

**Bible Point** ▶

# Jesus came as a baby.

## Bible Verse

Jesus was born (adapted from Luke 2:6).

## Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- learn that shepherds came to worship Jesus,
  - learn that angels told the shepherds about Jesus' birth, and
  - thank God that Jesus came as a baby.

## Teacher Enrichment

### Bible Basis

- **The shepherds came to visit Jesus.**

**Luke**  
**2:1-20**



The shepherds who came to worship Jesus were unlikely candidates to be the first to hear the special message of the birth of God's Son. Shepherds were not highly thought of in society. In fact, they were often thought to be dishonest. Their testimony was not even accepted in the courts. But to these common folks—possibly more faithful to God than the average shepherd—God announced through a host of angels the miraculous birth of his only Son, the promised Savior who would provide salvation for all who would believe.

### Prayer

- Read Matthew 1:20-21.
- How should this biblical reminder of why Jesus was sent to us affect the way we celebrate Christmas?
- How is your life different today because Jesus came?
- Pray: God, thank you for sending Jesus into my life. Thank you for...

## Before the Lesson

- Collect items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed in the chart on the next page.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God's direction in teaching the lesson.

# This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
<b>Arrival Activities</b>  Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	<b>Welcome Time</b> —Receive a warm welcome from the teacher and Cuddles the Lamb.	Name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player	
	<b>Option 1: Nativity Play</b> —Play with Nativity figures.	Nativity set	
	<b>Option 2: Pudding Painting</b> —Paint with pudding.	Wax paper, pudding, spoons, water, paper towels	
	<b>Pick-Up Time</b> —Sing a song as they help clean up the room.	CD player	
<b>Bible Story Time</b>	<b>Bible Song</b> —Sing a song about the Bible.	Bible, CD player	
	<b>Jesus Came as a Baby</b> —Interact with sensory items on the StoryBoard as they hear the Bible story from Luke 2:1-20 and Matthew 2.	CD player	
	<b>Bright Star</b> —Sing a song about Jesus' birth.	CD player	
<b>Bible Activities</b>	<b>Interactive Bible Bulletin Board</b> —Review the Bible story with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together, and play a fun game to find baby Jesus.	Sheep and shepherd patterns (p. 50), scissors, tape, Nativity set, towel, yarn	
	<b>Baby Jesus Finger Play</b> —Retell the story of Jesus' birth.		
	<b>Bible Craft</b> —Make sheep puppets.	Sheep face pattern (p. 50), paper lunch sacks, cotton balls, glue, small paintbrushes, marker, tape	
	<b>Bible Game</b> —Act out a song about Jesus' birth.	CD player	
<b>Closing</b>  	<b>Smiling Sheep Snacks</b> —Make and eat fun snacks.	Sugar cookies, white frosting, shredded coconut, chocolate chips, small paper plates, plastic knives	

\*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

## Arrival Activities

### Welcome Time

**SUPPLIES:** name tags (p. 8), marker, tape or safety pins, CD player



- Play “Away in a Manger” (track 4) from the CD as children are arriving. The music will be soothing to the children as they adapt to their surroundings.
- Use Cuddles the Lamb to help you greet each child by name and with a warm smile.
- Tape or pin a name tag to each child’s clothing.
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► Jesus came as a baby.**

- Place Cuddles out of sight so the children won’t be distracted by him during the next activity.

### Option 1: Nativity Play

**SUPPLIES:** Nativity set

Set out a nonbreakable Nativity set with sturdy figures the children can manipulate. As the children play with the figures, ask them to tell you what they remember about when Jesus was born. Remind them that ► Jesus came as a baby, and that they were once babies, too.



