

The Birth of Jesus

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Jesus was born. God gave us Jesus!

Bible passage: Luke 2. Read Luke 2:1–20 yourself before class.

Memory verse: "a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" *Luke 2:11 (KJV)*. **Saviour** = the One who saves us.

You need: a Bible, a baby doll, a small blanket or cloth, a box or basket to be the manger, paper sheep or cotton balls (one for each child), crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.

Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Luke 2. Hide the paper sheep or cotton balls around the room. Put the box "manger" in a corner.

1. Opening game: Find the Sheep (5 minutes)

Say: "Shepherds take care of sheep. Can you find my lost sheep?" Kids bring the sheep to you. Count them together. Say: "Good shepherds! Today's true story is about shepherds and the most special baby ever born."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Luke 2. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Mary and Joseph went on a long trip to Bethlehem (Luke 2:4–5). *(Walk in place.)*

There was no room for them in the inn (2:7). *(Shake your head no.)*

Baby Jesus was born! (2:7) *(Rock a baby in your arms.)*

Mary wrapped Him up snug and warm (2:7). *(Hug yourself.)*

She laid Him in a manger, a box animals eat from (2:7). *(Lay the doll in the box.)*

Say it with me: "Jesus was born!"

Shepherds were watching their sheep at night (2:8). *(Shade your eyes, look around.)*

An angel came. A bright light shone all around (2:9). *(Cover your eyes.)*

The shepherds were scared. The angel said, "Fear not!" (don't be afraid) (2:9–10). *(Shake, stand tall.)*

"Good news! The Savior is born!" (2:10–11) *(Throw your arms up wide.)*

Lots and lots of angels praised God (2:13–14). *(Lift your hands up high.)*

Say it with me: "Glory to God!"

The shepherds hurried to see baby Jesus (2:16). *(Run in place.)*

They found Him in the manger, just like the angel said (2:16). *(Point to the doll in the box.)*

They told everybody about Jesus (2:17). *(Cup your hands around your mouth.)*

Say it with me: "God gave us Jesus!"



3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Where did Mary lay baby Jesus? *(In a manger, Luke 2:7)*
2. Who came to tell the shepherds the good news? *(An angel, 2:9–10)*
3. What did the shepherds do? *(They hurried to see Jesus, and they told everybody, 2:16–17)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "The angel said Jesus is 'a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.' A Saviour is the One who saves us."
Teach the motion: rock a baby in your arms on "a Saviour," then point up to heaven on "Christ the Lord."
Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Luke 2:11" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a baby (1 Timothy 3:16). When He grew up, Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."

Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Wrap the Baby (5–10 minutes)

Let each child take a turn wrapping the baby doll snugly in the blanket and laying it in the box manger, while the group says, "Jesus was born!" Then give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a manger. While they color, ask: "Where did Mary lay baby Jesus? Who told the shepherds?" Kids who finish early can make the sheep "walk" to the manger.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:

"Thank You, God, for giving us Jesus.

Help me tell others about Him. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and let every child do the motions. If they get wiggly, do the angel motions again ("Fear not!" and arms up wide). Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child asks "Where are the wise men?": say, "They are in the Bible too, in another story. Today we are learning about the shepherds."

