

UNIT 1: GOD SENT JESUS

Session 3: Jesus Was Born

BIBLE PASSAGE

Luke 2:1-20

LIFE POINT

Jesus was born as God promised.

CHRIST FOCUS

Jesus was born.

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

God sent Jesus to earth.

SUGGESTED USE DATE: December 18**BIBLE VERSE**God sent His only Son, Jesus.
1 John 4:9 (*Paraphrase*)God sent his one and only Son into
the world. 1 John 4:9 (*CSB*)God sent his only begotten Son into
the world. 1 John 4:9 (*KJV*)[God] sent his one and only Son into
the world. 1 John 4:9 (*NIV*)God sent his only Son into the world.
1 John 4:9 (*ESV*)God has sent His only begotten Son
into the world. 1 John 4:9 (*NKJV*)**SCHEDULE AND PROPS****Huddle Ups** (*optional; time varies*)
Supplies (*for each small group*):

- “Guess the Item”—pillowcase; baby items (*such as a diaper, bottle, small blanket, shoes, clothes, pacifier, rattles, baby toys, and so on*)
- “Jesus Was Born”—crayons, coloring sheets (*1 per child*)
- “Pass the Baby Doll”—baby doll, small blanket, portable music device

Countdown Video (*3 minutes*)
Props: none**Worship Song** (*3 minutes*)
Props: none**Welcome and Prayer** (*5 minutes*)
Props: none**Connection Point Game**
(*10 minutes*)
Props: painter’s tape, 6 candy canes, 30 large pom-poms
(*2 colors; 15 of each color*)**Worship Song** (*3 minutes*)
Props: none**Bible Story** (*10 minutes*)
Props: Bible, 2 candy canes**Worship Song and Offering**
(*3 minutes*)
Props: none**Connection Point Bible Verse**
(*5-8 minutes*)
Props: none**Connection Point Missions**
(*5-8 minutes*)
Props: none**Real Life Connections**
(*3-5 minutes*)
Props: child safe manger scene
(*no wise men*)**MUSIC AND MEDIA**

- **Countdown:**
Countdown video
- **Worship Song:**
“Born in Bethlehem”
- **Welcome and Prayer:**
Life Point and Bible Verse slides
- **Connection Point Game:**
Connection Point Game slide
- **Worship Song:**
“Let Us Adore Him”
- **Bible Story:**
Bible Story and Christ Focus slides; Bible Story Time video (optional)
- **Worship Song and Offering:**
Worship song of your choice
- **Connection Point Bible Verse:**
Connection Point Bible Verse and Bible Verse slides; Upbeat Christmas song of your choice
- **Connection Point Missions:**
Connection Point Missions and Connect to Missions slides; “Show Me Your God” missions video
- **Real Life Connections:**
Real Life Connections and Life Point slides

Huddle Ups (Optional)

Huddle Ups are for churches that have a drop-off time before the session begins or a pick-up time as parents arrive at the end of the session. It's a great time for interaction with a small group leader through games, conversations, or review questions. Play the countdown video to signal the end of Huddle Ups and the beginning of the session.

- ➡ Estimated time: varies according to schedule
- ➡ Tech: none
- ➡ People: Small Group Leaders
- ➡ Supplies (for each small group):
 - “Guess the Item”—pillowcase; baby items (such as a diaper, bottle, small blanket, shoes, clothes, pacifier, rattles, baby toys, and so on)
 - “Jesus Was Born”—crayons, coloring sheets (1 per child)
 - “Pass the Baby Doll”—baby doll, small blanket, portable music device

Huddle Up (Before the Session)**“GUESS THE ITEM”**

Prep: Place the baby items inside the pillowcase.

- Invite a preschooler to reach into the pillowcase and feel for an item.
- Challenge her to identify the item before pulling it out of the pillowcase.
- Let the child show the item to the other children.
- Comment on how someone uses the item to care for a baby. For example, say: “The baby blanket can keep a baby cozy and warm.”
- Continue until preschoolers identify all of the items or as your time allows.
- Mention that preschoolers will hear a Bible story about the birth of a special baby.

Huddle Up (Before or After the Session)**“JESUS WAS BORN”**

Prep: Print this session's coloring sheet (available on the DVD-ROM).

- Tell kids that Jesus was born in a place where animals were kept. Mary did not have a bed for Jesus, so He slept in a manger. A *manger* is the place where people put food for their animals.
- Distribute crayons and coloring sheets.
- Invite preschoolers to color on their pages.

Huddle Up (After the Session)**“PASS THE BABY DOLL”**

Prep: Wrap a doll tightly in a blanket. Prepare to play familiar Christmas carols.

