

# JESUS WAS BORN



## TRANSITION/GROUP TIME

### SNACK

**1s–2s:** Place the snack on the tables.

**3s–5s:** Choose children to help serve the snack. Ask a volunteer to pray.  
Remind preschoolers to clean their snack areas.

### MOVE TO GROUP TIME

**1s–2s:** Tell the Bible story as the children snack. Then allow the children to play in the room.

**3s–5s:** Invite the preschoolers to quietly tiptoe to the group-time area.

### INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

#### JESUS WAS BORN—BASED ON LUKE 2:1-20

- Tell the kids that God's plan for Jesus to be born in Bethlehem happened like God said it would. Open your Bible to Luke 2. Tell the Bible story.

### SUMMARIZE THE BIBLE STORY

(Use words in **bold** for babies–2s; all words for 3s–5s.)

- The leader of the country, Caesar Augustus, decided to count all the people in the land. **Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem to be counted. Mary and Joseph found a place to rest.**
- **Baby Jesus was born. Mary wrapped Him in soft cloths and laid Him in a manger.**
- **Shepherds were watching their sheep at night. An angel appeared and told them not to be afraid. The angel told the good news about Jesus being born. They would find the baby in Bethlehem, lying in a manger. More angels appeared and praised God.**
- **The shepherds went to find Jesus in Bethlehem. They found the baby and praised God for Jesus.**

### REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- Where was Jesus born?
- Where did Mary lay Baby Jesus after He was born?
- What happened to the shepherds?

### EMPHASIZE THE LIFE POINT

- Tell the kids that Jesus was born as God planned.

ROOM
YOUR TEACHING PARTNERS
DATE OF USE

### LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

God sent Jesus to earth.

### LIFE POINT

Jesus was born as God planned.

### UNIT VERSE

Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Matthew 2:1

### WEEKLY VERSE

Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Matthew 2:1

## SING TOGETHER

Sing to the tune of “God Is So Good”:

*Jesus was born. Jesus was born.*

*Jesus was born in Bethlehem.*

*Jesus was born. Jesus was born.*

*Jesus was born just as God planned.*

## SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Open the Bible to Matthew 2:1. Comment that the book of Matthew is in the New Testament. Read aloud the verse. Invite the preschoolers to repeat the verse in soft voices and then in loud voices.

## PRAY

Invite the children to name things they want to pray for. Pray for these things. Conclude the prayer by thanking God for His plan for Jesus to be born.

## BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

**Emphasize: Jesus was born as God planned.**

1. **Build a manger scene.** Using masking tape, make an outline of a barn structure with a few stalls and a manger. Gather a baby doll wrapped in a blanket and a few toy animals (cows, horses, sheep, or donkeys) to place in the taped area. Invite the kids to stack blocks along the edge of the tape to build the barn walls. Sit inside the walls and play out the Bible story. Remind the preschoolers that Jesus was born as God planned. Encourage the boys and girls to take turns rocking the baby and putting him in the manger. Remind the kids that a manger is a feeding box for animals.

**Adapt for Babies–2s:** Play with baby dolls. Use a doll bed or box for a manger to place a doll.

**Challenge 5s:** Let the children build mangers using interlocking blocks.

2. **Build a road.** Invite the children to lay blocks end to end to make a road around the room. Follow the road around the room as you talk about the Bible story. Say that the road Mary and Joseph walked on was probably rocky and dusty. Say that they walked for several days to get to Bethlehem. Review the Bible story.

**Adapt for Babies–1s:** Carry infants and help toddlers walk around the room.

3. **Retell the story.** Place preschool-friendly manger scene figures in a gift bag. Invite a child to choose a figure. Talk about the role this figure/item played in the Bible story. Continue until all figures get chosen. Encourage the boys and girls to use the manger scene figures to retell the Bible story. Remind the kids that Jesus was born as God planned. Remark that Jesus is God’s Son. Open a Bible and read aloud Matthew 2:1. Lead the kids to repeat the verse together several times.

**Adapt for Babies–2s:** Play with toy people figures.

4. **Find the baby.** Hide a baby doll wrapped in a blanket in a designated area of the room. Say that the shepherds went to find the special baby after the angel told them about His birth. Invite the preschoolers to pretend to be shepherds as they look for the baby. Lead the kids to repeat the Life Point together each time the doll is found. Play additional rounds as time allows, giving the boys and girls opportunities to hide the doll.

## CLEAN UP

Invite the preschoolers to clean up their activities. Give each child a specific task to do. Thank them for their work.

## REVIEW THE STORY

Gather the children in a circle. Play “Jesus Was Born” (Music) or a different Jesus-themed Christmas song as the preschoolers pass a small, wrapped gift around the circle. Stop the music. Invite the child holding the gift when the music stops to tell something he remembers from the Bible story. Remind the boys and girls that Jesus was born as God planned. Mention that Jesus is God’s Son.

## DISMISS

Help the kids gather their papers and belongings. Thank them for coming. Remind the parents to review the Bible story on the Kids Activity Page.