



Kindergarten-2nd

December 6-7, 2014

DATE

Jesus is Born

LESSON TITLE

Luke 1-2; Matthew 2; Matthew 1:21

WHERE TO FIND IT

Jesus came to earth to be with us

MAIN POINT

schedule

Connect Time (15 minutes): Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

Large Group (30 minutes): Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

Small Group (15 minutes): Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

tips

We're talking about the story of Christmas. As kids come in, ask them about what they know about Christmas. You can spark discussions with questions like: Why do we celebrate Christmas? What have you heard about the Christmas story? (If they've never heard about Jesus, just ask them about what makes them most excited!)

check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to tell their parents what Jesus' name Immanuel means.

large group heads up

We're talking about the Christmas story and how Jesus came to be with us. In fact, one of Jesus' names was Immanuel, which means "God with us."



connect time

GOAL: *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

***The first slide on the Keynote has 13 minutes of Christmas music, so you can play it during the activity to set the tone.**

NO ROOM

*Choose the group size that would be best for your room.

- **Setup:** Tell kids that we're going to hear the story of when God's Son Jesus, the Rescuer, was born to Mary and Joseph.
- **Game Play:**
 - Choose one person to be "Mary" and one to be "Joseph"
 - Have Mary and Joseph cover their eyes
 - Point to one kid: that kid is the "yes" person
 - Everybody else is a "no" person
 - Mary and Joseph can uncover their eyes
 - Together, they need to agree on one person and ask him/her this question: *Do you have room for us?*
 - If the kid is a "no" person, he/she says "no"; if the kid is a "yes" person, he/she says "yes."
 - Mary and Joseph get three guesses. If they don't guess the "yes" person, pick a new Mary and Joseph and a new "yes" person. (If they *do* guess the correct person, cheer and do another round!)
- **Then ask kids about the best and worst parts of their week!**

Before you head into Large Group, ask them about the best/worst parts of their week and remind them of your expectations for their behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.



instructions

Goal: Kids will (1) retell the story of Jesus's birth including special ways God showed us that he was the rescuer, (2) understand that Jesus is God with us and that God wants to be with us each day, and (3) discuss things they can do to be with God this week.

Why? Kids can draw closer to God, especially when they know how much he wants to be near us!

Tip: Decide ahead of time how you want to play the review game.

small group

REVIEW/DIG DEEPER

1. What is Jesus's special name? What does it mean? (*For kindergarteners, remind them of the word Immanuel and ask them what it means.*)
2. Where was Jesus born?
3. Why do you think Jesus wasn't born in a palace?
4. What special things did God do to let everyone know that Jesus was the rescuer the world was waiting for? (**Show image:** *An angel appeared to Mary, Elizabeth's baby John jumped for joy in her belly, angels announced Jesus, a new star appeared, God kept Jesus safe from Herod, God sent Joseph an angel in his dreams*)
5. Think of a time when you felt scared or alone. Who could you count on to be there for you?
6. What can we do in our lives to connect with and be with God every day (when things are easy and when they are hard; remind kids that he came to be *with us!*)?

REVIEW ACTIVITY: QUIZ GAME

Have kids stand in a line and ask the questions below. They can choose to go to the side of the room/carpet/table that corresponds to the correct answer. If you want you can even make up motions, like holding up both arms or sticking a leg in the air.

What city was Jesus born in?

- Right side of the room – Jerusalem
- Left side of the room – **Bethlehem**

Who told Joseph that Mary's baby was from God?

- Right side of the room – **an angel**
- Left side of the room – Joseph's mother

What did Jesus's special name Immanuel mean?

- Right side of the room – sweet baby
- Left side of the room – **God with us**

What did Mary wrap Jesus in after he was born?

- Right side of the room – a sheep costume
- Left side of the room – **swaddling cloths (or big strips of cloth)**

What kind of bed did Jesus sleep in?

- Right side of the room – **a manger**
- Left side of the room – a crib

Why was Jesus born outside?

- Right side of the room – they liked to be outside
- Left side of the room – **there was no room for them anywhere inside**

How was Jesus's birth announced?

- Right side of the room – **by angels**
- Left side of the room – through cards

What appeared after Jesus was born?

- Right side of the room – a new mountain
- Left side of the room – **a new star**

When does God want to be with us?

- Right side of the room – **all the time (and everywhere)**
- Left side of the room – while we're eating

***Pray with the kids, asking God to help to find ways to be with God this week.**

Give kids a **coloring page** and ask them which part of the story they think it is. (It's the angel telling Mary that Jesus is coming.) Ask them how Mary might have felt. Ask them how they feel when they think about Jesus' birthday (Christmas) coming up!