**BIBLE POINT**

### Option 2: Pudding Painting

**SUPPLIES:** wax paper, prepared pudding, plastic spoons, water and paper towels for cleanup

Wash children’s hands, and gather them around a table. Place a sheet of wax paper on the table in front of each child, and add a small amount of prepared pudding. Instruct children to finger-paint by first spreading the pudding out over a small area and then drawing pictures in the pudding of the night Jesus was born. Give children spoons to eat their paintings when they’ve finished. Discuss with the children how much their hands have grown since they were tiny babies, and remind them that ► Jesus came as a baby.

You may want to ask an adult helper to supervise this activity and help the children wash up when they’ve finished.



See page 5.



**BIBLE POINT**

### Pick-Up Time

**SUPPLIES:** CD player



As Arrival Activities draw to a close, gently mention that it will soon be time to clean up. Encourage children to help you pick up things in the room as you lead them in singing “Let’s Pick Up All Our Things.” Use the CD (track 2) and sing the song to the tune of “Looby Loo.”



**teacher tips**

Before doing a painting project, put paint shirts on the children or paper grocery sacks with head and armholes cut out. Have wet wipes or paper towels and water handy for cleanup.

**teacher tips**

After pick-up time, accompany the children to the story area and remind them to sit on the carpet squares. Have the adults join the children in the story area to show them that this is an important time and to comfort any children who need help in adjusting to this routine.



**SING**

Let's pick up all our things.  
Let's pick up all our things.  
Let's pick up all our things  
And put them all away.

Everyone here can help.  
Everyone here can help.  
Everyone here can help.  
Let's put it all away.

Let's pick up all our things.  
Let's pick up all our things.  
Let's pick up all our things.  
It's time to stop our play.

## Bible Story Time

### ■ Bible Song

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, CD player



track 3

Say: ► **Jesus came as a baby.** How do we know that? **The Bible tells us.** Show children the Bible. **The Bible is God's special book. The Bible tells us about God. Let's learn a song about the Bible.**

Using the CD (track 3), lead the children in singing "God's Special Book" to the tune of "Row, Row, Row Your Boat."

**BIBLE POINT** ►

**teacher tips**

Try one or more of the following techniques if children in your class experience separation anxiety.

- Allow the child to bring a security object from home.
- Invite one of the parents to help in the classroom for a couple of weeks.
- Have parents tell the child matter-of-factly when they will return and then leave promptly.
- Have one of the adult helpers pick up the child and get him or her involved immediately in one of the Arrival Activities.

This Bible story is featured in *My First Hands-On Bible™*. Order several now for your ministry at [group.com](http://group.com).



**SING**

This is God's special book.  
Yes, it's God's book you see!  
I learn about all God has done,  
And his love for me!

*(Repeat.)*

**Bible!**

### ■ Bible Story: Jesus Came as a Baby

**SUPPLIES:** CD player



Before class begins, please check to make sure the sensory items are still attached securely so the children can touch them without danger of pulling the items off or putting them into their mouths.

**Panel 2**



track 4

Hold the StoryBoard so that Panel 2 is revealed and Panels 1 and 3 are folded back. Say: **We're going to hear a Bible story about how ► Jesus came as a baby.**

**Baby ► Jesus was born a long time ago. His mommy, Mary, and his daddy, Joseph,**

**BIBLE POINT** ►  
**BIBLE VERSE** ►

were traveling and didn't have a place to stay when it was time for Jesus to be born. So they stayed in a stable, which is where animals live. Jesus didn't have a crib or a baby bed like you had. But he needed a place to sleep, so Mary and Joseph put baby Jesus in a manger.

Let's sing "Away in a Manger" and pretend to rock a baby. Using the CD (track 4), lead children in singing the song. (Words are on page 15.) Then whisper: **Jesus must have slept, but I don't think a manger was very comfortable.**

**A manger is a place to feed animals, and it's full of hay. Can you find the manger and hay?** Let children find and touch the hay in the manger.

Ask: • **How does the hay feel?** (Scratchy; rough.)

Say: **The hay was scratchy, so his parents wrapped baby Jesus in a blanket to protect him and keep him warm. Let's touch the blanket.**

Ask: • **How does the blanket feel?** (Soft; smooth.)

