



# The Son of God Is Born!

Luke 1:26-45; 2:1-20

If raised to believe in Santa Claus, children this age are becoming skeptical. They often see the holes in the story but pretend they don't. They want to grow up, but they enjoy the myth and want to hold on to it for as long as they can. Don't be the one to disillusion them. This is the right and responsibility of their parents. Use this lesson to focus on Jesus at church so kids understand that there is someone they can believe in without a doubt: Jesus really came to earth. What the Bible says about him is true.



## ► Bible Point

Celebrate Jesus' birth.

## Key Verse

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

## Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will celebrate Jesus' birth.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Getting Started</p>	<p><b>Good News Travels Fast</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Play a game to learn good news.</p>		
	<p><b>Puppet People</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Make puppets to represent people involved in Jesus' birth.</p>	<p>Bible, markers, fabric scraps, lace, yarn, several pairs of scissors, glue, 3 plastic spoons per child <b>Teacher Pack:</b> Bible Timeline</p>	
	<p><b>Waiting for God's Son</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Use puppets to tell about the people waiting for Jesus.</p>	<p>puppets from the "Puppet People" activity</p>	
	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Bible Exploration</p> <p><b>The Arrival</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Tell about Jesus' birth with puppets.</p>	<p>tape, puppets from the "Puppet People" activity <b>Teacher Pack:</b> "Jesus Is Born!" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack), "Nativity Set Figures" punch-outs</p> 	<p>Punch out the "Nativity Set Figures." Tape the tabs on the bottom of each figure into a circle so the figures stand up.</p>
<p><b>Isaiah 9:6</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and sing a song.</p>	<p>Bible, CD player, 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD</p>		

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Christmas Thanksgiving</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Learn why we celebrate Christmas, and thank God for sending Jesus.	My Bible Fun, CD player, paper, crayons, Christmas CD	Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Fun student book.
<b>4</b> Lasting Impressions	<b>Daily Challenges</b> <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	My Bible Fun, pens	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.	My Bible Fun	

**Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.







## 1 GETTING STARTED

### Good News Travels Fast

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Gather everyone together.

Sit with the children in a circle. Say: **I have some good news for you! I'm going to whisper the news to [name the child on your right]. He [or she] will whisper the news to the next person and so on around the circle. [Name the child on your left] will say the message for everyone to hear.**

Whisper the message "Christmas is coming" to the child on your right. Have the children whisper the message around the circle. Have the child on your left say the message aloud.

Move to another place in the circle and play again. Send the message "Jesus is born!" Play one more time, beginning in yet another place. Send the final message "God's Son has come!"

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to wait for the message in our game?
- Tell about a time you waited to celebrate something really great.
- Why do you think Jesus' birth is something to celebrate?

Say: **Good news travels fast—and Christmas is good news! Today we'll hear about some of the first Christmas messages—messages of good news—and discover that Christians ► CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.**



## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Puppet People

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Luke 1, and show kids the passage. Say: **Today we get to ► CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH!** Show kids "The Son of God Is Born" picture on the Bible Timeline.

Say: **Let's make puppets so you can help me tell how it happened. We'll each make an angel, a young woman named Mary, and an older woman named Elizabeth.**

Distribute supplies, and guide children as they use markers to draw faces on the tops of the spoons. Help them make simple costumes by gluing fabric scraps and lace around the handles. Finally, let them glue yarn on their puppets for hair. Give the children freedom to design their puppets as they wish. Encourage their creativity.

Say: **Now that we've made our puppets, let's learn more about Jesus' birth.**

# Waiting for God's Son

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Gather children with their puppets. Say: **Show me your angels.** Let the children hold up their angels.

Say: **Angels are God's messengers. An angel gave a message to a man named Zechariah about how his son would prepare people for Jesus. And today we'll hear about an angel who brought a message to Mary.** Have the children show their angel and Mary puppets side by side.

Say: **The angel's name was Gabriel. Let's learn his special message. Show your puppets as you hear about them in the Bible. Have them act out what happened. You'll have to listen carefully to keep up! Ready?** Pause at the mention of each character so kids have time to respond with their puppets.

Say: **One day, Mary was working in her home.** Pause and have the children pretend to have Mary work. **Suddenly Gabriel appeared. "Greetings," he said. "God is pleased. He is with you."** Pause. **Show me what you think Mary did when she saw the angel.** Pause, letting children use their puppets to create the scene.

