

The Birth of Jesus

Sunday School Lesson for Kindergarten to 2nd Grade, 45 minutes

Main point: Jesus the Savior was born for everyone. That is the best news ever!

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

Memory verse: "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." *Luke 2:11 (KJV)*

You need: a Bible, a baby doll wrapped in a cloth, a box to be the "manger," a small box wrapped like a present, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child. If you have them: towels or bathrobes for shepherd costumes.

Before class: write the memory verse on a card and put it inside the wrapped box (see part 4). Put a bookmark in your Bible at Luke 2.

1. Opening game: Find the Sign (5–10 minutes)

Before class, hide the wrapped baby doll in the room. Tell the kids: "I'm giving you a sign. Look for a baby wrapped up snugly in a cloth." Let them search while you say "warmer" or "colder." Whoever finds it lays the baby in the box "manger." Play again with a new hider. Say: "Today we will hear about shepherds who got a sign from an angel, and went looking for a very special baby."

2. Bible story: Jesus Is Born (10 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Luke 2, so the kids can see the story comes from God's Word. Tell it in your own words:

Long ago, a ruler named **Caesar Augustus** gave an order. Everyone had to be counted and taxed, and every person had to go to their own family's city (Luke 2:1–3). So **Joseph** traveled from the town of Nazareth in Galilee all the way to **Bethlehem**, the city of David. Joseph went there because he was from King David's family (2:4). **Mary** went with him. Mary and Joseph were promised to be married, and Mary was going to have a baby very soon (2:5).

While they were in Bethlehem, the time came, and Mary's first baby boy was born. She wrapped Him snugly in strips of cloth called **swaddling clothes**, and she laid Him in a **manger**. A manger is a box that animals eat from. Why a manger? Because there was no room for them in the inn (2:6–7).

Read Luke 2:7 from your Bible: "And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." Say: "That baby was **Jesus!**"

That same night, out in the fields nearby, **shepherds** were awake. They were keeping watch over their flock of sheep (2:8). Suddenly an **angel** of the Lord came to them, and the glory of the Lord shone all around them. It was so bright! The shepherds were very afraid (2:9).



The story continues: But the angel said, "Don't be afraid!" **Read Luke 2:10 from your Bible:** "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." Say: "**Good tidings** means good news. And this good news is for everybody!" The angel told them that the Savior, Christ the Lord, was born that very day in the city of David (2:11). Here was their sign: they would find the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger (2:12).

Then suddenly a huge crowd of angels was there with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (2:13–14).

When the angels went back into heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see what the Lord told us about!" (2:15). They hurried, and they found Mary, Joseph and the baby lying in a manger, just like the angel said (2:16). Then the shepherds told everyone what the angel had said about this child, and everyone who heard it was amazed (2:17–18). Mary kept all these things and thought about them in her heart (2:19). The shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God for everything they had heard and seen (2:20).

3. Questions to ask (5 minutes)

1. What town did Mary and Joseph travel to? (*Bethlehem, the city of David, Luke 2:4*)
2. Where did Mary lay baby Jesus? Why? (*In a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn, 2:7*)
3. Who heard the good news first, out in the fields? (*Shepherds watching their flock by night, 2:8–9*)
4. What did the angel say first? (*Fear not, which means don't be afraid, 2:10*)
5. What did the shepherds do after they saw Jesus? (*They told everyone and praised God, 2:17, 2:20*)

4. Memory verse: Pass the Present (5 minutes)

Explain the old words: **unto** means to, a **Saviour** is the One who saves and rescues us, **Christ** means the promised King God sent, and the **city of David** is Bethlehem (2:4). Kids sit in a circle and pass the present while you clap. When you stop clapping, the child holding it says the first part of the verse, and then the whole group says the whole verse. Play a few rounds. At the end, open the box and read the verse card together.

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "The angel said the good news was for all people, and that means you! God loves you very much. But everyone has done wrong things. The Bible calls that sin: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means none of us is as good as God. Baby Jesus is God who came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). That is what happened that night in Bethlehem! When Jesus grew up, He died for our sins, He was buried, and He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us how to obey the gospel, the good news about Jesus: 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means we are sorry for our sin and we turn away from it. We are **baptized**, buried all the way under the water, in Jesus' name, so our sins are washed away (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). **Remission** means God takes our sins away. And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, His own Spirit, and we speak in other tongues, words God gives us, just like the believers did in the Bible (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.

This week: be like the shepherds. Tell one person the true Christmas story, and say, "Jesus the Savior was born for you!"

6. Activity (10–15 minutes)

Choose one: the **birth of Jesus word search** (vbshq.com/puzzles/jesus-is-born-word-search), the birth of Jesus coloring page or craft (vbshq.com/bible-stories/jesus-is-born), or **Shepherds, Hurry!**: kids lie down as "sleeping shepherds" in the field. When you call out "Glory to God in the highest!" they jump up and hurry (walking fast, no running) to the manger corner where the wrapped baby doll is. The last one there tells one thing from the story. Kids who want to can wear the towels or bathrobes as shepherds.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for coming to us in Jesus, our Savior. Thank You that the good news is for all people, even me. Help us be like the shepherds and tell others about Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks "Was Jesus born on Christmas Day?": answer simply and honestly. The Bible doesn't tell us the date Jesus was born. Christmas is the day many Christians celebrate His birth, and what matters most is that He really was born, just as Luke 2 says, to be our Savior (Luke 2:11).

If a child asks about the wise men or the star: say, "That is a true story too, but it's in a different part of the Bible, Matthew 2. Today we are learning what Luke 2 tells us: the manger, the angels and the shepherds."

