



# The Son of God Is Born!

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

Christmas is an exciting time for most third- and fourth-graders. Taking a vacation from school, visiting relatives, shopping, decorating, and eating more goodies than usual are just some of the activities that may cause disruptions in the normal routine. Use this lesson to help kids see that Jesus is the one and only reason for all the celebration, joy, and excitement.



► **Bible Point**  
Celebrate Jesus' birth.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>1</b> Getting Started	<b>Favorite Celebrations</b> <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Try to sell party decorations to each other.	paper, markers	
<b>2</b> Bible Exploration	<b>Mission Impossible</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Discuss impossible missions, and discover that only God could help Mary accomplish her impossible mission.	Bibles, CD player, paper, pens <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD, "Mission Impossible" cards, Bible Timeline 	Separate the "Mission Impossible" cards.
	<b>The Best Birthday</b> <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Sing a song, and talk about what happened the night Jesus was born.	Bibles, CD player, copies of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	

### Key Verse

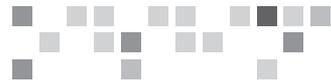
"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6).

### Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will thank God for sending a Savior and will remember why we celebrate Christmas.

*Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.*



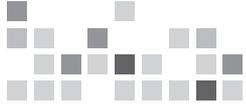


LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<b>3</b> Weaving Faith Into Life	<b>Names of Jesus</b> <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Explore the Key Verse, and make ornaments to help them remember that they can celebrate Jesus all year long.	Bibles, Bible Truth Sleuth, CD player, colored pencils or markers, scissors (several pairs), ribbon, tape <b>Teacher Pack:</b> CD	Tear out the Lesson 4 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth 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.	Bible Truth Sleuth	
	<b>Weaving Faith at Home</b> <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

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







### Favorite Celebrations Supplies

paper  
markers

## 1 GETTING STARTED

# Favorite Celebrations

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Have kids form groups of four. Say: **Each group will think of party decorations for a favorite holiday or celebration, such as the Fourth of July, Valentine's Day, Thanksgiving, or a birthday. The only holiday you can't use is Christmas.** Allow a few minutes for groups to choose a holiday and use the paper and markers provided to make decorations to go with that holiday.

Say: **There's a holiday that we're all actually celebrating right now. Since you've chosen holidays in your groups, it's going to be your job to come up with a way to sell decorations for your holiday to people who are buying Christmas decorations. You'll have to be creative!** Allow groups a few minutes to come up with a way to convince someone to buy their holiday's decorations for Christmas.

When kids are ready, allow a minute for a spokesperson from each group to present to everyone else why they should buy decorations for a holiday other than Christmas at Christmastime.

After everyone has presented, have kids vote for which holiday's supplies they'd buy for Christmas. They can't choose their own holiday.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What helped you figure out ways to celebrate Christmas with decorations from another holiday?**
- **What's your favorite holiday, and why?**
- **Share some different ways that you celebrate Christmas in your family.**

Say: **Today we'll discover that we can all ► CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH. Jesus came for everyone, and he's celebrated all over the world in many different ways. Jesus doesn't care whether we use fireworks, presents, or singing to celebrate his birth. Let's get ready to hear today's Bible passage in which we'll meet a young girl who was presented with an impossible mission.**



## 2 BIBLE EXPLORATION

# Mission Impossible

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Point out "The Son of God Is Born" picture on the Bible Timeline.

Have kids form up to seven groups. Say: **Let's take a look at some missions for each of your groups. First, though, you'll need to listen carefully to the following person.**

Play "Mission Impossible" (track 4 on the CD).

Give each group one of the "Mission Impossible" cards. It's okay if you have a smaller number of kids and don't use all the cards. Have groups discuss how they think they might be able to accomplish their missions. After a few minutes, have each group share its mission, and have the rest of the group help decide whether each mission is possible.

Ask:

- **Are you going to accept your mission? Why or why not?**
- **What could make you decide to accept your mission?**

Say: **Most of you decided not to accept your missions because they seemed impossible. A young girl named Mary had to decide what to do when she was given an impossible mission. Let's take a look at today's Bible passage to see what impossible mission Mary was given.**

Give each group paper and a pen, and make sure each group has a Bible. Have kids turn to Luke 1:26-45. Have each group choose someone who's willing to be the Reader. The Reader will read the passage aloud to the group. Everyone else will be the Naysayers. As kids read, have the Naysayers listen and stop the reading when they hear something that sounds impossible. Encourage groups to talk about those impossible-sounding things, and have someone in each group write down a list of impossible-sounding things they heard.

