



The Son of God Is Born!

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

Christmas is a very exciting time for children. The lights, presents, songs, and festive atmosphere create excitement and anticipation. Use this lesson to teach children the meaning behind the Christmas joy and traditions.



► Bible Point

Jesus was born.

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 celebrate Jesus’ birth.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i>	Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.	signal, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
2 Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i>	Jesus Is Born! Sing a song celebrating Jesus’ birth.	Bible, CD player Teacher Pack: CD	
3 Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i>	Puppy Pointers Share the Bible Point with Theo.	CD player, Theo puppet, small towel Teacher Pack: CD	Wrap the small towel around Theo.
	Bible Time: Angels Announce Jesus’ Birth Act out motions during the Bible passage.	Bible, doll, small towel, aluminum foil, tape Teacher Pack: “Jesus Is Born!” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack) 	Cut a 1x20-inch piece of foil, and tape the ends together to make a halo.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4 Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> (Choose 2 centers.)</p>	<p>Center 1: Rock-a-Bye Jesus Make a baby Jesus puppet, and then sing to it.</p>	<p>CD player, My Bible Hugs, pen, scissors, glue sticks, wooden craft sticks Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. On each child's page, cut out the baby Jesus puppet, and make a slit in the dotted line on the manger.</p>
	<p>Center 2: Celebrate New Birth Make baby rattles with pretzels and banana chunks.</p>	<p>paper plates, stick pretzels, bananas, antibacterial gel (optional)</p>	
	<p>Center 3: Celebrate Jesus! Match pictures of things that remind us of Jesus' birth.</p>	<p>scissors Teacher Pack: "Christmas Celebration" cards</p> 	<p>Cut apart the "Christmas Celebration" cards.</p>
	<p>Center 4: "Hand"some Angels Use handprints to make angel reminders of Jesus' birth.</p>	<p>white paper, scissors, wide craft sticks, pencils, glue sticks, markers</p>	<p>For each child, fold 1 piece of paper in half like a card.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">5 Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>My Bible Hugs, pens</p>	
	<p>Action Prayer Thank God for sending Jesus to be born for us.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

signal

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Glad You're

Here Today" (track 7), "Welcome Baby Jesus" (track 8)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate

Tip Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

Lead children in singing "Glad You're Here Today" (track 7 on the CD) to the tune of "Ten Little Indians." Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **Come sing and play and hear the Bible.** (*cup hands over mouth*)

Sing and play and hear the Bible. (*turn in a circle*)

Sing and play and hear the Bible. (*put hand to ear*)

We're so glad you're here! (*both thumbs up*)

We're so glad you're here today! (*hands on hips and shake head*)

We're so glad you're here today! (*hands on hips and shake head*)

We're so glad you're here today! (*hands on hips and shake head*)

Come sing and play with us. (*make "come here" motion*)

(Repeat.)

Say: **Today we get to learn how baby ► JESUS WAS BORN. Let's sing one more song to welcome baby Jesus.**

Lead children in singing "Welcome Baby Jesus" (track 8 on the CD). Lead children in marching in a circle as they sing.

 **Welcome, welcome,**

Welcome baby Jesus,

Born to us a savior.

Welcome, welcome,

We welcome baby Jesus here.

(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **We get to celebrate today! That's because ► JESUS WAS BORN! Let's get started.**





2 KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

Jesus Is Born!

What You'll Do

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Isaiah 9:6, and show children the words. Tell them the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **At Christmas we celebrate that ► JESUS WAS BORN! Our Key Verse helps us understand why that's so great. 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). This means that Jesus was born for us. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the simplified Key Verse with you: **To us Jesus is born (Isaiah 9:6).**

Say: **Jesus was born for each of you!** Point to the children. **When you believe in him, you can live in heaven forever with God. That's why Christmas is such an exciting time—it's when we remember Jesus' very special birth.**

When people celebrate, they sometimes like to sing.

Ask:

- **What songs do you like to sing when you're really happy?**

Say: **Let's sing a song now to celebrate that Jesus was born for us.**

Lead children in singing "Baby Jesus Born Today" (track 9 on the CD) to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." Sing without motions the first time so the children learn the words. After the children are familiar with the words, have them follow you using the motions.

 **Baby Jesus, born today,** (*rock pretend baby in arms*)
In our hearts, you've come to stay. (*place hands on heart*)
You have come from heaven high, (*point to heaven*)
Way beyond the stars and sky. (*twinkle fingers above head*)
Baby Jesus, born today, (*rock pretend baby in arms*)
In our hearts you've come to stay. (*place hands on heart*)
(Repeat.)

