



3rd – 5th

December 8-9, 2012

DATE

A Fresh Look at Christmas

LESSON TITLE

Luke 1-2; Matthew 2
(pp. 1053 and 1121 in the Adventure Bible)

WHERE TO FIND IT

God allowed some unbelievable events to surround Jesus' birth

MAIN POINT

schedule

Play games and hang out (10 minutes)
Large group (30 minutes)
Small group (20 minutes)
Video/song review (10 minutes)

tips

Engage kids in a specific activity from the moment they walk in the door. Help them find something to color, build, or pretend. This will help each kid feel valued and included, especially if they are a little nervous.

check-in/out

As kids leave, tell their parents something their kids did well or something positive you noticed about their kids' character. For some of them, it'll be like an early Christmas gift!

large group heads up

Today we're looking at many miracles surrounding Jesus' birth; then we're homing in on one of them and comparing how we would react to how the shepherds reacted.



instructions

Goal: To get kids to personally react to God's miracles surrounding Jesus' birth.

Why? For some kids, the Christmas story becomes familiar. Let's revisit its impact.

Tip: Create scenarios in your small group, like you did in large group. Let the kids think about how *miraculous* Jesus' birth really was.

QUESTIONS

CONNECT

1. Tell me your name and the surprising thing you've ever seen. (As kids respond, ask them how they reacted.)

REVIEW

2. How did the shepherds react to seeing the angels? (went to see Jesus, worshiped him, told everybody)
3. Did the shepherds' reaction surprise you? Why or why not?
4. **GO TO THE ACTIVITY**

RELATE

5. How does it make you feel to think that Jesus and God are exactly the same—they still are powerful and do miracles?
6. Has God ever done something you wanted to tell *everybody* about?

(continued on the next page)

ACTIVITY

*(Hand the papers with boxes for events from the God's Story Video. Then hold up the **cardstock with a screen shot** from today's God's Story) Look at this paper (screenshot). Remember all of the crazy things that happened around Jesus' birth. Let's see if we can name them.*

(Reminder of the event in order, starting with the angel and continuing clockwise:

1. An angel announced he was coming, 2. John the Baptist jumped in his mom's belly, 3. a star appeared, 4. angels appeared to shepherds, 5. wise men began following the star, 6. God kept Jesus safe, 7. Joseph had dreams).

Discuss:

Which event surprises *you* the most? Why?

How would you have reacted if *you* had experienced that event?

(before returning to the questions, CONTINUE on the next page!)

QUESTIONS

7. Memorize **Hebrews 13:8: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.** Get creative, you can have them write it down, make up hand motions (simple ones like clapping on “yesterday,” “today,” and “forever”), or say it together a few times.

***Pray with the kids and thank God for sending his son in such an amazing way!**

***If you have extra time or if some kids finish coloring quickly, feel free to switch up the activity while staying on topic. Maybe ask small groups to act out events in teams of two, or go back to discussing the most surprising things kids have ever seen, how they reacted, and share how that compares to the shepherds’ reaction in this story.*

ACTIVITY

Choose the event that surprises you most and draw it any way you want. If you want to draw the others to help you remember them, go for it. You can even turn it into a comic strip if you want!

(As kids color, tell them): **Your challenge is to tell ONE person at home about the miracle God did this week. Just like the shepherds.**

WHEN KIDS FINISH, ASK THEM TO SHARE. THEN RETURN TO QUESTION #5

LARGE group

special notes

Today we're going macro to micro: tons of miracles surrounding Jesus' birth to one specific miracle and how onlookers reacted. Help kids "zoom in" today.

presenter tips

We want the kids to be blown away by the miracles surrounding Jesus' birth. For that to happen, you've got to convey excitement too!

script

**First slide plays Christmas music as kids enter to set a festive tone.*

WELCOME

Hi everybody! We're going to start today with another game of "Christmas Guess-It"! Remember, I'll show you a tiny piece of a picture. You tell me what the bigger picture is. And JUMP up as soon as you know it. Ready? (*Show first image—let kids respond. You can have all kids yell it out or choose one kid to answer—use the system that would work best in your environment. Do the first three. Answers: Christmas lights, sleigh, wreath.*)

Great job again! Now, have a seat. Today, we're going to talk about the reason we celebrate Christmas. Why is that? (Let kids respond.) Yep, it's Jesus' birthday. And what's the big deal about Jesus being born? (Let kids respond.) Yes, he was the promised king who changed the world, us, and others, AND Immanuel (God with us!).

WORSHIP

Before we get started today, let's watch a music video of a popular Christmas song. If you know it, sing along from your seat!

Music Video: Silent Night

MACRO VIEW

Wow, that's a lovely picture of Jesus' birthday, isn't it? Silent night. Holy night... And it was a holy night because it was the night *Immanuel*—remember, that means "God with us"—was born. But some crazy out of the ordinary stuff happened when Jesus was born. And today, we're going to imagine what it would have been like to experience some of that stuff.

