

# **F11. Jesus is Born**

*Luke 2:1-20, Matthew 2:1-12*

## **Learning Objectives**

1. The children will be able to retell the events surrounding the birth of Jesus.
2. The children will recognize that Jesus is the Son of God and that He was sent to be our Savior.
3. The children will be able to verbalize that we are waiting for Jesus to return.

**Memory Verse:**            ***“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior,  
who is Christ the Lord.” -- Luke 2:11 (NKJV)***

## **Getting Started**

*Choose One*

### **All Ages**

#### Census Card Activity

Adapted from [www.kidssundayschool.com](http://www.kidssundayschool.com)

As the children arrive, give them an index card that is prepared as seen below. Have the children complete the card. When everyone is finished, use the whiteboard or easel to tally the different categories (age, boy, girl, state they were born in). The children can also keep a tally on the back of their index card. Explain to them that this activity is similar to a census that would occur today in our country. A census occurs every 10 years in the United States to help the government keep track of all kinds of things about the people who live here. In today’s lesson, there also was a census happening in Israel that caused Mary and Joseph to have to travel back to their hometown to be counted properly. Continue with the lesson.

Name: _____
Boy: _____      Girl: _____
State you were born in: _____
Birthday: _____
Current Age: _____



“Caesar Says” Game

See: <http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → NT Teacher Guide → Page 1 → “Birth of Jesus” → Page 2

This game is just like “Simon says”. Have all the children in class stand up facing you. Explain that every time you say, “Caesar Says” they need to copy an action demonstrated for them by you. If you don't say “Caesar Says” and they still do your command then they have to sit down until the game is over. Make the actions you model for the children as silly as possible; it will be a reference point for the lesson.

When you are finished, sit the children down and remind them of the silly things they had to do to stay in the game, all because “Caesar Says.” Explain to them that during the time of Caesar Augustus, people had to do what “Caesar Says” just to stay alive. Caesar was master of the world, and it was in those days that Jesus was born. It was one of the darkest hours our world has ever known. No one could choose or decide things for themselves; no one could disagree with Caesar. He said that everyone had to be enrolled and counted in order to be taxed; and everyone had to obey. It wasn't enough to write a letter to be counted. Each person had to go to the place of his or her family origin.

Object Talk – “How does it belong?”

For this getting started activity, you will need to bring in various items or pictures that have to do with the lesson and show them one by one to the children. Have the students tell you the relevance of the item to the lesson. Items could include, plastic or stuffed animals, a picture of a donkey, paper wrapped with ribbon as scroll (to represent the law), plastic hotels from a Monopoly game, a ring (Mary's engagement), a pacifier, a small blanket, a small bale of hay, etc. If the children don't know what the object has to do with the story, set the object aside and see if they figure it out as you continue with the lesson.

**Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions**

**Message:**      *We are waiting for Jesus to return.*

Luke 2:1-20

<sup>1</sup> In those days, Caesar Augustus made a law. It required that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world. <sup>2</sup> It was the first time a list was made of the people while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be listed.

<sup>4</sup> So Joseph went also. He went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea. That is where Bethlehem, the town of David, was. Joseph went there because he belonged to the family line of David. <sup>5</sup> He went there with Mary to be listed. Mary was engaged to him. She was expecting a baby.

<sup>6</sup> While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. <sup>7</sup> She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger. There was no room for them in the inn.

**Angels Appear to the Shepherds**

<sup>8</sup> There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were looking after their sheep.

<sup>9</sup> An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified.

<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy. It is for all the people.

<sup>11</sup> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

## Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - Continued

<sup>13</sup> Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said, <sup>14</sup> "May glory be given to God in the highest heaven! And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!"

<sup>15</sup> The angels left and went into heaven. Then the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

<sup>16</sup> So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child. <sup>18</sup> All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

<sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned. They gave glory and praise to God. Everything they had seen and heard was just as they had been told.

### Matthew 2 ~ The Wise Men Visit Jesus

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea. This happened while Herod was king of Judea. After Jesus' birth, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the child who has been born to be king of the Jews? When we were in the east, we saw his star. Now we have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard about it, he was very upset. Everyone in Jerusalem was troubled too. So Herod called together all the chief priests of the people. He also called the teachers of the law. He asked them where the Christ was going to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied. "This is what the prophet has written. He said, 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not the least important among the towns of Judah. A ruler will come out of you. He will be the shepherd of my people Israel.' "

Then Herod called for the Wise Men secretly. He found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem. He said, "Go! Make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, bring me a report. Then I can go and worship him too."

After the Wise Men had listened to the king, they went on their way. The star they had seen when they were in the east went ahead of them. It finally stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy. The Wise Men went to the house. There they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures. They gave him gold, incense and myrrh. But God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they returned to their country on a different road.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Joseph and Mary go from their home in Nazareth and walk all the way to Bethlehem? *(Because Caesar Augustus issued a law for everyone to go to their hometown for a census.)*
2. Why was Jesus born in a stable and then placed in a manger? See verse 7. *(Because there was no more room at any of the Inns.)*
3. What is a manger? *(A feeding trough for animals - or have someone look up manger in a Bible dictionary.)*
4. How do you think Joseph and Mary felt about spending the night where they kept animals? *(Discuss together. Perhaps they felt disappointed, but maybe thankful they had someplace to stay.)*
5. Jesus the Savior of the whole world wasn't born in a beautiful palace like other kings. Why do you think that was? *(Discuss together.)*
6. What did the shepherds do after they saw Jesus for themselves? *(They spread the word about Jesus and glorified God.)*
7. Wise men came from the east looking for Jesus. What did they follow to find him? *(A Star.)*
8. What did the visitors bring with them? *(Treasures or gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.)*
9. What did they want to do when they found Jesus? *(To worship Him and bring Him gifts.)*

