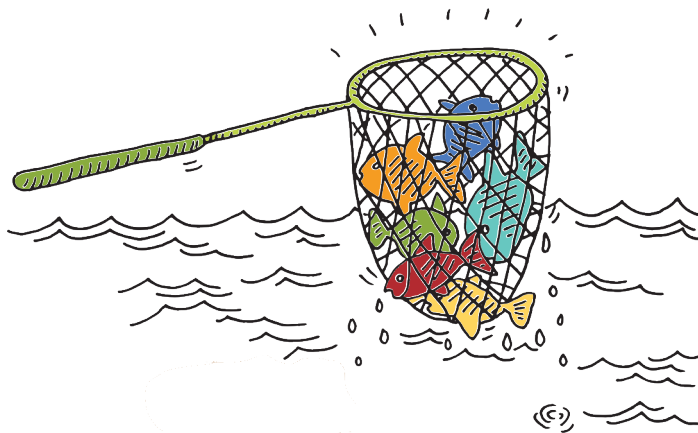


BOOKS OF THE BIBLE CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM

Later Elementary New Testament





JESUS IS BORN!

Lesson 1 - Later Elementary

Bible Basis: Luke 1:26–35; 2:1–7, found in *The Books of the Bible for Kids, New Testament*, pages 8–9
Key Verse: Luke 2:11 (NirV): “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord.”
Key Idea: God sent his Son, Jesus, as our Savior.

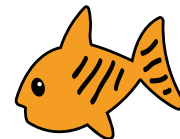
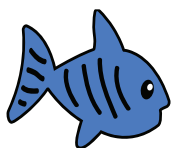
Master Supplies List

- Bibles
- *The Books of the Bible for Kids, New Testament*
- Family Page (1 per student)

Optional Supplies

You will need the following supplies based on which option(s) you choose in Step 3 | Explore More.

- Option 1: Good News! worksheet (1 per student), Bibles, pens or pencils
- Option 2: construction paper, scissors, glue sticks, paper doilies, ribbons, markers, pens or pencils
- Option 3: Bible verse cards
- Option 4: audiovisual equipment to play music or project a video
- Option 5: A Savior Is Born script (1 per student)



STEP 1 | Come Together (10 min)

Teacher Prep: Before the students arrive, arrange for an adult helper to assist as the “thief.” As soon as you begin Step 1, the “thief” should enter the room casually and take something valuable, such as a cell phone. The goal is for the “thief” to look and act like an ordinary part of the students’ day so they don’t take particular notice.

- SAY: Today is going to be exciting. You are going to witness a crime! That’s right. A real crime. Don’t worry, you won’t be in any danger. But you will have to answer some questions as eyewitnesses to the crime.
- ASK: What is a crime? What is a suspect? What are clues? What is an eyewitness? (These questions only serve the purpose of stalling and drawing attention to yourself as the “thief” performs his or her role and leaves.)
- SAY: Okay, you know a lot about crimes. And you’ve all just witnessed one, so tell me, what was the crime? Who is the suspect?
- ALLOW a few moments for students to express their likely confusion. Then call the “thief” back into the room to explain what just happened before their eyes.
- SAY: Even though I told you that you would witness a crime, you missed it. You should have been alert, but when the crime occurred, it didn’t look the way you expected it to. In some ways, this is similar to the birth of Jesus, as we’ll learn today.

KEY VERSE

- INTRODUCE this week’s Key Verse. Repeat the verse slowly a few times until the students are able to say the verse from memory. (Note: You also may choose to review last week’s Key Verse together.)

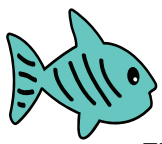
Luke 2:11: “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord.”

STEP 2 | Hear the Story (20 min)

Supplies: Bibles

THE PROPHETS

- SAY: Just like our “crime” today, witnesses were told ahead of time about the birth of Jesus. Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, prophets delivered God’s message about the coming Savior. Here’s what a few of them said.
- READ aloud Micah 5:2; Isaiah 7:14; and Isaiah 9:6 or have students work in pairs to look up and read the verses aloud.
- SAY: People waited and watched for hundreds of years for this child to be born.



THE ANGELS

- SAY: When the time came for Jesus to be born, God's messengers, the angels, announced his coming.
- INSTRUCT students to read Luke 1:26–33 with a partner.
- ASK: Who was the messenger? (*the angel Gabriel*)
- ASK: Who was the message for? (*Mary*)
- ASK: What was the message? (*Mary will give birth to a Son, she will name him Jesus, he will be a great king*)
- READ aloud Luke 1:34–38, explaining that this birth was a miracle. Define miracle as something extraordinary that only God can do.
- SAY: Angels also appeared to Mary's husband, Joseph, and to shepherds to announce the miraculous birth of the Savior.

