



Date: _____
Series: Jesus Comes
Winter Year 2, Lesson 30

Jesus' Birth: Shepherds and Angels

Take Home Point: *Praise God for Jesus.

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

Bible Event: Luke 2:8-20

We will help children know:

- Angels told the shepherds that a savior was born.
- Angels and shepherds praise God for Jesus.
- We can praise God for Jesus.

We will help children feel:

- Excited that God sent us his Son Jesus.
- Secure in knowing God loves us very much.

We will help children do:

- Participate in acting out the Bible Event.
- Eat a snack that looks like a sheep.
- Make a shepherd's hat craft.
- Play a learning game called *Send the Shepherd to the Manger* and a movement game called *Sheep, Sheep, Shepherd*.
- Take home a copy of *God Talk at Home* to reinforce learning today's Take Home Point: *Praise God for Jesus.

Kingdom Quest Year 2 - Lesson 30 - 1

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 3 4	Sing (Optional) Puppet Presentation Bible Reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • songs of your choice • Judy puppet • children's picture Bible
Small Group Application (10 minutes—each activity) 	5 7 8 10	Activity 1: Acting Out Bible Event Activity 2: Snack Activity 3: Craft Activity 4: Learning Game Movement Game	<i>Activity 1: Bible Event</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • children's picture Bible <i>Activity 2: Snack</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • napkins • cups of water • straight pretzels • 1 large and 1 small marshmallow for each child <i>Activity 3: Craft</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • card stock • scissors for teacher • tape • white paper towels (on a roll) • markers • sticker that says "Praise God for Jesus" or permanent marker <i>Activity 4: Games</i> <i>Learning Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • straw for each child • cotton balls • simple manger drawn on piece of paper <i>Movement Game</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none
Large Group Wrap-Up (5-10 minutes) 	12 12 13	Review Lesson and Take Home Point Pray Sing (Optional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • songs of your choice

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
- Pink pony

Judy Praises God for Jesus

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

Kids call for Judy. **Judy...Judy...Judy.**

Presenter: Hi, Judy.

Judy enters with pink pony.

Judy: Hi, boys and girls. I'm so excited today.

Presenter: What about?

Judy: I just told my pink pony the good news. I get to take her to grandma's house for Christmas. Grandma's house is my pink pony's favorite place.

Presenter: Is it your favorite place, too?

Judy: Yes. My grandma always has time for me. We play and we sing. We even make Christmas cookies. My pink pony likes to help.

Presenter: This sounds wonderful. It is good news. Did you know this reminds me what we are learning about today?

Judy: What? Making Christmas cookies with ponies and grandmas?

Presenter: No. We are learning how Christmas is all about Jesus being born. It's such good news that angels came and told shepherds. Then they praised God together. Then they praised God for Jesus. Do you want to hear it from the Bible?

Judy: 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

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

Presenter: Judy, will you help us sing our song of the week?

Judy: Sure, I love to sing.

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

WE praise **GOD** for **JE**-sus,
JE-sus, **JE**-sus.
WE praise **GOD** for **JE**-sus.
THANK you, **GO**-d.

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.
You sent us Jesus. You sent us Jesus.
Praise God for Jesus. Praise God for 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: Shepherds and Angels

Luke 2:8-20

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.

Baby Jesus is born.

- Mary and Joseph had traveled for many days to get to the town of Bethlehem. Let's pretend we are walking to Bethlehem.
- When they arrived, there were no rooms left so they were staying in a barn. Let's pretend to rest on the straw.
- Mary gave birth to Baby Jesus and laid him in a manger. It had new hay so it would be soft for Baby Jesus. Mary wrapped him in blankets and laid him down for a nap. Let's pretend to wrap Baby Jesus in blankets and put him in a manger.

An angel appears to the shepherds.

- Now in the fields nearby, shepherds were living, keeping watch over their sheep at night. Let's pretend to be shepherds watching our sheep. Put your hand above your eyes to help you see.
- I think I can hear some sheep over there. Let me hear you sound like sheep.
- Suddenly, an angel appeared to them, with bright lights shining all around. The shepherds were very afraid! Let's fall down and cover our face because we are afraid of the angel.

The angel brought good news.

- **The angel had good news to tell the shepherds. Now let's pretend to be the angel. Everyone stand up.**
- **Say the angel's words after me. The angel said to the shepherds, "Don't be afraid." Now you say that.**
- **"Good news!" (Children repeat.)**
- **"Jesus is born!" (Children repeat.)**
- **The angel told the shepherds, "Jesus is God's Son and he will be the Savior of the world. Go and find him lying in a manger." Suddenly many, many angels appeared and praised God! It was a most glorious sight to see!**

The shepherds visit Baby Jesus.

- **After the angels went back to heaven, the shepherds decided that they should go visit Baby Jesus. Pretend you are shepherds and walk with me to Bethlehem. Lead the children around the room.**
- **They found Mary and Joseph and Baby Jesus, who was lying in the manger. Look, he's right over here. Come see. Pretend to look in a manger.**
- **It was exactly like the angels said it would be!**

Shepherds praise God for Jesus.

- **After the shepherds had seen Jesus, they were happy. They praised God for Jesus. You can say those words, too. "Praise God for Jesus."**
- **The shepherds told everyone that they had seen angels. They told everyone that the angels told them about Jesus. They told everyone they found Jesus in a manger. Repeat after me, "Praise God for Jesus."**

Let's praise God for Jesus.

- **It is really amazing that God sent angels to tell the shepherds that Jesus was born. What did the angels and the shepherds say? "Praise God for Jesus." You can say that too. "Praise God for Jesus."**
- **God wants us to tell others about Jesus and always remember to praise God for 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.

You sent us Jesus. You sent us Jesus.

