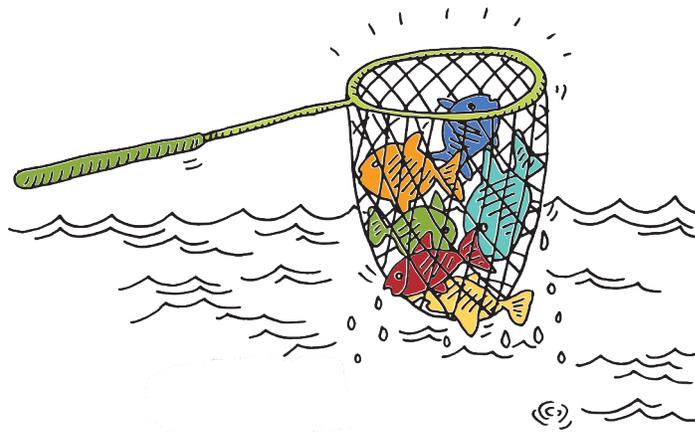


**BOOKS OF THE BIBLE
CHILDREN'S CURRICULUM**

Preschool
New Testament





JESUS IS BORN!

Lesson 1 - Preschool

Bible Basis: Luke 1:26–35; 2:1–7
Key Verse: Luke 2:11 (NirV): “...a Savior has been born to you.”
Key Idea: God sent his Son, Jesus, as our Savior.

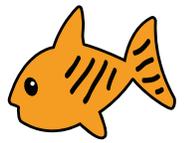
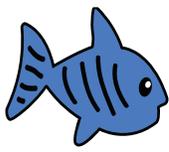
Master Supplies List

- assortment of kid-friendly gifts, index card, pen
- Mary, Joseph, and Shepherds illustrations
- tape
- *My Bible Story Coloring Book*
- Family Page (1 per child)

Optional Supplies

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

- Option 1: multiple kid-friendly manger sets (1 per pair of children)
- Option 2: Jesus Is Born coloring sheet (1 per child), crayons, star stickers
- Option 3: kid-friendly manger scene(s), small boxes or gift bags, Christmas wrapping paper, marker
- Option 4: audiovisual equipment to play music or project a video
- Option 5: A Savior Is Born script



STEP 1 | Come Together (10 min)

Supplies: assortment of kid-friendly gifts such as stuffed animals, toy cars, and books, index card, pen
Teacher Prep: Write "Jesus, the Son of God" in small print on the index card.

- DISPLAY the presents where the children can see them, with the index card mixed in among them.
- SAY: Tomorrow is my niece's birthday, and I want to get her the best present possible. What should I choose? Which of these do you think is the best present?
- ALLOW one child at a time to approach the presents and point out the best one.
- ASK: What makes that the best present? (take responses)
- SAY: These all are good presents I could give my niece. But there's an even better present that can come only from God.
- SHOW the index card.
- SAY: This card says, "Jesus, the Son of God," and it is the greatest gift we can ever get. God gave us this gift when he sent Jesus into the world as a baby. Today we'll learn all about that special day.

KEY VERSE

- INTRODUCE this week's Key Verse. Repeat the verse slowly a few times until the children are able to say the verse along with the hand motions described below. Or say the verse, leaving out key words (underlined>, and wait for the children to say that word all together. (Note: You also may choose to review last week's Key Verse together.)

Luke 2:11

...a Savior

(lift both arms toward heaven)

has been born to you.

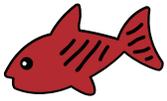
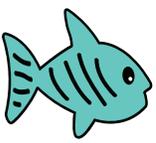
(rock an imaginary baby in arms)

STEP 2 | Hear the Story (20 min)

Supplies: Mary, Joseph, and Shepherds illustrations, tape
Teacher Prep: Print and separate the Mary, Joseph, and Shepherds illustrations.

AN ANGEL VISITS MARY

- SAY: In the Bible, God sends angels to give people messages. The angels often start by telling people, "Do not be afraid."
- INSTRUCT children to say, "Do not be afraid" when you motion to them. Practice a few times.
- SAY: God wanted to announce the good news that his Son, Jesus, would be born. First, God sent an angel to tell a young woman named Mary all about this good news.
- POST the illustration of Mary on an easel or nearby surface for children to see.