Extra time? Have kids make up their own questions. Or you could play again for fun and ask questions about which food, sports, etc. kids like better.

special notes

While popular belief holds that Jesus was born in a stable, we don't know this for sure. It could have been a cave. We do know that he was placed in a manger somewhere outside. Also, the word "inn" could have referred to the upper level of a home. We will watch a video about this in two weeks. There is no need to focus too much on these minor details today, just try to focus on the stuff we know for *sure*.

presenter tips

Try to encourage kids to be really quiet and restful during the final song. This will be an opportunity for them to practice talking to God as they listen to Silent Night. You may want to model or share ideas about how you can talk to God while listening to music before the song begins.

script

****Click to play the Christmas intro slide.***

Hello everyone! It's great to see you. I am so glad each of you is here today! You probably all know about an exciting holiday that's coming up soon... what is it? (Let kids respond.) Yep, it's Christmas!

To get into the Christmas mood, we're going to play a little game called "Christmas Guess-It!" (**Click to show slide.**) I'm going to show you a little tiny piece of a big picture. If you think you know what the big picture is, even though you can only see part of it, JUMP up! 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. The answers are: ornament, Rudolph, Christmas tree.*)

Wow, I think you guys are ready for the big day. I know *I'm* starting to get excited about Christmas! Are any of you? (Let kids respond.) What are you guys excited about? (Let a few kids respond.) Me too! But in order to be really ready for the big day, we need to know WHY we celebrate. Does anybody know already? (Let kids respond.) That's right, it's when Jesus, the Rescuer, was born! And today we are going to talk a little bit about the very first Christmas, and some very exciting things that happened back then.

GOD WANTS TO BE WITH US

Before we get into the details of the first Christmas, I have a question for you. Any ideas why God sent Jesus to be born on Earth? (Take a few ideas.) Yes, God sent Jesus to be born on the earth to rescue us, because he loves us SO very much!

Grab your arms tight like this (model it) and take a minute to think about all the people and things you love—your family, friends, pets, even all your favorite foods or movies. (Allow kids time to think; you can think out loud to help them.) Guess what? All that love that you have is



script continued

how much God loves each one of us even more! He loves us more than we can *imagine*! God loves us SO much he wanted to be with us on Earth. When God gave Jesus Christ to the world to be our savior, he showed us how much he loves us and wants to be with us. In fact, Jesus has a special name that proves this.

IMMANUEL

Sometimes, names just sound cool. But sometimes, names have very special meaning to them. Does anyone know a special meaning their name has? (Let 1-2 kids share.) Well, in the Bible, Jesus has many special names, and one of those names for Jesus is Immanuel. Can you guys say “Immanuel”? (Let kids say it.)

Immanuel actually means “God with us” in Hebrew. **(Click to show Immanuel slide.)** So the special meaning of Immanuel is that God is with us through Jesus. Let’s try a quick game: when I say Immanuel, I want you to call back “God with us.” Ready? (Practice once or twice with the kids.) Okay, now try that out with a friend near you in a whisper voice. Whisper “Immanuel” and have them whisper “God with us” back at you. (Give kids a moment to try it.) Why again does God want to be *with us*? (Let kids respond.) Yes, because he LOVES us!

I have a special job for you today. Every time you hear the word Immanuel, I want you guys to say “God with us!” Ready? Let’s practice one more time: Immanuel (let kids say: God with us!).

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

Now that we know what *Immanuel* (kids say: God with us) means, we are ready to talk about the first Christmas. The first Christmas started with what we acted out during Connect Time! Jesus’ parents, Mary and Joseph, were traveling to Joseph’s hometown of Bethlehem. Jesus was just about to be born. He wanted to be *with us*, but the crazy thing is, there was no room for him. Mary and Joseph ended up having baby Jesus outside, with animals.

We are going to watch a video that tells the story of Jesus’s birth and it teaches us some special ways God showed the world that Jesus was the rescuer everyone had been waiting for. **While you watch try to look for some of the crazy things God did to let the world know that Jesus was that rescuer.**

Video: God’s Story: Christmas

THE RESCUER

Alright, so what were some of the clues that Jesus was the rescuer that the world was waiting for? (*An angel told Mary she would be Jesus’s mom, Elizabeth’s baby John jumped for joy in her belly, Jesus was announced by angels, A new star appeared when Jesus was born, God kept Jesus safe from Herod, God sent Joseph an angel in his dreams.*) And why do we call Jesus the rescuer? Let’s take a minute to look in the Bible for an answer to that:

SLIDE: Matthew 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.

To “save” means to rescue. And “sins” are all the wrong things we do. So the Bible tells us



script continued

Jesus was going to rescue us from all the wrong things in the world! That's pretty amazing.

THE KING

He is the rescuer and king that everyone was waiting for and he was born outside maybe in a stable or a cave...we don't know for sure. He was wrapped in swaddling cloths, or strips of cloth, and placed in a manger. Does everyone know what a manger is? Can anyone share with us? That's right, it's something animals eat out of, like a feeding dish or trough.

(Click to show a picture of the two mangers.) We don't know exactly what it looked like. It might have looked like either of these. But the point is, where are most kings born? (Let kids respond.) Most kings are born in palaces and they sleep in fancy cribs (not mangers) and wear fancy baby clothes. Did you guys know that Jesus was not just the Rescuer but also our king? He rules GOD'S Kingdom, and he came to bring God's Kingdom to us.

