



Lesson
17

4s-K



JESUS IS BORN

CHRISTMAS EVE



December 24
**JESUS IS
GOD'S GIFT**



LESSON GOAL:

Background: When God created the world, everything was good. However, Adam & Eve disobeyed God's one rule and sin entered the world. Because of sin, people became separated from God. There's nothing we can do on our own to fix this. The good news is God loved us so much He didn't want us to stay separated from Him. God had a plan from the start of creation to bring us back to Him, and that plan was sending His son, Jesus, to this world to save us. Jesus is God's gift to us, and that's why we celebrate Christmas!

Lesson Goal: For kids to understand that we celebrate Christmas because of the birth of our savior, Jesus. Jesus is God's gift to us! 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.

Luke 2:6-14



KEY VERSE:

"A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us."

Isaiah 9:6, NIRV

LESSON OVERVIEW:

Christmas Eve service is about 1 hour long

40 minutes - CHECK-IN

30 min prior to the start of service until 10 min after service starts

10 minutes - EXPLORE

Craft to introduce lesson topic

25 minutes - LARGE GROUP

Worship, Bible Story, Worship Response & Blessing
(Led by staff or assigned teacher)

10 minutes - RESPOND

Reinforce the lesson by talking about God Statement and doing an activity together

CHECK-OUT

Follow check-out procedures as parents arrive to pick up

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)*!

You can play with the classroom activities until we begin Explore time.

10
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: Jesus is God's Gift!

Help kids connect relationally and to the daily lesson by participating in the Bag of Wonder activity together.

Bag of Wonder: small gift box with baby Jesus inside

SAY:

We are going to take turns passing around this Bag of Wonder! It has something inside that helps us think about our lesson today. You can hold it, smell it, shake it, touch it...but no peeking inside! What do you think it could be? You each get 1 guess!

DO:

Pass the Bag of Wonder around until each child has had a turn holding it and guessing what's in the bag. Offer hints to help the kids guess the item.

SAY:

I *wonder* why this item is in our Bag of Wonder today! Our lesson is about how **Jesus is God's Gift**. This true story comes from the Bible in **Luke 2:6-14!** (*Open your Bible to show the kids the verse is in the Bible then read the explanation below*).

CONNECTION: After Adam and Eve sinned and bad things entered the world, God made promises all throughout the Bible to send a Savior. That was God's plan. He sent Jesus as a baby! Jesus is God's gift to us!



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 Jesus to be born. Later, He died on the cross to save us all from our sins!



MAKE: "The Birth of Jesus" Booklet

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

Supplies: "Birth of Jesus" Booklet, God statement sticker, markers/crayons



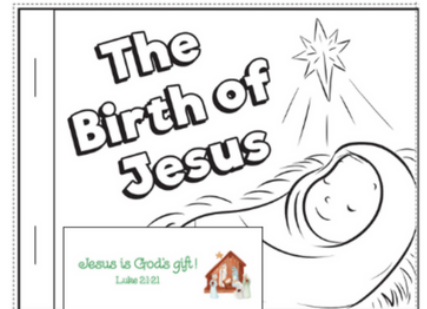
SAY:

Jesus is God's gift! Today we are learning how Jesus was sent as God's gift. Let's make a craft to remind us of our story today.



DO:

Pass out one booklet per child and have them color it as you talk about the story together. Have them place the God Statement sticker on the back of their booklet.



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 by participating in Worship and hearing an engaging Bible story.



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.

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: What a Glorious Night

SONG 2: O Come All Ye Faithful



Bible Story- Christmas Play

Refer to the Bible Story page for the Christmas Play script. Assign the kids a specific role and guide them to put on their corresponding costume



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.

Bible Story- Christmas Play



Lesson: Jesus is God's Gift!

Kids will participate in a nativity skit as they learn about Jesus being born. If there are not enough kids to act out the story, kids can watch a video of the nativity story instead:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v3656G6tWuI>

PREPARING FOR LARGE GROUP:

Before you start Large Group, assign the kids a specific role to play in the Nativity skit and have them put on their corresponding costume. If you have a large class, you can include as many angels, sheep and shepherds as you have costumes for. If you have a small class, assign volunteers to play specific roles also.

Character List

Narrator (Large Group Host)
Mary
Joseph
Innkeeper
Main Angel
Angels
Sheep
Star
Shepherds

HOST: Today, we are celebrating something really special! Who can raise their hand and tell me what we're celebrating? **(allow children to respond)** That's right! We're celebrating Christmas - the day that Jesus was born! But why is this so important?

Well, a long long time ago, God created the first man and woman. Do you remember their names? **(allow children to respond)** That's right! Adam and Eve. They lived in the Garden of Eden with God but they disobeyed Him and sin came into the world. Sin is when we make bad choices. Can you show me with your face how sin makes you feel? **(allow children to respond)** Sin makes me feel really sad! And it makes God sad, too. It means we're separated from God and there's nothing we can do on our own to be connected to Him.

