





# The **BIBLE** Story

## Jesus Was Born

*Luke 2*

Mary and Joseph lived in the town of Nazareth. During the time Mary was pregnant, the Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus, announced that everyone needed to be registered for a census.

Since Joseph was a descendant of King David, he and Mary traveled to Bethlehem, the city of David.

While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. Mary and Joseph looked for a safe place to stay, but every place was full. So Mary and Joseph found a place where animals were kept, and that is where Mary had her baby. Joseph named Him Jesus. Mary wrapped the baby tightly in cloth and laid Him in a feeding trough.

That night, some shepherds were watching over their sheep in the fields near Bethlehem. Suddenly, an angel stood before them and the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified! The angel said, "Don't be afraid! I have very good news for you and for all the people: Today a

Savior, who is the Messiah and the Lord, was born for you in the city of David." Then the angel said, "You will find a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger."

Suddenly, a whole army of angels appeared, praising God and

saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors!"

When the angels left and returned to heaven, the shepherds decided to go see if the angel's words were true. They hurried to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in the feeding trough. Then the shepherds went and told others about the baby Jesus. Everyone who heard about Jesus was surprised and amazed. Mary thought about everything that was happening and tried to understand it. The shepherds returned to their fields, praising God because everything had happened just as the angel said.

*Christ Connection: The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus was not an ordinary baby. He is God's Son, sent to earth from heaven. Jesus, the promised Savior, came into the world to deliver us from sin and death.*

### Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use props:** As you tell the story, display a nativity scene. Allow kids to move the pieces around as you tell the story.
- **Adjust lighting:** Dim the lights to simulate a nighttime setting. Shine a bright light when describing the angel's appearance.





## Big Picture Question

# Is Jesus God or a human?

As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

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## Extra Activities

Gather the kids together and instruct them to stand up. Challenge them to sit down when they think exactly one minute has elapsed. Use a stopwatch and keep track of who sits closest to a minute without going over. Play additional rounds using different lengths of time.

**SAY** • In that game, we didn't know exactly when a minute would be up, but we had the ability to count seconds to try and come close. Waiting for something can be especially hard if you don't know when it will happen.

Imagine God's people, who had been waiting for thousands of years. They did not know exactly when the Messiah would come, but they knew God would be faithful. When Jesus was born, it was somewhat unexpected. If it hadn't been for the angels proclaiming the news to shepherds, only Mary and Joseph would have even known the Messiah was there! But all that waiting was worth it when **Jesus was born to be God's promised Savior.**

## Key Passage

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

John 1:1-2

Key Passage (NIV) • A6 • Unit 19 • © 2019 LifeWay OK to Print

Form two teams of kids. Give each team a piece of paper and a pencil. Instruct a player on each team to write the word *CHRISTMAS* vertically down the left side of the paper, one letter per line. On the right side of the paper, she should write it in the opposite way, starting at the bottom and writing up (one letter per line).

Challenge teams to fill in between the letters to create new words. (Examples: CowS, HulA, RooM, InpuT, SeaS, TikI, MotoR, ArcH, SoniC) If teams get stuck as time runs out, allow kids to consult a dictionary.

**SAY** • What are some things you think of when you hear the word Christmas? [*Call on kids to share.*] Great answers. When we hear our Bible story today, see if you notice some of the words that were mentioned.



## Review Opener

**SAY** • Jesus' birth was good news! Jesus wasn't born into the world to just show people the right way to live or be kind to people; **Jesus was born to be God's promised Savior.** A *savior* is someone who saves from danger or destruction. Jesus was born to rescue sinners from sin and death.

## Review Closer

### **Journal and prayer (5 minutes)**

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas. Then pray, thanking God for the greatest gift—His Son.

