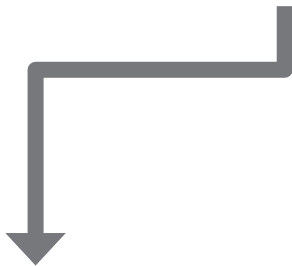




Babies & Toddlers at a Glance

TIP

Babies and toddlers will handle Bibles in each session. Keep hand-size Bibles in a basket or special bag for use each week.



BEFORE THE SESSION

1. Read the Bible story and the activity suggestions.
2. Choose activities that fit your group of babies or toddlers and gather the highlighted supplies.
3. Print any printables for the session, including the key passage cards, Bible story picture, and allergy alert.
4. Prepare the *Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers* to give to parents as they pick up their babies and toddlers, so they may reinforce the Bible story, Story Point, or Gospel Gems at home.

BABIES

Work the suggested activities in your regular routine.

- Open the Bible and say that God's words are true.
- Say the Gospel Gems and Story Point to babies.
- Read the key passage card.
- Pray.

- Sing a Bible story song to a familiar tune.

- Choose one or two of the suggested activities that work best for your babies.
- Say the Gospel Gems and Story Point as you interact with babies throughout the session.

Do you have a Bonus Teaching Hour? Babies learn best through repetition. Continue to engage babies with their favorite activities or songs from the first hour.

TODDLERS

Work the suggested activities in your regular routine.

- Open the Bible and say it is God's true words.
- Tell the Bible story in your own words, or use the script provided.
- Read the key passage and invite them to say it.
- Say the Story Point and Gospel Gems.
- Pray.

- Choose from any of the four suggested toddler activities that best suit your toddlers. As toddlers work through the activities, say the Story Point or briefly review the Bible story.

Do you have a Bonus Teaching Hour? Use the transition activity and two low-prep options to reinforce the Bible story and the Story Point for toddlers.



Use Week of:

Christmas • Session 1

Prophets Told About Jesus' Birth

BIBLE PASSAGE: Isaiah 7; 9; 11; Micah 5

STORY POINT: Jesus was born.

KEY PASSAGE: Galatians 4:4

CHRIST CONNECTION: Everything God said about Jesus came true.

Bible Story for Toddlers

Long ago, God promised to send a special King. God's prophets told about God's plan. Isaiah said, "A young woman will have a son and name him Immanuel." *Immanuel* means "God with us." The baby would be God's Son! Isaiah said, "The Baby will be from Galilee, and He will sit on King David's throne. God's Holy Spirit will be with Him, and He will be holy!" Another prophet named Micah told about Jesus too. Micah said, "Bethlehem, you are a small town, but the King will be born there! He will bring peace, and He will care for His people like a good shepherd!" God wanted His people to be ready for Jesus.

Babies Gospel Gems

- * People waited a long time for Jesus to be born.
- * God told prophets about Jesus' birth.
- * God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us.

Additional resources are available at 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 Isaiah 7. Show the Bible story picture as you say the Gospel Gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage card.

SAY: God told prophets about Jesus' birth. People waited a long time for Jesus to be born. Everything God said about Jesus came true. **JESUS WAS BORN.**
[*Pray for the babies.*]

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 told prophets about Jesus' birth. He wanted His people to be ready for Jesus. **JESUS WAS BORN.** Everything God said about Jesus came true.

Read a Bible storybook

Provide a Bible storybook and look through previous Bible stories that pointed to Jesus (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses). Read the Bible story about Isaiah and Micah, or you may read the Christmas story.

SAY: People waited a long time for Jesus to be born. Everything God said about Jesus came true. **JESUS WAS BORN.** God sent Jesus because He loves us.

Look at lights

Place a string of multi-colored Christmas lights or an LED star under a clear bin. Turn on the lights and invite babies to explore. Make sure cords do not pose a tripping hazard. Read Isaiah 9:2 from your Bible.

SAY: People waited a long time for Jesus to be born. God told prophets about Jesus' birth. Everything God said about Jesus came true. **JESUS WAS BORN.**

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 Isaiah 7. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the Bible story. Say the Story Point and Gospel Gems. Pray for the toddlers.

Make crown art

Paint each child's palm and four fingers with yellow paint. Help her press her hand onto construction paper to make a crown. Wipe her hand immediately. Set aside the art for a few moments to dry as you repeat with each toddler. Provide adhesive jewels, stickers, or foam shapes for toddlers to decorate their crown. Write the Story Point or *Jesus is the Prince of Peace* on each picture.

SAY: People waited a long time for Jesus to be born. God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us. **JESUS WAS BORN.**

Write in sand

Provide shallow plastic bins with clean play sand. Provide craft sticks or unsharpened pencils for toddlers to "write" in the sand. You may print a *J* on an index card for toddlers to practice writing the first letter in Jesus' name.

SAY: People waited a long time for Jesus to be born. **JESUS WAS BORN.**
Everything God said about Jesus came true!

Read about God's plan

Assemble the "God Sent Jesus Book" printable and read it to the toddlers. Consider laminating the pages to use during the Christmas season. Remind toddlers that God sent Jesus because He loves us.

SAY: God told prophets about Jesus' birth. Everything God said about Jesus came true! **JESUS WAS BORN.** God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us.

Dress up like a king or queen

Provide fancy dress-up clothes, including tiaras, crowns, scepters, toy jewelry, and toy shields or armor. Talk about how Isaiah said Jesus would be a special King.

SAY: God told prophets about Jesus' birth. **JESUS WAS BORN** to be our King!

BONUS Teaching Hour

SESSION TITLE: Prophets Told About Jesus' Birth

BIBLE PASSAGE: Isaiah 7; 9; 11; Micah 5

KEY PASSAGE: Galatians 4:4

STORY POINT: Jesus was born.

CHRIST CONNECTION: Everything God said about Jesus came true.

Transition activity: Make a Jesus scroll

Write *JESUS* on construction paper for each toddler. Provide heart stickers for toddlers to decorate their paper. Older toddlers may be able to place the stickers on the letters of Jesus' name. Roll the ends of the paper inward and tie with yarn to make a scroll.

SAY: God told prophets about Jesus' birth. They wrote on scrolls like these. Jesus would be the promised King. People waited a long time for Jesus to be born.

JESUS WAS BORN, and everything God said about Jesus came true!

Work a puzzle

Print an extra copy of the Bible story picture. On the back of the picture, write the Story Point or the Christ Connection. Cut the picture into four pieces or thick strips. Invite toddlers to assemble the puzzle. Flip it over to read the message.

SAY: God told prophets about Jesus' birth. **JESUS WAS BORN**. God sent Jesus to earth because He loves us.

Travel in sand

Provide a large, shallow plastic tub with clean play sand. Provide vinyl horses, donkeys, and camels to show how people traveled in Bible times. Provide cars and trucks to show how people travel today. Invite toddlers to "travel" to Bethlehem.

SAY: People waited a long time for Jesus to be born. **JESUS WAS BORN** in Bethlehem. People traveled to see Jesus when He was born. Everything God said about Jesus came true.

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.