Say: ► **Jesus came as a baby. Let's see who else found out about Jesus' birth.**

Panel 1



Reveal Panel 1 of the StoryBoard, which shows shepherds tending their flocks of sheep. Say: **When Jesus was born, the shepherds were out in the fields taking care of their sheep. Let's touch the sheep.**

Let the children touch the sheep.

Ask: • **How does the sheep feel?** (Soft; fuzzy.)

- **What sound do sheep make?** (Baa, baa.)
- **Who takes care of the sheep?** (Shepherds.)

Say: **Shepherds took care of their sheep in the dark, still night. Then all of a sudden, there was a bright light and angels appeared! Let's find and touch the angels on the StoryBoard.** Let children touch the angel's robe. **The angels said that ► Jesus came as a baby. Let's stand up and be shepherds and angels.** Have half the children stand at one end of the room and be the Shepherds. Have the other children be Angels and hop over to the Shepherds. Lead the Angels in saying, "Jesus is born!" Then have the Shepherds and Angels switch roles and play again.

Say: **That was fun! The shepherds went to find Jesus. Let's see who else visited Jesus.**

Panel 3



Now show Panel 3 of the StoryBoard, which shows the wise men and camels. Say: **When Jesus was born, a big shiny star appeared in the sky.** Point out the star.

Ask: • **How does the star look?** (Shiny; sparkly.)

- **When can we see stars?** (At night.)

Say: **Let's put stars on the StoryBoard.** Have two children place self-adhesive stars from Sensory Packet 1 in the sky. **Stars shine at night, but disappear during the day. Let's play a fun game. When I say "Star bright," hold your hands up like twinkly stars. But when I say "Outta sight," hide your hands behind your backs.** Alternate saying "Star bright" and "Outta sight" several times, and have children respond with their hands. Then say: **Good for you, little stars! Now let's see what happened next.**



Toddlers and 2s need supervision at all times. It's best to have at least two adults in the classroom. The ideal ratio is a minimum of one adult for every three to four children.



Repeating the Bible Point over and over will help the children remember it and apply it to their lives. Help children learn one point that will stay with them for days and even years to come.



Have an adult helper assist in choosing two children to put star stickers on Panel 3 and then help the children return to their seats. Use two stickers for each lesson.


**BIBLE POINT** ▶

Point to the picture of the wise men and say: **The wise men knew that ▶ Jesus came as a baby. They wanted to visit him and to bring him gifts. Let's see what the wise men brought Jesus.** Have children take turns peeking into the gift boxes on Panel 3. Encourage children to sniff the felt and tea bag.

Ask: • **How do the gifts smell?** (Good; nice.)

• **What is your favorite gift?** (A new doll; a puppy; a train.)

Say: **The wise men brought special gifts to Jesus. We can play a special game to remember the night Jesus was born. I'll name something in the Christmas story, and you find that picture on the StoryBoard.** Be sure each child finds at least one story picture. Have children find the

- angels,
- big star,
- stable, and
- sheep,
- cow,
- camels.

Say: **The angels and wise men were glad that ▶ Jesus came as a baby. And we can sing a song to show how glad we are, too!**



**Important:** Put the StoryBoard away and out of reach of children.


**BIBLE POINT** ▶

## ■ *Bright Star*

*SUPPLIES:* CD player



Using the CD (track 5), lead the children in singing “Bright Star” to the tune of “The Mulberry Bush.”


