

**Bible Point**

# Jesus came as a baby.

## Bible Verse

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

## Growing Closer to Jesus

- Children will
- review what they've learned about Jesus' birth,
  - thank God that Jesus came as a baby, and
  - learn that love is like a special gift.

## Teacher Enrichment

### Bible Basis

- **Jesus was born on a special night.**

**Luke  
2:1-20**



giving, because Jesus will return one day!

God came down to earth in a special way on that special night more than 2,000 years ago. But that certainly wasn't the end of the story. God is still at work in our world. His love is still protecting and sustaining us. The gift of grace that God gave us through Jesus was his greatest, most indescribable gift. And it was a gift that just keeps on

### Prayer

- Read 2 Corinthians 9:12-15.
- What does God's love mean to you?
- How can you best demonstrate God's love to your toddlers?
- Pray: God, I know that you love the little children I work with. Please let them see your love through the way I...



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.

## 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	
	<b>Option 1: Washing Baby</b> —Wash and care for dolls.	Baby dolls, dishpans, washcloths, towels, water	
	<b>Option 2: Handprint Gifts</b> —Make handprints as gifts for their parents.	Construction paper, scissors, marker, paint shirts or paper grocery sacks, tempera paint, paintbrushes or sponges, soap, water, towel	
	<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, black construction paper, star patterns (p. 8), plastic toy people and animals, flashlight	
	<b>Away in a Manger</b> —Sing a song about Jesus' birth.	CD player	
<b>Bible Activities</b>	<b>Bible Game</b> —Find figures that have been hidden in the classroom.	Animal patterns (p. 61), figures from the bulletin board	
	<b>Interactive Bible Bulletin Board</b> —Review the Bible story with Cuddles the Lamb as they create a bulletin board together.	Photocopied animals from previous activity, figures from the bulletin board, tape or stapler, chow mein noodles	
	<b>Baby Jesus Finger Play</b> —Do a finger rhyme about Jesus' birth.		
	<b>Bible Craft</b> —Wrap their handprint gifts.	Handprints from Arrival Activities Option 2, gift wrap, tape, ribbon	
<b>Closing</b>  	<b>Thanking God</b> —Say a prayer and enjoy a snack.	Christmas cookies, napkin	

\*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



- 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: Washing Baby

**SUPPLIES:** dishpans, water, baby dolls, towels, washcloths

Set out dishpans half full of water, along with baby dolls, washcloths, and towels. Have the children wash and dry the dolls. Encourage the children to pretend they’re parents taking care of their babies. Tell them that Mary and Joseph cared for Jesus when ► Jesus came as a baby. As the children play, review what they’ve learned about the birth of baby Jesus. Ask questions such as “Where was baby Jesus born?” and “Who told about baby Jesus’ birth?”



## Option 2: Handprint Gifts

**SUPPLIES:** construction paper, scissors, marker, paint shirts or paper grocery sacks, tempera paint, paintbrushes or sponges, soap, water, towel

Before class, cut light-colored construction paper into seven-inch squares. Make sure to cut a square for each child. Write children’s names on their papers.

Help one child at a time do this project. Protect each child’s clothing with a paint shirt or paper grocery sack with head and armholes cut out. Then paint the palm of the child’s hand using tempera paint and a paintbrush or sponge. Press the child’s hand on the paper to make a handprint. While you’re helping children with their handprints, discuss how much their hands have grown since they were babies. Remind them that ► Jesus came as a baby and that he had a handprint, too. Continue holding each child’s hand until you have washed all the paint off. Set the handprints aside to dry.



Avoid a mess by having a dishpan full of soapy water and a towel nearby to clean the children’s hands.

## 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**

After Pick-Up Time, accompany the children to the story area. 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.

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.

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

## Bible Story Time

### ■ Bible Song

SUPPLIES: CD player, Bible



**BIBLE POINT**



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."



**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!**

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



**teacher tips**

As you are preparing the StoryBoard with the sensory items, think through the Bible story and the interactive questions you will ask. Think about voice changes, gestures, and eye contact.