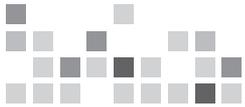
Say: **When babies are born, everyone is excited. The parents of the new baby send cards and pictures telling about the baby's birth. We can tell others about Jesus' birth by singing songs, giving gifts to others, and decorating a Christmas tree. We're so happy that ► JESUS WAS BORN.**



Jesus Is Born! Supplies

- Bible
- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "Baby Jesus Born Today" (track 9)





Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
small towel
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo" (track 2)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Wrap the small towel
around Theo.

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 2 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! It's nice of you to come to church with us today.

Theo: Yeah, and I even brought my baby blanket so I can be baby Jesus.

Teacher: Well, I don't think your blanket will turn you into baby Jesus, but you could *pretend* to be baby Jesus wrapped in his blanket. We just finished singing about baby Jesus. Friends, let's tell Theo our Bible Point for today. (*Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo:* ► **JESUS WAS BORN.**)

Teacher: ► **JESUS WAS BORN** so that we could know him and have a friendship with him.

Theo: That makes me feel special! I think it's time I put my blanket away.

Teacher: That's a good idea. We'll see you later, Theo. Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **Why do you think Theo was so excited about baby Jesus?**
- **Tell about something you're really excited about.**
- **Why do you like to tell others when you're excited about something?**

Say: **Theo was really excited about baby Jesus, and we can be, too. The fact that ► JESUS WAS BORN is one of the most exciting things ever! Jesus came for us, and when we believe in him we can live forever. Let's learn more about Jesus' birthday.**





Bible Time: Angels Announce Jesus' Birth

What You'll Do

Open your Bible to Luke 1–2, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Let's find out what happened on that very first Christmas when ► JESUS WAS BORN.** Show the doll and wrap it in the small towel. **Let's pretend this is baby Jesus.** Put the halo on your head, and explain that when people think of angels, they think of halos.

Say: **A young woman named Mary was working in her house one day when suddenly an angel appeared.** Let each child try on the halo, hide behind you, and pop out to "appear" to the other children.

Say: **When Mary saw the angel, she was very afraid. The angel told her not to be afraid. The angel came to tell Mary she was going to have a baby.** Invite the children to pass around "baby Jesus."

Say: **God wanted Mary to name the baby Jesus. Mary was not afraid anymore. She was glad to do what God wanted.**

Mary and her husband, Joseph, had to go to a town called Bethlehem. They walked for a very long time and were very tired. Have children stand up and walk in a circle, pretending to become very tired.

Say: **When they got to Bethlehem, there was no room for them in the hotels, so they had to sleep in a stable. A stable is where animals stay!** Have children lie down on the floor, yawn, and pretend to go to sleep. Invite one child to pretend to be an animal and crawl around the sleeping children.

Say: **Mary gave birth to baby Jesus in the stable. She wrapped him up nice and warm and laid him in the manger. A manger is the box that holds the animals' food.** Invite one child to practice wrapping the towel around the baby. As he or she does, have the others rock pretend babies in their arms.

Show the "Jesus Is Born!" poster. Say: **That same Christmas night, shepherds were in the fields watching their sheep.** Point out the shepherds on the poster. **They were tired and nearly asleep. All of a sudden, an angel appeared in the sky.** Point out the angels on the poster. Then invite the children to pop up from behind you again.

Say: **The shepherds were very frightened. The angel told them not to be afraid. They said Jesus the Savior was born, and they told them where to go to find Jesus. The shepherds went right away.** Have kids stand up and run in place, putting their hands above their eyes as if searching.



Bible Time: Angels Announce Jesus' Birth Supplies

Bible
doll
small towel
aluminum foil
tape

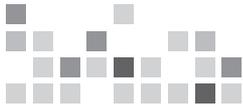
Teacher Pack

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

Bible Time: Angels Announce Jesus' Birth Easy Prep

Cut a 1x20-inch piece of foil, and tape the ends together to make a halo.





Have kids sit again, and point to the poster. **The shepherds found baby Jesus, brought him gifts, and worshipped him. At Christmas, we can celebrate Jesus' birth, too, by worshipping him on his birthday.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do you think about how the shepherds celebrated Jesus' birth?
- What do you like to do to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas?

Say: **The shepherds saw the angels and knew Jesus was special. He was God's Son, sent from heaven. We can be happy ► JESUS WAS BORN. At Christmastime, we can thank Jesus for coming to earth by singing to him, praying to him, and helping others. There are so many ways we can show our thanks!**

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

■ CENTER 1:

Rock-a-Bye Jesus

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 4 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Today we're celebrating Jesus' birth. Look at Mary and Joseph on your page. Jesus is missing. Let's show Jesus in the picture.**

Give children each a wooden craft stick and let them share glue sticks. Have kids rub a small amount of glue at one end of the stick and place the baby Jesus cutout at the top. Tell kids to hold baby Jesus against the stick and count to five very slowly so baby Jesus will stick.

When all the children are finished, show them how to carefully open the slit on the manger and slide the craft stick down through the slit.