JESUS' BIRTH

- SAY: Just as the prophets and the angels declared, Jesus the Savior was born in Bethlehem.
- INSTRUCT students to read Luke 2:1–7 with a partner.
- ASK: Why did Joseph and Mary leave Nazareth? (*they had to register for the census in Joseph's hometown of Bethlehem*) Define census as a way of counting people so the government knows how many people live in each town.
- ASK: Where was Jesus born and why? (*in a stable because there was no room for them to stay in*) Define manger as a feeding box for animals.
- SAY: Some people waited and watched for Jesus' birth because they knew it was coming. Wise men from the East watched the sky and followed a star to find Jesus. Others missed this great miracle even though they had been told it would happen.

STEP 3 | Explore More

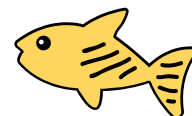
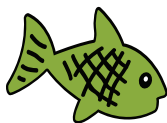
Choose from these activity options to help students explore the lesson further.

Option 1: Good News! (15 min)

Supplies: Good News! worksheet (1 per student), Bibles, pencils or pens

Teacher Prep: Print and photocopy the Good News! worksheet.

- GIVE each student a worksheet.
- INSTRUCT students to work alone or in pairs to look up the verses and copy them onto the worksheet. Tell students to read one or two verses before the one they copy to gain an understanding of context.
- PROVIDE assistance as needed as students complete the worksheet.



Option 2: Birth Announcement (20 min)

Supplies: construction paper, scissors, glue sticks, paper doilies, ribbons, markers, pens or pencils

- **SAY:** Parents wait months for their new baby to arrive. When that happy day finally comes, they want everyone to know the good news. Parents often put a lot of effort into creating a birth announcement with their baby's picture, date and time of birth, and the baby's length and weight.
- **CONTINUE:** Today you'll create a birth announcement for God's Son, Jesus! We don't know Jesus' length or weight, but your announcement can include other facts about him. You know the city of his birth, his earthly parents, and the good news that he is the Savior!
- **INSTRUCT** students to use the craft supplies to create their own birth announcements for Jesus. Hang the finished products where others can enjoy them!

Option 3: Pass It On (15 min)

Supplies: Bible verse cards

Teacher Prep: Write a main sentence from each of these Bible verses on separate index cards: Luke 1:32; Matthew 1:20; Luke 2:17; Matthew 2:2.

- **GATHER** the students in a circle.
- **SAY:** The good news of Jesus' birth spread far and wide. When you share a message, you have to be careful to pass it on accurately. This game will test our messenger skills.
- **GIVE** one student a Bible verse card to read discreetly. Direct that student to whisper the verse to the next student.
- **CONTINUE** passing the message around the circle by whispering from one student to the next (do not pass around the card). Call on the last student to repeat the message out loud.
- **DISCUSS** whether the final message is accurate. Let the students laugh about where and how it got mixed up.
- **REPEAT** as time allows with new verses.

Option 4: Praise and Worship (15 min)

Supplies: audiovisual equipment to play music or project a video

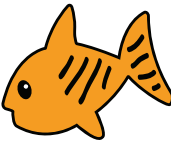
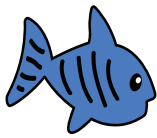
Lead a Christmas sing-along to celebrate the birth of Jesus! Let students pick some of their favorite songs, such as "O, Little Town of Bethlehem" or "Away in a Manger." Bring in a few Christmas CDs, search for lyric videos online, or have someone provide music on an instrument.

Option 5: Act It Out (20 min)

Supplies: A Savior Is Born script (1 per student)

Teacher Prep: Print and photocopy the A Savior Is Born script.

- **ASSIGN** roles to students and act out the skit. Combine or split roles as necessary to fit the needs of your group.



STEP 4 | Going Home (5 min)

Supplies: Family Page (1 per student)

Teacher Prep: Print and photocopy the Family Page.

- GIVE each student a copy of this week's Family Page.
- SAY: Give this page to your family when they pick you up. It will remind you to tell your family how God sent his Son, Jesus, as our Savior.
- INVITE students to practice telling you what they remember about Jesus' birth.
- REVIEW today's story and Key Idea as you wait for the students to get picked up.
- HELP students practice saying today's Key Verse from memory.
- LEAD students to pray, thanking God for sending his Son, Jesus, to save us from sin.
- REMIND students to prepare for next week's lesson by reading *The Books of the Bible for Kids, New Testament*, Days 6-10.
- REMIND each student to take home any activity sheets or craft projects and the Family Page.

FAMILY PAGE

Lesson 1: Jesus is Born!

Bible Basis: Luke 1:26–35; 2:1–7, found in *The Books of the Bible for Kids, New Testament*, pages 8–9

Key Verse: Luke 2:11 (NIRV): “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord.”

Key Idea: God sent his Son, Jesus, as our Savior.