- Review the Life Point: **Jesus was born as God promised.**
- Remind preschoolers that God always does what He says. God promised to send Jesus, and God kept His promise. God sent Jesus to earth!
- Lead preschoolers to sit in a circle.
- Play Christmas carols as the children carefully pass the baby doll around the circle.
- Stop the music at random intervals.
- Invite the child holding the doll to tell one thing that happened in today's Bible story.
- Restart the music and begin passing the doll again.
- Suggest that preschoolers tell the Bible story to their families.

Countdown Video

- ➡ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➡ Tech: *Countdown* video
- ➡ People: none
- ➡ Props: none

(Play countdown video to signal the beginning of worship time. Kids will count aloud as they join the large group.)

WORSHIP SONG

- ➔ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➔ Tech: Music video, mics for vocalists, lights *(optional)*
- ➔ Music: “Born in Bethlehem” (*lead sheet available on DVD-ROM*) or download a worship song of your choice
- ➔ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➔ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

Merry Christmas! We are so glad you are here today. Singing songs about Jesus is an important part of celebrating Christmas. Stand with me as we worship God by singing.

(Show the music video.)

(Kids stand to sing.)

WELCOME AND PRAYER

- ➔ Estimated time: 5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Life Point* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➔ People: Bible Story Leader
- ➔ Props: none

BIBLE STORY LEADER

Hi! I’m glad you’re here today. Are you excited for Christmas Day? *(Allow for responses.)* It’s hard to wait, isn’t it? It’s fun to celebrate Jesus at Christmas.

Later, we will hear a Bible story about the birth of a special baby. An angel told Mary that she would have a special baby boy, and she should name Him Jesus. Mary had waited and waited for Jesus to be born. Now, it was finally time!

(Show Life Point slide.)

Jesus was born as God promised. Say that with me: **“Jesus was born as God promised.”**

Today’s Bible verse says that God sent His Son, Jesus. Listen as I say the verse, and then we will say it together.

(Show Bible Verse slide—select preferred version.)

(Say the verse. Lead kids to repeat it after you.)

BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):

- God sent His only Son, Jesus.
1 John 4:9 (*Paraphrase*)
- God sent his one and only Son into the world.
1 John 4:9 (*CSB*)
- God sent his only begotten Son into the world.
1 John 4:9 (*KJV*)
- [God] sent his one and only Son into the world.
1 John 4:9 (*NIV*)
- God sent his only Son into the world.
1 John 4:9 (*ESV*)
- God has sent His only begotten Son into the world.
1 John 4:9 (*NKJV*)

God promised to send Jesus, and He did! God chose Mary to be Jesus’ mother. She obeyed God and named the baby *Jesus*. Let’s pray and thank God for sending Jesus.

God, we thank You for keeping Your promise and sending Baby Jesus. We love to learn about Jesus and are happy to celebrate His birth! We love You. In Jesus’ name we pray, amen.

CONNECTION POINT GAME

- ➔ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Connection Point Game* slide
- ➔ People: Connection Point Leader, 6 kids
- ➔ Props: painter’s tape, 6 candy canes, 30 large pom-poms (*2 colors; 15 of each color*)

GAME INSTRUCTIONS:

- Tape two 15-by-15-inch squares on the floor, 1 on each side of the game area.
- Scatter all of the pom-poms on the floor between the squares.
- Choose 6 kids.
- Form 2 teams.
- Give each player a candy cane. *(Keep the wrapping on the candy canes.)*

- Assign each team a pom-pom color and a square.
- Tell players to use their candy canes to push each pom-pom into their team's square.
- Explain that players may only move 1 pom-pom at a time.
- Play until teams collect all of the pom-poms.
- Name the first team to finish as the winner.
- **Leader note for younger preschoolers:**
Use colored tape that matches your pom-pom colors to help preschoolers easily identify their team's square.

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(Show Connection Point Game slide.)

Let's pretend that all of these pom-poms are sheep. Have you ever seen (*pom-pom color 1*) and (*pom-pom color 2*) sheep? That's OK. We can still have fun pretending! Who would like to play? (*Choose six kids. Form two teams. Give each player a candy cane. Assign each team a pom-pom color.*)

Players, you will use your candy canes to push all of the sheep into their sheep pens. The (*color 1*) team will use their candy canes to push all of the (*color 1*) sheep into their sheep pen. The (*color 2*) team will push all of the (*color 2*) sheep into their team's sheep pen. You may not touch the sheep with your hands, and you may only move one sheep at a time. The first team to move all of its sheep will win.

Does everyone know what to do? (*Answer any questions and play the game.*)

Wow! You did a great job moving all of the sheep! Way to go!

Later, we will hear a Bible story about the night when Jesus was born. An angel visited shepherds who were taking care of sheep in a nearby field. The angel told the shepherds the good news that Jesus was born! Let's sing, and then we will hear what else happened when Jesus was born.