**SING**

**The star was shining in the night** (*“twinkle” fingers in the air*),  
**In the night, in the night.** (*“Twinkle” fingers in the air.*)  
**The star was shining in the night.** (*“Twinkle” fingers in the air.*)  
**It was a pretty sight!** (*Cup hands next to eyes.*)

**In the manger the baby slept** (*rest head on hands*),  
**The baby slept, the baby slept.** (*Rest head on hands.*)  
**In the manger the baby slept** (*rest head on hands*)  
**All through the night.** (*Pretend to rock a baby.*)

**In the sky the angels sang** (*cup hands next to mouth*),  
**The angels sang, the angels sang.** (*Cup hands next to mouth.*)  
**In the sky the angels sang** (*cup hands next to mouth*)  
**About the baby Jesus.** (*Pretend to rock a baby.*)

**The shepherds went to see the child** (*walk in place*),  
**See the child, see the child.** (*Walk in place.*)  
**The shepherds went to see the child** (*walk in place*)  
**And bowed on their knees.** (*Bow on one knee.*)

**The wise men brought their gifts to him** (*extend hands in front*),  
**Gifts to him, gifts to him.** (*Extend hands in front.*)  
**The wise men brought their gifts to him** (*extend hands in front*)—  
**All the way to Jesus.** (*Pretend to rock a baby.*)

**Jesus, we're so glad you're here** (*clap hands to left and right*),  
**Glad you're here, glad you're here.** (*Clap hands to left and right.*)  
**Jesus, we're so glad you're here.** (*Clap hands to left and right.*)  
**We want to give you love.** (*Cross hands over chest.*)

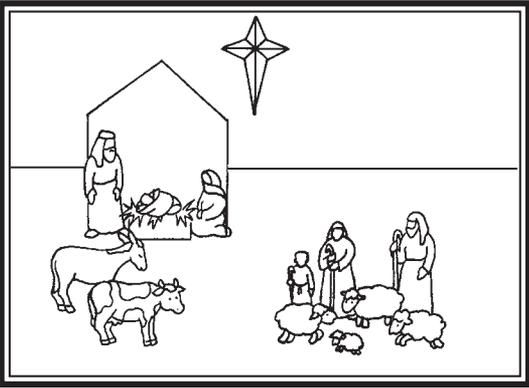


Say: ► ***Jesus came as a baby***, and we're so glad he did! The shepherds came to visit baby Jesus. I wonder if Cuddles the Lamb knows about the shepherds visiting baby Jesus. Let's find out!

# Bible Activities

## Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

**SUPPLIES:** shepherd and sheep patterns (p. 50), scissors, tape, Nativity set, towel, yarn



Before class, photocopy the shepherd and sheep patterns, and cut out a figure for each child.

Also before class, remove the *large rainbow spring* and the *surprise ball* from the Learning Lab. Set up an unbreakable Nativity set somewhere in the classroom. If you don't have a Nativity set, photocopy the Nativity figures from the end of each lesson in Module 1, and glue them to blocks or boxes to make your own set.



Start with Cuddles the Lamb behind your back. Go through the following script; then put Cuddles away out of sight.

**Teacher:** We have a friend who comes to visit our class. What kind of an animal is he?

**Children:** A lamb.

**Teacher:** Let's ask him to come for a visit. Cuddles! Cuddles! (*Bring out Cuddles.*)

**Cuddles:** Did I hear someone calling for me?

**Teacher:** We want you to see what we're going to put on the bulletin board.  
*Hold up a sheep figure.*

**Cuddles:** That's just like me! What does a sheep have to do with the story of baby Jesus?  
*Help the children tell Cuddles about the sheep, shepherds, and the night Jesus came as a baby.*

**Teacher:** Let's put the shepherds and sheep on our bulletin board. Cuddles, can you help us?

Permission to photocopy this script from Group's Hands-On Bible Curriculum® Toddlers & 2s granted for local church use. Copyright © Group Publishing, Inc., 1515 Cascade Ave., Loveland, CO 80538. group.com




**BIBLE POINT**


Have Cuddles hand each child a picture of a shepherd or a sheep. As children place the pictures on the bulletin board, remind them that shepherds visited the stable the night that ► *Jesus came as a baby*. When all of the pictures have been placed on the bulletin board, let children take turns identifying story pictures.

