LESSON 8 · CHRISTMAS · THE CHRIST CANDLE

Jesus Is Born

Luke 2 · ages 3–6 · 20 minutes

BIG IDEA

God loves you so much He came to be near you.

★ **Say it together:** “Baby Jesus, lying in the manger.”

20 minutes at a glance

1	**Welcome**	3 min	Sit in a circle and greet every child by name. Show the thing you brought to touch and ask: “What do you think today’s story is about?”
2	**The story**	6 min	Teach the refrain first: “Baby Jesus, lying in the manger.” Then read the story aloud (or play Grandpa’s recording). Every time you reach a ★, the children say the refrain with you.
3	**Talk together**	3 min	Ask one or two questions. Every answer is welcome.
4	**Move**	3 min	Play “Refrain Freeze” (page 59).
5	**Make**	4 min	Hand out a coloring page or the activity sheet (pages 60–62).
6	**Verse & prayer**	2 min	Say the memory verse with the motions, then pray together, line by line.

You’ll need

- This book (story on pages 57–58)
- Crayons; copies of pages 60–62
- **Something to touch:** A small doll or soft toy wrapped snugly in a cloth, like a baby in strips of cloth. If you can, add a handful of hay or straw.

For the teacher

Today’s big truth is simple: God loves us so much that He came close to us as a little baby. Keep the focus on Jesus, the Savior the angel announced, and let the children feel the joy and wonder of the shepherds.

The wise men are not part of Luke 2. They come in Matthew 2 and have their own lesson (Lesson 10).

Listen with Grandpa
Scan to hear this story read aloud,
or open kidsbibledaily.com/story/born



READ ALOUD · ABOUT 6 MIN

Jesus Is Born

When you see a ★ , the children say the refrain with you:
“Baby Jesus, lying in the manger.”

Mary and Joseph lived in the town of Nazareth. They were going to be married. And Mary was going to have a baby.

One day the great ruler, Caesar, gave an order. Everyone must go to their family’s town, to be counted. Joseph’s family came from **Bethlehem**, the town of King David. So Mary and Joseph had to make a long trip.

Off they went to Bethlehem. *Step, step, step.* Up the hills and down the hills. It was a long, long way.

> 👉 *Can you walk your fingers like little feet on a long trip?*

While they were there, it was time for the baby to be born. But there was no room for them in the inn. An inn is a place where travelers stay for the night.

Mary had her baby boy. He was her very first baby. She wrapped him snug in strips of cloth. She laid him in a **manger** – a box where animals eat their hay.

★ Baby Jesus, lying in the manger.

That night, **shepherds** were out in the fields nearby. Shepherds lived outside with their sheep, day and night. They kept watch over them in the dark. *Baa, baa!*

Suddenly an **angel** of the Lord stood by them. God’s bright glory shone all around them. Glory is God’s shining light. The shepherds were very afraid.

The angel said, “Don’t be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy. There is born to you today a **Savior**, who is Christ the Lord.” A Savior is someone who saves. Christ means the King God had promised long ago. This good news was for all the people!

The angel went on, “This is the sign to you. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth.” A sign is something that shows you the way.

★ Baby Jesus, lying in the manger.

Then many, many angels filled the sky. They were like a big army from heaven. They praised God. They said, “Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will toward men.”

> 👉 *Can you lift your arms high and say, “Glory to God”?*

Then the angels went away into the sky. “Let’s go to Bethlehem, now,” the shepherds said to one another. They wanted to see this thing that had happened. And they hurried off. *Quick, quick!*

> 👉 *Can you tap your feet fast, like running shepherds?*

They came to Bethlehem. They found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby!

★ Baby Jesus, lying in the manger.

The shepherds told everyone about this child. They told what the angel had said. All who heard it wondered. That means they were full of wonder and surprise.

Mary kept all these things in her heart. She thought about them again and again.

The shepherds went back to their sheep. They praised God for all they had heard and seen. It was all just as the angel had told them.

God sent a Savior for all the people, just as the angel said.

★ Baby Jesus, lying in the manger.

Talk, move, pray

💬 Talk together

- What do you think the shepherds said to each other on the way to Bethlehem?
- How do you think Mary felt when she held her new baby?

Every answer is welcome.

👣 Move: Refrain Freeze

Walk, hop or tiptoe around the room. When you call out **“Baby Jesus, lying in the manger.”**, everyone freezes and says it together. Play 3–4 rounds.

Very little ones: stay seated, pat your knees, and clap once on the refrain.

📖 Memory verse with motions

“Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace”

Luke 2:14

① Glory to God — lift both arms high	② in the highest — stretch up on your tiptoes	③ on earth peace — bring your hands slowly down

🙏 Pray together

Say each line, the children repeat it.

Dear God, thank you for sending baby Jesus.
Thank you for the good news of great joy.
Amen.

❓ Quick quiz

Read the question. The children point or call out the answer.

1. Where did Mary lay baby Jesus?
   - In a manger
   - In a boat
2. Who came to the shepherds at night?
   - A king
   - An angel
3. What were the shepherds watching?
   - Their sheep
   - Some fish

Answers: 1. In a manger · 2. An angel · 3. Their sheep

The Baby in the Manger





★ Baby Jesus, lying in the manger.

The Shining Star



★ Baby Jesus, lying in the manger.

My name: _____

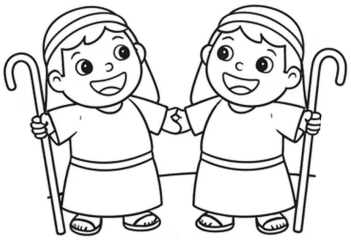
Who said it? Draw a line.

"Don't be afraid!"

"Let's go to Bethlehem, now."

"I bring you good news of great joy."

"Baa, baa!"



the shepherds



the sheep



the angel

Baby Jesus, lying in the manger.

The Advent wreath for little ones



Light one more candle each Sunday and read the words together. Let the children color the wreath. Only grown-ups light the candles. Some churches use other names or another order for the candles. These words still fit.

1 **Hope** · Lesson 1

We light the first candle, the candle of hope. Long ago God promised: "A child is born to us!" Now we wait for Jesus, and we know God keeps his promises.

"A child is born to us. A son is given to us" **Isaiah 9:6**

2 **Peace** · Lesson 3

Now two candles are shining. God is like a shepherd. He carries his little lambs close to his heart. With God we are safe.

"He will gather the lambs in his arm" **Isaiah 40:11**

3 **Joy** · Lesson 6

Three candles are shining. When Mary came to visit, baby John leaped for joy! Jesus is coming, and that makes us glad.

"My soul magnifies the Lord" **Luke 1:46**

4 **Love** · Lesson 7

Four candles are shining. God loves us so much that he sent his Son. He is called Immanuel, which means "God with us."

"They shall call his name Immanuel" **Matthew 1:23**

★ **The Christ candle** · Lesson 8

Now we light the candle in the middle. Jesus is born! God kept his promise. The baby in the manger is God's Son.

"Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace" **Luke 2:14**