WORSHIP SONG

- ➡ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➡ Tech: Music video, mics for singers, lights (*optional*)
- ➡ Music: "Let Us Adore Him" (*lead sheet available on DVD-ROM*) or download a worship song of your choice
- ➡ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➡ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

Singing about Jesus' birth helps us celebrate Christmas! We show God that we love Him and are thankful when we sing songs about Jesus.

Everyone, stand and sing with me before we hear today's Bible story.

(Show the music video.)

(Lead kids to sit as song ends.)

BIBLE STORY

- ➡ Estimated time: 10 minutes
- ➡ Tech: *Christ Focus*, and *Bible Story* slides; *Bible Story Time* video (*optional*)
- ➡ People: Bible Story Leader
- ➡ Props: Bible, 2 candy canes

Option 1: Show the *Bible Story Time* video and conclude with a short prayer.

God, thank You for sending Jesus! Thank You for choosing a family for Him. Thank You that we can learn about Jesus at church. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

Option 2: Tell the following Bible story.

BIBLE STORY LEADER

(Show Bible Story slide.)

(Show a candy cane.) Do you like to eat candy canes at Christmastime? (*Allow for responses.*) I do, too! Some people like to hang candy canes on Christmas trees or tie them on gifts. Sometimes people crush candy canes and use the pieces to make cookies!

What happens if I turn my candy cane upside down? *(Turn the candy cane so it forms a letter J. Make sure the letter is turned the correct way for preschoolers to identify it.)* What letter do you see? *(Allow kids to respond.)* Good job! It's the letter *J*!

I'm thinking of a very special baby whose name begins with the letter *J*. This baby is special because He is God's Son. Do you know His name? *(Allow for responses.)* Yes! The baby's name is Jesus! Let's hear about the day when Baby Jesus was born.

(Open the Bible to Luke 2.)

Mary and Joseph waited for Baby Jesus to be born. It wouldn't be much longer! It was almost time!

While Mary and Joseph waited, a ruler named Caesar Augustus decided to count all of the people in his kingdom. Because Joseph's family was from Bethlehem, he needed to go there to be counted.

Mary and Joseph left Nazareth and traveled to Bethlehem. It was a very long way! When Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem, they had a problem. There were no rooms where they could rest and sleep!

Mary and Joseph had to stay in the place where animals were kept. While they were there the time came for Jesus to be born.

(Read Luke 2:7.)

Then she gave birth to her firstborn son, and she wrapped him tightly in cloth and laid him in a manger.

Jesus was born! Mary did not have a bed to put her baby, so she wrapped Jesus in cloths and laid Him in a manger. A *manger* is the place where people put food for their animals.

Nearby, shepherds were in the fields, caring for their sheep. Suddenly, the men saw an angel, and they were afraid! The angel told them, "Don't be afraid. I have good news."

The angel told the shepherds that Jesus, God's Son, had been born in Bethlehem. Soon, the sky was filled with angels, praising God!

The shepherds were excited! They said to one another, "Come on! Let's go to Bethlehem and see what's happened!"

(Read Luke 2:16.)

They hurried off and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the manger.

The shepherds told everyone what the angel had said about Jesus. The people who heard the good news were amazed! Then the shepherds went back to their fields, praising God for everything they had seen and heard.

(Close Bible.)

(Show Christ Focus slide.)

Jesus was born! A long, long time before Jesus was born, God had promised that He would send His Son. God kept His promise to send Jesus! Everything happened just as God said it would.

(Pick up the candy cane, holding it to make a letter J.) I can turn my candy cane upside down to make the letter *J*. It can remind me that Jesus was born because *Jesus* begins with *J*.

I have another idea. *(Hold both candy canes together so they form a heart shape.)* If I use two candy canes, I can make a heart shape! The heart helps me remember that God loves me! God loves you, too! God loves you so much that He sent His Son, Jesus.

I hope you have a wonderful time celebrating Jesus this Christmas. If you have some candy canes, you can tell others that *(show the heart shape)* God loves them, *(show letter J)* and He sent Jesus! Let's pray and thank God for sending Jesus.

God, thank You for sending Jesus! Thank You for choosing a family for Him. Thank You that we can learn about Jesus at church. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

WORSHIP SONG AND OFFERING

- ➡ Estimated time: 3 minutes
- ➡ Tech: mics for singers, lights *(optional)*
- ➡ Music: Use a favorite song or download a worship song of your choice.
- ➡ People: Worship Leader and/or Worship Team
- ➡ Props: none

WORSHIP LEADER

God planned for Mary and Joseph to care for Baby Jesus. Mary and Joseph didn't have a fancy crib and lots of clothes for Jesus when He was born. Instead, they wrapped Baby Jesus in clean cloth and laid Him in a manger.

