



Use Week of:

Unit 19 • Session 3

Jesus Was Born

BIBLE PASSAGE: Luke 2

STORY POINT: There is no one like Jesus.

KEY PASSAGE: John 1:1b

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus came into the world to rescue us from sin.

Bible Story for Toddlers

The Roman emperor said that everyone in Judea must return to his homeland to be counted. Joseph was in King David's family, so he traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem with Mary. While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Jesus—God's Son—to be born. Mary wrapped Him tightly in cloth and put Him in a manger because there was no room where they could stay. Some shepherds were watching their sheep at night, when an angel appeared. The angel said, "Do not be afraid! Today a Savior was born for you in Bethlehem. He is the Messiah!" Then more angels praised God, saying, "Glory to God and peace on earth to people He loves." The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and found Baby Jesus. They went home, praising God for sending a Savior.

Babies Gospel Gems

- * Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
- * Jesus is the Son of God.
- * God sent Jesus to earth to be our Savior.

Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com.

For free training and session-by-session help, visit MinistryGrid.com/gospelproject.

BABIES Activities

Look in the Bible

Provide hand-size Bibles for babies to handle. Open your Bible to Luke 2. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage card.

SAY • Jesus is the Son of God, and Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Jesus came into the world to rescue us from sin. **THERE IS NO ONE LIKE JESUS.** [*Pray.*]

Sing a Bible story song

Sing to the tune of “Mary Had a Little Lamb”:

“Jesus *is God’s only Son, only Son, only Son!

Jesus *is God’s only Son; there’s no one like Him!”

*Substitute *came to rescue us* in the next round.

SAY • God sent Jesus to earth to be our Savior. Jesus was born in Bethlehem like God had promised. **THERE IS NO ONE LIKE JESUS!**

3

Practice counting

Gather the Mary, Joseph, and Jesus figures from a baby-safe manger set. Sit on the floor with a baby. Place the figures in front of him. Help him hold each figure as you count. Repeat as he shows interest. Talk about the Bible story.

SAY • Mary and Joseph had to travel to be counted, and Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Jesus came into the world to rescue us from sin. **THERE IS NO ONE LIKE JESUS!**

Look in a mirror

Sit with a baby on your lap. Hold a nonbreakable hand mirror and encourage the baby to look at her own face. Ask her to point to her eyes, ears, nose, and mouth, helping as needed. Praise God for making her. Repeat with each baby.

SAY • Jesus is the Son of God, and Jesus was born in Bethlehem as a tiny human baby. Jesus grew, like you are growing! God sent Jesus to earth to be our Savior. **THERE IS NO ONE LIKE JESUS.**

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. Open your Bible to Luke 2. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the Bible story. Say the story point and gospel gems. Pray for the toddlers.

Make Baby Jesus art

Provide large craft sticks for each toddler. Draw a smiley face with sleeping eyes on each craft stick. Help toddlers wrap bath tissue around the stick to make a swaddled Baby Jesus. Tape or glue the wrap to secure it. Retell the Bible story.

SAY • Jesus was born in Bethlehem as God promised. Jesus is the Son of God.

The shepherds praised God because Jesus came into the world to rescue us from sin. **THERE IS NO ONE LIKE JESUS!**

Play out the Bible story

Gather the Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, angel, and shepherd figures from the "Jesus Came to Earth" printable. Use a flannel board or metallic cookie sheet for toddlers to attach the figures as you tell the Bible story.

SAY • Jesus is the Son of God, and God sent Jesus to earth to be our Savior.

THERE IS NO ONE LIKE JESUS!

Make sensory soup

Place plastic barnyard animal figures in a bucket. Pour enough water to cover the animals and allow them to float. Provide wooden spoons for toddlers to stir the animals. Keep towels handy for spills. Talk about the Bible story.

SAY • Jesus is the Son of God. He was born in a place where animals were kept.

God sent Jesus to earth to be our Savior. **THERE IS NO ONE LIKE JESUS.**

Move and rest

Play upbeat songs and invite toddlers to dance and wiggle. Then play lullabies and relaxing songs. Invite toddlers to sit or lay down. Retell the Bible story.

SAY • Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Jesus is the Son of God, and Jesus is human too. As a baby, Jesus played and slept. Jesus is like us in some ways, but

THERE IS NO ONE LIKE JESUS.

BONUS Teaching Hour

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CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus came into the world to rescue us from sin.

Transition activity: Make a megaphone

Provide construction paper and stickers for each toddler. Help toddlers roll their decorated paper into a megaphone and tape it. Write the story point or Christ connection on each megaphone. Show toddlers how to use it to cheer for Jesus. Retell the Bible story as toddlers speak into their megaphones.

SAY • Jesus came into the world to rescue us from sin. Jesus was born in Bethlehem as God promised. Jesus is the Son of God. The shepherds got to see Jesus, and they praised God because God sent Jesus to earth to be our Savior.

THERE IS NO ONE LIKE JESUS!

Practice swaddling

Provide swaddling blankets and guide toddlers to wrap baby dolls. Talk about how Mary wrapped Jesus in cloth and held Him close. Retell the Bible story as toddlers snuggle the babies.

SAY • Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus was born in Bethlehem to rescue us. **THERE IS NO ONE LIKE JESUS!**

Play out family scenes

Provide dress-up clothes and other home-living items for toddlers to play out family scenes. Talk about the Bible story as they play.

SAY • Jesus is the Son of God, and God gave Jesus a family on earth. Jesus came into the world to rescue us from sin. **THERE IS NO ONE LIKE JESUS.**

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.