Praise God for Jesus. Praise God for 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 *London Bridge*

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

WE praise **GOD** for **JE**-sus,

JE-sus, **JE**-sus.

WE praise **GOD** for **JE**-sus.

THANK you, **GO**-d.

Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat

after me: *Praise God for Jesus. Praise God for Jesus.

Activity 2: Snack

Supplies:

- *Napkins*
- *Cups and water*
- *Straight pretzels*
- *Large and small marshmallows*

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

Before class, make a sample sheep. Stick 4 pretzels (for legs) in a flat side of the large marshmallow. Stick another pretzel near the top of the marshmallow for a neck. Put a small marshmallow on the end of the neck pretzel for a head of the sheep.

Today we are going to eat a snack that looks like a sheep. 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.
You sent us Jesus. You sent us Jesus.
Praise God for Jesus. Praise God for Jesus.
Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you.
In Jesus' name. In Jesus' name.
Amen. Amen.

Today we have been learning about the shepherds that told everyone about Baby Jesus. Do you know what animal shepherds take care of? Sheep. Our snack today looks like a sheep. Show sample. You will make one yourself. Pass out cup of water, napkin, five pretzels and one large and one small marshmallow to each child. First I want you to stick four legs in the big marshmallow. Then we will put a pretzel in for a neck. Next we will stick a small marshmallow on the end of the last pretzel—it will be a head. You may eat your sheep now.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *Praise God for Jesus. Praise God for Jesus.

Let's sing our song of the week.

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

WE praise **GOD** for **JE**-sus,
JE-sus, **JE**-sus.
WE praise **GOD** for **JE**-sus.
THANK you, **GO**-d.

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:

- Card stock
- Tape
- Double stick tape
- Scissors
- Stapler
- White paper towels on rolls, two per child
- Markers
- Sticker that says, "Praise God for Jesus" or permanent marker to write it on headband

Before class, cut card stock into 2 inch wide pieces and tape two together to form a headband. If writing Take Home Point on craft, write it on card stock pieces taped together. Each child will need two paper towels still connected.

Today we are learning how the angels told the shepherds that Jesus was born. We are going to make a headpiece like the shepherds wore. It was long in back to keep the sun off their necks. Start decorating your hats while I measure everyone's head. While children are coloring the paper towels, measure their heads with the taped together pieces of card stock. Overlap pieces by two inches, tape and cut off the rest. Let children color the headband piece also. If children happen to tear apart the two paper towels, tape them back together on the backside. To put headpiece together, leave two inches of paper towel hanging below the inside of the headband (this will hang over child's forehead). Use double stick tape to fasten the paper towel to the headband. Put on child's head and have paper towel on the insides of the headband. **You all look like real shepherds now. Let's lead our pretend sheep around the room. Now let's pretend the angels came to tell us the good news about Jesus. At first, we are afraid. Now, let's pretend to walk to Bethlehem and find Jesus in the manger.**

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *Praise God for Jesus. Praise God for Jesus.

Let's sing our song of the week.

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

**WE praise GOD for JE-sus,
JE-sus, JE-sus.
WE praise GOD for JE-sus.
THANK you, GO-d.**

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.
You sent us Jesus. You sent us Jesus.
Praise God for Jesus. Praise God for 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:

- Two or three cotton balls for each student
- One straw for each student
- A simple manger drawn on a piece of paper

Today we are going to play a game called ***Send the Shepherd to the Manger***. This cotton ball reminds us of sheep and the shepherd that takes care of them. Today we found out how the angels told the shepherds to go find Jesus in a manger. Let's see if we can help the shepherds find their way to the manger. Gather the children around a table with the manger picture in the center. Give each child two or three cotton balls and a straw. **When I say, "go," I want you to put your cotton balls on the edge of the table and use the straw to blow them onto the manger. As soon as a cotton ball arrives at the manger, everyone shouts, "Praise God for Jesus!" just like the shepherds did.**

Movement Game

Supplies: none

Today we are going to play a game called ***Sheep, Sheep, Shepherd***. This game is just like "duck, duck, goose," except the words are "sheep, sheep, shepherd." Children sit in a circle. Child chosen to go first walks around the circle, tapping children lightly on the head. The word "sheep" is said, until child chooses to say "shepherd." Child then chases "shepherd" child around the circle. Child that did the tapping will sit where "shepherd" child was and "shepherd" child now does the tapping. Play until all children have been chosen. You may have to direct the child's choice so all get to play.

This game reminds us how the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem to find Baby Jesus in the manger. When they found him, they praised God for Jesus.

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: ***Praise God for Jesus. Praise God for Jesus.**

Let's sing our song of the week.

Song: to the tune of *London Bridge*

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

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JE-sus, **JE**-sus.
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THANK you, **GO**-d.

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

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You are with us. You are with us.
We love you. We love you.
You sent us Jesus. You sent us Jesus.
Praise God for Jesus. Praise God for 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.

Was Jesus born in a barn or in an airport? (A barn.) The shepherds were in the fields at night. Were they watching their sheep or were they watching a movie? (Watching their sheep.) Someone told the shepherds the good news that Jesus was born. Who told them? (An angel.) When the angel first appeared, were the shepherds afraid or happy? (Afraid.) The shepherds went to Bethlehem to find Jesus. Was he in a baby bed or a manger? (A manger.) Who did the shepherds praise when they found Jesus? (God.) Should we tell people about Jesus? (Yes.)

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.

You sent us Jesus. You sent us Jesus.

Praise God for Jesus. Praise God for 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 *London Bridge*

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JE-sus, **JE**-sus.
WE praise **GOD** for **JE**-sus.
THANK you, **GO**-d.

Take Home Point:

Let's practice the Take Home Point. I'll say it first and you repeat after me: *Praise God for Jesus. Praise God for 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.

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