



DECEMBER 24, 2024

# JESUS WAS BORN

ISAIAH 9; LUKE 2

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus was born to bring peace between us and God.

## BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us.

## MEMORY VERSE

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son... Galatians 4:4



## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

From the moment sin entered the world, its consequences were obvious. God's people were separated from Him; they did not enjoy the intimate relationship with their Creator for which He had created them. People were affected by sickness and pain. Corruption spread quickly throughout the earth. The situation seemed hopeless, yet God did not leave His people without hope.

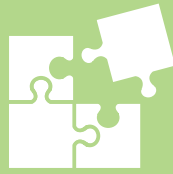
It was into this hopelessness that God spoke. Hundreds of messages came through the prophets concerning a coming Messiah — One who would rescue people from their sins. But when would this Promised One come? How would He come? Would the people recognize him?

The prophet Isaiah — who lived hundreds of years before Jesus was born — spoke specifically of the Messiah's birth. Isaiah told King Ahaz what the Lord would do. "The virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14) He described the birth of a Prince of Peace — a Son of David who will reign forever. (Isaiah 9:6-7) Isaiah said that He would be a King! (Isaiah 11:1-5)

Everything God said about Jesus' birth came true. Hundreds of years later, Jesus was born into the world. 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 humblest of positions, not "to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:28)

God's plan to rescue people from sin was not a secret plan. God gave His people hope: A Savior is coming. Though death came through Adam, life comes through Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:22) Through His death on the cross, Jesus finished the work for our salvation. In Him lies our hope of forgiveness and eternal life. Jesus, the Prince of Peace, reconciles to God everyone who trusts in Him.

# OPENING & ACTIVITIES



Connect with children through games and activities

## WELCOME

Play music in the background as you greet children coming into the classroom. Help them transition in and feel welcome as they play games and interact with others.

## ACTIVITY: SING A SONG

Gather children and sing the song below to the tune of “When the Saints Go Marching In”:

“But when the fullness,  
But when the fullness,  
But when the fullness of time had come,  
God sent forth His Son.  
Galatians 4:4.”

## CONNECT THE DOTS



Our memory verse phrase says, “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son.” God sent His own Son, Jesus, to be our Rescuer. Jesus brings peace between God and people. Our memory verse — Galatians 4:4 — is fulfilled in the birth of Jesus!

## CRAFT: PAPER NATIVITY



*Supplies: crayons/markers, nativity paper template, glue/tape*

Using the provided supplies and the picture to the left, help children assemble their paper nativity scene.

As children work, tell or retell the Bible story, and remind children God sent His own Son to be our Rescuer. People waited a long time for Jesus to be born. Jesus was born to bring peace between us and God.



## JESUS WAS BORN

When Adam and Eve first sinned, the peaceful relationship between people and God was broken. But God promised to send a Rescuer. Many years later, Isaiah the prophet said, “A son will be given to us! He will be called the Prince of Peace.” Isaiah said the Prince of Peace would be from Galilee. God chose to send His Son, Jesus, to earth as a baby, and He chose Mary to be Jesus’ mother.

When Mary was pregnant with Jesus, a man named Caesar Augustus sent out an order to all the people in the land: “Everyone must go to his hometown to be counted!” Caesar Augustus was the emperor of Rome, and he wanted a list of all the people who were living in the land.

Mary was going to marry Joseph. Since Joseph was part of King David’s family, he and Mary left Nazareth in Galilee and traveled to Bethlehem, the city of David.

While they were there, Mary was ready to have her baby. Mary and Joseph looked for a safe place to stay, but every place was full because of all the people who were in town to be counted. So, Mary and Joseph found a place where animals were kept, and that is where Mary had her baby — Jesus! She wrapped Him tightly in cloth so He would be warm, and she laid Him in a manger.

Nearby, some shepherds were staying out in the fields and watching their sheep to protect them from thieves and wild animals. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord stood before them. A bright light shone around the shepherds, and they were scared!

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid! I have good news for you: Today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David.” Then the angel said, “Go find the baby. He will be wrapped in cloth and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly, many angels appeared. They praised God and said, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors!”

So the shepherds went straight to Bethlehem to find Jesus. They found Him and told others about Him. Everyone who heard about Jesus was surprised and amazed. The shepherds returned to their fields, praising God because everything had happened just as the angel had said.

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus was born! This was very good news! Jesus is God’s Son. **Jesus was born to bring peace between us and God.**

# SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning

## SNACK & DISCUSSION

**Wash hands or use hand sanitizer. Serve a snack. Show children the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions and retell parts of the Bible story as needed.**

1. Where did Mary put baby Jesus?
2. Who heard the news that a Savior was born?
3. Who told the shepherds this good news?
4. Why was Jesus born? *Jesus was born to rescue us.*

## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Pick up toys and games from around the room and put them away. After the room is cleaned up, set out markers or crayons and let children work on today's Bible story coloring page or activity page until their parents arrive.

You can also choose a book to read to children as they work or for those who don't want to work. Please make the effort to have children quietly engaged in the last few minutes of the service. When parents arrive to pick up their child, share about something their child enjoyed doing or did well today.

## BEFORE YOU GO...

**Please clean up by doing the following:**

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant
2. Spot sweep if needed
3. Return toys to closet, close door
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room
5. Return storage cubes to Room 108

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!**