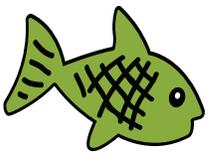
- SAY: The angel told Mary . . .
- MOTION to the children to say, “Do not be afraid.”
- CONTINUE: “God is very pleased with you. You will have a baby boy. You must call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of God. He will rule over his people forever.”
- ASK: Who did God send to Mary with this message? (*an angel*)
- ASK: What did the angel tell Mary? (*Mary will give birth to a son named Jesus, he will be great*)
- SAY: It was a great miracle that Mary had a baby who was the Son of God. A miracle is something extraordinary that only God can do.

AN ANGEL VISITS JOSEPH

- SAY: God also sent an angel to Mary’s soon-to-be husband, Joseph. They weren’t married yet.
- POST the illustration of Joseph on an easel or nearby surface for children to see.
- SAY: The angel told Joseph . . .
- MOTION to the children to say, “Don’t be afraid.”
- CONTINUE: “Take Mary home as your wife. She will have a baby. He will be the Son of God. He will save his people from their sins.”
- ASK: Who did God send to Joseph with this message? (*an angel*)
- ASK: What did the angel tell Joseph? (*take Mary home as your wife; her baby will be the Son of God, he will save people*)

ANGELS VISIT SHEPHERDS

- SAY: Just as the angels had said, Mary had a baby boy. She and Joseph named the baby Jesus. Mary and Joseph had traveled to the town of Bethlehem. They couldn’t rent a room anywhere. All the rooms were already taken. So they stayed in a stable with the animals. That’s where Jesus was born. Mary put the baby in a manger, a feeding box for the animals.
- CONTINUE: After Jesus was born, God sent angels to shepherds in a field nearby.
- POST the illustration of the shepherds on an easel or nearby surface for children to see.
- SAY: The angels told the shepherds . . .
- MOTION to the children to say, “Don’t be afraid.”
- CONTINUE: “I bring you good news. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. 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.”
- ASK: Who did God send to the shepherds with this message? (*angels*)
- ASK: What did the angels tell the shepherds? (*Jesus the Lord was born, they would find him lying in a manger*)



- SAY: The shepherds found Jesus right where the angels said he was. The shepherds were very excited. They told others what they had seen.

STEP 3 | Explore More

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

Option 1: Christmas Story (15 min)

Supplies: multiple kid-friendly manger scenes (1 per pair of children)

- GIVE each pair of children a manger scene and an area in which to play.
- ALLOW the children some “free play” time to act out the Christmas story together.
- MONITOR their conversations, using any teachable moments that arise. You may also want to take photos or videos (with parent permission) of this sweet time to share with parents or the church at Christmastime.

Option 2: Let’s Color! (15 min)

Supplies: Jesus Is Born coloring sheet (1 per child), crayons, star stickers

Teacher Prep: Print and photocopy the Jesus Is Born coloring sheet.

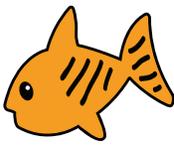
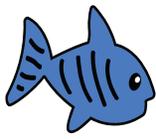
- GIVE each child a copy of the Jesus Is Born sheet to color.
- ASSIST children in adding star stickers to the sky in their finished picture.

Option 3: Christmas Countdown (20 min)

Supplies: kid-friendly manger scene(s), small boxes or gift bags, Christmas wrapping paper, marker

Teacher Prep: Wrap the following manger scene pieces as listed and mark the box/bag clearly with the number. Hide them around the room.

1. baby Jesus
 2. Mary and Joseph
 3. four shepherds
 4. five barn animals
- EXPLAIN there are four presents hidden around the room. Instruct the children to look for them and, if they find one, bring it back to the group area and sit down without opening it. Once all four are found, call the rest of the children back.
 - ASK the child with present #4 to give it to a friend with no present to open. This way, all or most children get to be a “finder” or an “opener.”
 - EXPLAIN how the items in the box/bag relate to the Christmas story.
 - CONTINUE with the rest of the presents, working from #4 down to #1.