Say: **Gabriel said, "Don't be afraid, Mary. God is happy with you. You're going to have a baby boy. Name him Jesus. He'll be God's Son."** Let the children take turns having Gabriel deliver the message to Mary in their own words.



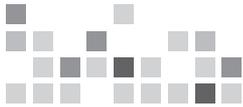
### Puppet People Supplies

- Bible
  - markers
  - fabric scraps
  - lace
  - yarn
  - several pairs of scissors
  - glue
  - 3 plastic spoons per child
- Teacher Pack**  
Bible Timeline

### Waiting for God's Son Supplies

- puppets from the "Puppet People" activity





## The Arrival Supplies

tape  
puppets from the  
“Puppet People”  
activity

### Teacher Pack

“Jesus Is Born!” poster  
(from the Big Bible  
Poster Pack)

“Nativity Set Figures”  
punch-outs

## The Arrival Easy Prep

Punch out the “Nativity  
Set Figures.” Tape the  
tabs on the bottom of  
each figure into a circle  
so the figures stand up.

Say: **Mary couldn’t imagine having a baby. She wasn’t even married yet! But Mary wanted to obey God. “May everything happen as you have said,” she told the angel. Then the angel left. Pause.**

Say: **Mary was so excited that she went to visit her relative, Elizabeth. Elizabeth was going to have a baby, too.** Have the children hold up their Elizabeth puppets.

Say: **Elizabeth’s baby would be John the Baptist. He was a man who prepared people for Jesus. Elizabeth knew that Mary’s baby would be very special—that he would be God’s Son. “You are special, Mary,” said Elizabeth. “Your son will be special, too.”** Let the children have their Mary and Elizabeth puppets give each other a hug.

Say: **Elizabeth was right. Mary’s son is special. He is the Son of God. We**  
▶ **CELEBRATE JESUS’ BIRTH** because Jesus is God’s Son. Christmas is the day we remember Jesus’ birth!

# The Arrival

## What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **The angel’s message to Mary was only the beginning of why we**  
▶ **CELEBRATE JESUS’ BIRTH.** Several months later, Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem. Mary was ready to have the baby God had promised.

Choose one child to use his or her puppet for Mary. Give the Joseph and donkey figures to two willing kids. Let them make Mary, Joseph, and the donkey travel to Bethlehem.

Say: **There was no room for Mary and Joseph in the inn, so they stayed in a stable with animals instead.** Choose other children to arrange Mary, Joseph, and the animals on a table.

Say: **When baby Jesus was born, Mary wrapped him in soft cloths and placed him in a manger.** Choose a child to add Jesus to the scene.

Say: **Meanwhile, shepherds were caring for their flocks in the fields when an angel appeared to them.** Hand out the shepherd figures. Choose one child to use his or her angel puppet. Let the children make the angel appear to the shepherds.

Say: **The angel said, “Do not be afraid. I have great news for all people. The Savior has been born. He is Christ the Lord!” When the angel finished speaking, a whole choir of angels appeared in the sky.** Let all children hold up their angel puppets.

Say: **The angels sang, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.”** Have the children say the sentence a few times in singing voices as they pretend to make the angels fly in the air.

Say: **Then the angels disappeared. The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem to see baby Jesus.** Have the children add the shepherds to the nativity scene.



Show the “Jesus Is Born!” poster. Say: **God kept his promise to send a Savior. He sent Jesus, who was born in a stable and slept in a manger. We ► CELEBRATE JESUS’ BIRTH at Christmas because Jesus was born!**

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What’s interesting to you about Jesus’ birth?
- Why do you think it’s important to remember Jesus’ birth at Christmas?

Say: **Christmas is a great time! It’s a time we see our families, enjoy festive traditions, and learn about giving. But most important is the reason Christians began celebrating Christmas—because they wanted to ► CELEBRATE JESUS’ BIRTH. Let’s celebrate Jesus this Christmas by remembering how God sent our Savior.**

## Isaiah 9:6

### What You’ll Do ■■■■

Gather the children in a circle. Say: **Today we’re learning why we ► CELEBRATE JESUS’ BIRTH at Christmas.**

Open your Bible to Isaiah 9:6, and show kids the verse. Say: **Our Key Verse reminds us that Jesus is God! Listen while I read it: “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).**

**Christmas is the day we ► CELEBRATE JESUS’ BIRTH. Jesus was a very special baby! His birth is wonderful because he’s God and he’s our Savior. Let’s say our adapted Key Verse together: Jesus is born to us (Isaiah 9:6).** Have the children repeat the adapted verse with you several times.

