



*Use Week of:*

## Christmas • Session 2

# Angels Spoke to Mary and Joseph

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Matthew 1; Luke 1

**STORY POINT:** Jesus was born.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Galatians 4:4

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** Jesus came to do God's plan to rescue us.

### Bible Story for Toddlers

God promised long ago that He would send a special King. At just the right time, God sent an angel to a girl named Mary. The angel told Mary that she was going to have a baby boy—God's Son. Mary was surprised, but she believed God's words. Mary was going to marry Joseph. Joseph found out Mary was going to have a baby. He was confused. Joseph did not know what to do! An angel told Joseph in a dream that Mary's baby was God's very own Son. Joseph would name Him Jesus because He would rescue His people. Joseph believed God's words. When he woke up, Joseph obeyed God.

### Babies Gospel Gems

- \* God promised to send Jesus to earth.
- \* God chose Mary and Joseph to be Jesus' family.
- \* Jesus is God's Son.

Additional resources are available at [gospelproject.com](http://gospelproject.com).

For free training and session-by-session help, visit <http://www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject>.

# BABIES Activities

## Look in the Bible

Provide hand-size Bibles for babies to handle. Open your Bible to Luke 1. Show the Bible story picture as you say the Gospel Gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage card.

**SAY:** God promised to send Jesus to earth long ago. Jesus is God's Son, and God gave Him a family on earth. God chose Mary and Joseph to be Jesus' family. **JESUS WAS BORN.** [*Pray for the babies.*]

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## Sing a Bible story song

Sing to the tune of "Jingle Bells":

"Jesus is, Jesus is, Jesus is God's Son!  
God sent Jesus to be born  
Because He loves us so!"

**SAY:** God promised to send Jesus to earth. Jesus is God's Son, and God chose Mary and Joseph to be Jesus' family. Jesus came to do God's plan to rescue us. **JESUS WAS BORN!**

## Mary and Joseph hide-and-seek

Print the Bible story picture and cut out Mary and Joseph's faces. Cover them with clear contact plastic and trim the excess. Tape the pictures to the floor in front of the babies and cover the images with a blanket. Invite the babies to find Mary and Joseph.

**SAY:** God chose Mary and Joseph to be Jesus' family, but Jesus is God's Son. God promised to send Jesus to earth, and **JESUS WAS BORN!**

## Look at animal families

Provide picture books or an electronic device displaying familiar animals and their babies. Talk about how God gives us families too.

**SAY:** God promised to send Jesus to earth. **JESUS WAS BORN** as a baby. God chose Mary and Joseph to be Jesus' family. Jesus is God's Son.

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church's security guidelines. Give parents today's big picture card. Repeat the Gospel Gems and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.

# TODDLER Activities

## Circle time (5 minutes)

Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle. Say the Bible is God's words. Read the key passage card and guide toddlers to say it. Open your Bible to Luke 1. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the Bible story. Say the Story Point and Gospel Gems. Pray for the toddlers.

## Make a megaphone

Invite each toddler to decorate construction paper with stickers. Write the Story Point or Christ Connection on their paper. Roll the paper into a horn shape and tape it. Invite toddlers to speak the Story Point into their megaphones.

**SAY:** God promised to send Jesus to earth. Angels said God chose Mary and Joseph to be Jesus' family. Jesus is God's Son. **JESUS WAS BORN!**

## Listen and obey

Invite toddlers to stand up. Say "Follow me!" and invite them to follow you as you march. Say "Stop!" and invite them to stop. Praise the children for listening and obeying.

**SAY:** Jesus is God's Son, and God chose Mary and Joseph to be Jesus' family. They heard God's words and obeyed them. Jesus came to do God's plan to rescue us. **JESUS WAS BORN!**

## Read about God's plan

Provide the "God Sent Jesus Book" printable and read it to the toddlers. Point out previous Bible stories. Remind toddlers that God sent Jesus because He loves us.

**SAY:** God promised to send Jesus to earth. God chose Mary and Joseph to be Jesus' family. Jesus is God's Son. **JESUS WAS BORN** like God promised.

## Explore with magnets

Place jingle bells in a clear plastic bottle and seal it with duct tape. Provide a magnetic wand or stick an adhesive magnet to a craft stick and seal it with tape. Show toddlers how the magnet attracts the bells. Supervise closely to make sure toddlers do not ingest magnets.

**SAY:** When you hear jingle bells at Christmas, remember that **JESUS WAS BORN.**

# BONUS Teaching Hour

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## Transition activity: Finger paint tree

Before class, cut triangles from green construction paper. Post an allergy alert. Provide painting smocks to protect clothing. Pour washable glitter finger paint onto foam plates for toddlers to dab one finger at a time into the paint and then onto the tree shape. Wipe hands immediately. Write the Story Point on each child's art.

**SAY:** What does this look like? [*Invite toddlers to respond.*] A Christmas tree! God promised to send Jesus to earth. At Christmas, we celebrate that **JESUS WAS BORN**. Jesus came to do God's plan to rescue us.

## Tell the good news

Invite toddlers to stand in a circle with you. Lead toddlers to shout the Story Point with you. Crouch down and invite toddlers to whisper the Story Point with you. Repeat several times.

**SAY:** God promised to send Jesus to earth. Jesus is God's Son, and God chose Mary and Joseph to be Jesus' family. **JESUS WAS BORN!**

## Care for babies

Provide vinyl baby dolls, blankets, and bottles for toddlers to play out caring for a baby. Talk about how families care for babies.

**SAY:** God chose Mary and Joseph to be Jesus' family. Jesus came to do God's plan to rescue us. **JESUS WAS BORN**, and we celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas.

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church's security procedures. Give parents today's big picture card to reinforce today's Bible story, Christ Connection, Story Point, or Gospel Gems throughout the week.