Say: **The shepherds were excited to look for baby Jesus! Let's pretend to be shepherds and sheep looking for baby Jesus.**

Choose one child to be the "shepherd." Place the towel on his or her head, and tie it in place with the yarn. Explain that the rest of the children will be "sheep." Encourage them to say "baa!" as they follow the shepherd. Give the shepherd a long piece of yarn. Help the sheep to gently hold on to the yarn in a line so the shepherd can lead them around the room.

Remind the children that the shepherds followed the angel's instructions to find baby Jesus. Explain that in this game, children will follow the *surprise ball* as they pretend to look for baby Jesus. Stand in front of the shepherd, and roll the *surprise ball* somewhere around the room. Instruct the shepherd to lead his sheep to the ball.

Before you roll the ball, hold up the *large rainbow spring* to indicate what size steps the shepherd and sheep should take to travel to the ball. For example, keep the spring compressed when you want children to take little steps; partially stretch it out for them to take medium-sized steps; and stretch it out wider for them to take giant steps.

Each time the shepherd gets close to the *surprise ball*, pick up the ball and roll it again so the procession can continue around the room. Be sure to encourage sheep to say "baa!" as they are being led. If time allows, allow different children to be the shepherd. Finish by rolling the *surprise ball* to the Nativity set. Point to the figure of baby Jesus.

Say: **The shepherds found baby Jesus lying in a manger, just like the angel said they would!**

Ask: • **If you were a shepherd in our game, what was it like to lead all the sheep around the room?** (Fun; I felt important.)

• **If you were a sheep, what was it like to follow the shepherd around the room?** (It was fun to sound like a sheep; I liked it.)

• **On the night Jesus was born, how do you think the shepherds felt when they saw all those angels in the sky?** (Happy; scared; maybe they wondered what was happening.)

• **How do you think the shepherds felt when they found baby Jesus?** (Happy, excited.)


**BIBLE POINT**


Say: **What a beautiful night it must have been when ► *Jesus came as a baby*. Jesus is God's gift to the world. When we believe in Jesus, we can live with him forever in heaven some day. What great news! Let's say a rhyme about the night Jesus was born.**

## ■ Baby Jesus Finger Play

**SUPPLIES:** none

Encourage the children to join you in the following finger play.

**A baby was born long ago.** (*Fold arms as if rocking a baby.*)

**Mary and Joseph loved him so.** (*Cross arms across chest.*)

**Shepherds came to worship and pray.** (*Fold hands as if in prayer.*)

**Wise men brought gifts from far away.** (*Hold out hands as if carrying a gift.*)

**This little baby was Jesus, you see.** (*Point up.*)

**He came from heaven for you and me.** (*Point to children and then to yourself.*)

Say: **It's fun to use our fingers and hands as we learn more about baby Jesus! Right now, let's make hand puppets that you can take home to play with.**

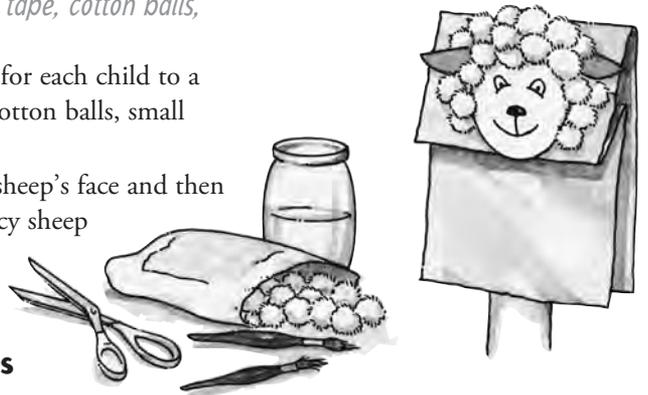
## ■ Bible Craft

**SUPPLIES:** sheep face pattern (p. 50), marker, paper lunch sacks, tape, cotton balls, small paintbrushes, glue

Before class, photocopy the sheep face pattern. Tape one face for each child to a paper lunch sack. Write children's names on their bags. Set out cotton balls, small brushes, and small amounts of glue.

