



UNIT 19 | SESSION 1

## JESUS WAS BORN

MATTHEW 1; LUKE 2; JOHN 1

### KEY PASSAGE:

John 1:29

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.

### CHRIST CONNECTION:

The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus was not an ordinary baby. He is God's Son, sent to earth from heaven. Jesus, the promised Savior, came into the world to show us what God is like and to deliver us from sin and death.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



PREPARE

PREPARE YOUR HEART TO TEACH; PLAN THE SESSION



WELCOME

GREET KIDS AND OPEN THE SESSION



LEARN

TEACH KIDS THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL



LOVE

LEAD KIDS TO LOVE THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL



LIVE

LEAD KIDS TO LIVE OUT THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

## LEADER Bible Study

How many times have you read or heard the narrative of Jesus’ birth? When interacting with a familiar Bible story, it is easy to simply skim over it and assume we understand all there is to know about it. Rather than taking that approach, spend time this week meditating on Luke 2:1-20.

The detailed account of His conception and birth, as well as the details between those two events provide the believer with a gift of God’s grace that is far too important to gloss over. This event preceding Jesus’ ministry, death, and resurrection lays the foundation for a close and thoughtful study of the Gospels.

The details around the conception and birth of Jesus provide reason for amazement and strengthen our faith. Consider the detail of Mary having been a virgin, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14. Jesus was born in the small town of Bethlehem, fulfilling the prophecy of Micah 5:2. He was born into the family line of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—fulfilling God’s promises in Genesis 12:3; 17:19; 28:14.

All of this ought to cultivate a sense of wonder at the divine intervening in the human world, and an amazement at the detail to which God worked out His plan.

Additionally, recalling the details of Jesus’

birth ought to generate affirmation in the believer’s heart and mind. The uniqueness surrounding the birth of Jesus affirms His claims of being the Son of God.

Finally, the birth narrative should grow the anticipation of the believer. At the end of the New Testament, the book of Revelation sheds light on the end of sin and death, the final judgment of the living and the dead, and the new heaven and the new earth. These promises can seem distant or unlikely; however, the joy and gratitude that comes from understanding Jesus’ birth narrative can cultivate confidence in and anticipation of the future promises of Jesus.

Luke 2 invites us to behold our God, who—out of His great love for us—“emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity” (Phil. 2:7). Jesus came to earth to rescue sinners. The angels’ announcement to the shepherds in Luke 2:10 is also for us and for the nations: “Don’t be afraid, for look, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”

### PLACES TO KNOW

**Bethlehem: the birthplace of Jesus and hometown of King David, located about five miles south of Jerusalem**



## WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

**SAY** “How would you share some exciting or good news? Would you shout it? Would you fly it across the sky using an airplane?”

### 1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “What’s the Good News?” on the activity page.

**SAY** “Jesus is the Savior God promised long ago. He came to save us from sin and death. This is such good news!”

### 2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

#### OPTION 1: ANNOUNCEMENT



Form kids into groups of two or three. Provide each group with a piece of heavyweight paper and tape. Instruct each group to roll the paper into the shape of a megaphone and use tape to keep its shape.

Direct each group to think of one or two important announcements. Lead kids to think about messages that carry significance such as “Congratulations, you are now President of the United States!” “Get out of the water! There’s a shark!” “I now pronounce you man and wife.” After a few minutes, invite each group to shout their announcements through their megaphone one at a time.

**SAY** “Some announcements are really important and can be life changing. In today’s Bible story, the angels had an important announcement for the shepherds that changed the course of history forever. Let’s learn more about this special announcement.”

#### OPTION 2: WAITING

Form kids into small groups and provide each group with a yearly calendar and stickers. Direct kids to look up special dates on the calendar and place a small sticker on that day. Encourage kids to take turns looking for their birthdays, summer break, a holiday, or a special vacation day.

Challenge kids to pick one of the stickers and count how many days it will be until that special day arrives. Encourage kids to share their special day and how long they will have to wait for that day to come.

**SAY** “Waiting can be hard, especially when we are waiting on a special day to arrive. God’s people had to wait a very long time for Jesus to come. Did you know that just between the time of the prophet Malachi and the birth of Jesus, at least 400 years had passed? Even though God’s people had to wait, God always keeps His promises. Today, we will learn the time had finally come for Jesus to be born.”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# INTRODUCE the Bible Story

### 1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

**SAY** “ Hi kids! My name is [your name], and I’m so glad you’re here! I can’t wait to read a story from the Bible with you! Raise your Bible high if you brought it with you today. [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.] Every time we read our Bibles, we are reminded that God is faithful and that His promises are true.

Today, we will hear the story about one of the greatest moments in history: when Jesus was born. God promised to send the Savior to rescue people from sin and death, and the time had finally come for Jesus to come to earth. Jesus’ birth is such good news! As we read our story, we can rejoice that God sent His Son to save us. ”

### 2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

**SAY** “ When we meet together, we learn a big picture question that helps us focus on a truth from God’s Word. Our big picture question for the next few weeks is, **What did Jesus do to save us?** The answer is, **Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.**

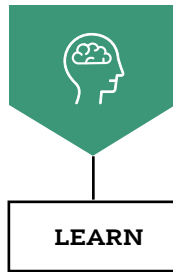
Today’s Bible story reminds us that Jesus came to save us. Jesus left heaven and was born a baby so that He could live a perfect life for us. Then He died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead. The birth of Jesus is good news because it meant that Jesus had come to save us! Let’s say our big picture question and answer again. **What did Jesus do to save us? Jesus lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead.** ”

### 3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

**SAY** “ Everyone needs Jesus because everyone sins. Who remembers when sin came into the world? [Allow responses.] Sin came into the world when Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and reject His words. Were people able to stop sinning? [Allow responses.] No, all people continued to sin. Even when God gave His people—Israel—His good commandments, they could never fully obey.