Say: **Let’s sing a song about Jesus to celebrate his birth.** Hand out the lyrics page. Then play “Wonderful” (Isaiah 9:6) (track 8 on the CD), and lead the children in following along.

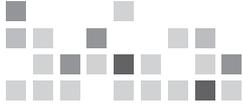
 **For a child is born to us.  
A son is given to us,  
And the government will rest  
Upon his shoulders.  
For a child is born to us.  
A son is given to us,  
And the government will rest  
Upon his shoulders.**



### Isaiah 9:6 Supplies

- 
- Bible
  - CD player
  - 1 copy per child of the lyrics page (at the end of the lesson)
  - Teacher Pack**
  - CD: “Wonderful” (Isaiah 9:6) (track 8)





*(Chorus)*

**We will call him  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
The Prince of Peace.  
We will call him  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
The Prince of Peace,  
Prince of Peace.**

*(Repeat from the beginning; then repeat chorus.)*

“Wonderful” (Isaiah 9:6) by Ben Glover. © 2004 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What does it mean to you that Jesus was born for you?**
- **Our Key Verse called Jesus “Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” Give Jesus a name of your own based on what he is to you, and explain why you chose that name.**

Say: **Jesus was born for each of you. And when you believe in him, you can be forgiven of all your sins. That’s why Jesus’ birth is so special. That’s why we celebrate Christmas—to ► CELEBRATE JESUS’ BIRTH!**

### Christmas Thanksgiving Supplies

My Bible Fun  
CD player  
paper  
crayons  
Christmas CD

### Christmas Thanksgiving Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 4  
pages from each My  
Bible Fun student book.

## 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

# Christmas Thanksgiving

### What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Today we’re learning that we ► CELEBRATE JESUS’ BIRTH at Christmas. Let’s do an activity to think more about that.**

Have kids form four groups. Give each group a sheet of paper and some crayons. Have kids answer the question “Why do we celebrate Christmas?” as a group. Let each group draw a picture to answer. Explain that everyone in the group needs to contribute to the picture.





When groups have finished their pictures, have everyone sit in a circle. While you play Christmas music, have the children pass one of the four pictures around the circle. Stop the music anytime you wish. The child holding the picture when the music stops can show the picture to everyone. Let the group that designed the picture tell what it means. Repeat the activity using the remaining three pictures.

Give each child a Lesson 4 My Bible Fun page. Say: **I'm thankful God sent his Son, Jesus. I'm glad that Jesus was born! Let's thank God for Jesus, the best Christmas gift of all!**

Let kids write or draw thank-you notes for Jesus on their My Bible Fun pages.



## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think about how we ► CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges in their My Bible Fun pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **Have an adult help you bake a birthday cake and decorate it. Invite your friends over to celebrate Jesus' birth!**
- **Each night before you go to bed, write down one reason you're thankful Jesus was born. Then read your list to God and thank him for sending his Son, Jesus.**
- **Sing a song of celebration to Jesus, thanking him for coming to earth to save you.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

#### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

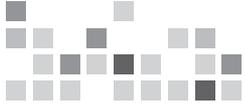
- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, a place, and other ideas.**

Say: **Christmas is the time we remember to ► CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH. During this Christmas season, let's remember that as we follow through on our Daily Challenges.**

#### Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Fun pens





### Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

My Bible Fun

## Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about how we celebrate Jesus' birth. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their My Bible Fun pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at [group.com/digital](http://group.com/digital).

Take a couple of minutes to pray with your kids, thanking God for sending Jesus. Invite children to read their thank-you notes on the My Bible Fun pages. Then pray: **God, we're so thankful for Jesus. Help us focus on celebrating him this Christmas. In Jesus' name, amen.**





Lyrics ■■■■

## Wonderful (Isaiah 9:6)

For a child is born to us.  
 A son is given to us,  
 And the government will rest  
 Upon his shoulders.  
 For a child is born to us.  
 A son is given to us,  
 And the government will rest  
 Upon his shoulders.

*(Chorus)*

We will call him  
 Wonderful Counselor,  
 Mighty God,  
 Everlasting Father,  
 The Prince of Peace.  
 We will call him  
 Wonderful Counselor,  
 Mighty God,  
 Everlasting Father,  
 The Prince of Peace,  
 Prince of Peace.

*(Repeat from the beginning; then repeat chorus.)*

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