



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

Series: The Best Gift of All – Jesus  
Winter Year 4, Lesson 31

# A Savior is Born—Christ the Lord!

**Primary Scripture:** Matthew 1,2; Luke 2

**Key Verse:** Luke 2:11, “Today your Savior, Christ the Lord, was born in David’s city.”

## **How does this address a need in our kids' lives?**

Kids have heard so many times that Christmas is Jesus’ birthday. Using this as the main theme during the Christmas season, even done with the right intentions, may undermine the significance of God coming into our world. It is important for kids to see Jesus as God’s Son himself. This means that Jesus, by his very nature, is God. Yet, he came to our world not to quickly pass through, but to be a Savior and rescue us. He stayed with us until his rescue mission had been completed. And now, he is with us even today. We give him the title “Lord.” By this we mean that he is our Lord and the Lord God himself.

## **How does Jesus fill this need?**

**Jesus for us:** Jesus came as a Savior or rescuer, to deliver us from the prison of our sin and set us free to be friends with God.

**Jesus in us:** Jesus continues to stay with us through his Holy Spirit.

**Jesus through us:** As we proclaim that Christ is Lord, he will work through that witness to reach others.

## Stamp of Excellence:

*Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.*



## Worship

### Invocation:

*Let kids bring forward the worship symbols, such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

### Attention Grabber:

*Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.*

As you begin this service, have someone come up and whisper a special announcement into your ear. Briefly consult in whisper tones, and then make the following announcement:

**Boys and girls, someone very important is visiting our church today. I've just learned that \_\_\_\_\_ is visiting in this building right now!** (Insert the name of a local, state, or national dignitary into the blank.)

**Since this person made a surprise visit to our church today we have made a quick change of plans and thought that maybe you would like to see him (her). He (she) is meeting with the adults at this time. If we can get in there without a commotion, I bet we can sneak a peek at what is going on or hear him (her) talk. And if we are really good, maybe we can even meet him (her) afterwards.**

Go through the motions as if you are getting everyone ready to go, create some excitement and then stop the kids with the following announcement:

**I'm sorry, but it won't be necessary for us to go after all. That is because the person I said would be here really isn't here today! I'm sorry to mislead you in that way, but I DID say someone very important was here now, didn't I? That part of my promise is true.**

**The important person is not, \_\_\_\_\_ (insert name of celebrity/dignitary). Instead, he is someone much more important. Can you guess who that person might be?**

Take suggestions.

**He is God. God comes to us as we worship him. We know that he actually did visit this world once and we called him by his name. He was the Lord, which means God. Jesus Christ is Lord. He came as our Savior and rescuer. Let's worship him today.**

## **Songs of Worship:**

*Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!*

Your choice of music.

## **The Power of the Cross:**

*Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.*

*Props: Freestanding cross or a cross made out of simple stakes that can be pounded into the ground.*

**Boys and girls, as I tell the following story, I would like you to imagine yourself in the story and as an active part of it.**

### **Prison?**

**Imagine that one day you wake up, look around and find yourself in a junkyard! Yuck! It is not a very large yard, but it is filled with old, rusty cars and worn out appliances—like washing machines and old toasters. Trash litters the ground in heaps, diesel fuel soaks into the ground, and a stench fills the air.**

**You rub your eyes to make sure they are clear. You even pinch yourself to see if maybe, hopefully, you are still dreaming.**

**You look around some more and, upon further inspection, you notice that a tall fence surrounds the junkyard with barbed wire looped across the top. You don't want to get tangled up in that!**

**But look, there IS a large gate and it is big enough for trucks to enter. As you approach the gate, you notice a padlock and chains. You hope it is not really locked. So you try it and, sure enough, it is locked very tightly. Soon, all hope of an easy way out begins to fade.**

## Alone and trapped

After scanning the perimeter of the yard, you call out for help and realize that you are not only trapped, but also alone. Very alone. Panic sets in and you tell yourself to catch your breath and try to figure out a plan.

Beyond the fence, you can see beautiful houses, clean streets and green yards—but you now understand that there is nothing you can do to get there.

“Oh, no, what am I going to do?” you ask yourself. “This is worse than being in a prison!” But guess what? That is exactly what it is. You decide that you must be there because you are not good enough to be on the outside with everyone else. Your mind races through last week’s events to remember what you might have done to deserve this.

## Visitors

So, day after day, you sit there lonely and afraid. But one day you actually get a visitor from town. It is the librarian! “Oh boy,” you think to yourself when you see the stack of books she brought to share. Her visit really cheers you up. But after staying for only 30 minutes to read with you, she looks at her watch, decides that it is time to leave, picks up her books and walks away. She even makes sure to securely lock the gate after her. You are left behind all alone once again and you realize that she was only a visitor and not there to let you out.

The next day, someone else visits and it is the town policeman. He checks on your record, nods his head, and says that you are not good enough to live on the outside, so he turns around and walks away securely locking the gate after himself. Another visitor has come and gone and still, you are locked in the junkyard.

## A rescue

But the third day, the mayor’s very cool son comes to the junkyard and spends the whole day with you! You have a great time, considering that you are in a junkyard, but before he is ready to leave, he says, “Something must be done.”

He seems to understand that you need a rescuer and when he looks at you before leaving, he gives you a wink. Then you notice something unusual about the gate. It did not swing shut. Instead, it is propped open and is held open by this.