But guess what? Even though the story started sad, it doesn't end sad! Because God promised to send a Savior to die for our sins and help connect us back to Him! Can anyone guess who that Savior is? **(allow children to respond)** Jesus! And that's why Christmas is SO special!

Now, God didn't send Jesus right away. There were many many years from the time Adam and Eve sinned to the time Jesus was born. But God made covenants, or special promises, with different people that He would send this Savior - a King! God had a plan! And God kept his promise. Jesus was born on Christmas and He is the Savior they all waited for! Jesus was God's plan!

Now we understand how important Jesus is, let's look at what happened the day Jesus was born.

Bible Story Continued...

HOST: We're going to act out our story today! Are you ready? You're each wearing a costume and you each get to play a special part in our story today.

HOST: Our story starts with Mary and Joseph, the parents of Jesus (*invite Mary and Joseph to come up on stage*). Caesar Augustus wanted to make a list of all the people living in each town, so everyone had to go back to the town where they were from. At this time, Mary was pregnant and ready to have baby Jesus soon.

HOST: But Joseph and Mary went from the town of Nazareth back to the town of Bethlehem. They had to go about 70 miles and it took a very long time since Mary's baby was going to be born soon. (*ask Mary and Joseph to walk a few laps around the room*).

(Invite Innkeeper to come up on stage).

HOST: When they got there, they tried to find a place to stay. They went to an inn and asked for a room, but the Innkeeper said there was no room for them. (*Encourage Innkeeper to shake head "no"*). The only place that Mary and Joseph could find to stay was where the animals slept. (Invite 1 sheep & 1 donkey to come up and lay down as if sleeping; Mary & Joseph join them).

HOST: While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born and she gave birth to Jesus. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, the place where animals ate their hay from. (*Hand baby doll to Mary & have her wrap it in cloth and lay it in the manger*). Let's all sing "Away in a Manger" to celebrate Jesus being born!

Tech cue: "Away in a Manger" (all kids sing along)

HOST: There were shepherds living in the hills and fields nearby, looking after their sheep. (*Invite shepherd & remaining sheep to come up*). As the new day began, suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them. *Tech cue: flicker lights*

(Invite main angel to come up on stage, holding a flashlight toward the shepherds).

HOST: The shepherds were very scared (*tell shepherd to make a scared face*) but the angel said "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all of the people. Today, in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

HOST: Suddenly many more angels appeared, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." (*Invite other angels to come up*)

Bible Story Continued...

HOST: So the shepherds hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. **(Have shepherds walk to Mary, Joseph and the manger)**. When they saw Him, they told everyone what the angel had said and everyone who heard the story were astonished. Then the shepherds returned to their sheep, praising God for sending his Son to be their Savior. Let's sing "Joy to the World" to celebrate and thank God for sending Jesus!

Tech cue: "Joy to the World" (all kids sing along)

HOST: After Jesus was born, a new bright star appeared in the sky. Some Wise Men in faraway countries saw the star and set out to find the new king and bring Him gifts. **(Invite star and Wise Men to come up and walk around the room with the star leading)**.

HOST: They kept following the star until they found the place where Jesus was – it took them a long time! **(Have the star stop and Wise Men stop)**.

HOST: When they got to the inn, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

HOST: Wow! What an amazing story. Thank you, everyone, for helping us act that out. This story is so powerful because it fulfilled God's plan to send a Savior! Jesus is the Plan! Have everyone take a bow and applaud the class for their participation. Encourage everyone to have a seat to transition into Worship Response time.

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: gift bows (1 per child), baby Jesus poster



SAY:

We celebrate Jesus' birth on Christmas! It's not just about Jesus being born in a manger though, Christmas is all about the good news. The good news is God loved us so much He didn't want to stay separated from us. God had a plan from the start of creation to bring us back to Him, and that plan was sending His son, Jesus, to this world to save us. Jesus is God's gift to us, and that's why we celebrate Christmas!



DO:

- Ask the kids to quietly participate in the following activity. Say:
 - **Who is excited to open presents this Christmas?**
 - **What if I told you the best present we could ever get won't be wrapped under the Christmas tree?**
 - **What do you think is the best present ever? Jesus!**
 - **Jesus is God's gift to us! God sent Jesus to the earth to save us from our sins because God loves us that much!**
 - **What does this look like? (Hold up a gift bow) Where do we put these? On top of presents!**
 - **Since Jesus is the greatest gift of all, let's take some time to thank God for Him.**
 - **You're each going to get a bow. As you put the bow around baby Jesus' manger, say, "Thank you, God!" Then, take your seat and wait for your friends to finish.**
 - **I'm so glad that God gave us the greatest gift of all, Jesus!**
- 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.



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 Jesus to be born. Later, he died 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: We need a savior too so we can choose to accept that Jesus was born and died for our own sins; 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 their parent the announcement card and the weekly **Lesson Card**.