Allow time. When kids have finished reading, have them take turns sharing with the entire group the lists of impossible-sounding things they read about in the Bible passage.

Say: **Mary was probably very surprised at what Gabriel told her. After all, she was just a girl from Galilee. She wasn't married, she was very young, and she was also poor. It must have been hard for her to understand why she would be chosen to have God's Son. And much of the time, it all probably felt more difficult than special.**



### Mission Impossible Supplies

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- Bibles
  - CD player
  - paper
  - pens
  - Teacher Pack**
  - CD: "Mission Impossible"  
(track 4)
  - "Mission Impossible"  
cards
  - Bible Timeline

### Mission Impossible Easy Prep

- 
- Separate the "Mission Impossible" cards.





### The Best Birthday Supplies

Bibles  
 CD player  
 copies of the lyrics page  
 (at the end of this  
 lesson)  
**Teacher Pack**  
 CD: "Joy to the World!"  
 (track 6)

## Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Explain how Mary's response shows that her heart was following God.
- What was your response the last time someone asked you to do a hard task?
- What would it take for you to have a joyful response the next time someone asks you to do something hard?
- What about this passage helps you see a different perspective about celebrating Jesus' birth?

Say: **Unlike our missions, which we wouldn't accept because they were impossible, Mary accepted her mission because she knew it was very important. She was willing to accept God's mission, and she trusted God. Because she said yes to what God wanted her to do, Jesus was born and we can be forgiven of our sins. And Christians ► CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH at Christmas! Let's take a look at our Key Verse for today and learn more about who Jesus is.**

## The Best Birthday

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **We saw how Mary reacted when she found out she was going to have a baby—God's Son. When it finally came time for Jesus to be born, Mary and Joseph had traveled a long way. Let's find out why.** Have kids form pairs, and make sure each pair has a Bible. Say: **Open your Bibles to Luke 2, and in your pairs read Luke 2:1-3.** Allow time.

Say: **All the people had to take a trip to their hometowns, even if they didn't want to or didn't feel well enough to travel. Tell your partner about a time you had to do something that wasn't your idea. Maybe you had to clean your room or do your homework when you wanted to do something else.** Allow time.

Say: **Talk with your partner about what you know about where you were born and anything you know about the people who help new moms take care of their babies.** Allow time.

Have pairs read Luke 2:4-7. Say: **Talk to your partner about some of the differences between Jesus' birthday and your birthday or the birthdays of other babies you know.** Allow time.

Say: **The Bible also tells us that there were shepherds living in the fields near where Jesus was born. Shepherds weren't important people in Jesus' culture. Angels appeared to the shepherds to tell them about Jesus being born. When the angels were done praising Jesus, the shepherds found Jesus and praised him, too. Let's sing a song to help us remember the ways the shepherds and angels praised Jesus when he was born.**





Distribute copies of the lyrics page. Play “Joy to the World!” (track 6 on the CD) one time; then play the song again, and lead kids in singing along.



**Joy to the world!**

**Joy to the world!  
Joy to the world!  
Joy to the world!**

**Joy to the world!  
The Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.**

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

**Joy to the world!  
Joy to the world!  
Joy to the world!  
Joy to the world!**

“Joy to the World!” by George F. Handel.

**Talk With Kids** ■■■■

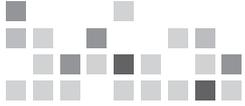
Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Explain what it means that Jesus’ birth was announced to shepherds and not to kings and princes.
- In what way do these details about Jesus’ birth help you praise him differently?
- What’s your favorite way to celebrate Jesus’ birth?

Say: **Mary and Joseph had a long journey that wasn’t their idea, and then Mary had their baby in a barn. But it was all part of God’s big, amazing plan for Jesus’ birthday. The shepherds and angels celebrated Jesus’ birth, and we can all ► CELEBRATE JESUS’ BIRTH, too.**





## Names of Jesus Supplies

Bibles  
Bible Truth Sleuth  
CD player  
colored pencils or  
markers  
scissors (several pairs)  
ribbon  
tape  
**Teacher Pack**  
CD: "For to Us a Child  
Is Born" (Isaiah 9:6)  
(track 5)

## Names of Jesus Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 4  
pages from each Bible  
Truth Sleuth student  
book.

