



Lesson
16

1st-4th

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

December 21 & 22
**JESUS IS
GOD'S GIFT**



LESSON GOAL:

Background: Mary & Joseph traveled to Bethlehem. Mary gave birth to God's Son, Jesus, and laid him in a manger just as God had promised. Angels of God appeared to shepherds in a field to tell them of the good news that their Savior, Jesus, had finally arrived. After the shepherds went to find baby Jesus, they went and told everyone of the good news, that God's greatest gift, His son Jesus, had finally arrived!

Lesson Goal: For kids to understand that God sent Jesus into the world as a gift to everyone! God loved us all so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, into this world as part of God's plan to save His people from their sin.

Luke 2:1-20

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Christmas Eve Services

10 AM • 12 PM • 2 PM • 4 PM • 6 PM

**Southwest Campus: 2 PM & 4 PM only*

THEME FOR THIS SERIES:
Antarctic Adventure

KEY VERSE:



**"A child will be born to us.
A son will be given to us.
He will rule over us.
And he will be called
Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God."**

Isaiah 9:6 (NIRV)

shortened version for younger kids is in bold

MISSION FOCUS:

Prayer

The Holiday season looks different for each and every one of us. It's not always full of joy and laughter, some of our friends might be walking through something hard. This week, think of one person you can pray for. Take a couple minutes each day to pray for their situation and that they would find hope and peace in Jesus. If **you** are going through something hard, ask your leader or another grownup to pray for your situation!



10 min
after the start
of service

CHECK-IN

The goal of check-in is to greet parents/guardians and children by name and help them feel known and welcome.

SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, **(insert child/parent name)**! Do you have any offering to put in our offering bin? *(Direct child to offering station)*

When you're done, grab today's **Lesson Card**. Look up the Bible passage in your own Bible or a classroom Bible and leave your card there as a bookmark. Then, you can play with the classroom activities until we begin Explore time.

20
min

EXPLORE

The goal of Explore is to help kids connect relationally and think about the Bible story. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



DISCUSS: God Statement here!

Help kids connect relationally by asking them about their week, then discuss the lesson topic for the day and read the Bible passage together.

SAY:

Let's take turns sharing 3 words about our week. I'll go first!
Share your 3 words then invite the next child to share.

SAY:

Today, we are learning about how **Jesus is God's Gift**. This story comes from the Bible in **Luke 2:1-20**. Can you open your Bible to the passage with me so we can read it together?

DO:

Read the Bible passage aloud or pick a child to read it aloud.



CONNECT: Why Does It Matter?

Help kids prepare for the lesson by thinking through the Big 3 questions and how the lesson relates to them, personally.



SAY:

Let's answer THE BIG 3 questions for today's lesson & talk about how it applies to our lives!

1. Who was our story about today?

Jesus

2. What was the problem?

The people (including us!) were in need of a Savior!

3. What did God do?

God sent baby Jesus to be born - eventually, he would die on the cross to save us all from our sins!



MAKE: Baby Jesus Ornament

Help kids think about the lesson further and have fun by doing this activity!

Supplies: Manger ornament, star sticker, baby Jesus, hay pieces, God statement sticker, glue



DO:

Give each child one manger ornament and help them glue Jesus and hay pieces onto it. Then, give each child one star sticker and the God statement sticker to add to their craft.



SAY:

Jesus is God's gift! I can't wait to learn more about this special truth in our lesson today. Let's make a craft to help us prepare for our lesson.



CLEAN UP: Transition to Large Group

Ask kids to clean up the activity or save it to finish for the end of class. Then, ask kids to line up and/or transition to Large Group.



Craft Example



25
min

LARGE GROUP

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow in their relationship with God through Worship, an engaging Bible story and a time of response.



EXPECTATIONS

As kids transition to Large Group time, play the expectations video.



HOST MOMENT

After the Large Group expectations video is finished, the Host should welcome the kids in an engaging way and share the daily host content.



