

March 15, 2020
Large Group



Jesus Was Born

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 2:1-20

MAIN POINT: Jesus was born to be God's promised Savior.

KEY PASSAGE: 1 Timothy 1:15

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What makes Jesus different? Jesus is fully God and fully man.

Leader BIBLE STUDY

Do you think it was just by chance that Caesar Augustus called for a census? Did it just so happen that Mary and Joseph were traveling to Bethlehem—the very place the Messiah was prophesied to be born? (Micah 5:2) God is in control of all things, which He showed by using a pagan emperor to bring about His plan.

After Jesus was born, Mary laid Him in a manger. A king in a manger! It was so unlikely. But Jesus was no ordinary baby. He was God's Son, sent in the most humble of positions, "not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life—a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:28).

Imagine the shepherds' surprise when an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared. The Bible says that they were terrified! But the angel brought them "good news of great joy." (See Luke 2:10-11.) The people of Israel were well aware of their need for a Savior. They made sacrifices daily to atone for their sin. Finally, a Savior had come who would be the perfect sacrifice for sin, once and for all.

Not only did Jesus come into the world as the Savior, He came as our King. Some time after Jesus' birth, wise men came to worship Jesus. They brought Him gifts suitable for a king—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Jesus is the King who will rule forever, just as God promised King David. (See 2 Sam. 7.)

When you share this story with kids, remind them that *Jesus came because we needed Him. The purpose of Jesus' birth was twofold: to bring glory to God and to make peace between God and those who trust in Jesus' death and resurrection. Celebrating the birth of Jesus is about rejoicing over the greatest gift we could ever receive. God's own Son came to earth to be our Savior and our King.*

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Introduce the session (3 minutes)

LEADER • I have a question for you...

What kind of gifts would you all get for a new baby? [*Allow responses.*] Those are some good ideas!

What do you think about giving gold or special perfume used to prepare bodies for burial? That would be strange, wouldn't it? In today's story, we will hear about some men who did just that!

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • Remember, we are learning about Jesus and asking a very important question:

SLIDE - What makes Jesus different?

Who remembers the answer? [*Allow responses.*] That's right!

SLIDE - Jesus is fully God and fully man.

Maybe that's why He got such strange gifts.

Giant timeline (1 minute)

LEADER •

SLIDE - Last week we learned about Mary's response when God chose Mary to be Jesus' mother. She praised God and told Him that she was willing to be used for such a wonderful job, even if she didn't understand how it would work.

SLIDE - This week we will talk about the night when God's promised Savior finally arrived. Our story is called "Jesus Was Born." I can hardly wait to hear more!

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Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 2:1-20.

Show the Bible story **VIDEO** “Jesus Was Born.”

LEADER • This is one of the most well-known stories in the whole Bible. Even though we know the details, it is important that we don't forget how important this story is. **Jesus was born to be God's promised Savior.** We even have an entire holiday to celebrate this momentous—that means very special—night. What holiday am I talking about? *[Allow responses.]* That's right! Christmas!

Jesus' birth was similar to other births, but it was very different too. No other person's birthday was marked by the stars in the sky, proclaimed by angels, and promised by God from the very beginning. Jesus was laid in a feeding trough—a humble bed for any baby but especially for God's Son, don't you think? Jesus was visited by shepherds and even wise men with strange gifts!

Jesus received gold, frankincense, and myrrh—symbols that Jesus was no ordinary baby.

- Frankincense – used by priests for GOD! Essentially they were saying that Jesus is like God (or that He IS God !)
- Gold – gift given to Kings. Essentially they were saying that Jesus is a King.
- Myrrh – used when someone died. Essentially they were saying that Jesus should prepare to die???

The wise men knew Jesus was different. ***What makes Jesus different? Jesus is fully God and fully man.***

Christ connection

LEADER • After the shepherds found Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus, did they just go back to their fields and carry on like nothing had happened? No! The Bible says that they went and told others about Jesus! Everyone who heard about Jesus was surprised and amazed. The shepherds praised God because the birth of Jesus was good news!

Just like He had promised, God sent a Savior into the world. Jesus is God's Son, sent to earth from heaven (*Frankincense!*). Jesus came into the world because we needed Him. He came to save people from sin (*Myrrh!*) and to be our King (*Gold!*). That is worth celebrating!

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Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage **SLIDE**.

Lead the boys and girls to read together 1 Timothy 1:15.

LEADER • God kept all His promises to Abraham, David, and the rest of His people. When we trust in Jesus, we are adopted into God’s family, and those promises are true for us! Our key passage helps us remember what we learned today about Jesus’ birth. Jesus came into the world to save sinners, like you and me, so we can live with God forever.

Then **SING** “This Saying.”

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to small groups.

LEADER • Father, thank You for Your faithfulness to send Jesus as You promised. We know that it is only by Your grace and mercy that we can love You and obey Jesus. Help us to honor Jesus as King of our lives and give our best to You in everything we do.

Dismiss to small groups...