

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
Jesus Is Born
Two Stories
Transition to Explore

2. Explore

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

3. Respond

Birth Certificate
Animal Noises
Loving God,
Loving Neighbor
Transition to Bless

4. Bless

Inviting
Praising
Blessing
At Home with God

Supplies

Basic Supplies: CD player | DVD player | Projector or screen | Television | Craft glue | Crayons | Markers | Offering basket | Paper | Paper punch | Pencils | Scissors | Tape

Gather: Bell | Carpet squares

Explore: Bell

Respond: Bell | Candle | Carpet squares | Multipurpose lighter

Bless: No additional supplies

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 telling of such an important birth would require many words to tell. In fact, although the circumstances of Jesus’ birth and the events following add to the story, Luke tells us of the actual birth of Jesus in just two verses. Matthew, the only other Gospel to provide a birth narrative, is even briefer, saying simply 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 that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, Jesus was Mary’s firstborn, Mary wrapped him in bands of cloth, Jesus was laid in a manger, and there was no room in the guesthouse. The Bible tells us Mary wrapped Jesus in bands of cloth when he was born. This was a common practice at the time. Infants were wrapped in wide strips of cloth that demonstrated maternal care, and may have helped keep the child’s limbs straight. The manger in which Jesus was placed was probably a feeding trough—certainly not the splendor into which we would imagine God’s Son might have been born.

There are many details of Jesus’ birth that we are not told. 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, for example. Oftentimes, in the retelling of the story of Jesus’ birth, the few details we know are enhanced and expanded upon. 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 that God sent Jesus to be born as a baby in Bethlehem.

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GATHER

Greeting

Before class: Display your choice of attendance chart (Class Kit—pp. 16-17 or pp. 18 & 15).

- Play “Come to Us, Emmanuel” (Annual Music CD).
 - Welcome and greet each child as he or she enters the room.
 - Indicate location of the offering basket.
 - Help children mark their attendance inside the building on the Community Attendance Chart (opt.).
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A—Jesus Is Born (Activity Sheet)

Before class: Obtain Activity Sheets (Session 4).

- Distribute “All of the Animals”/“Make a Manger” (pp. 9-10).
 - Encourage the children to follow the journaling prompt and complete the activities.
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OR

B—Two Stories (Drama)

- Arrange the children into two groups. Assign the Scripture.
Group 1 – Luke 2:1-7
Group 2 – Matthew 1:18–2:12.
- After the groups read their Scripture, encourage them to create skits about their stories.
- Encourage the groups to act out their stories to the other children.

ASK: What similarities and differences did you notice?

Transition to Explore

Before class: Obtain bell and carpet squares.

- Ring the bell to acknowledge that it is time to transition.
- Direct the children to choose carpet squares (or equivalent items), then sit in a circle on the floor.

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EXPLORE

Sacred Conversation

- Ask a few wondering questions.

ASK: I wonder:

- What made you laugh this week?
 - How did you help someone this week?
 - What are you grateful for?
 - Was there a difficult part of your week, and what made it better?
 - Where did you see God this week?
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Hear and See the Bible Story

Before class: Prepare television and DVD player.

- Read the Bible story together (*CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible—Luke 2:5-7*).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure DVD Session 4.

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

Interact with the Bible Story

Before class: Obtain Bible Story Sheets (Session 4).

- Distribute the Bible Story Sheets and draw attention to Bible Story Retelling (p. 1).
 - Assign the four parts, then present “Jesus Is Born.”
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Say the Bible Verse

Before class: Display Poster: Unit 1 Bible Verse (Class Kit—pp. 10 & 23). Review Unit 1 sign language (Leader Guide—p. 91).

- Recite the Bible verse, “The angel said, ‘Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people’ ” (Luke 2:10).
 - Invite the children to say and sign the Bible verse with you.
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Transition to Respond

Before class: Obtain bell.

- Ring the bell, then invite the children to put away their carpet squares.

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RESPOND

A—Birth Certificate (Art)

Before class: Photocopy “Birth Certificate” (Leader Guide—p. 30), one per child.

- Distribute the photocopies of “Birth Certificate.”

SAY: Today we celebrate Jesus’ birth. Let’s fill out what his birth certificate might have looked like. A birth certificate is something parents receive at the hospital after their baby is born.

OR

B—Animal Noises (Game)

- Invite the children to arrange their chairs in a circle.

SAY: Baby Jesus was probably born where the animals stayed.

ASK: What kind of animals do you think were there when Jesus was born?

SAY: Secretly think of an animal. We will work around the circle, making animal sounds. When it is your turn, make the animal noise. The rest of us will try to guess what animal you might be.

- Play the game as long as time allows.
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Loving God, Loving Neighbor

Before class: Obtain Map 6: Deep Blue Shores (Class Kit—p. 8) and Figures/Pieces: Deep Blue Shores Map 6 (Class Kit—p. 25). Display Poster: Advent Wreath (Class Kit—p. 31). Obtain Poster Pieces: Advent Wreath (Class Kit—p. 29).

- Display the Deep Blue Shores Map 6 on the floor or table. While the children interact with the map and figures, talk about Advent.

SAY: Advent is a time of waiting and preparing for Jesus. Each week will add a word label to our Advent Wreath poster. This week the word is “Peace.”

ASK: What does *peace* mean to you?

- Display the poster pieces.
 - Invite a child to attach the #4 “Peace” poster piece to the poster’s #4 candle.
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Transition to Bless

Before class: Obtain bell, candle, multipurpose lighter (or battery-operated candle), carpet squares.

- Ring the bell to signal transition.
- Direct the children to each choose a carpet square, then sit in a circle on the floor.

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BLESS

Inviting

Before class: Continue to display Poster: Unit 1 Bible Verse (Class Kit—pp. 10 & 23) where it is easily accessible for children. Obtain Poster Pieces: Unit 1 Bible Verse (Class Kit—p. 22).

- Gather the children around the Bible-verse poster.
- Display the poster pieces.
- Invite a child to attach to the poster the “Jesus” poster piece.

PRAY: Thank you, God, for bringing good news to all people. Amen.

Praising

Before class: Obtain CD player and Deep Blue Song Sheets.

- Distribute the song sheets of “Come to Us, Emmanuel” (Annual Music CD).
 - Sing the song “Come to Us, Emmanuel” (Annual Music CD).
 - Sign the Bible verse (Leader Guide—p. 91).
 - Collect the song sheets and store until the next session.
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Blessing

- Invite the children to repeat after you Luke 1:46-47:

“With all my heart I glorify the Lord!

In the depths of who I am,

I rejoice in God my savior.”

At Home with God

ASK: What is one thing that you learned today? Can you share with your family what you learned?

- Send home with each child Bible Story Sheets—Session 4 leaflet.

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Birth Certificate

A decorative border surrounds the form, featuring stylized geometric shapes like triangles and squares at the corners and midpoints of the sides. The text 'Birth Certificate' is written in a large, gothic-style font within a rectangular box at the top. Below this, there are six lines of text, each followed by a horizontal line for writing: 'Name:', 'Date:', 'Place:', 'Weight:', 'Length:', and 'Parents:'.

Birth Certificate

Name: _____

Date: _____

Place: _____

Weight: _____

Length: _____

Parents: _____