Who else saw Jesus the night He was born? (*Allow for responses.*) Shepherds saw Jesus! An angel told the shepherds that Jesus had been born in Bethlehem! The shepherds hurried to see Baby Jesus and told other people about Him.

Optional Giving Segment:

It's time to give an offering. Some of the money that people give helps our church tell others the good news that Jesus was born. If you would like to give an offering today, ...

(*Give your own directions for how the kids can give their offerings. After collecting the offering, guide kids to stand for the worship song.*)

CONNECTION POINT BIBLE VERSE

- ➡ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➡ Tech: *Connection Point Bible Verse* and *Bible Verse* slides
- ➡ Music: Use a favorite upbeat Christmas song
- ➡ People: Connection Point Leader, all kids
- ➡ Props: none

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- *Select your preferred version of the Bible verse.*
- *Say the verse and lead kids to repeat it after you.*
- *Play a favorite upbeat Christmas song.*
- *Lead preschoolers to sing and move to the music.*
- *Randomly stop the music.*
- *Instruct preschoolers to "freeze."*
- *Lead preschoolers to say aloud the verse.*
- *Restart the music and play again as time allows.*

BIBLE VERSE (SELECT PREFERRED VERSION):

- God sent His only Son, Jesus.
1 John 4:9 (*Paraphrase*)
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1 John 4:9 (*ESV*)
- God has sent His only begotten Son into the world.
1 John 4:9 (*NKJV*)

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(*Show Connection Point Bible Verse slide.*)

It's time to say our Bible verse! Listen as I say the verse, and then we will say it together.

(*Show Bible Verse slide—select preferred version.*)

(*Say the verse. Lead kids to repeat it after you.*)

Christmas is a fun time to celebrate that Jesus was born. What are some ways that your family celebrates Christmas? (*Allow for responses.*)

One way that we can celebrate Christmas is to sing songs about Jesus! Let's sing and move to the music. When the music stops, everyone must stop and stand very still. After we say the Bible verse, we will start the music again.

(*Lead the activity.*)

CONNECTION POINT MISSIONS

- ➡ Estimated time: 5-8 minutes
- ➡ Tech: *Connection Point Missions* and *Connect to Missions* slides; "Show Me Your God" missions video
- ➡ People: Connection Point Leader
- ➡ Props: none

CONNECTION POINT LEADER

(*Show Connection Point Missions slide.*)

God sent Shahid and Maroofa Kamal to start the South Asian Community Church in Vancouver. Many South Asians come to the church to ask for prayer. The church prays for the people and tells them about Jesus. Let's watch a video to see more about the South Asian Community Church.

(Show the missions video: "Show Me Your God.")

(Show the "Connect to Missions" slide.)

The people at the church want to show others that they love God. *(Direct attention to the photo on the Connect to Missions slide.)* We can pray for boys and girls who don't know about Jesus. Pray for the Kamal family and the members of the South Asian Community Church as they tell people about the one true God.

God, we pray for the Kamals. Thank You for their work at the South Asian Community Church. We pray that boys and girls and their families will hear that Jesus loves them. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

REAL LIFE CONNECTIONS

- ➔ Estimated time: 3-5 minutes
- ➔ Tech: *Real Life Connections* and *Life Point* slides
- ➔ People: Bible Story Leader
- ➔ Props: child safe manger scene *(no wise men)*

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

- *Choose a child and give him the Mary figurine.*
- *Guide the child to name Mary and tell something he remembers about her, such as "Mary was Jesus' mother."*
- *Invite the child to place the Mary figurine where the other children can see it.*
- *Allow other preschoolers to tell additional facts that they know about Mary.*
- *Choose another child and give her a piece of the manger scene.*
- *Continue in like manner, briefly reviewing each person's role in the Christmas story.*
- *Lead preschoolers to place Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, shepherds, and sheep to create the manger scene.*

BIBLE STORY LEADER

(Show Real Life Connections slide.)

Today we heard very good news. Jesus was born! Jesus is the reason we celebrate Christmas!

I have a manger scene with me. A manger scene has little statues of each person in our Bible story. These pieces are just toys *(or decorations)*, but we know that the people in the Bible story were real. The things in the story really happened. Let's use the pieces of the manger scene to help us remember what we've heard today.

(Lead the activity.)

(Show Life Point Slide.)

Jesus was born as God promised. Say that with me: **"Jesus was born as God promised."**

If you have a manger scene at home, it can help you remember today's Bible story. You can tell your family and friends that God chose Mary and Joseph to be Jesus' parents. You can tell them that Jesus was born just as God promised!

Merry Christmas, everyone! It was fun worshiping with you today. I look forward to seeing all of you again next time.

Leader note: *If you plan to utilize the after-session Huddle Up, dismiss kids to their small groups.*