But first, let's watch a video to get an idea of some of the amazing things that happened. As you watch, decide which crazy event surprises you the MOST.



script continued

Video: God's Story / Christmas

KIDS REACT

(Show **slide with images from God's Story**.) Alright, what do you guys think? Which part surprised you most? Turn and tell a friend. (Let kids respond.)

Now, let's hear what some of you think. Which part surprises you the most—and why? (Ask 3-5 kids to share. Be sure to ask them WHY the event surprised them. *Reminder of the events: 1. An angel announced he was coming, 2. John the Baptist jumped in his mom's belly, 3. angels appeared to shepherds, 4. a star appeared, 5. wise men began following the star, 6. God kept Jesus safe, 7. Joseph had dreams*).

MICRO VIEW: SHEPHERDS REACT

Imagine what it would be like to be alive during this time and experience these things. Let's zoom in and look *really* closely at one event. How about the shepherds? (**Starry night slide**.) You guys are ALL shepherds....It's night. You're out in the fields watching sheep. You're bored...and tired. It's like every. Other. Night.

THEN, out of nowhere, an ANGEL surrounded by the glory of GOD appears (change slide to **bright lights**). The angel tells you exactly where to find the new king—in a manger, which sounds crazy! Then whole sky FULL of angels appears and sings GLORY TO GOD! You can't believe it! Nobody even likes you and now God is choosing to tell YOU where to find this king who will change the whole world!

Alright, shepherds, what would YOU do? (Let 2-4 kids respond. Treat them like shepherds. Dialogue with them: act surprised if they would leave their sheep since that's their job, ask them how they KNOW the king is really here, etc.)

Let's check out what they really did:

Video: The Christmas Story / The Shepherds

So what did they do? (Let kids respond.) Yeah, they said, "Let's go!" They HAD to see the king they'd been waiting for their WHOLE lives. And when they went to see him, did they find him? (Let kids respond.) Yeah, they sure did. It was exactly like the angels had told them.

THE SHEPHERDS WERE AMAZED

Well, after they saw Jesus and worshipped him, THEN what do you think they did? What would YOU have done? You just saw an entire sky FULL of angels who sang to you and announced that Jesus was born. Then you found Jesus—outside, sleeping in an animal dish! Do you just go back to the field? Or go home and go to bed? What do you think? (Let 2-4 kids respond.)

Here's what the shepherds did: (Change slide) **After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. Luke 2:17-18**



script continued

They went and told EVERYBODY. They didn't worry that people would think they were crazy. They knew they had seen God's glory and they wanted everybody to know. And guess what? The people they told were amazed at God's power. Do you guys think you could have gone out and told people about the king? (Let the question sit a minute.)

JESUS IS THE SAME

Christmas is a great example of some amazing miracles surrounding Jesus. But you know what? The Bible tells us this:

SLIDE: *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Hebrews 13:8*

Jesus—and God—never change. We might not see angels in the sky with our own eyes—or baby Jesus lying in a manger. But we know those things happened. And we see some amazing things ourselves. We know God is powerful and is always with us—and he wants us to tell other people about the great things he does!

Think about that as we stand and worship together with one last song. This is a new one, so follow along with me to learn the motions!

Music Video: I'm Not Alone (kids should stand and do hand motions)

PRAY

Can somebody pray for us today before we head to small groups?



script continued

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name



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PREP needs



small group supplies

Per small group: 1 screenshot from God's Story:
Christmas printed in color on white cardstock (image
in curriculum folder)
Per kid: 1 piece of paper with empty boxes for each
image from God's Story printed (template in
curriculum folder)

Plenty of crayons / markers

large group supplies

Bible (mark pp. 1053 and 1121 in the
Adventure Bible)

a/v needs

1. Christmas Intro Slide:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AzA-MwsSmM>
(play at least first 2:33 seconds—can loop it at that
point or let it keep going)
2. Slides from this week's Christmas Guess It
powerpoint (in curriculum folder)
3. Music Video: Silent Night (PATH: GenLogin>B-
Kinder>xmas_musicvideos(2))
4. Video: God's Story / Christmas
5. Show slide with images from God's Story.

6. Image of a starry night (jpeg in curriculum folder)
7. Bright lights loop
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a2FtYdfw3Og>)
8. Video : The Christmas Story-The Shepherds
(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaeBx6bPlv4&feature=plcp>)
9. Slide: Luke 2:17-18 (exact wording in script)
10. Slide: Hebrews 13:8 (exact wording in script)
- 11: Worship Video: I'm not Alone

special room set-up

none

connect questions

What happened around Jesus' birth?
Tell me about the shepherds.

parent page

Some pretty miraculous events happened around
Jesus' birth. We looked at those and then we
zoomed in on individual events to imagine what it
would have felt like to witness them firsthand. Ask
your kids about it. You can also read about the
events in Matthew 2 and Luke 1-2.