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

SUPPLIES: plastic toy people and animals, star patterns (p. 8), CD player, black construction paper, flashlight



track 6

SENSORY PACKET 1

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.

Also before class, photocopy and cut out the star patterns on page eight. Make sure to have one star for each child. Set out some plastic toy people and animals in one corner of the room, making sure there are enough for each child to at least have one piece to play with. Consider covering the toys with a blanket or towel so children won't be attracted to them before the activity.

Panel 2



Hold the StoryBoard so that Panel 2 is revealed and Panels 1 and 3 are folded back. Say: **We've been learning that ► Jesus came as a baby.** Show Panel 2, which shows Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus in the stable. Point to the figure of baby Jesus and say: **A baby was born in a stable a long time ago. He was a special gift from God to us.**

Ask: • **Who was the baby?** (Jesus.)

Say: **When I point to you, come point to baby Jesus, and touch the hay in the manger he slept in.**

After each child has had a chance to touch the hay and point to baby Jesus, say:

► **Jesus came as a baby, and babies have mommies.**

Ask: • **Who was Jesus' mommy?** (Mary.)

Say: **Mommies love their babies and do nice things for them. Mary wrapped baby Jesus in a warm blanket. She wrapped the blanket all around him.** Wrap your arms around yourself. **Can you show me your "blanket"?** Encourage the children to hug themselves. **A blanket is like a warm hug! When I say your name, come and touch baby Jesus' blanket.**

Continue until each child has touched baby Jesus' blanket.

Say: ► **Jesus came as a baby.**



Panel 1



Play the "Sheep and Lamb Sounds" segment of the CD (track 6).

Ask: • **What animal is making that funny sound?** (Sheep; lambs.)

• **Can you make a sound like a sheep or a lamb?** Pause for children to respond.

Point to the shepherds on Panel 1. Say: **Shepherds were taking care of their sheep by petting them and giving them food to eat. Let's give the sheep a pat just as the shepherds did.**

Hold the StoryBoard down for the children to pat the sheep.

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

- **What sounds do the sheep make?** (Baa, baa.)
- **Who takes care of the sheep?** (The shepherds.)

Say: **While the shepherds were taking care of the sheep, the angels came to tell the shepherds that Jesus was born. Let's touch the angel's robe.**

Have the children pretend to fly to the StoryBoard and touch the angel's robe. After each child has had a turn, ask:

- **How does the angel's robe feel?** (Soft; smooth.)
- **Who sent the beautiful angels?** (God.)
- **What did the angels tell the shepherds?** (Jesus is born.)

Say: **God sent the angels to tell the shepherds that ► Jesus came as a baby. The shepherds went to see this very special baby.**



## BIBLE VERSE

## Panel 3



Reveal Panel 3 of the StoryBoard, which shows the wise men, camels, and the star. Point to the star and say: **When ► Jesus was born, a large and very shiny star appeared in the sky.**

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

• **Who do you think put that big, shiny star in the sky?** (God.)

Say: **Yes, God put that big star in the sky to show the wise men how to find Jesus. Let's add a few more of our stars to the sky.** Choose two children to put self-adhesive star stickers from Sensory Packet 1 on the StoryBoard's sky.

**Think of how those stars twinkled! Let's all twinkle like stars.** Have children stand and open and close their fingers.

**The wise men followed a twinkly star in the sky to find baby Jesus. Let's pretend to follow a star, too!**

Give each child a sheet of black construction paper and a star you photocopied and cut out from page 8. Demonstrate how to place a star on a sheet of construction paper, and carefully lift the construction paper over your head. Explain that holding the paper with the star is kind of like traveling under a night sky, following the star like the wise men did. Help children hold their papers with stars over their heads without letting the stars fall off. Then lead children around the room several times as you pretend to travel at night following a star.

Finally, lead children over to the toy people and animal figures. Let children tilt their construction paper "skies" and drop their star near the figures. Explain that the toy figures represent the wise men, the shepherds, and the animals that all wanted to see baby Jesus. Allow children several minutes to move the toy wise men, shepherds, and animals around the stars. Explain they are pretending to make the figures travel under the night sky, but remind children that there was one special star that led the way for the wise men. Shine a flashlight on the toys as children play, pretending it is the star leading the wise men to baby Jesus. After a few minutes of play, collect the stars and construction paper, gather the kids' attention, and have them sit near the StoryBoard.