How to Use This Page

This week, your family can read the Bible Basis passage from pages 8–9 of *The Books of the Bible for Kids, New Testament* to help your child remember the lesson. Use the Table Talk questions to start a discussion around the dinner table, while driving in the car, or just about anywhere. The Living Faith activity is designed to remind your child of the Bible lesson through a drama or other engaging activity. The Extra Mile idea provides interactive ways for your child to connect with the story.

Table Talk

1. What was so special about the birth of Jesus?
2. What do you think people long ago expected the Savior to be like?
3. Why do we give gifts on Christmas?
4. How can we focus more on Jesus next Christmas?

Living Faith

Option 1

Recruit some younger actors to stage a live play of Jesus’ birth. As the director and stage manager, your job will be to assign roles; come up with scenery, costumes, and props; help with dialogue; and run a rehearsal. When your play is in good shape, invite parents and friends to watch.

Option 2

Write your own Christmas song about the birth of Jesus. Borrow the music from a song you like and change the lyrics to tell the good news! You might be able to find an online version of the music (without vocals) that you can use to perform or record yourself singing over.

Extra Mile

- Work together to memorize this week's Key Verse. Each day of the week, practice the verse in a different way, such as writing it, typing it, saying it out loud, meditating on it, or learning it in sign language.
- Compare the story of Jesus' birth in Luke to that in Matthew 1:1–25. Discuss which details have become common knowledge in Christmas celebrations and which ones have not.
- Pull out some baby pictures of your child. Tell your child all about the time just before, during, and after his or her birth or adoption. Tell your child how you felt about that time and how you celebrated and shared the good news with others.

Prepare For Next Week

Help your child prepare for next week's lesson by reading *The Books of the Bible for Kids, New Testament*, Days 6–10, and encourage your child to respond with journaling.

If you are reading *The Books of the Bible, New Testament* with your small group, you are discussing your questions and insights with them from week to week. Include your family in the conversation about this week's reading, using the following discussion starters:

- What did you read that you never knew about before?
- Was there anything you wondered about?
- What did you learn about loving God?
- What did you learn about loving others?

GOOD NEWS!

Name _____ Date _____

Directions: Look up each verse in the Bible. Copy the words of the angels announcing Jesus' birth.

LUKE 1:31

MATTHEW 1:21

LUKE 2:11-12

SKIT: A SAVIOR IS BORN

Characters

Narrator 1	Angel 1	Mary	Isaiah
Narrator 2	Angel 2	Joseph	Angel Chorus
Narrator 3	Angel 3	Shepherd	

Narrator 1: Just over 2,000 years ago, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee.

Narrator 2: The angel was sent to a girl named Mary. She was engaged to a man named Joseph.

Angel 1: The Lord has blessed you in a special way. He is with you.

Narrator 3: Mary was upset because of the angel's words. She wondered what kind of greeting this could be.

Angel 1: Do not be afraid, Mary. God is pleased with you. You will become pregnant and give birth to a son. You must call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God.

Narrator 1: This was shocking news, indeed!

Angel 1: The Lord God will make him a king like his father David of long ago. The Son of the Most High God will rule forever over his people.

Mary: How can this happen? I am not yet married.

Angel 1: The Holy Spirit will come to you. The power of the Most High God will cover you. The holy one that is born will be called the Son of God. What God says always will come true.

Mary: I serve the Lord. May it happen to me just as you said it would.

Narrator 2: Then the angel left Mary.

Narrator 3: Mary and Joseph were engaged to get

married. Before they started to live together, it became clear that Mary was going to have a baby.

Joseph: I have always been faithful to the law, so I cannot marry Mary now that she's pregnant. But I don't want to put her to shame in public. I'll just quietly break up with Mary.

Narrator 1: As Joseph was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream.

Angel 2: Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. She is going to have a son. You must name him Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins.

Narrator 2: All this took place to bring about what the Lord had said would happen. He had said this through the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah: The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. He will be called Immanuel, "God with us."

Narrator 3: Joseph woke up. He did what the angel of the Lord commanded him to do. He took Mary home as his wife.

Joseph: Mary, Caesar Augustus is making a list of everyone in the whole Roman world. By law we must return to Bethlehem, my hometown, to be listed.

Narrator 1: While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for the child to be born.

Narrator 2: Mary gave birth to a baby boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger, a feeding box for animals, that was in the stable where they were staying. That's because there was no guest room where they could stay.

Narrator 3: Shepherds were living in the fields nearby, taking care of their sheep. It was night.

Narrator 1: An angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds. The glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified.

Angel 3: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people.

All Students: Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord.

Angel 3: Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

Narrator 2: Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God.

Angel Chorus: May glory be given to God in the highest heaven! And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!

Narrator 3: The angels left and went back to heaven.

Shepherd: Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's find this baby the angel told us about.

Narrator 1: The shepherds hurried off and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger.

Narrator 2: After the shepherds saw baby Jesus, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child.

Narrator 3: All who heard the good news were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over.

Narrator 1: The shepherds gave glory and praise to God. Everything they had seen and heard was just as the angel said it would be.