

Bible Story: Jesus was Born • Luke 2:1-20**Memory Verse:**

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” **John 1:1**

Big Picture:

Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

FOR PARENTS ONLY: Bible Study

After the angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah and predicted the birth of John—the forerunner of the Messiah—he appeared to Mary and predicted that she too would have a baby. This baby would be named Jesus, and He would be God’s Son. “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High ... His kingdom will have no end,” Gabriel said. (See Luke 1:32-33.) Mary visited Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John. Inside the womb, John leaped for joy in the presence of Mary’s unborn baby.

Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth. When Caesar Augustus called for a census, they traveled to Bethlehem—the very place the Messiah was prophesied to be born. (Micah 5:2) There, in a stable, God the Son entered the world as a baby.

Imagine the shepherds’ surprise when an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared. The Bible says that they were terrified! But the angel brought them good news: “Today in the city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord” (Luke 2:11). This Savior—the long-awaited deliverer and redeemer—had come.

Not only did Jesus come into the world as the Savior, He came as our King. Some time after Jesus’ birth, wise men came to worship Jesus. They brought Him gifts suitable for a king—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Jesus is the King who will rule forever, just as God promised King David. (See 2 Sam. 7.)

When you share this story with kids, remind them that Jesus came because we needed Him. The purpose of Jesus’ birth was twofold: to bring glory to God and to make peace between God and those who trust in Jesus’ death and resurrection. Celebrating the birth of Jesus is about rejoicing over the greatest gift we could ever receive. God’s own Son came to earth to be our Savior and our King.

Review:

“Your first activity sheet today is a review of what you learned the last Sunday we met. The lesson told us about the birth of John who would tell of the coming of the Messiah, Jesus.”

“Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, were both “righteous in God’s sight” (Luke 1:6), living by faith in God’s promise to send a Messiah. Like Abraham and Sarah in Genesis 18, they were getting along in years and did not have any children. Elizabeth’s barrenness was a point of disgrace for her among the community (Luke 1:25) and God graciously answered this couple’s prayers.”

“An angel appeared to Zechariah in the temple sanctuary and delivered good news: “Your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear a son.” Echoing Malachi’s prophecy, the angel declared this son would “turn the hearts of fathers to their children” (Luke 1:17)”

“For his doubting, Zechariah was rendered mute until the promise came to pass. When John was born, Zechariah could speak again. He praised God and prophesied. John was born to prepare the way for Jesus. John would point people to Jesus, the Savior God promised.”

Bible Lesson: Jesus Was Born • Luke 2:1-20

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while ^[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Ask the following questions.

- **Why did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem?** *(to be registered in the census, Luke 2:1-5)*
- **Why was Jesus laid in a manger?** *(There was no guest room available, Luke 2:7).*
- **Who were Jesus’ first visitors?** *(shepherds, Luke 2:8,16)*
- **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.*
- **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.*
- **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.*

“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.”

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. Although He is fully God, the Bible tells us that He humbled Himself to become fully human. He humbled Himself not just to become human, but to die the death we deserved. When we trust in Jesus, God forgives our sins and gives us eternal life with Him.”

Questions from Kids, Bible Story Video

Show the “Unit 19, Session 3” **Questions from Kids** video (link on email) to the kids. You will also show the **Bible Story Video**. Encourage kids to think about how we know Jesus is God’s Son.

Prayer

“Father, thank You for sending Jesus. We know that we do not deserve Him. Thank You that Jesus humbled Himself to be born as a human and even to die as we deserve to die. Help us honor You and obey You out of love each day. Amen.” Give your children the **Kids Card** and the **Jesus was Born** activity sheet.