Ask: • **Have you ever traveled anywhere with your family at night? What was that like?** (I fell asleep; it was dark; it was quiet.)

• **How do you think the wise men felt walking so far at night, following the star?** (Tired; hungry; afraid; excited.)

• **How do you think they felt when they found Jesus?** (Happy; safe; excited.)

Point to the wise men and say: **The wise men saw the bright star in the sky. They followed the star to find Jesus. The wise men brought Jesus special gifts. Some of the gifts had special smells. Let's smell the gifts now.**

When each child has had a chance to smell the tea bag and perfumed felt, ask:

• **How do the gifts smell?** (Good; yucky; yummy.)

• **Why did the wise men bring gifts to Jesus?** (Because they loved him; because it was his birthday.)

Say: **What a special time it was when the wise men brought gifts to little Jesus. Let's make a gift box with our hands.** Have children hold their hands cupped together. **Peek inside.** Bring your hands up to your eyes and open the "box" to peek inside. **Close it up!** Let children cup their hands. **Now peek inside again.**

Ask: • **What special gifts do you like to give?** Encourage children to open their

## teacher tips

## Understanding Your Toddlers' and 2s' Physical Development

Toddlers and 2s:

- pick up tiny objects.
- turn pages and point to pictures in books.
- put together three- to ten-piece puzzles.
- build with blocks.
- move with lots of energy but lack coordination.
- pull wheel toys backward and forward.
- run, jump, and climb but aren't always sure of their balance.

hands and tell about gifts they would like to give. If some of the children need help, tell them a hug is a nice gift and give them a hug.

After each child has had a chance to share, say: **We can give lots of love all the time. We can give Jesus our love, too.**



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

## ■ *Away in a Manger*

**SUPPLIES:** CD player



Using the CD (track 4), lead children in singing “Away in a Manger.” Encourage children to rock pretend babies in their arms as they sing.



**Away in a manger;  
No crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus  
Laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky  
Looked down where he lay.  
The little Lord Jesus,  
Asleep on the hay.**

“Away in a Manger” by John Thomas McFarland and James R. Murray.

Say: **There were so many wonderful people and things surrounding the stable the night when ► Jesus came as a baby. Let’s see if we can find them.**



## Bible Activities

### ■ *Bible Game*

**SUPPLIES:** bulletin board figures, animal patterns (p. 61)

Before class, photocopy and cut out the extra animals from page 61. Also remove all the figures you’ve placed on the bulletin board except the stable. Ask an adult helper to hide these figures around the room as you finish singing “Away in a Manger.”

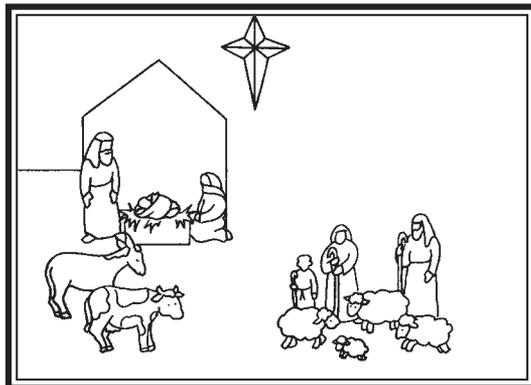
Tell the children that you wonder if all the characters in the Christmas story jumped off the bulletin board and are lost in the room. (Make it obvious to the children that this is all in fun and that the animals and other figures aren’t really lost.) Ask the children to find the figures and bring them to you. Then continue on to the Interactive Bible Bulletin Board.



In this lesson, the Bible game comes before the bulletin board activity. During the game, the children will find the figures to put on the bulletin board. The Interactive Bible Bulletin Board activity follows this game.

