basket, “Baby Jesus.”

- Place the “Angels,” “Mary and Joseph,” “Animals,” and “Baby Jesus” baskets in the center of the play space.
- Invite the children to explore and play with the costume items and toys.
- Encourage the children to dress up and pretend to be angels, Mary, Joseph, and the animals. Encourage them to play with the baby dolls, blankets, and baby care items.

TIP: *You will add to the Nativity Dress Up Center each week. Return the items to the correct baskets, and save your “Angels,” “Mary and Joseph,” “Animals,” and “Baby Jesus” baskets for next week.*

OR

B—Nativity Coloring (Art)

Before class: Photocopy the Nativity coloring page (p. 30) for each child.

- Give each child a copy of the Nativity coloring page, and invite him or her to color the image of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus.
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Transition to Explore

Before class: Display “Singing Together” (Class Kit—p. 31) on a wall or bulletin board.

- Have the children help you clean up. Sing together, “We’re Going on a Journey” as the children move with you to the story circle.

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EXPLORE

Sacred Conversations

SAY: This month we are hearing the stories of Jesus’ family and his birth. I am excited to celebrate and learn with you.

ASK: I wonder:

- How many friends are here with us today? Who is missing?
 - How do you feel today?
 - What’s one thing that happened in your community this week that you really liked?
-

Hear and See the Bible Story

SAY: Today we are going to hear the story again about the night that Jesus was born! I’m so excited!

- Tell the children the story, “Jesus Is Born” (*Deep Blue Bible Storybook*—p. 304).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure for Session 4 (Adventure DVD) with the children.

ASK: What would you want to play in a Christmas pageant?

Interact with the Bible Story

- Give each child a copy of “Jesus Is Born” (Bible Story Sheets—Session 4).
 - Read the story with the children, encouraging them to read the words in blue.
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Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Post the Bible Verse Poster—Unit 1 (Class Kit—p. 3) on a wall or bulletin board.

- Point to the Bible Verse Poster. Say the Bible verse for the children, and then repeat it together.
 - Teach the children signs from American Sign Language for some of the words in the Bible verse (Leader Guide—p. 91 and www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday).
 - Watch the Unit 1 Bible Verse video (Adventure DVD) with the children.
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Transition to Respond

Before class: Display “Singing Together” (Class Kit—p. 31) on a wall or bulletin board.

- Sing together, “We’re Going on a Journey” as the children move with you to the next activity.

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RESPOND

Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Post “All Are Welcome” (Class Kit—p. 2) on a wall or bulletin board. Locate the “Advent Wreath” (Class Kit—p. 27) and four battery-operated tea light candles.

- Play, “All Are Welcome” (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD). Sing along and dance to the music.
- Place the “Advent Wreath” (Class Kit—p. 27) in the center of the circle or on a table.

SAY: Today is the fourth Sunday of the season of Advent. During Advent we prepare for Jesus to be born on Christmas. Each week we will add and light a new candle on our “Advent Wreath” and also say a prayer. This week our prayer is about peace. What is peace? (*Give some time for the children to answer.*)

- Turn on four battery-operated tea light candles and place three on the purple candles of the “Advent Wreath” and one on the pink candle (week 3), and read the prayer for Week 4: Peace.
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A—Nativity Ornament (Activity Sheets)

- Give each child a copy of Activity Sheets—Session 4.
 - Encourage the children to create Nativity ornaments according to the instructions.
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OR

B—Baby Swaddle Relay (Active Game)

Before class: Put a baby doll in a laundry basket (the pretend manger) and place it on one side of the room. Each team will need its own baby in a basket. Provide a sweet treat or sticker for each child. Always check for food allergies before giving the children any snack or treat.

- Divide the children into teams. Have the teams line up on the opposite side of the room from the baby in the manger baskets. Give the first child in each team’s line a small blanket.
 - *Explain how to play the relay:* The first child in each line will walk quickly to the baby in the manger, pick up the baby, wrap it in the blanket, rock the baby while singing “Happy Birthday,” unwrap the baby and put it back in the manger, then quickly walk back to his or her team and hand the blanket to the next teammate.
 - Continue in this way until each child has had a turn. The team who completes the game first wins.
 - Celebrate by giving each child a sticker or sweet treat regardless of which team wins the relay race.
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Transition to Bless

Before class: Display “Singing Together” (Class Kit—p. 31) on a wall or bulletin board.

- Have the children help you clean up. Sing together, “We’re Going on a Journey” as the children move with you to the story circle.

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BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Cut out the mural pieces from the bottom of the Unit 1—Bible Story Mural (Class Kit—p. 19) and place them in an envelope or zip-top bag. Post the Unit 1—Bible Story Mural on a wall or bulletin board.

- Gather the children around the mural. Invite a child to tape the image of baby Jesus to the mural.

ASK: What do you remember about the Bible story we heard today? What do you think we can learn about community from this story?

Praising

Before class: Display “Singing Together” (Class Kit—p. 31) on a wall or bulletin board.

- Sing together “Happy Birthday, Jesus” (Class Kit—p. 31).

TIP: *If time permits, invite the children to choose more songs to sing.*

Blessing

- Invite the children to sit in a circle with you. Hold the heart-shaped ink stamp or some heart stickers in your hand.
 - Turn to the child on your left and place a heart ink stamp or sticker on his or her hand.
 - Say to the child, “Merry Christmas! Jesus is born!”
 - Give the heart ink stamp or stickers to the child, and invite him or her to repeat the blessing to the next child in the circle.
 - Continue around the circle in this way until the last child receives a blessing and gives one to you.
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At Home with God

Before class: Separate the “Nativities Around the World” for each child from the Bible Story Sheets.

ASK: What’s one thing about our time today that you can tell your family?

- Give each child a copy of Bible Story Sheets—Session 4. Look at “Family Faith Activities” together.

ASK: Which of these activities are you most excited to try this week?

- Give each child a copy of Bible Story Sheets—“Nativities Around the World.” Look at the variety of nativity sets shown together. Compare and contrast the sets.
- Send home the Bible Story Sheets—Session 4 and Bible Story Sheets—“Nativities Around the World” with each child.

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Nativity Coloring Page

