

Jesus Is Born

Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20

Children look forward to Christmas. Third- and fourth-graders are still young enough to get caught up in the joyful anticipation. Unfortunately, kids can sometimes worship the receiving of gifts instead of the true meaning of Christmas. Santa can seem more exciting to children than Jesus. Use this lesson to help kids gain a deeper understanding of the real meaning of Christmas. It'll show them that Jesus' birth—the real reason for Christmas—is *awesome*.



► Bible Point

Jesus was born for us.

Key Verse

“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Children will celebrate Jesus in their lives.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Great News! <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Discuss ways they learn of news and how they can help quickly spread good news.	paper, pens	
2 Bible Exploration	Station 1: Before Christmas <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Hear about the angel Gabriel's visit to Mary.	Bibles, CD player Teacher Pack: CD, Bible Timeline 	In one corner of your meeting space, set out Bibles and cue the CD to “The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary” (track 6).
	Station 2: The Birth of Jesus <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Read about Jesus' birth.	Bible, tape, copy of the “Barn” handout (at the end of this lesson)	In another corner of your meeting space, hang the copy of the “Barn” handout.
	Station 3: Shepherds and Angels <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Think about the shepherds' experience.	Bibles, black or dark blue construction paper, white or yellow crayons, tape	In a third corner of your meeting space, set out Bibles and art supplies.
	Station 4: The Special Child <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Work in pairs to discover Jesus' nicknames.	Bibles, pens, Bible Truth Sleuth	Tear out the Lesson 3 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>3 Weaving Faith Into Life</p>	<p>Christmas Ornament <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Decorate an ornament to remember the meaning of Christmas.</p>	<p>paper, several pairs of scissors, glitter glue, string or yarn, crayons or markers, hole punch</p>	
<p>4 Lasting Impressions</p>	<p>Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	<p>Bible Truth Sleuth</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>	<p>ornaments from the "Christmas Ornament" activity</p>	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.





Great News! Supplies

paper
pens

1 GETTING STARTED

Great News!

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

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

Have kids form pairs and sit near you.

Say: **Tell your partner about the ways you learn about news, such as on TV, on the radio, on the Internet, or from a parent.** Allow time.

Now tell your partner why you think most of the news you hear is good or bad. Allow time.

Finally, tell your partner about any great news you've heard recently. Allow time.

We get news from all kinds of sources and it's no fun to hear bad news. But no news is as great as the news in our Key Verse. Good news is a joy to hear and share with others!

Invite a willing child to read aloud the Key Verse, Luke 2:10-11: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

Give each pair two pieces of paper and pens.

Say: **In the center of your piece of paper, draw a small circle and write your name in it.** Allow time. **Now draw three lines coming from the circle you just drew, and at the end of each line draw another circle.** Allow time. **In those three new circles, write the names of people that are close to you, such as a parent, a brother or sister, a best friend, or your teacher at school.** Allow time. **Finally, draw three lines from each of the new circles you drew and draw another circle at the end of each line.** Allow time. **In those new circles, think of three other people that are close to the person in the center circle and write their names. You can write things such as best friend, boss, co-worker, husband, wife, brother, or sister if you don't know everyone's name.** Allow time.

Hold up your papers. These are "Good News" maps. You can see that if you were to share good news with just three people and they were to share it with three other people, the good news will spread fast! You have the ability to help spread good news no matter how old you are, where you live, or what school you go to.





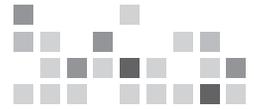
Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Tell about a time you got good news.
- Why do you think the birth of a Savior is good news?
- If this is such good news, why do some people reject it?

Say: This wonderful news that ► **JESUS WAS BORN FOR US** is the reason we celebrate Christmas, and a reason to celebrate all year long. Let's learn more about why Jesus' birth is the best news ever!



2

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Station 1: Before Christmas

What You'll Do

Say: Today we're learning about the events of Jesus' birth—the very first Christmas. Point to the "Jesus Is Born" picture on the Bible Timeline.

To learn about the first Christmas, we'll go through four different stations. We'll stay together in one group as you visit each station in order from 1 to 4. Work together to do as you're instructed at each station.

Guide the kids to Station 1, and help them find Luke 1:26-38 in the Bibles.

Say: We see angels throughout the Bible telling people various things. Share the first thing that comes to mind when you hear the word *angel*.

Give kids a minute to share their thoughts on angels.

Say: This is the Bible passage we'll hear about on the CD. Play "The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary" (track 6 on the CD), and have kids follow along in their Bibles.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- That's some big news for Mary to find out! Being the mother of the Son of God is a big deal. What did you notice about Mary's response to the news?
- Tell about a time you got some exciting news. How did you respond?
- Mary was very willing to take on the important job that came with being Jesus' mother. Why do you or don't you think good things are worth hard work?

