



Date: _____
Series: Jesus Comes
Winter Year 2, Lesson 31

Jesus' Birth: Jesus is the Gift

Take Home Point: *Happy Birthday, Jesus!

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. Leaders say the phrase and the children repeat it.

Bible Event: Luke 2:1-20 and John 3:16

We will help children know:

- Jesus is God's gift to us.
- Christmas is Jesus' birthday.




We will help children feel:

- Excited that Jesus is born.
- Happy to participate in the celebration.

We will help children do:

- Participate in acting out the Bible Event.
- Eat a snack that is served at birthdays.
- Decorate a cake for craft.
- Play a learning game called *What is a Good Gift?* and a movement game called *Toss the Gift*.
- Take home a copy of *God Talk at Home* to reinforce the learning of today's Take Home Point: ***Happy Birthday, Jesus!**

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Warm-Up (5-10 minutes)	3	Transition Time	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> toys of your choice
Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes) 	3	Sing (Optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> songs of your choice
	3	Puppet Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bubba puppet
	4	Bible Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> children's picture Bible
Small Group Application (10 minutes—each activity) 	6	Activity 1: Acting Out Bible Event	<i>Activity 1: Bible Event</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> children's picture Bible
	8	Activity 2: Snack	<i>Activity 2: Snack</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> napkins cups of water cake or individual snack cakes
	9	Activity 3: Craft	<i>Activity 3: Craft</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Copies of Appendix A on card stock Glue sticks Sequins Crayons or markers Small pieces of colored paper or ribbons and any small items to decorate cake
	10	Activity 4: Learning Game Movement Game	<i>Activity 4: Games</i> <i>Learning Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> none <i>Movement Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> two hula hoops three bean bags
	11		
Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes) 	12	Review Lesson and Take Home Point	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> songs of your choice
	12	Pray	
	13	Sing (Optional)	

Warm-Up (Prior to class and first 10 minutes of the session.)

Young children this age need a time to get acquainted with the new surroundings as they enter the classroom. Provide a variety of calm activities and toys such as blocks, play centers and simple puzzles. These activities create an environment that helps young children let go of Mom and Dad. If necessary, Mom and Dad may play with them for a few minutes and then leave.

Large Group Opening (5-10 minutes)



Purpose: You may use singing as a large group activity and to gather attention. The opening puppet presentation is a quick overview introducing the Bible Event and Take Home Point. Early childhood humor is also used. Bubba often says something silly about elephants. Judy says something silly about pink ponies. Let the children enjoy the "joke" but use it to call attention to the Bible Event.

Singing: Use music of your choice.

Puppet Presentation

Supplies:

- children's picture Bible

Bubba Celebrates Jesus' Birthday

Presenter: Boys and girls, let's call out Bubba.

Kids call for Bubba. **Bubba...Bubba...Bubba.**

Presenter: Hi, Bubba. How are you?

Bubba: Guess what? I am soooo excited! It's going to be my birthday.

Presenter: It is? That's wonderful.

Bubba in a singing voice: Happy birthday to me. Happy birthday to me!

Presenter: I'm sure you are very excited.

Bubba: I can't wait. I want a big birthday party.

Presenter: Really?

Bubba: And lots of gifts. I even want gifts for my pet elephant. I'll share my birthday with him.

Presenter: Well, I am excited for you, Bubba. Did you know you have another gift? You have that gift because it is someone else's birthday.

Bubba: What? It's their birthday and they are giving me a gift?

Presenter: Yes. It's going to be Jesus' birthday. Jesus is God's gift to the world.

Bubba: How?

Presenter: God loved the world so much, that he gave us Jesus, his own Son. He was born as a baby, but grew up to give his life for everyone. Do you want to hear about Jesus' first birthday?

Bubba: Yes.

Presenter: See what I am holding? This is the Bible. It is God's word. Everything in the Bible is true. Now I am going to read about our lesson from the Bible. Let's put on our listening ears.

Read the Bible Event from a children's picture Bible. At the end of the reading, say this paraphrase from John 3:16: **God loved the world this much—he gave the world a gift. He gave the world his own Son, Jesus. Anyone who believes in Jesus will live with God forever.**

Presenter: Now remember, Jesus came into the world as a gift from God.

Bubba: How does that work?

Presenter: Jesus will be with you wherever you go, even if you cannot see him. A long time ago, Jesus gave his life for you. All the bad things you do will be taken away. That really is a good gift. Do you know what we should do?

Bubba: What?

Presenter: Sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus.

Bubba: O.K. I know that song.

Presenter: Let's all sing it together.

