

When Our Savior Was Born

Christmas is not just about gifts and Santa Claus. In this lesson, the children discover the reason Joseph traveled to Bethlehem that wonderful night Jesus was born.

TOPICS

Angels, Birth of Christ, Christmas

AS KIDS ARRIVE (10 minutes)

Jesus in a Manger (Coloring Activity) [page 2](#)

BIBLE VERSE (5 minutes)

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:14
NIV

Explain to the children that when Jesus was born, the angels could not hold in their joy, so they started singing these words so all the world could hear.

BIBLE STORY (15 minutes)

Gather the children around you in preparation for story time. After the introduction, read the story about the birth of Jesus right from the Bible. If possible, use a Children's Bible so it will be easier for the kids to understand.

Introduction:

A long time ago, about 2,000 years ago a man called Caesar Augustus was in charge. He wanted to know how many people he ruled over, so he made everyone go to their hometown to be counted. This was called a census. So, a man named Joseph took his wife, who was going to have a baby, to his hometown of Bethlehem to be counted. They traveled for a long time, over many days. When they finally arrived they ran into a big problem. Let's read our story and find out what it was.

Read Luke 2:1-20 (The Birth of Jesus)

Discussion Questions:

1. Joseph went to Bethlehem to be counted because he belonged to the house of David. How many people do you think belonged to David's house? (*Very many.*)
2. Because Joseph's wife Mary was going to have a baby, how many would there be in his family? (*Three.*)
3. Was there any room left at the inn when they arrived? (*No.*)
4. When Jesus was born, where did Mary place Him? (*In a manger.*)
5. Do you know what a manger is? (*A feeding trough for the animals.*)
6. Who visited Jesus after He was born? (*Shepherds.*)
7. How did the shepherds find out where the baby Jesus was? (*Angels told them.*)
8. What special kind of things do you do on Jesus' birthday? (*Allow for answers.*)

FUN TIME (10 minutes)

Stand Up and Be Counted (Activity) [page 3](#)

ALTERNATE FUN TIME (10 minutes)

Lamb Without a Bed (Story) [page 4-5](#)

CLOSING ACTIVITY (5-10 minutes)

As the children are being picked up, have several familiar Christmas songs ready to sing. They can wave their wands (from the Stand Up and Be Counted activity) while singing along or listening. Some examples of songs are: "Joy to the World," "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," "Deck the Halls," "Silent Night," etc.

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JESUS IN A MANGER

(see activities) Children use size and shape to add missing objects to this scene before coloring.

TOPICS:

Birth of Jesus, Christmas

MATERIALS:

Coloring scene for each child [PDF] [page 6](#)

Stickers for children [PDF] [page 7](#)

Crayons or colored markers

Safety Scissors, Glue sticks



DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Before class, print out one coloring page for each child and one sticker page for every two children. For younger children, cut out each sticker before class. Older children can use blunt nose scissors to cut out the stickers while working on their scene.

WHAT THEY WILL DO:

First, the children will use blunt-nose scissors to cut out the four objects. Next, they will glue them in the correct locations on the scene of Jesus in a Manger using glue sticks. Then they can color their complete picture. An example of what a finished project may look like is shown above.

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STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

A fun, happy, flashy, active, counting activity for preschoolers using the numbers 1 through 10.

TOPICS:

Celebration, Child of God, Self-Worth

MATERIALS:

Star Wand for each child made from:

- Wooden rulers or paper tubes
- Glitter, glue
- Cardboard star wrapped in foil
- Markers or crayons
- Paper streamers or colorful yarn.



DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes

PREPARATION:

Before class, make a wand for each child with their own name. Use glitter, markers or crayons to decorate the wand. Rulers are not too expensive, and can be useful later, but empty paper towel or wrapping paper tubes will work as well.

Write one child's name of each wand. (You may want to do this during class after you know which children are present.) Then glue a cardboard star wrapped in foil and paper streamers or strips of colorful yarn about 12 inches long to one end of the wand.