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 the children 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 (15 min)

Supplies: A Savior Is Born script

Teacher Prep: Print and photocopy A Savior Is Born script. Recruit another adult or older child to assist.

(Optional: Print the character names on pieces of paper for the children to hold or provide simple costumes.)

- ASSIGN the roles of Mary, Joseph, Angel, and Shepherd to four children. The rest of the children will be the Angel Chorus. Position everyone in groups around the room.
- REVIEW with the Angel Chorus the line, “Do not be afraid.” They will say the line when you motion to them.
- DIRECT your assistant to guide Mary, Joseph, the Angel and the Shepherd as they move about onstage and help them act out the story as you read the script.

STEP 4 | Going Home (5 min)

Supplies: Family Page (1 per child)

Teacher Prep: Print and photocopy the Family Page.

- GIVE each child 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 children to practice telling you what they remember about the birth of Jesus.
- REVIEW today’s story and Key Idea as you wait for the children to get picked up.
- HELP children practice using hand motions with today’s Key Verse.
- PRAY: Thank you, God, for sending your Son, Jesus, to save us from sin.
- REMIND children to prepare for next week’s lesson by doing New Testament Week 2 in *My Bible Story Coloring Book* with their parents.
- SEND home with each child 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

Key Verse: Luke 2:11 (NirV): "...a Savior has been born to you."

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 your Bible 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. Why do we celebrate Christmas?
2. What was so special about Jesus being born?
3. What's the best gift you've ever gotten? What's the best gift you could give?
4. How can we thank God for the wonderful gift of Jesus?

Living Faith

Option 1

Pull out your Christmas decorations and manger scene. Help your child act out the Christmas story using the figures. For fun, you can record the action and show it to relatives and friends next Christmas.

Option 2

Play a game of Christmas Guess Who. Using the pieces of a manger scene or even a picture in a book, describe different elements for your child to guess. For example, to describe the manger, you might say, "This holds food for animals, but it was used as a bed for baby Jesus."

Extra Mile

- Help your child decorate this week's Bible verse as a large banner to hang at Christmas. Outline the letters on a long strip of paper for your child to color, or use large outlined letters that you print from your computer. Decorating this banner will help your child practice letter recognition and remember this week's Bible verse.
- Plan a family movie night and enjoy one of the many great movies with a biblical account of the Christmas story.
- 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 celebrated and shared the good news with everyone.

Prepare for Next Week

Help your child prepare for next week's lesson by reading *My Bible Story Coloring Book*, New Testament Week 2 together, and encourage your child to respond with coloring.

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 is this story about?
- How did [character name] love God?
- How did [character name] love others?



MARY



JOSEPH



SHEPHERDS

JESUS IS BORN

Name _____ Date _____



SKIT: A SAVIOR IS BORN

Characters

Narrator	Angel	Mary
Joseph	Shepherd	Angel Chorus

Narrator: Many years ago, God sent an angel to a girl named Mary. She was not married yet.

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

Narrator: Mary wondered what this could mean.

Angel Chorus: Do not be afraid.

Angel: God is pleased with you. You will give birth to a son and call him Jesus.

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

Angel: It will happen by the power of God. So the holy one who is born will be called the Son of God.

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

Narrator: The angel left Mary. Mary was engaged to marry Joseph. Joseph noticed Mary was going to have a baby.

Joseph: I cannot marry her now that she's pregnant. But I don't want to embarrass her. I'll just quietly break up with Mary.

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

Angel Chorus: Do not be afraid.

Angel: Take Mary home as your wife. Her baby is from God. She is going to have a son. He will save his people from their sins.

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

Joseph: Mary, we must go to Bethlehem.

Narrator: While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for the baby to be born. Mary gave birth to a baby boy. She wrapped him in cloth. Then she placed him in a manger, a feeding box for animals, in the stable, or barn, where they were staying. That's because there was no guest room where they could stay. Shepherds were living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep. An angel came to them.

Angel Chorus: Do not be afraid.

Angel: I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. You will find the baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.

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

Narrator: The shepherds hurried off and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger. The shepherds told everyone what they saw. They told them what the angel had said about this child. Everyone who heard their news was amazed.