Song: to the tune of *Happy Birthday*
Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

**HAPpy BIRTHday TO YOU.
HAPpy BIRTHday TO YOU.
HAPpy BIRTHDAY, dear JESus.
HAPpy BIRTHday TO YOU.**

Presenter: Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: Happy birthday, Jesus! Happy birthday, Jesus.

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,

You are with us. You are with us.

We love you. We love you.

Thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you for sending Jesus.

Happy Birthday, Jesus! Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

Small Group Application (30-40 minutes)



Purpose: Young children learn best by repetition. Review the Bible Event and practice the Take Home Point as you rotate through the activities.

The shepherd to child ratio for three-year-olds should be one to six or fewer. Divide into groups of six with one shepherd or have a slightly larger group with two shepherds. Groups rotate from activity to activity. Another option, especially for larger churches, is to provide a leader at each activity table with a shepherd leading a group of up to twelve. The ratio will be maintained at one to six.

Activity 1: Acting Out the Bible Event

Supplies:

- Children's picture Bible

Jesus' Birth: Jesus is the Gift

Luke 2:1-20 & John 3:16

Introduction

Hold up a children's picture Bible.

This is the Bible. It is God's word. Let's act out what it says in the Bible. When you see me do the actions, you do them, too.

Happy Birthday, Jesus.

- Do any of you remember your birthday? Everyone hold up your fingers and show me how old you are.
- When someone has a birthday, we remember how special it is that that person was born several years ago. Let's say together, "Happy Birthday!"
- Did you know that Christmas is Jesus' birthday? Let's say, "Happy Birthday, Jesus!"
- Let's act out what happened at Jesus' birthday.

God sends a gift.

- Do you like to get gifts? Let's all pretend to give a gift to someone else.
- I would like to pretend that I have a gift for you. Pretend that I have a big box with a bright bow and I am handing it to you. Who would like a gift? Pretend to give a gift to some of the children.
- God wanted to give a gift to the whole world. It would not be put in a box or wrapped with a bow. This special gift would be the gift of his own Son, Jesus. Jesus would come into the world in a most special way. Listen as I tell you how Jesus came.

Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem.

- An angel told Mary and Joseph that they would have a baby, God's Son, Jesus. They were supposed to walk to the town of Bethlehem and have the baby there. Let's pretend to walk to Bethlehem.
- They tried to find a place at the inn so they could rest. Let's pretend to knock on the door.
- There is no room at the inn. Let's shake our heads "no."
- So Mary and Joseph found a barn where they could rest. Let's pretend to lie down in the straw.
- Then that's where Jesus was born. Mary wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger. Let's pretend to do that now.

Shepherds and angels in the fields.

- Outside the town of Bethlehem were shepherds watching their sheep. I think I hear some sheep. Baaa, baaa.
- Suddenly, an angel appeared. The shepherds were very frightened. They fell down and covered their faces. Repeat the angel's words after me: "Do not be afraid." Children repeat.
- "Good news." Children repeat.
- "Jesus is born." Children repeat.
- Then the angel told the shepherds that they would find him in Bethlehem, lying in a manger. So the shepherds walked to Bethlehem to find Baby Jesus. Let's pretend to walk around looking for Jesus.
- Finally they found him in a barn. Just like the angels said, he was wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger. They knew that this was a very special gift from heaven. God had sent them a wonderful gift—his own Son. They were very happy. Everyone said, "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" Let's say that together.

The shepherds left to share the good news: Happy Birthday, Jesus!

- The shepherds went away to tell others the good news. They shared the good news with everyone. Repeat after me, "Happy Birthday, Jesus!"
- God had given all of us a wonderful gift when he gave us his Son. Let's tell Jesus happy birthday again. "Happy birthday, Jesus!"
- Repeat after me, "We're so glad you are here!"

We can share the good news.

- We are so glad that God gave us the gift of Jesus. Jesus was born for the whole world. Let's say it again, "Happy birthday, Jesus!"

Pray, Sing and Review the Take Home Point

Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,

You are with us. You are with us.

We love you. We love you.

Thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you for sending Jesus.

Happy Birthday, Jesus! Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *Happy Birthday*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

HAPpy BIRTHday TO YOU.

HAPpy BIRTHday TO YOU.

HAPpy BIRTHDAY, dear JESus.

HAPpy BIRTHday TO YOU.

Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: Happy birthday, Jesus! Happy birthday, Jesus.

Activity 2: Snack

Supplies:

- *Napkins*
- *Cups and water*
- *Birthday cake or individual snack cakes*

If you prefer a healthier snack, serve muffins instead of cake.