## Questions for Younger Kids

1. Why did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem? (*to be registered in the census, Luke 2:1-5*)
2. Why was Jesus laid in a manger? (*There was no guest room available, Luke 2:7*)
3. Who were Jesus' first visitors? (*shepherds, Luke 2:8,16*)
4. Why is Jesus' birth so incredible? *Guide kids to discuss both the unusual circumstances of Jesus' arrival—such as the angel choirs proclaiming His birth—and the miraculous nature of Jesus' full divinity being wrapped in full humanity. Remind kids that Jesus the Messiah had been promised to come for thousands of years, and God is faithful.*
5. Why is it important that Jesus came as a human baby? *Help kids understand that God's plan to destroy sin required a perfect sacrifice. Jesus' birth as a human meant that He could grow up and lay down His life for us. He could live the perfect human life we are unable to live and die the kind of death we deserve. Jesus' full humanity is why He could die to save humans.*
6. Why is it important that Jesus remained God? *Explain that Jesus' nature as fully God is what allowed Him to bear the weight of God's punishment for sin in a human body. The complete power of God in Jesus also gave Him the power to reject temptation and live a perfectly sinless life.*

**SAY** • **Jesus was born to be God's promised Savior.** He was born fully human and did not stop being fully God. Jesus is the only Savior; no one is like Him. Jesus grew up, never sinned, and died for our sin. On the third day, He rose again to defeat sin and death.

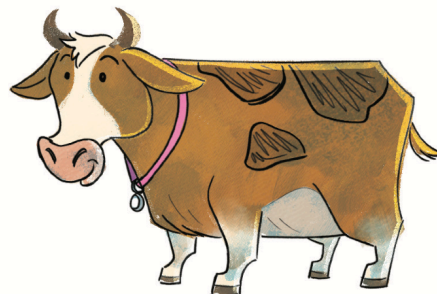
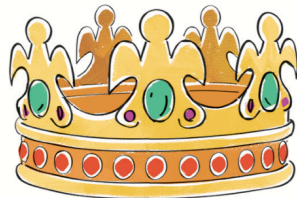
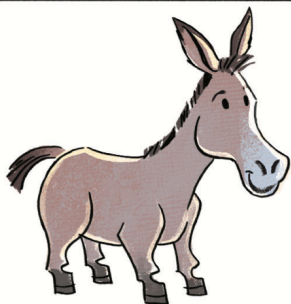
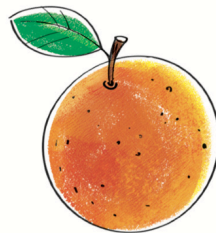
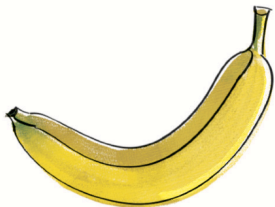
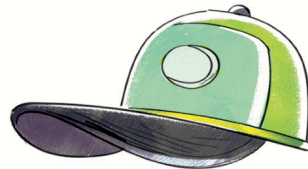
## Questions for Older Kids

1. Why do you think Jesus was born in such a humble way rather than in a palace to a wealthy family? *Guide kids to consider how Jesus can relate to ordinary people because of His upbringing. He gave up His glory and power in heaven to live humbly among people. Jesus birth reflects how His kingdom's values differ from the world's values. We can boldly and humbly approach His throne in prayer.*  
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 4:15-16.)
2. Why was Jesus' birth good news? *Help kids understand that Jesus came because we needed Him. God showed His love for us by sending His Son into the world. We were separated from God because of our sins, but God was working out His promise to rescue sinners through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.*  
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 3:16.)
3. Why should we tell others about Jesus? *Lead kids to recognize that salvation through Jesus bring the privilege and responsibility of sharing the gospel with the world. God calls us to live as witnesses to the saving power of Jesus—in what we say and how we live.*  
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 66:16.)



# Not Like Others

**INSTRUCTIONS:** In each triplet, circle the item that doesn't belong.



Younger Kids Activity Pages  
**Unit 19 • Session 3**  
**Jesus Was Born**

**BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:**

- Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem to be counted.
- There was no guest room available, so they stayed where animals are kept.
- Jesus was born to be God's promised Savior.

**KEY PASSAGE:** John 1:1-2

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

- Is Jesus God or a human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

**FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:**

- Why do you think God sent Jesus to ordinary people, instead of someone wealthy or powerful?
- How do you feel when you think about Jesus coming to earth as a human baby?
- Why is Jesus' birth so important?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:**

- Plan a day to celebrate Christmas, regardless of the time of year. Pick one or two of your family's favorite traditions and do them together. Talk about the true meaning of Christmas and why we can celebrate it all year.



