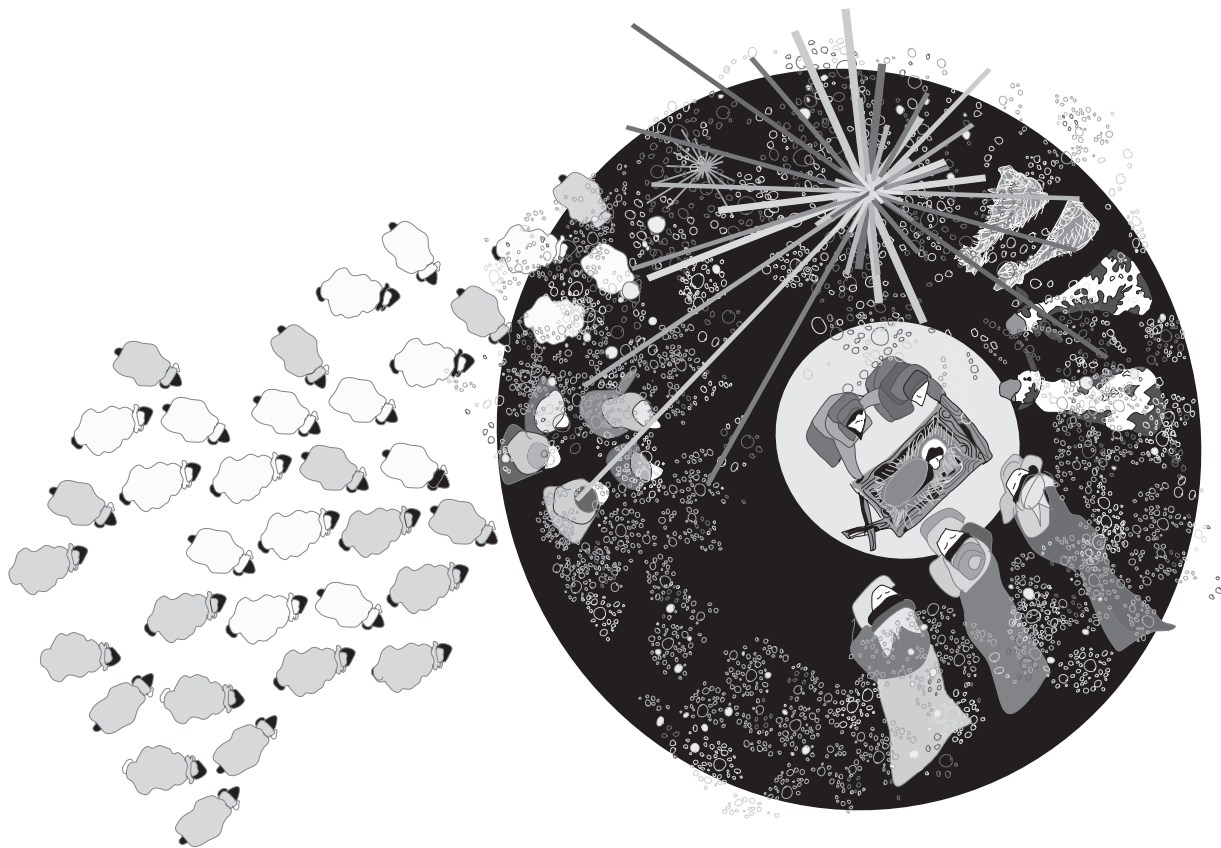


LESSON 2

# The Birth of Jesus

LUKE 2:4-20



---

**BIBLE TRUTH**

IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME, GOD SENT FORTH HIS SON

LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION . . . . . 5 MIN

**SUPPLIES:** (optional) sticks to be used as staffs by the shepherds; white sheets for the angels to wrap around themselves; faux fleece for the sheep

2. BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN

**SUPPLIES:** *The Gospel Story Bible* (story 80)

3. BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION . . . . . 5 MIN

Where Is the Gospel?

**SUPPLIES:** Bible (ESV preferred); Review “Where Is the Gospel?” to prepare

4. SNACK QUESTIONS . . . . . 10 MIN

**SUPPLIES:** snack food and beverage

5. SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5-10 MIN

6. ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS (CHOOSE ONE OR MORE) . . . . 20-30 MIN

Coloring Activity

**SUPPLIES:** coloring page for NT lesson 2—one for each child; markers or crayons

Angels and Shepherds

**SUPPLIES:** (optional) sticks to be used as staffs by the shepherds; white sheets for the angels to wrap around themselves; baby doll wrapped in white for baby Jesus

Birthday Party for Jesus

**SUPPLIES:** simple cake with “Jesus” written on it

7. CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN

**TOTAL 60-75 MIN**

## THE LESSON

**OPENING ACTIVITY AND INTRODUCTION . . . . . 5 MIN**

In today's lesson the children will learn about the Christmas story. Ask several questions like the following to get the children thinking about Christmas:

- Does anyone know what month we celebrate Christmas?  
*(December)*
- What role did the angels play in the Christmas story? What about the shepherds? What does the inn have to do with the story? The manger?  
*(Use these simple questions to get the children into the Christmas story.)*

Have some children pretend to be sheep while the rest assume the roles of angels and shepherds. (If you have a few simple props like staffs for the shepherds, portions of white sheet for the angels, or fleece for the sheep it will help make the drama special for the children.) Read through the story of when the angels came to the shepherds to announce the birth of a Savior (Luke 2:8–15).