BE AWARE OF ANY FOOD ALLERGIES CHILDREN MAY HAVE BEFORE YOU GIVE THEM ANY FOOD TO EAT.

Today we are going to eat a special birthday snack. Before we eat our snack, let's fold our hands and say a prayer. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us. You are with us.
We love you. We love you.
Thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you for sending Jesus.
Happy Birthday, Jesus! Happy Birthday, Jesus!
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Today we are celebrating Jesus' birthday. Does anyone know when his birthday is? Wait for answers. It is Christmas day. Who gets presents on Christmas day? That's right, you do. Isn't it special that it is Jesus' birthday, but we get presents? Today we are going to eat some birthday cake. Pass out napkins and cups of water. When you are at a birthday party, what do you sing before you eat cake? You sing *Happy Birthday*. Let's sing Happy Birthday to Jesus, then we will eat our cake.

Song: to the tune of *Happy Birthday*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

HAPpy BIRTHday TO YOU.
HAPpy BIRTHday TO YOU.
HAPpy BIRTHDAY, dear JESus.
HAPpy BIRTHday TO YOU.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: Happy birthday, Jesus! Happy birthday, Jesus.

Activity 3: Craft

Children take pride in making something themselves. Resist trying to do too much for children so that they can say, "I did it myself."

Supplies:

- Copies of Appendix A on cardstock, 1 per child
- Glue sticks
- Sequins
- Crayons or markers
- Small pieces of ribbons or colored paper or anything to decorate craft (buttons, small silk flowers, foam pieces, etc.)

Today we are going to decorate a cake for Jesus' birthday. It is not the kind of cake that you eat. But when you are celebrating Christmas, remember that it is Jesus' birthday. Let's decorate our cakes now. Pass out birthday cake craft.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: Happy birthday, Jesus! Happy birthday, Jesus.

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *Happy Birthday*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

HAPpy BIRTHday TO YOU.
HAPpy BIRTHday TO YOU.
HAPpy BIRTHDAY, dear JESus.
HAPpy BIRTHday TO YOU.

Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us. You are with us.
We love you. We love you.
Thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you for sending Jesus.
Happy Birthday, Jesus! Happy Birthday, Jesus!
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Activity 4: Games

Choose one or both games to play. Children with lots of wiggles should play the Movement Game first.

Learning Game

Supplies:

- none

Today we are going to play a game called *What is a Good Gift?* After you answer the questions, you can do the actions.

1. Is a stick a good gift? No. Let's pretend to throw a stick.
2. Is a baby doll a good gift for a girl? Yes. Let's pat our doll's back.
3. Is a box of markers a good gift? Yes. Let's pretend to scribble on a piece of paper.
4. Is a bunch of flowers a good gift? Yes. Let's pretend to smell our flowers.
5. Is a puppy a good gift? Yes. Let's bark like a puppy.
6. Is trash a good gift? No. Let's hold our noses and say, "phew."
7. Is a ball a good gift? Yes. Let's pretend to bounce our ball.

8. Is a piece of fuzz a good gift? No. Let's blow that piece of fuzz away.
9. Is a box of candy a good gift? Yes. Let's pretend to chew a piece of candy.
10. Is Jesus a good gift? Yes. Jesus is the best gift we could ever receive. Let's all say, "Thank you, God, for Jesus." children repeat.

Movement Game

Supplies:

- 2 hula hoops
- 3 bean bags

Place the hula hoops 6-8 feet apart. Put three bean bags in one hula hoop.

Today we are going to play a game called *Toss the Gift*. Everyone sit down. When I call your name, go stand in the hula hoop. Pick up a bean bag, which is a pretend gift. Try to throw it into the other hula hoop. If it lands in the hula hoop, everyone says, "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" When I call someone else's name, they will go do the same.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: Happy birthday, Jesus! Happy birthday, Jesus.

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *Happy Birthday*

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

HAPpy BIRTHday TO YOU.
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Let's pray now. Fold your hands and repeat after me:

Dear God, Dear God,
You are with us. You are with us.
We love you. We love you.
Thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you for sending Jesus.
Happy Birthday, Jesus! Happy Birthday, Jesus!
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes)



Lesson Review:

Presenter reviews the lesson by supplying key parts of the lesson with some words left out. Children are to supply the key words as the presenter shares the Bible Event.

See if you know the word I'm thinking of when I tell the Bible Event. If you know it, you may say it out loud without raising your hand.