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**LIFEWAY KIDS APP**







# Journal Page



- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

## FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS

- Why do you think God planned for His Son to be born in a stable?
- Have you ever felt God calling you to do something? What did you do?
- How can you show God's love to others?

## Jesus Was Born

Luke 2

### STORY POINT: JESUS WAS BORN TO BE GOD'S PROMISED SAVIOR.

Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth. During the time Mary was pregnant, the Roman emperor announced that everyone needed to be registered. Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem.

While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. Mary and Joseph looked for a safe place to stay, but every place was full. So Mary and Joseph found a place where animals were kept, and that is where Mary had her baby. Joseph named Him Jesus.

That night, some shepherds were watching over their sheep in the fields near Bethlehem. Suddenly, an angel stood before them and the glory of the Lord shone around them. The angel said, "I have very good news for you and for all the people: Today a Savior, who is the Messiah and the Lord, was born for you in the city of David." Then the angel said, "You will find a baby wrapped tightly in cloth and lying in a manger."

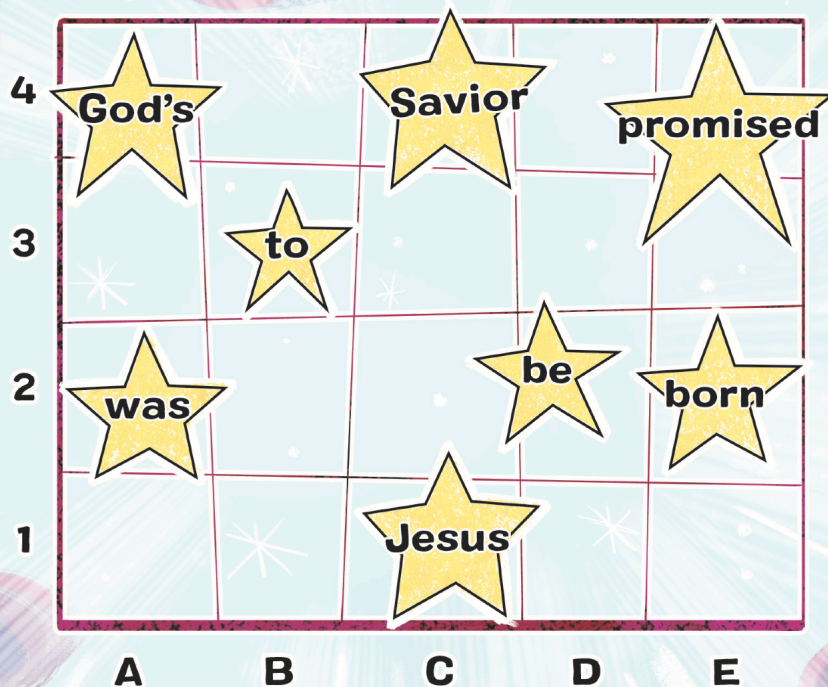
Suddenly, a whole army of angels appeared, praising God. The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in the feeding trough. Then the shepherds went and told others about the baby Jesus. The shepherds returned to their fields, praising God because everything had happened just as the angel said.

*Christ Connection: The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus was not an ordinary baby. He is God's Son, sent to earth from heaven. Jesus, the promised Savior, came into the world to deliver us from sin and death.*



FOLD





## Story Stars

Find the word for each coordinate to write out the story point for today's Bible story.

C1

A2

E2

B3

D2

A4

E4

C4

## True or False?

Mark whether each statement is true or false. If the statement is false, make it right by replacing the underlined word.

- True False 1.** Mary and Joseph lived in the town of Nazareth. They traveled to Bethlehem for a census.
- True False 2.** Mary had her baby, and Joseph named the baby David.
- True False 3.** That night, an angel appeared to some shepherds in their fields.
- True False 4.** The angel said, "Don't be angry! I have very good news for you and for all the people: Today a Savior, who is the Messiah and the Lord, was born for you in the city of David."
- True False 5.** Suddenly, a whole army of soldiers appeared, praising God.
- True False 6.** When the angels left, the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and found the baby laying in a feeding trough.
- True False 7.** Everyone who heard about Jesus was surprised and amazed.
- True False 8.** The shepherds returned to their fields, worried because everything had happened just as the angel said.