

Lesson 2: Jesus Is Born

Purpose for the Lesson

Children will learn about Jesus' birth. They will remember that "Jesus is born."

Plan Ahead for the Night

Items needed for this lesson

Story: Bible, baby picture, Jesus Is Born story, story time stamps

Craft: Sample craft, small craft sticks, lima beans, small squares of cloth, straw, tacky glue, black fine-tip pens

Snack: Napkins

Game: Baby doll, stamps, music, jar of M&Ms

Activity Page: "Dot to Dot Nativity" page, crayons, and pencils

Present the Lesson!

Memory Verse:

*Our memory verse this week is **Today your Savior was born in the town of David. Luke 2:11a NCV***

Make up simple motions for the verse and do the verse several times together.

Object:

Show baby picture of you and ask the kids to guess who it is. Tell them that in today's story they will hear about Baby Jesus' birth.

Bible Story: Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 2

Last week we heard the story about the angel bringing Mary good news. The angel told Mary that she was going to have Baby Jesus, God's Son. When Mary told Joseph—her future husband—the surprising news, he wasn't sure what to do. He didn't know if he should still marry her. Then one night, Joseph had a dream. In the dream, an angel appeared to him and told him, "Don't be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby she is carrying is God's Son and you are to give him the name Jesus." So Joseph and Mary kept their plans to be married.

Caesar Augustus made a rule that said everyone needed to be counted in their home town. So Joseph and Mary packed their things and went on a journey to their home town of Bethlehem. It was almost time for Mary's baby to be born, so Mary rode on a donkey into town. (Let's pretend to walk to Bethlehem with them.) When they got to town, it was very full of people. Everyone was there to be counted at the same time, so there wasn't anywhere for them to sleep. Joseph and Mary tried to find a room at an inn, or hotel, but they were already full of people.

Finally, a kind innkeeper offered to let them stay in his stable where the animals lived. He could see that Mary was going to have a baby soon. While Mary and Joseph were in the stable, the baby was born! Baby Jesus, God's Son, was born in a stable! There were probably lots of animals around Baby Jesus, like cows, goats, sheep, chickens, and donkeys. The Bible tells us that Mary wrapped Jesus in cloth and laid him in a manger, which is an animal's feeding trough. (Isn't that a funny place for a baby?) But Joseph and Mary were so happy that God's Son had been born. They knew that God loved us so much that He sent Baby Jesus to be born as our Savior.

This is why we celebrate at Christmas time; Jesus was the best gift ever given to us!

Story Questions:

1. *What was Joseph trying to decide? (If he should marry Mary)*
2. *Who told Joseph to marry her? (An angel)*
3. *Why did Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem? (To be counted)*
4. *Where did they sleep when they got to town? (In a stable)*
5. *What kind of animals do you think were in the stable? (Cows, sheep, etc.)*
6. *After Jesus was born what did Mary do?*
(Wrapped Him in cloth and laid Him in a manger)
7. *Why were Mary and Joseph happy? (Because God's Son, Jesus, was born)*
8. *When do we celebrate Jesus' birth? (At Christmas time)*
9. *Why did Jesus come to earth? (To be our Savior)*

Lesson Value: Go over the value and sign for this week's lesson, "Jesus is born." Have all children do the sign for "baby" by placing the right arm on top of the left arm with hands facing up, as if holding and rocking a baby. Say the value while signing.



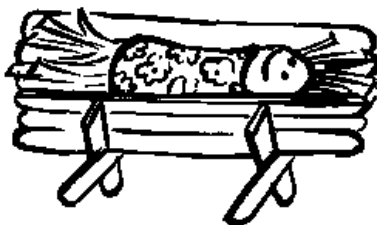
Craft: Baby Jesus in a Manger

Materials Needed:

- Small craft sticks (6 per child)
- Craft sticks pre-glued into "X" design (2 per child)
- Lima beans
- Tacky glue
- Straw
- Large clothes pins
- Small square of material
- Black fine-tip pen

Directions:

1. Children receive pair of craft sticks pre-glued into an "X" design.
2. Children glue 3 craft sticks onto "X" sticks to form one side of the manger. Then they do the same to the other side. (Leaders may need to help hold "X" sticks).
3. Children glue straw inside of manger.
4. Children wrap and glue material around the clothes pin.
5. Children draw face on lima bean with black fine-tip pen.
6. Leader writes child's name on manger.



Games

Don't Drop the Baby

- Objective: To be the last one left in the circle holding the baby
- Items Needed: Baby doll to toss/pass, small stamps, music
- How to Play:
 - Children sit in a circle with their leader.
 - Leader explains that this game is like "Hot Potato," except that they are trying to *not* drop the baby while passing it around the circle.
 - Leader plays music while the children carefully pass the baby around the circle.
 - Leader shuts off music. Whoever is left holding the baby wins a stamp on their hand for not dropping the baby.
 - Continue playing the game, giving everyone the opportunity to win a stamp.

The M&M Game

- Objective: To get to know the kids in their small group
- Items Needed: Jar of M&Ms
- How to Play:
 - Children sit in a circle with their leader.
 - Leader passes around a jar of M&Ms and instructs the children to take some M&Ms, but not to eat them yet. It's okay if the kids take different numbers of M&Ms.
 - Once everyone in the circle has M&Ms, leader has kids count how many M&Ms they have.
 - Leader explains that they must tell one fact about themselves for every M&M they have.
 - Leader starts the game by telling the kids about himself/herself and play continues around the circle clockwise.
 - If children are having trouble thinking of facts to tell, leader may prompt children by asking questions such as:
 - How old are you?
 - When is your birthday?
 - Do you have any pets?
 - What's your favorite movie?

Proceed to Next Week

Call each child in your group. It is beneficial to choose a night and be consistent about calling at the same time if possible, so kids and parents can plan on it.

If you're having trouble thinking about what to ask the kids in your group, try these:

1. *Remember we learned about Jesus' birth? What is your favorite part of this story?*
2. *Have you ever been to a farm? What did you see there?*
3. *How are you doing on your Kid's Quest homework? Can you say the verse to me? **Today your Savior was born in the town of David.***
Luke 2:11a NCV

Tell the kids something that will happen next week to get them excited about coming back. For example, *We are learning about some special visitors that came to see baby Jesus.*

Remind them to bring their Kid's Quest binder and book bag.

If it is their turn for snack, ask to speak to a parent, and remind the parent about snack. Give any guidance on preferred foods, if you have any kids with food allergies in your group or if you don't want them to bring sweets, etc.

Name _____

Dot to Dot

Where was Jesus born?
Connect the dots from 1 to 10 and from A to Z to find out.



***Today your Savior was born in
the town of David. Luke 2:11a NCV***