## Show cross

**It seems you are free now because someone came, not as a visitor, but as a rescuer!**

**How is this person like Jesus?**

**Did Jesus come just as a visitor? Or did he come as a rescuer?**

**Was he just another man? Or was he truly the Lord? He was a rescuer who is the Lord.**

## Prayer

**Dear Jesus, you are our rescuer and God's Son. Thank you for being our Savior, the Lord. Sometimes we are in our own junkyard and make a mess of our world. We need to be set free. You came and gave your life for us so that we could be set free. Help us out of the junkyard of our own sin and selfishness. We can be free because you live in our lives. Thank you for being our rescuer, our Lord and our God. Amen.**

## **Song of Response:**

*Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.*

## **Offering:**

*Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.*

Discuss the specific mission activities the kids are supporting and ask what kind of rescue this particular mission needs. Then collect the offering.



# The Word

## Learning Game:

*Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.*

### Set Me Free

*Supplies: masking tape*

In advance, use tape to make two parallel lines at opposite ends of the room. Also make an "X" to the left of each line.

Divide kids into two equal teams and instruct each team to stand behind their line, single file. Depending on the number of children and room space, divide kids within each team into two groups. When it is time to play, half of each team remains behind the line until it is that group's turn. Then groups within each team trade places. *(Whether or not to divide teams behind the line depends upon the number of kids in attendance.)*

Point out to kids the "prison" marked with an X to the left of each team's goal line. Tell them that their goal is to avoid getting put into the other team's "prison."

When the leader starts the game, he/she needs to identify that half of the kids from both sides of the room are the first to play. The remaining kids from each team can sit out the first round.

The leader sounds a buzzer, rings a bell or just says, "Ready, get set, go!" to start the game. Kids from both teams run out into the open space and try to "tag" kids from the other team. When a kid has been "tagged," he must go into the other team's "prison" where he may be joined by new prisoners. When new prisoners arrive, one prisoner must be on the X at all times. However, the new prisoners attach to each other by holding hands and creating a human chain out into the playing area as far as they can go.

If/when the last "prisoner" gets tagged by a free player from his/her own team, all prisoners are freed to return to the home-base area or the main play area. The team that fills up its "prison" with the other team's "prisoners" wins.

## Learning Point:

Gather kids together to discuss how one free person could free all the prisoners at once.

**How is this like Jesus coming and freeing us? Jesus left his home in heaven and came to rescue all people who are prisoners of sin.**

## **Bible Presentation:**

*Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.*

*Supplies: the video, The Birth of Jesus, produced by Visual Bible for Kids, ISBN # 0-8499-8671-0, 30 minutes total running time.*

To introduce the video, say:

**Today when we watch this video, listen carefully to what it says about Jesus coming into this world. There are some very important words used to share this message from the Bible. One of those words refers to Jesus as “Savior.” That means rescuer.**

**It says in Matthew 1:21 that an angel spoke to Joseph and told him that Mary, his wife, would have a baby by the Holy Spirit.**

Read Matthew 1:21:

***“She will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus (He Saves.), because he will save his people from their sins.”***

**The angel told Joseph that he should name Mary’s baby Jesus. That is because Jesus means, “He saves.” The angel explained that Jesus would save his people from their sins.**

**And again when Jesus was born, the angels talked to the shepherds. This is what the angels told the shepherds in Luke 2:11,**

***“Today your Savior, Christ the Lord, was born in David’s city.”***

**So, while we watch the video today, whenever you hear the name “Savior,” clap your hands once. Let’s see who is really paying attention and will be the first to hear that word.**

**There is one other word I want you to listen for. That word is “Lord.” Lord means God. When Jesus came to this world, he was called Christ the Lord. That means he was the promised one that came from God and is God. If you hear the word “Lord,” clap your hands together once as well. So the two words to listen for are: “Savior” and “Lord.”**

Have kids practice this once as you say the word “Savior” and they clap, and then say “Lord” and they clap.

Show the 30-minute video, *The Birth of Jesus*, produced by Visual Bible for Kids.





## **Witness and Tell:**

*Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.*

**This week let's think of people who have special needs for Christmas. We want to pray to the rescuer, Jesus the Savior, to rescue them. He can help them because he is also the Lord. He is God.**

**Tell about different people you know who need help so we can pray for them during the prayers.**

## **Prayer:**

*Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.*

**Options:** (select one from the options below)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Line Option:** Kids line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone to speak their prayers briefly.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Prayer Chair:** Adults or children with special prayer needs are invited to sit in the chairs. Kids gather around them, lay hands on their shoulders or knees and take turns praying.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and turns it toward kids who are raising their hands to pray. The kids speak their prayers into the microphone.

**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:

*Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.*

## Song of Sending:

*Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.*

**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.

# Supplies:

## *The Power of the Cross:*

- freestanding cross or cross made out of simple stakes that can be pounded into the ground

## *Bible Presentation:*

- video, *The Birth of Jesus*, produced by Visual Bible for Kids, ISBN # 0-8499-8671-0, 30 minutes total running time—order from [http://www.thomasnelson.com/consumer/product\\_detail.asp?sku=084995939X](http://www.thomasnelson.com/consumer/product_detail.asp?sku=084995939X)