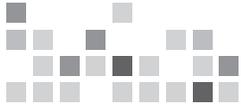
Station 1: Before Christmas Supplies

- Bibles
- CD player
- Teacher Pack**
- CD: "The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary" (track 6)
- Bible Timeline

Station 1: Before Christmas Easy Prep

In one corner of your meeting space, set out Bibles and cue the CD to "The Angel Gabriel Visits Mary" (track 6).





Station 2: The Birth of Jesus Supplies

Bible
tape
copy of the “Barn”
handout (at the end of
this lesson)

Station 2: The Birth of Jesus Easy Prep

In another corner of
your meeting space,
hang the copy of the
“Barn” handout.

Say: **What a day Mary had! We don’t know exactly how Mary felt when the angel told her she would have God’s Son. But no matter what Mary felt, she told God that she was his servant. This meant she’d do whatever God wanted her to do to serve him because she knew ► JESUS WAS BORN FOR US. Let’s move on to the next station to find out how things went for Mary as she prepared for Jesus’ birth.**

Station 2: The Birth of Jesus

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Guide kids to Station 2, and have them sit in a circle near the picture of the inside of a barn.

Invite a willing child to read aloud Luke 2:1-7.

Say: **The Roman emperor had commanded everyone to go to his or her hometown to be counted. People were traveling in every direction. Just imagine what it would be like if every 10 years you had to go back to the town where you were born. Everyone would be traveling at the same time. It’d be very busy!**

Let’s see who came here today from the farthest distance. Everyone stand up, and if my statements are true of you, sit down.

Start making statements to determine who came the farthest distance. You might say, “I live fewer than two blocks away.” Some kids might sit down. “I live half a mile away.” More kids might sit down. Gradually move outward (this might mean you start using town landmarks or neighborhoods rather than distance). When you have one person still standing, find out how far he or she came, and then congratulate him or her for coming that far.

Say: **Imagine having to travel as far as you did on the back of a donkey or horse—and with lots of other people on the road going every which way.**

Ask:

- **Where would you need to go to be counted in a census like the one Mary and Joseph took part in?**
- **How far away is the town where you were born, and how do you think you’d travel there?**

Say: **When Mary and Joseph reached Bethlehem, many people were there. It was very crowded. All the places to sleep and rest were full. The only place Mary and Joseph found was the stable of an inn. That night baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped him in soft cloths and laid him in a manger, which is a box animals eat from.**

This was the first Christmas. The word *Christmas* includes Jesus’ important title—Christ. That means he’s the Son of God and the Savior for all of us.





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- Why do you think it's fair or unfair that after all that long travel, Mary and Joseph had to have baby Jesus in a stable?
- What are some of the conveniences we have when we travel that Mary and Joseph didn't have?

Say: Jesus came into the world in a very humble way. God showed us that he didn't give us a king to be born in a palace. ► **JESUS WAS BORN FOR US** to be a king who would serve and have a relationship with everyone in the world who believed in him. That's one of the reasons we celebrate and are happy at Christmastime. Let's find out what celebrating took place in the stable the night Jesus was born.

Station 3: Shepherds and Angels

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Guide kids to Station 3, and distribute sheets of black or dark blue construction paper and crayons and have kids draw stars. After kids have finished, have them tape their papers up on the wall to simulate a starry sky. Make sure everyone has a Bible, and have kids find a comfortable place to sit. Invite a willing child to read aloud Luke 2:8-12.

Say: **Shepherds were watching their flocks that night near Bethlehem. Suddenly one of God's angels appeared to the shepherds, and they were very afraid.**

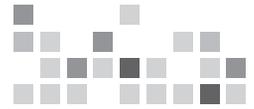
Ask:

- Why do you think seeing an angel appear would be surprising or even frightening?
- This angel had a message from God that was full of happiness. Why is that a reason to celebrate?

Say: **On the count of three, show me a joyful face or make a joyful noise to celebrate the good news the angel brought to the shepherds—one, two, three.** Allow time, and encourage loud, happy noise.

What wonderful news! The Savior they'd been waiting for was born! Let's read more to find out what the shepherds did next. Invite a willing child to read aloud Luke 2:13-20.

Say: **The shepherds were so excited they left their flocks and hurried to Bethlehem. When they got there, they found Mary, Joseph, and Jesus in a stable. On the way back to their flocks, the shepherds were so excited they told everyone they met about the angel's visit and the Savior's birth.**



Station 3: Shepherds and Angels Supplies

- Bibles
black or dark blue construction paper
white or yellow crayons
tape

Station 3: Shepherds and Angels Easy Prep

In another corner of your meeting space, hang the copy of the "Barn" handout.





Station 4: The Special Child Supplies

Bibles
pens
Bible Truth Sleuth

Station 4: The Special Child Easy Prep

Tear out the Lesson 3 pages from each Bible Truth Sleuth student book.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What about the shepherds' actions show they were excited about Jesus?
- What's fun about sharing good news with others such as the shepherds did?
- What can we do to share the good news about Jesus' birth?