SAY:

Welcome! We're so glad you're here today! Let's take a few minutes to look at our Missions project for the day and our Key Verse.

MISSION FOCUS

Introduce or share an update about the current mission focus.

KEY VERSE

Introduce the key verse then have the kids watch the Key Verse video.

PRAY FOR WORSHIP & BIBLE LESSON



WORSHIP

Invite your Worship Leader to come up and play the worship song videos. Encourage kids to participate and be respectful to others.

SONG 1: O Come All Ye Faithful

SONG 2: Angels We Have Heard



LESSON VIDEO

Play the daily Bible lesson video.



WORSHIP RESPONSE

Lead the kids through a quiet time of responding to what God is teaching them.



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.

May you remember that Jesus is God's gift to us! God loved us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to the earth to save us from our sins!



TRANSITION

After the blessing, the Host should dismiss the kids to return quietly to their classroom (if applicable) and transition to Respond.

WORSHIP RESPONSE



REFLECT: Jesus is God's Gift!

Help kids reflect on the lesson by providing a quiet space for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts as they think about how it applies to them personally.

Worship Response Station

Supplies: "Jesus is God's Gift" cards (1 per child), markers/writing utensils

SAY:

Mary gave birth to God's Son, Jesus, and laid him in a manger just as God had promised. Angels of God appeared to shepherds in a field to tell them of the good news that their Savior, Jesus, had finally arrived. After the shepherds went to find baby Jesus, they went and told everyone of the good news, that God's greatest gift, His son Jesus, had finally arrived! Just like the shepherds, we can tell others about God's greatest gift to us, Jesus!

DO:

- Ask the kids to quietly participate in the following activity. Say:
 - **Raise your hand if you love getting gifts. Raise your hand if you love giving gifts.**
 - **Christmas is a time of gift giving, but it's really all about the greatest gift we've ever gotten... Jesus!**
 - **Did you know God wants us to share the gift of Jesus with others?**
 - **God wants everyone to know God loves them and God sent Jesus to save us from our sins.**
 - **That's why we celebrate Christmas!**
 - **Let's take some time to think of people we can tell about Jesus, the greatest gift from God.**
 - **You're each going to get a card with a gift on it. As you listen to the worship music, write or draw someone you can share the story of Jesus with!**
 - **Jesus is God's gift to us, and we can tell others about Him too!**
- Close the time by praying over the kids.



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.

SAY:

May you remember that Jesus is God's gift to us! God loved us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to the earth to save us from our sins!

15
min

RESPOND

The goal of Respond is for kids to think about the lesson and how it applies to them. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



APPLY: Why Does it Matter?

Help kids process what they learned in the lesson by answering the Big 3 questions you asked at the beginning of class.



SAY:

Let's answer THE BIG 3 questions for today's lesson & talk about how it applies to our lives!

1. Who was our story about today?

Jesus

2. What was the problem?

The people (including us!) were in need of a Savior!

3. What did God do?

God sent baby Jesus to be born - eventually, he would die on the cross to save us all from our sins!

4. Why does this matter to me?

Because of my sin, I am separated from God. But God loves me so much that He had a plan to send Jesus. Jesus is the savior of the world who was born as a baby and died on the cross to save me from my sins!

5. How can I apply this to my own life?

Examples: I can choose to accept Jesus as my own savior, I can celebrate the birth of Jesus all year, not just at Christmas!



PRAY: Connect Relationally

Help kids understand the power of praying together. Use the Prayer Tags from Check-In to write down prayer requests to take home and pray for during the week.



SAY:

Does anyone have a prayer request they'd like to share? You can also share with a leader privately, if you don't want to share aloud.



DO:

Invite kids to pray for each other, then the leader closes in prayer.

As parents
arrive after
service

CHECK-OUT

The goal of check-out is to re-connect kids with their parent and communicate any upcoming events or announcements as families leave.



DO:

Encourage kids to finish their activities or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

As kids get picked up, mention any announcements while handing them the announcement card and ensuring they take their weekly **Lesson Card**.