



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Series: Jesus, Our Savior, Came to Earth  
Winter Year 1, Lesson 30

# Jesus Is Born

**Bible Event:** Luke 2:1-7

**Take Home Point:** \*JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR – *Jesus was born for me!*

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (CAPS). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

**Jesus Link:** Jesus left a perfect heaven to become human in an imperfect world.

**What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:**

- Children will learn that God gave his Son Jesus as a gift to our world. Jesus came as our Savior, giving his life for us so that when we trust and love him, he saves us and takes away our sin. Though Jesus is God's gift to the entire world, this gift is personal as each child comes to know **\*JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR – *Jesus was born for me!***
- Children will respond to God's love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs, their offerings, and their actions of love in their worship experience.



## Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

**Purpose:** While kids arrive give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

### Video Suggestions:

- *The Beginner's Bible: The Story of the Nativity*, Sony Music Entertainment. 1995.
- *Veggie Tales: The Toy that Saved Christmas*, Big Idea Productions. 1996

**Activity Suggestion:** Nativity scenes to arrange characters.



## Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

### Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

## Bible Event: Imagination Theater

Imagination Theater is audience participation drama where the Bible event is told in creative fashion using children as actors. The Imagination Box contains the Bible and other special props used for the drama. Begin by removing the Bible and explain that it is God's Word, telling us of the wonderful deeds God has done. Then remove an imaginary hat and place it on your head. This is your Imagination Hat. Invite the children to put on theirs as well. They will also use their imaginations to picture the events the Bible tells us about. Some will even use their imaginations to help act out these events. Distribute props to actors as they are called forward at the beginning of the presentation. Have them sit to the side until they are called on stage.

### Jesus Is Born

Open Imagination Box. Let me see what I have inside. Ah, it's my imagination hat. Would you put your imagination hat on also?

Now I can imagine what it must have been like on that night when Jesus was born. The Bible will tell us all about it, but you can help me act it out.

I'm looking for some boys and girls who have done a good job of listening and cooperating. They can be my helpers. I need a Mary, a Joseph, and an innkeeper.

And I think I'll need some animals. Let me test. Can I hear any cattle mooing? (Moo. Moo.) How about sheep? (Baa. Baa.) Oh, I think you'll do wonderfully.

Now our helpers are getting in their costumes and we're ready to begin. Let's begin with what used to be a wagon, but when you put your imagination hat on it has now become a donkey.

Let's have Mary sit right on the donkey. Joseph, get ready to pull. I'll start the story. Open the Bible.

All over the land, people were getting ready to make a journey. They didn't have cars or buses or planes. They only had their feet. They would walk or maybe ride a donkey or camel. They were getting ready to take journeys because the king had made a rule. Everyone was to go to their hometown to where their family started, and they were to be counted. No one would disobey the king so many people set off on a journey.

Here are two of those people now. This is Mary. She is just ready to have a baby. She is so tired and weary from the journey. If they could only get to their hometown soon, then they could rest. Oh, they are getting close to the town now. It is Bethlehem.

They are entering the town now and they are looking for a place to sleep. Let's see if there's any room in the inn. Knock, knock! Here's the innkeeper. Whisper into Joseph's ear. "Do you have any room?"

And the innkeeper says (whisper into the innkeeper's ear), "No more room."

Whisper into Joseph's ear. "Where can we stay?"

Whisper into the innkeeper's ear. "Stay in my barn."

Barn? That's a place where animals live, but it would have to do. Mary is so tired and she might have a baby any moment. Joseph led Mary to the barn, which is also called a stable. There he put some soft hay together so she could lay down and rest.

Then it happened—the moment everyone had been waiting for. Mary had a baby. This baby looked just like any other baby, but Joseph and Mary knew he was special. This baby would be called Jesus because he is Savior of the world. He is God's Son, and he would grow up to give his life for all people so he could take away their sin and people could be friends with God forever.

Mary bundled the baby tightly in a baby blanket and laid him a manger. It was a place of straw that animals ate out of—but not tonight. It would be the place where the baby Jesus would sleep.

I wonder what the animals thought. I think I hear some of them now. Do I hear some cows? (Moo. Moo.) Do I hear some sheep? (Baa. Baa.) I wonder if I hear chickens? (Cluck. Cluck.) I'm sure the animals didn't mind sharing their barn with these strange visitors.