Say: The shepherds celebrated that ► **JESUS WAS BORN FOR US**. When we celebrate Christmas, we join in the joy Jesus brought into the world the night he was born. That's exciting! Let's explore a little more why ► **JESUS WAS BORN FOR US** and what that means for our lives.

Station 4: The Special Child

What You'll Do ■■■■

Guide kids to Station 4, and have kids form pairs. Distribute pens and this week's Bible Truth Sleuth pages, and make sure each pair has a Bible.

Say: Find the "What's in a Name?" section on your Bible Truth Sleuth pages. Write down any nicknames you've had under "My nicknames." When you're done, trade pages with your partner and have him or her interview you as to what your nicknames mean and where they come from. Have your partner write the interview answers in the lines under your nicknames, and then return the pages to each other.

Give kids a few minutes.

Say: Now with your partner, find and read Isaiah 9:6-7. Help kids as needed. Write down the "nicknames" for Jesus under "Jesus' nicknames."

Give kids a minute or so to find and write the names.

Say: Now with your partner, talk about what Jesus' nicknames mean, and why he got them. You can write your observations in the lines by his nicknames.

Give kids a few minutes to explore Jesus' nicknames.

Say: This Bible passage tells us about a special child who would be born. That child would be the Savior, the one who would save us from our sin. *Sin* is when we do wrong things—and all people do wrong. Not one of us is perfect. Jesus was that special child who came to save us from the mess sin makes.





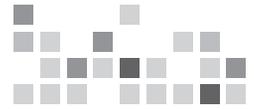
Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What do Jesus' different nicknames help you understand about why
▶ **JESUS WAS BORN FOR US?**
- What does it mean to you that Jesus saves us from our sin?
- What can you do this Christmas to thank Jesus for being born for us?

Say: **We celebrate Christmas because we know it's wonderful news that ▶ JESUS WAS BORN FOR US. It's the best news ever! There's no greater reason to celebrate Christmas than that. We're going to make something to help us remember to celebrate Jesus this Christmas and this week.**



3

WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Christmas Ornament

What You'll Do

Say: **Today's Key Verse is Luke 2:10-11: "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). This Scripture tells us that when we celebrate Christmas, we celebrate the great news that ▶ JESUS WAS BORN FOR US. Let's make special ornaments to help us remember that.**

Give each child a sheet of paper, and have markers, scissors, and the craft supplies available. Say: **Draw an outline of an ornament on your paper. You can be as creative as you want in making different shapes or designs.** Allow time. When kids have finished drawing, have them cut out their ornaments. Allow time. Say: **Now you can decorate the ornaments with words or pictures that'll remind you of the true reason we celebrate Christmas. You could use the words *Savior, Jesus, or God loves me.* You could make stars, a shepherd, or a baby wrapped in cloths.** Allow time.

When kids have finished their ornaments, make a hole in the top of each ornament with a hole punch. Help kids put a piece of string or yarn through the hole and tie a knot.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- What can you do with your ornament to help you remember the true reason we celebrate Christmas?
- What did you learn about Christmas today that you didn't know or hadn't thought about before?

Christmas Ornament Supplies

- paper
- several pairs of scissors
- glitter glue
- string or yarn
- crayons or markers
- hole punch





Say: It can be easy for Jesus to be an afterthought when there's so much going on at Christmas and we're excited about getting and giving gifts. Let's use our ornaments to help us remember that ► **JESUS WAS BORN FOR US** and that's what we're celebrating at Christmas. When we do that, we join in the celebration that started with Mary, Joseph, some angels, and some shepherds on a night long, long ago.

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

Daily Challenges
Supplies

Bible Truth Sleuth

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: Let's think about how we can celebrate that ► **JESUS WAS BORN FOR US.**

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:

- Read about Jesus' birth in Luke 2 with your family, and throw a party to celebrate Jesus together.
- Give someone an early Christmas gift, and tell him or her about Jesus—God's gift to us!
- Write a birthday card to Jesus, thanking him for coming into the world to bring hope and love.

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 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: Just as Mary and the shepherds did, let's celebrate and thank God that ► **JESUS WAS BORN FOR US** as we follow 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 the wonderful news that Jesus was born for us. 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.

Take a couple of minutes to close in prayer with your kids.

Say: **Hold up the ornament you made, and share why you’re thankful that Jesus was born for us. Out thanks will be “thank you” prayers to God.** Invite a willing child to go first, and then allow everyone who would like to share say his or her thanks.

Pray: **Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Help us remember to celebrate Jesus this Christmas. In Jesus’ name, amen.**



Weaving Faith at Home Supplies

.....
ornaments from the
“Christmas Ornament”
activity



Barn



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OK
TO COPY

Winter Quarter

Lesson 3

Grades 3 & 4