It might seem kind of funny that even though Jesus is our savior and king, he wasn't born in a palace or castle and he didn't have fancy things. God didn't want that for His son. He wanted *Immanuel* (*Kids shout: God with us!*) to be *with us* and be able to live like us and understand us so that he could grow up to be our rescuer and savior.

PRAYER

Let's thank God that Jesus is *God with us!* Because of Jesus, we can pray to God any time we want. He is always near! Now we will pray together and thank God for sending Jesus down to earth so that He could always be near to us. (*Ask a kid if he/she wants to pray. You may need to repeat what that child says after each line if he/she is too quiet.*)

WORSHIP

Let's end by worshiping God with a few songs. We'll start with a song that tells us how everyone was waiting for the rescuer to come, but no one knew what type of king he would really be until he finally came and they realized that God does things his own way.

Music Video: Baby Love

Now we will end with a quiet song. While this song plays, try talking to God in your head. Thank him for sending Jesus so that he could be with us on earth. (*Kids may choose to lie down and relax while they listen and pray.*)

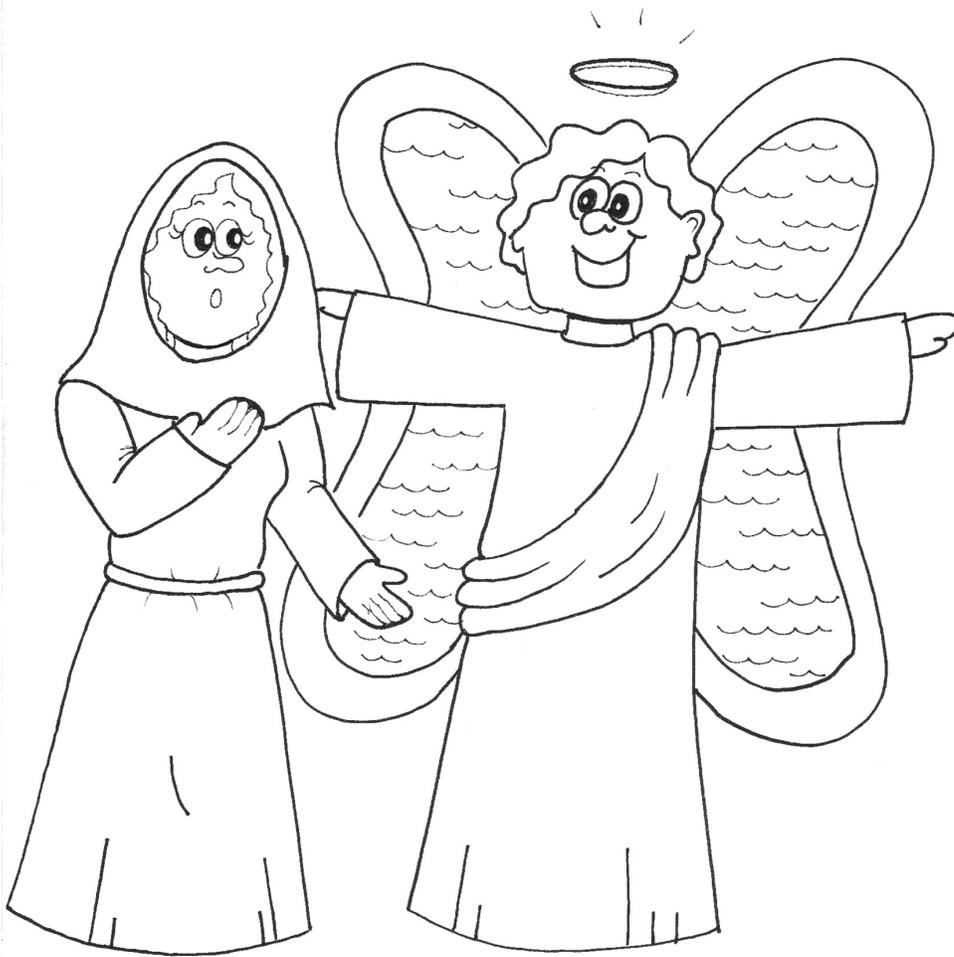
Music Video: Silent Night



script continued

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name



PREP needs



connect time supplies

Room in the inn game – no supplies needed

small group supplies

Per Kid

- Coloring page: Angel and Mary

Per Group

- Bible
- Image from God's Story (printed in color)

large group supplies

Bible

a/v needs

1. CHRISTMAS intro music: Slide with this loop: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AzA-MwsSmM>
2. 7 SLIDES: Copy and paste from the ppt. slides called "Christmas Guess It" in the Keynote Images file
3. Image: God with us
4. Video: God's Story / Christmas (<http://vimeo.com/70354897>)
5. SLIDE: Matthew 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.
6. 2 Images, side by side on one slide: manger 1 and manger 2
7. Music Video: Baby Love (Love Crashed In); <http://vimeo.com/54176139>
8. Music Video: Silent Night (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6ml_YbgJsQ)

connect questions

Tell me about when Jesus was born.
What does the name Immanuel mean?

parent page

Daily Talk Starts – separate doc