Christmas is the time when we think about God's special gift to the whole world. Who was God's special gift to us? (Jesus.) Jesus was born to the family of Mary and Joseph. When he was born in a barn, did they wrap him in a blanket and lay him in a baby crib or a manger? (A manger.) Angels appeared to shepherds and told them the good news. Did they say that Jesus was born in Bethlehem or did they say "free ice cream and birthday cake?" (Jesus was born in Bethlehem.) The shepherds went to see Baby Jesus. They were excited that it was Jesus' birthday. Did they keep the good news to themselves or did they tell others? (They told others.) Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus' birthday. What do you think we should tell Jesus on his birthday? (Happy Birthday, Jesus!) Let's also remember to tell others about the good news of Jesus.

Lesson Prayer:

Let's fold our hands and pray. Repeat after me.

Dear God, Dear God,

You are with us. You are with us.

We love you. We love you.

Thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you for sending Jesus.

Happy Birthday, Jesus! Happy Birthday, Jesus!

Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.

In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.

Amen. Amen.

Lesson Song:

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *Happy Birthday*.

Capitalized letters indicate emphasis on that syllable when the rhyme is sung.

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HAPpy BIRTHday TO YOU.
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HAPpy BIRTHday TO YOU.

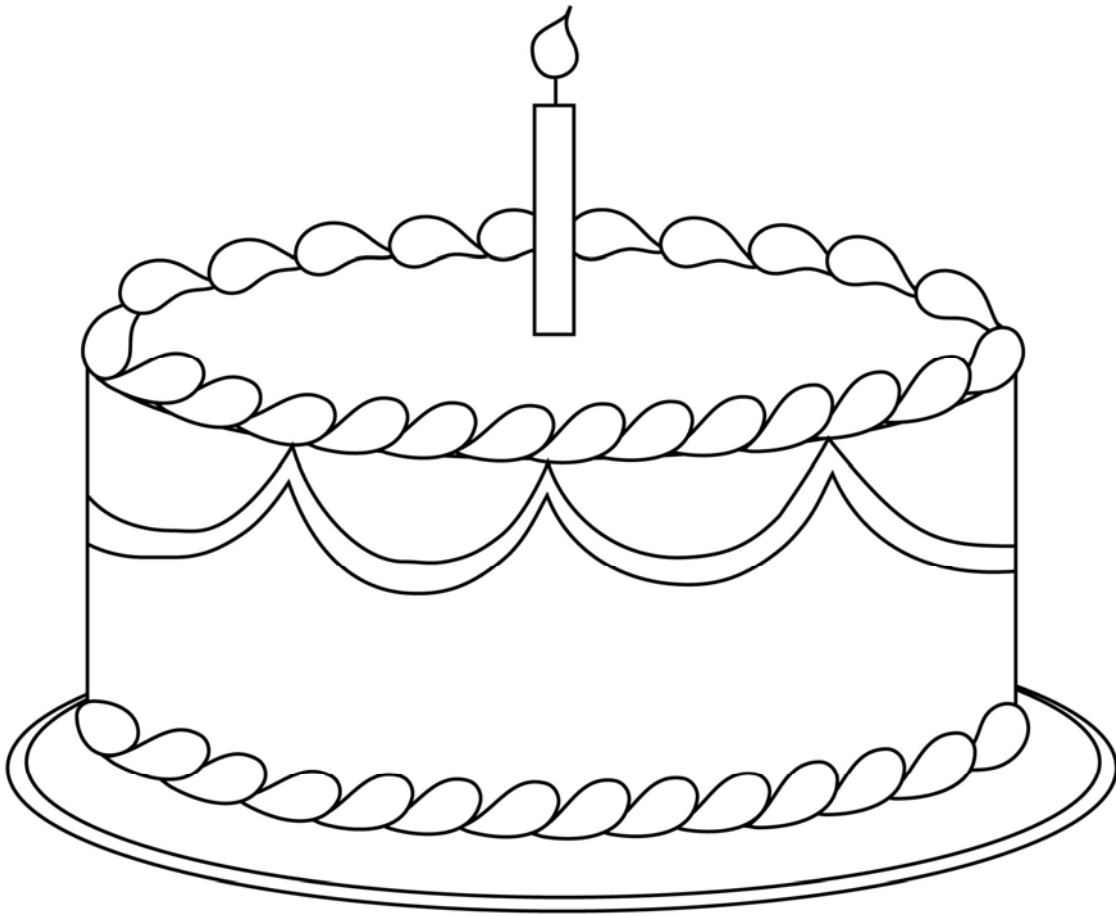
Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: Happy birthday, Jesus! Happy birthday, Jesus.

Lead the children in singing songs from a CD until parents begin arriving. Let parents know that they are welcome to join in. Dismiss by handing out God Talk at Home.

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.

Happy Birthday Jesus



John 3:16a For God so loved the world that he gave his only son...