But God had a plan. Even though people kept sinning and could not save themselves, He promised that a Savior would come to rescue them. Through the family of Abraham, God was working to send Jesus into the world so that all who believe in Him will be saved. Let’s read our Bible story to learn about the birth of our Savior. ”



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

# LEARN the Bible Story

### 1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 1; Luke 2; John 1. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Jesus Was Born.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

### JESUS WAS BORN

“ Mary was engaged to be married to Joseph. **One day, an angel told Mary she was going to have a very special baby. The angel explained, “This baby will be God’s Son.” Then an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife. Her baby was put there by the Holy Spirit. Name Him Jesus because He will save His people from their sins!”** This was amazing news! Jesus—God in the flesh—would come as a light into the dark world.

Mary and Joseph lived in the town of Nazareth. During the time Mary was pregnant, **the Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus, announced that everyone needed to return to their own towns and be registered for a census. Since Joseph was a descendant of King David, he and Mary traveled to Bethlehem, the city of David.**

While they were there, **the time came for Mary to have her baby. Mary and Joseph looked for a safe place to stay, but every place was full. So Mary and Joseph found a place where animals were kept, and that is where Mary had her baby. Joseph named Him Jesus.** Mary wrapped the baby tightly in cloth and laid Him in a feeding trough.

**That night, some shepherds were watching over their sheep in the fields near Bethlehem. Suddenly, an angel stood before them and the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified! The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! I have very good news for you and for all the people: Today a Savior, who is the Messiah and the Lord, was born for you in the city of David.”** Then the angel said, “You will find a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly, a whole army of angels appeared, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors!”

When the angels left and returned to heaven, **the shepherds decided to go straight to Bethlehem to see what had happened. They hurried to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in the feeding trough. Then the shepherds went and told others about the baby Jesus.** Everyone who heard about Jesus was amazed. Mary thought about everything that was happening and tried to understand it. The shepherds returned to their fields, praising God because everything had happened just as the angel said.

Christ Connection: The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus was not an ordinary

### STORYTELLING TIPS

**Provide a model:** Use peg dolls, a nativity set, or another type of visual, such as a felt board to tell the story.

**Act it out:** Assign kids different roles in the story. Direct them to act out the story as it is being told.



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

baby. He is God's Son, sent to earth from heaven. Jesus, the promised Savior, came into the world to show us what God is like and to deliver us from sin and death. ”

### 2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

**SAY** “ The promised Savior had finally come, but He didn't come in the way many people expected. He came as a baby, and He was born in a lowly manger. What was special about this baby? [Allow responses.] Jesus is God's Son. Only Jesus is fully man and fully God. And He had come to be the Light of the world. Because of sin, we all live in darkness. But when we look to Jesus, the light of His salvation overcomes the darkness of sin.

Why did the angel tell Joseph to name the baby Jesus? [Allow responses.] Jesus means 'God saves,' and Jesus had come to earth to save His people from their sins. Anyone who trusts in Jesus as his or her Savior will be saved. This is good news!

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, angels appeared to the shepherds and announced His birth. Who did the angels say this the good news was for? Look at Luke 2:10. [Choose a volunteer to read aloud Luke 2:10.] The good news of Jesus' birth is for all people. Not just wealthy people, important people, or people from a certain background. The good news is for all people because all people need a Savior. Just as the shepherds praised God and shared this good news with others, so should we! ”

### 3 CHRIST CONNECTION

**SAY** “ The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus was not an ordinary baby. He is God's Son, sent to earth from heaven. Jesus, the promised Savior, came into the world to show us what God is like and to deliver us from sin and death. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

### 4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 19, Session 1” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why did the angels tell the shepherds, “peace on earth to people God favors”? What does this mean?
2. How does Jesus bring you peace with God?

### 5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Play the missions video.

**SAY** “ Loida (LOY-dah) Reyes and her husband traveled to Europe with a group of Hispanic missionaries to share the good news of Jesus with people who did not know Him. Hispanic missionaries are needed all over the world, including the United States, because many of them have experience adapting culturally and can speak more than one language. ”



## THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Tell the kids that more than 60 million Hispanics currently live in the United States. Explain to the kids that it is expected that by 2050, the Hispanic population will more than double. Help kids understand that we need more missionaries to help reach the growing Hispanic population in the United States.

Close in prayer, asking God to send Hispanic missionaries all over the world. Pray for God to reveal ways your church can help spread the good news about Jesus around the world.

### 6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Before the session, create six slips of paper with parts of the key passage in a very small font. Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud John 1:29 together.

**SAY** “As we begin learning about Jesus’ life, let’s read our key passage which reminds us why Jesus came to earth.”

Form kids into six groups. Distribute a slip of paper and a magnifying glass to each group. Lead kids to take turns using the magnifying glasses to read what is written on each strip. Challenge the groups to work together to place their strips in the correct order of the key passage. Once the verse is complete, lead kids to read the key passage aloud together.

Lead kids to sing “John Saw Jesus (John 1:29).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

### 7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

**SAY** “Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to earth. Thank You for loving us and for giving Your Son to be the Savior of the world! Help us share the good news of Jesus with others. Amen.”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**