Play "Baby Jesus Born Today" (track 9 on the CD), and have kids rock baby Jesus back and forth as they sing the song.

Center 1: Rock-a-Bye Jesus Supplies

CD player
My Bible Hugs
pen
scissors
glue sticks
wooden craft sticks

Teacher Pack

CD: "Baby Jesus Born Today" (track 9)

Center 1: Rock-a-Bye Jesus Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 4 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them. On each child's page, cut out the baby Jesus puppet, and make a slit in the dotted line on the manger.



Say: **It's always exciting when babies are born, and baby Jesus was a special baby—he's the Son of God. We can tell everybody that ► JESUS WAS BORN.**

CENTER 2:

Celebrate New Birth

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **Let's make a present for baby Jesus using our snack food. What kinds of things can we give to babies?** Let children suggest different presents. If no one mentions a baby rattle, you can.

Say: **Let's make baby rattles to give to baby Jesus as a gift.** Break off two chunks of banana for each child and show kids how to put one piece on each end of a pretzel to look like rattles.

Say: **Lightly shake your baby rattle and make a rattle noise with your voice.**

Pray for the snack, and let children eat.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like to try to make a rattle noise with your voice?**
- **What are some ways you can use your voice to tell others about Jesus' birth?**
- **What are some other ways you can help others know about Jesus' love?**

Say: **At Christmastime, we want others to know that it's Jesus' birthday. We can tell others that ► JESUS WAS BORN by using our voices, or we can do things to show them Jesus' love.**

CENTER 3:

Celebrate Jesus!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's play a game to celebrate that ► JESUS WAS BORN at Christmas.**

Shuffle the "Christmas Celebration" cards, and lay them faceup on the table. Have kids take turns finding the matching pictures about Jesus' birth. Remind kids that there are lots of fun ways we can remember Jesus and celebrate his birth.



Center 2: Celebrate New Birth Supplies

- paper plates
- stick pretzels
- bananas
- antibacterial gel (optional)



Center 3: Celebrate Jesus! Supplies

- scissors
- Teacher Pack**
- "Christmas Celebration" cards

Center 3: Celebrate Jesus! Easy Prep

Cut apart the "Christmas Celebration" cards.





Center 4: “Hand”some Angels Supplies

white paper
scissors
wide craft sticks
pencils
glue sticks
markers

Center 4: “Hand”some Angels Easy Prep

For each child, fold 1 piece of paper in half like a card.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like trying to find matching cards?
- What are some ways that reminds you of the shepherds looking for Jesus?
- What are some ways you can celebrate like the shepherds?

Say: Today we can celebrate like the shepherds celebrated because God sent Jesus to be born for us. These cards remind us of the many things that help us celebrate the exciting day ► **JESUS WAS BORN.**

■ CENTER 4:

“Hand”some Angels

What You’ll Do ■■■■

Say: The Bible tells us about angels that told Mary and Joseph they were having a baby, and the angels also helped the shepherds find baby Jesus. Let’s make some angels to help us remember to tell others about Jesus’ birth.

While we get our angel wings ready, tell someone near you what you love about Jesus. Help each child lay one hand on the folded paper with the thumb lying on the fold of the paper and the fingers spread apart. Trace the child’s fingers, but not the thumb, on the paper. Cut the hand tracings, being careful not to cut the fold of the paper.



Let children open their hand shapes to form wings for an angel. Give each child a wide craft stick, and allow children to draw a smiling face on one end of the stick. Help children glue the craft stick onto the paper between the wings. If you have extra time, allow children to color the wings with markers. Then let them use the angels as puppets to review what the angels told the shepherds when ► **JESUS WAS BORN.**





Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about someone you can celebrate Jesus' birth with.
- Tell about someone you can share about Jesus' birth with.

Say: This week, use the angels you made to celebrate and tell others that
 ► **JESUS WAS BORN**, the way the angels did in the Bible.

5 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids

Say: Today we learned that ► **JESUS WAS BORN**. I would like each of you to choose a way to celebrate Jesus' birth this week.

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- **Decorate cookies for a neighbor, and tell him or her that you're celebrating Jesus' birth.**
- **Talk with your parents about family Christmas traditions that remind you that Jesus was born.**

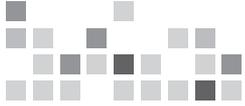
Say: **If you want to decorate cookies, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to talk about family traditions, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!



Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs pens





Action Prayer

What You'll Do

Form a circle, and have the children sit down. Say: **Today we're thankful that**

▶ **JESUS WAS BORN. Let's pretend to hold baby Jesus while we pray and thank God for Jesus.** Have children pretend to rock a baby in their arms, and invite them to tell God reasons they love Jesus.

Close the prayer: **Dear God, thank you that Jesus was born for us. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Daily Challenges" activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.