Show children how to brush the glue around the edge of the sheep's face and then add cotton balls. As children work, compliment them on the fleecy sheep puppets they're making. Remind them that shepherds came to visit baby Jesus and that ► *Jesus came as a baby.*

Say: **I love your woolly sheep puppets! Let's use our cute puppets to help us sing a song about the night Jesus was born.**



## ■ Bible Game

**SUPPLIES:** CD player



Using the CD, lead children in doing the motions and singing "Bright Star" (track 5) to the tune of "The Mulberry Bush."



**The star was shining in the night** (*"twinkle" fingers in the air*),

**In the night, in the night.** (*"Twinkle" fingers in the air.*)

**The star was shining in the night.** (*"Twinkle" fingers in the air.*)

**It was a pretty sight!** (*Cup hands next to eyes.*)

**In the manger the baby slept** (*rest head on hands*),

**The baby slept, the baby slept.** (*Rest head on hands.*)

**In the manger the baby slept** (*rest head on hands*)

**All through the night.** (*Pretend to rock a baby.*)

**In the sky the angels sang** (*cup hands next to mouth*),  
**The angels sang, the angels sang.** (*Cup hands next to mouth.*)  
**In the sky the angels sang** (*cup hands next to mouth*)  
**About the baby Jesus.** (*Pretend to rock a baby.*)

**The shepherds went to see the child** (*walk in place*),  
**See the child, see the child.** (*Walk in place.*)  
**The shepherds went to see the child** (*walk in place*)  
**And bowed on their knees.** (*Bow on one knee.*)

**The wise men brought their gifts to him** (*extend hands in front*),  
**Gifts to him, gifts to him.** (*Extend hands in front.*)  
**The wise men brought their gifts to him** (*extend hands in front*)—  
**All the way to Jesus.** (*Pretend to rock a baby.*)

**Jesus, we're so glad you're here** (*clap hands to left and right*),  
**Glad you're here, glad you're here.** (*Clap hands to left and right.*)  
**Jesus, we're so glad you're here.** (*Clap hands to left and right.*)  
**We want to give you love.** (*Cross hands over chest.*)



### BIBLE POINT

Say: ► ***Jesus came as a baby, and we're so glad he did! The shepherds came to visit baby Jesus. Let's make yummy sheep to eat while we learn more about baby Jesus!***



### BIBLE POINT

## Closing

### Smiling Sheep Snacks

**SUPPLIES:** *sugar cookies, white frosting, shredded coconut, chocolate chips, small paper plates, plastic knives*

Have the children wash their hands. Set out the supplies on a snack table. Let each child place a cookie on a paper plate. Then let children spread their cookies with frosting and then sprinkle the frosting with shredded coconut. Finally, encourage children to use chocolate or butterscotch chips to make eyes, noses, and mouths for their smiling sheep snacks.

Before children eat their snacks, say a short prayer thanking God for the food and for sending baby Jesus. Remind children that ► ***Jesus came as a baby.*** Talk with the children about how the shepherds came to visit baby Jesus on the night he was born.

As children are leaving, remind them to wear their sheep puppets home.



## For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

### ■ *Making Music*

Christmas is traditionally a time for music. Provide rhythm instruments such as shakers, tambourines, bells, or sticks. Play a CD of favorite Christmas songs as children march around the room playing their rhythm instruments.

### ■ *Find the Stable*

Tape sheets of brown construction paper securely to the floor in your room. You'll need one sheet per child. Remind children that the shepherds came to visit baby Jesus in the stable. Tell the children to pretend the brown papers are stables like the one where Jesus was born. When you say "Find the stable," have children hop to a paper and stand on it. Each time you call "Find the stable," have the children each hop to a different paper stable.

# Patterns

Cut loosely around each pattern instead of cutting exactly on the outlines.