Ask the class if anyone knows why Jesus was the most amazing baby ever born. (Jesus wasn't just Mary and Joseph's son, Jesus was also the Son of God!)

**Sing "Silent Night."**

Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night!  
Shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior is born  
Christ, the Savior is born.

Take time to pray and thank God for making himself known to us. Pray for the remainder of the class time before moving forward with the lesson.

**BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN**

Read story 80, “The Birth of Jesus,” from *The Gospel Story Bible*.

**BIBLE STORY DISCUSSION . . . . . 5 MIN**

After reading the story, use the following questions to involve the children in a discussion:

- **What is your favorite part of the Christmas story?**  
*(Accept any answer.)*
  
- **What did the shepherds see?**  
*(The shepherds saw the angel of the Lord who announced the details of Jesus’ birth; then they saw many, many angels praising God.)*
  
- **Why was Jesus born in such a humble manger?**  
*(Jesus’ humble birth is the beginning of a humble life. Paul tells us in Philippians 2:6–8 that Jesus gave up the glory he had as God to become a man.)*

**Where Is the Gospel? \_\_\_\_\_**

How does today’s Bible story fit into God’s greater plan of redemption?

Though Jesus was King, he did not come in a full display of his glory, might, and power. Instead he came in humility that he might become a servant of all, dying on the cross for our sins. This humility was evident from his birth, where he was born in a stable and placed in a manger. Jesus gave up his glory to come to earth because he loved us. Later, he would die for our sins so we could be saved from the penalty of sin. Isn’t it amazing that God himself came as a baby?

Yet it was this baby that the wise men announced was the answer to the Old Testament prophecies (Matthew 2:5–6). The shepherds heard directly from heaven through the angels that the baby “wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger,” was the Savior (Luke 2:12).

**SNACK QUESTIONS . . . . . 10 MIN**

While the children are eating the snack, engage them by asking the following questions:

- How did the shepherds feel when the angels appeared?  
*(They were afraid.)*
  
- Would you be afraid if an angel appeared and started talking to you?  
*(The angels are not like ordinary people. They often have a brightness about them called the glory of the Lord. This would be very bright. Also, angels travel through the air, which could be a scary thing to see.)*

**SWORD BIBLE MEMORY . . . . . 5-10 MIN**

Take time during the class to review the SWORD Bible Memory verses with the class. Provide the opportunity for each child to recite the verses to an adult.

**ACTIVITIES AND OBJECT LESSONS. . . . . 20-30 MIN**

**Coloring Activity**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ coloring page for NT Lesson 2—one copy for each child
- ✓ markers or crayons

While the children are coloring, engage them by asking the following questions:

- Who came to visit the baby Jesus?  
*(Shepherds and later wise men came to visit the baby Jesus.)*
  
- What do you think the shepherds thought when they found the manger just as the angels had said?  
*(Verse 20 says that the “shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.” They were amazed and they worshiped God.)*
  
- What did Mary do when the shepherds told her about the angels they had seen?  
*(She treasured what they told her in her heart. Mary knew her son was special and the shepherds’ vision of the multitude of angels confirmed this.)*

## Angels and Shepherds

### **SUPPLIES (OPTIONAL):**

- ✓ sticks to be used as staffs by the shepherds
- ✓ white sheets for the angels to wrap around themselves
- ✓ baby doll wrapped in white for baby Jesus

Have the children memorize Luke 2:14. “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Divide the class in half. One half of the class can be the shepherds and the other half can be the angels. A teacher should play the angel of the Lord who speaks to the shepherds. Turn out the classroom lights and have another helper be ready to turn them on again when the angels arrive. Group the angels in a corner prior to their entering. (Simple props and costumes can help make this mini drama come alive. A few wooden sticks for staffs for the shepherds and a some white sheets for the angels will help the drama come alive to the children.)

The shepherds should pretend to be shocked by the glorious light of the angels. The children who play angels should recite Luke 2:14 together. After the angels finish, the shepherds can pretend to travel to Bethlehem. Have the shepherds wave goodbye.

After you are through, trade roles and do the entire skit again.

Explain to the children that we can celebrate Christmas all year long. This is possible because we are celebrating the birth of Christ.

Gather the children together and have one child play Mary and another, Joseph. Use a baby doll for infant Jesus. Sing the song “Silent Night.” Then explain to the children that though we celebrate Christmas in December, we can celebrate Jesus’ birth any day of the year.

## Birthday Party for Jesus

### **SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ simple cake with “Jesus” written on it

Ask the children if anyone knows whose birthday we are celebrating today. (The answer of course is Jesus’ birthday.)

Tell the children that we normally celebrate Jesus' birthday on Christmas, but because we are studying about his birth in class, you thought it would be great to bring in a birthday cake. But before you bring in the cake you want to try and help them remember at least five things about the Christmas story. Here are a few obvious ones for your list (feel free to help them with some clues):

- Jesus was born on Christmas.
- Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
- There was no room at the Inn for Mary and Joseph.
- Jesus' mother's name was Mary.
- Jesus' earthly father's name was Joseph.
- Jesus was born in a manger.
- Angels appeared to shepherds.
- A star marked the place of his birth and lead the wise men to him.
- Jesus was wrapped in swaddling cloths.
- The wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh (Matthew 2:11).

**CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

Take time at the end of class to thank God for what you learned today. Include parts of your Bible lesson in your prayer as a way for the children to remember today's lesson.

LESSON 2 - THE BIRTH OF JESUS