## ■ Interactive Bible Bulletin Board

**SUPPLIES:** stapler or tape, photocopies of extra animals from page 61, figures previously removed from bulletin board, chow mein noodles



*Bring out Cuddles the lamb puppet, and go through the following script. When you've finished, put Cuddles away out of sight.*

**Cuddles:** What happened to our bulletin board? Where are the sheep?

**Teacher:** It looks as if they jumped off the bulletin board and ran away, but the children helped me find them. I have all the special friends from our Christmas story right here in my lap. We're going to see what we can remember from when ► Jesus came as a baby. I'm going to give each of you something to hold.

*Hand each child a figure from the bulletin board. When you call for each figure, have the child holding that figure place it on the bulletin board.*

**Teacher:** (Pointing to the stable) Who can remember what happened in the stable?

**Children:** Jesus was born there.

**Teacher:** Who has the manger and baby Jesus?

*Help place the manger on the bulletin board and fill it with fresh chow mein noodles representing hay. Place baby Jesus on the "hay." Let each child taste the hay.*

**Teacher:** How did the hay taste? Who eats hay?

**Cuddles:** I know! I know! Sheep and cows and donkeys.

**Teacher:** Who is holding the animals?

*Help place the animals on the board.*

**Teacher:** What are the names of Jesus' parents?

**Children:** Mary and Joseph.

*Help place Mary and Joseph on the board.*

**Cuddles:** This is fun! We'd better put a shepherd up there. Shepherds are nice; they take care of sheep. Can I put the shepherd up?

*Have the children holding shepherds help Cuddles put them on the bulletin board.*

- **Teacher:** Hmm...something's still missing from our bulletin board.
- **Cuddles:** Yes, I think there should be something in the sky to show where baby Jesus was born!
- **Teacher:** Who can tell Cuddles what was shining in the sky?
- **Children:** The bright star.  
*Help place the star on the bulletin board.*

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Say: **Let's do our finger play about when ► Jesus came as a baby.**



## ■ **Baby Jesus Finger Play**

**SUPPLIES:** none

Lead the children 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: **Shepherds came to see baby Jesus, and wise men brought Jesus special gifts. We can wrap special gifts for someone we love.**



If you chose not to do Arrival Activity Option 2, let children wrap small treats, such as boxes of raisins, to give as gifts.

## ■ **Bible Craft**

**SUPPLIES:** handprints from Option 2, gift wrap, tape, ribbon

Help the children gift wrap the handprints they made during Arrival Activities Option 2. Encourage the children to give their handprints to their parents as a gift. Remind the children that when ► Jesus came as a baby, it was a special time. The wise men brought gifts for little Jesus.

Say: **I'm so thankful that ► Jesus was born. Jesus is a special gift from God. Let's thank God for Jesus and for our special snacks.**



◀ **BIBLE VERSE**



## Closing

### ■ *Thanking God*

*SUPPLIES: Christmas cookies, napkins*



Lead the children in a short prayer. Say: **Thank you, God, for Jesus. Thank you that ► Jesus came as a baby to love us. Thank you for sending Jesus to be our forever friend. And thank you for these special cookies that we can eat to celebrate his birthday. Amen.**

Have children wash their hands. Give each child a Christmas cookie. Encourage the children to help retell the Christmas story as they enjoy their cookies.

Remind children to take their handprint gifts home to their parents.



## 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.

### ■ *Nativity Play*

Photocopy extra animals from the bulletin board patterns on page 61. Give children each a piece of 12x18-inch brown construction paper. Tell them the paper is the stable where Jesus was born. Help them glue the animals to the stable. Remind the children to save room for baby Jesus. Then give them each a photocopy of the baby Jesus pattern to complete their Nativity scenes.

### ■ *Travelers From Afar*

Set out small suitcases or backpacks. Tell the children to pretend they are going on a trip to visit baby Jesus just as the shepherds and the wise men did. Place a baby doll in a box on the other side of the classroom so the children can “travel” with their luggage to see baby Jesus in the manger. When they arrive, invite them to sing a quiet song such as “Away in a Manger” to baby Jesus. Sing the song without using the *CD*.

# Patterns

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