# 3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

## Names of Jesus

### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Mary and others knew that her baby would be special. He would be God's Son. Hundreds of years before, prophets had told about this special baby who would save the people. Let's look at one of those verses from the Old Testament.**

Make sure each child has a Bible. Say: **Our Key Verse today is Isaiah 9:6.**

Have kids find the verse in their Bibles, and ask a willing child to read aloud Isaiah 9:6: "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."

Say: **This verse tells us several names Jesus would be called. We can use these names to celebrate Jesus. As we make ornaments, let's think about how we can ► CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH all year because of these names.**

Distribute the Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and set out the supplies. Have kids turn to the "Names of Jesus" activity.

Play "For to Us a Child Is Born" (Isaiah 9:6) (track 5 on the CD) while kids write the names of Jesus inside the stars. Then have kids decorate their stars and cut them out. As kids decorate their ornaments, encourage them to think about each of the seasons that happen in a year, including the holidays and special events in those seasons. Say: **Let's think of ways we can celebrate Jesus during each of these seasons.** Allow kids to discuss the different ways they can celebrate during each season, and encourage them to write their ideas on their ornaments.

Help kids tape a loop of ribbon to the top of their stars, being careful not to cover any words on the back.

When kids have finished creating their Christmas ornaments, have them form pairs and discuss what each of the names of Jesus means to them.

Say: **Jesus was the child the prophet Isaiah spoke of. Isaiah said this child would be the Wonderful Counselor to the people. Jesus would be Mighty God in human form. Jesus would be the Everlasting Father and would help people understand their heavenly Father. Jesus would be the Prince of Peace and give people peace in their hearts.**





Have kids circle on their stars which of Jesus' names means the most to them and talk about this with their partner. For example, maybe the name "Prince of Peace" means the most to them because Jesus helps them remember not to fight with their little brothers or sisters but to be at peace with them.

Remind kids to hang the ornaments anywhere they wish at home so they can remember to ► **CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH** all year long. Make sure kids also take home the rest of their Bible Truth Sleuth page, which has additional take-home activities and information.

### Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What does it mean to you that Jesus has so many names?
- Does your name describe who you are or have a special meaning? Explain.
- Explain whether it seems strange to think of celebrating Christmas all year.
- What about these names for Jesus helps you want to celebrate him all year?

Say: Mary and Joseph knew that Jesus was a special baby. Jesus came to earth as a baby, but he had lots of special names already because God sent him for such a great purpose. We can use these names to help us ► **CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH**. Knowing Jesus' names means we can celebrate the things Jesus came to earth to do. These star ornaments can help us remember Jesus' names as we celebrate him this Christmas.

## 4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

### Daily Challenges

#### What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Let's consider this week how we can ► **CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH** as we do our Daily Challenges.

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

- Give a gift to your brother or sister on a day besides Christmas Day. Tell your sibling that you can celebrate Jesus all year long.
- Ask your parents about sending Christmas cards, and send a card to one of your friends to celebrate Jesus' birth.
- Sing praise songs to Jesus to celebrate him being born.

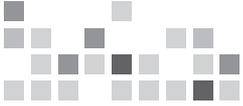
Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.



Daily Challenges  
Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth





## Talk With Kids

Lead kids 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: **Mary knew that Jesus was born to save us. Everything about Jesus is special, and we can ► CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH all the time. Let's celebrate Jesus by following through on our Daily Challenges this week.**

## Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about celebrating Jesus. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Truth Sleuth 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).

Say: **Today let's thank God for sending a Savior to us. Let's thank him for the birth of Jesus and for that first Christmas celebration, and let's ask Jesus to help us remember the ways we committed to celebrating his birth this week.**

Have kids form pairs, and ask pairs to pray and thank God for sending Jesus and for giving us a reason to celebrate.

Close the prayer time.



Lyrics ■■■■

# Joy to the World!

Joy to the world!  
Joy to the world!  
Joy to the world!  
Joy to the world!

Joy to the world!  
The Lord is come!  
Let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

*(Repeat from the beginning.)*

Joy to the world!  
Joy to the world!  
Joy to the world!  
Joy to the world!

"Joy to the World!" by George F. Handel.



**OK**  
**TO COPY**