I'm sure they wouldn't if only they knew who he was. He was the Savior of the world, but he didn't come into the world for cows, sheep, or chickens. He came into the world for boys and girls like you and for people like me—every person who needs a Savior. That's why we say today, **\*JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR – *Jesus was born for me!***

**Let's pray.** (Children repeat each phrase)

**Dear God,** (repeat)

**Thank you for being here.** (repeat)

**Thank you for sending Jesus.** (repeat)

**He is our friend.** (repeat)

**Help us give him our best.** (repeat)

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!** (repeat)

**Amen.** (repeat)



## Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

**Purpose:** Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

**Snack Zone:** On a paper plate, use one-fourth of a soft flat tortilla to be the bundling clothes for the baby Jesus. Let a half slice of cheese be Jesus. Let the children bundle it together and then enjoy their snack.

**Drama Zone:** Use the props from today's drama to let the children create the story.

**Messy Zone:** Use a ten-foot roll of paper or butcher paper. Write in large letters "Happy birthday, Jesus." Let the children decorate with handprints, markers, stickers, crayons, glue, and paper. Hang in the room for all to see as they pick up their children.

**Coloring Zone:** Color pages with markers and crayons.

**Felt Zone:** Use felt board materials to show the today's Bible event. (For example, use Lesson #97 "Baby Jesus Is Born" from *Betty Lukens Through the Bible in Felt*.)

**Puppet Zone:** Use animal puppets to describe what they are seeing when they see the baby Jesus come into the barn. If you have people characters, let them pretend they are watching Joseph and Mary and are describing what is happening.

**Play Zone:** Let children set up nativity sets and tell the story of Jesus being born.

**Quiet Reading Zone:** Prepare this area to look like a manger or stable where you can read Christmas books.

**Music Zone:** Practice the music the children will sing for their Christmas program.

**Safety and Security:** Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.



## Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

**Purpose:** As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

### Worship Songs:

*Choose one or two songs and list them here.*

### Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

**Purpose:** The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

The presenter invites Bubba out to receive a special present. He shows Bubba the present with his name on it. Bubba is elated and excited. Bubba is especially happy since he's not going to get any good presents for himself for Christmas. He says that everyone else is getting good presents but he thinks he'll only get bad ones.

The presenter assures Bubba that he has a wonderful present today. He opens the present and inside is nothing but the fake straw. Bubba is obviously disappointed. The presenter says that this reminds him of baby Jesus being born just for Bubba. Bubba is astounded that Jesus would come into the world just for him.

Bubba asks, "Where is Jesus? Isn't he supposed to be a baby laying on the straw?" The presenter agrees that is where Jesus was laid when he was born, but he didn't stay there. Jesus grew and became a man. He was God Son who gave his life for us because he loved us so much. Jesus took away our sins so we could trust him and he could be our friend forever. You can't see Jesus in the box because right now he's with you everywhere you go.

Bubba is impressed. That is a gift that is just for him. The kids agree as they repeat the take home point: **\*JESUS IS OUR SAVIOR – Jesus was born just for me.**

### Prayer Time:

**Purpose:** Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

### "Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

**Lord's Prayer:** Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire Prayer along with you.

## Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,  
pour his love upon you.

*(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)*

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,  
walk right there beside you.

*(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)*

And may God's Holy Spirit,  
the one who lives inside you,

*(Cross hands over your heart.)*

keep you strong,  
comfort, lead and guide you!

*(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)*

## Song of Sending:

*Choose one song and list it here.*



## Closing Zones:

**Purpose:** Children go to an activity zone such as, the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

# Supplies:

## *Welcome Zone:*

- videos: *Story of the Nativity* (order from: <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/6304132603/002-4057945-1179217?v=glance> or from: [http://www.visionvideo.com/111-1111111-1111111\\_777.vhtml](http://www.visionvideo.com/111-1111111-1111111_777.vhtml)) OR *Toy that Saved Christmas, A Christmas Story*—order from: <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/B000055WAK/002-4057945-1179217?v=glance> or from: <http://store.yahoo.net/yhst-54787164184156/toythsach.html>
- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

## *Opening Worship:*

- small wagon with a pillow and covered by a brown blanket (a donkey)
- Imagination box:
- Bible
- imagination hat
- headpieces or costuming for Mary, Joseph, and the innkeeper
- animal ears or masks
- manger with fake straw

## *Action Zones:*

### *Snack:*

- paper plates
- ¼ soft tortilla
- ½ slice of cheese

### *Messy:*

- ten foot roll of paper/butcher paper
- markers, stickers, crayons, glue

### *Drama:*

- props from today's story

### *Play:*

- nativity sets

### *Coloring:*

- coloring page
- crayons and markers

### *Quiet Reading:*

- prepare area to look like manger or stable
- Christmas books

### *Music:*

- program music

### *Puppet:*

- animal puppets

### *Felt:*

- materials to reenact story

*Closing Worship:*

- Bubba, the puppet
- present with a nametag that reads “Bubba” and fake straw inside

*Closing Zones:*

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books