WHAT YOU WILL DO:

Clear the room of chairs and tables. Give each student a wand and have the children stand in the middle of the room. Make sure there is ample space between each child. Have other adults help supervise for safety. Then have the children lay their wand on the floor in front of them as they stand behind it.

Have the children join you in singing these simple verses as they count up to ten. When they reach ten, they will pick up their wand and wave it around in excitement as they shout out their name.

Counting Song

"One, two, stomp your shoes"
"Three, four, drop to the floor"
"Five, six, pick up your stick"
"Seven, eight, stand up straight"
"Nine, Ten, wave your star and shout your name!"

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LAMB WITHOUT A BED

A story about an unselfish lamb who was rewarded by being part of a very important celebration.

TOPICS:

Animals, Birth of Jesus, Helping, Lamb, Sharing

Materials (Optional):

Stuffed lamb

DURATION:

Approximately 10 minutes



One evening, the sky was clear and the wind was blowing gently. There were many animals in the field just relaxing. Some were walking around while others were eating. A herd of sheep huddled together near the barn, being lazy and talking to each other. The papa sheep said, "That sure was a good dinner we had tonight, peanut butter on grass. Yummy!"

The momma sheep said, "The chocolate covered dandelions were even better. I ate so many I'm getting sleepy in this beautiful nighttime air."

"Did you notice all those people coming into town?" Papa sheep asked. "There are so many of them!"

Mama sheep replied, "I know, pretty soon there won't be enough rooms at the inn. I saw a nice looking couple earlier at the city gates. The young woman looked like she was going to have a baby. I sure hope they can find a place to stay for the night."

The baby lamb that was cuddling close to the mama sheep opened his eyes and said, "Mommy, do you think their baby will have a soft bed like me?"

"I don't know," the mama sheep said as she hugged her little lamb tightly. The baby lamb cuddled even more closely and started to fall asleep.

"Okay, let's go into the barn now where it is warm and safe," said the papa sheep. "That star seems to be getting brighter and brighter, so it must be getting dark."

They went inside the barn to lay down in their favorite corner. They were barely asleep when suddenly, the owner of the barn came walking in with a man and woman. It was the same young man and woman the mama sheep saw earlier, and the woman was indeed going to have a baby. It looked like she could give birth any moment.

"I'm sorry," said the owner, "but this is all we have. Your wife can lie down here where it's soft and clean."

Then he shooed away the baby lamb and the rest of the sheep to a different corner of the barn. The baby lamb stared at the couple with surprise as they sat down in their corner. After looking at the woman for a while, he felt sorry for her because she seemed to be in pain. In fact, the baby lamb was glad she was using his bed.

He got up and curiously moved closer to the couple. He also brought some more hay to make her bed comfortable. The woman touched his head and smiled at him. He felt like a big sheep now.

Suddenly, there were some bright lights and singing inside the barn. The baby was born. There was so much singing and celebration, not with people, but with bright, winged, people-like creatures that the lamb had never seen before. He saw the man and the woman wrapping the baby in cloth, and holding Him close.

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Then, the baby lamb had another idea. The baby needed a bed too, so he ran towards an empty little manger and stood there until the man understood what he meant. The man picked up the trough, cleaned it up, and put the baby in it.

The barn was so busy with celebration, but it wasn't noisy at all. It was beautiful. The herd of sheep walked towards the young couple, and they were in awe. The lamb thought the baby must be very, very important. As he looked again at the woman, she smiled at him. Again, he felt like a big sheep and a big helper. Outside the barn, he could now hear shepherds coming and shouts of joy, and even more singing. The joy continued all night long. And that night, the night the baby lamb gave up his bed, he could hear, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests."

Do you know who was born? Yes, it was Jesus, and the lamb was a helper when he needed to be. He was not mad when he gave up his bed, in fact, he was glad to help.

THE END