## **Bible Lesson with Discussion Questions - Continued**

10. How would you have worshipped the Baby Jesus if you had been there when He was born? (*Discuss. Answers will vary.*)
11. The prophets told about Jesus coming a long time ago, long before Jesus was born. What are we waiting for today? (*Jesus to come again for us.*)
12. What do you think you would do or want to say to Jesus when He comes again? (*Discuss together.*)

## **Application to Real Life**

### ***All Ages***

Enjoy a healthy snack together as you discuss the homework. What was the greatest gift each child ever received? Allow them to share. Then talk about the gifts and talents that each child was born with. Go around the room and identify one gift each child has. (Be prepared and think about what you might say before class.) Then ask the children to think about how they can use that gift that God gave them to give back to Him by serving Him? Try to think outside the box. How can they use that gift in the congregation AND outside of the congregation, and bring praise to God? Remind the children that we want to use our gifts to serve God and show the love of Jesus to others in our lives EVERY DAY until Jesus comes again. That is what God wants us to do. Review the message statement together.

## **Memory Work Fun**

1. Recite the memory verse.
2. Practice finding the memory verse and/or Bible text in their Bible!
3. Play a game to review a commandment – pass/toss a bean bag or stuffed animal – whoever gets it says the next word.
4. Lead the class in a short prayer, thanking God for giving us the wonderful gift of His Son.

## **Activity Ideas**

*Choose One*

### ***All Ages***

#### **A Jesus Baby Book**

Did your mom or dad keep a baby book for you? You can make a baby book for Jesus. The children will draw pictures of things they have learned about Jesus from today's lesson. Use Bible verses that tell about each picture. (Just put the verses at the bottom, not all the words. Let the picture be the words.) After the pictures are completed, stack the papers together and punch two holes on one end. (You may want to use heavy card stock or a similar material for the front and back covers of the baby book.) Thread a long piece of yarn through the holes and tie it to hold the papers together.

**A Jesus Baby Book - Continued**

Sample Verses the children could illustrate:

1. "The angel greeted her..." --Luke 1:28 (Draw a picture of young Mary with the angel Gabriel)
2. "He went there with Mary to be listed..." --Luke 2:5 (Draw a picture of Mary riding on the donkey with Joseph on their way to Bethlehem to be counted.)
3. "You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger." --Luke 2:12
4. "Suddenly, a large group of angels from heaven also appeared." --Luke 2:13 (Draw the angels)
5. "So, they (the shepherds) hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby." --Luke 2:16 (Draw the shepherds with some animals)
6. "After Jesus' birth, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem." --Matthew 2:1
7. "The Wise Men went to the house. There they saw the child and His mother Mary." --Matthew 2:11

**Grades K-2****Manger Mobile**

Using coat hangers, string and construction paper, make a mobile of the key events in the story of Jesus' birth. Write or draw the events on the paper. Then cut them out and use string to hang them from the coat hanger. Be creative and have fun! Remember to keep the conversation going.

**Pass the Ornament Game**

You will need an ornament (not glass) or a small object that the children can easily pass to each other and music (preferably Christmas) to play in the background. Tell the children to sit in a circle on the floor. Give one of them the small object. Explain that while the music is playing, they are to pass the object around the circle. When the music stops, the person with the object in their hands should tell one small part of the Bible story. Each time the music stops, the person with the object must tell the next part of the Bible story.

**Grades 3-5****"How do YOU Worship?"**

Talk with the children about the word "WORSHIP". Write it on your easel or white board. Ask the children to tell you what they think it means. As they do, write down their responses all around the word "worship" that is on your easel. Then share with them the following (write down the definition in a different color on your easel):

What is Worship? – an expression of awe, it's what you do each day to honor God for who He is, what He does, etc.

Is there a "right" way to worship? NO! There are lots of ways to worship God, and we may all choose to do it differently. It's not just music or singing either.

Use the story to show different ways to worship God. List on your easel or white board the following four names. Look up in your Bibles (either as a group or have the verses written on index cards and let the children find different verses on their own) each of the verses to see how each of these people chose to *worship* the Lord Jesus.

## Activity Ideas - Continued

Choose One

### "How do YOU Worship?" – Continued

Mary – Luke 1:46-55 (singing) and Luke 2:19 (in her thoughts)

Angels – Luke 2:13-14 (singing praises)

Shepherds – Luke 2:17 (shared the news with others)

Wise Men – Matthew 2:11 (bowed and worshipped, brought GIFTS to share)

Remind the children that there are many ways to worship God, to honor Him each day. God wants us to make the time each day to worship Him. (Review the message statement and or memory verse.)

### Drama Time – "The Birth of a Savior"

Have the children do a skit acting out today's story and the key points of it. You will need some simple props to make things more fun and interesting (robes, scarves, baby doll, shoebox for manger). See the attached script at the end of this lesson.

## Journal

Optional

### **Grades K-2**

If you could give Jesus a gift, what would it be? Write about it and/or draw a picture of your gift.

### **Grades 3-5 (choose one)**

If you could give a gift to Jesus, what would it be? Why? Be specific in your answer and write about it.

Why do you think Jesus is referred to as the greatest gift? Write about it.

Think about your own gifts and talents. How can you use your gifts to give back and serve God? Write about it.

## Homework Ideas

- Read at home with a grownup the lesson titled: **The Wise Men/Escape to Egypt** (Matthew 2:1-23).
- Learn the memory verse: *"...We have come to worship Him."*  
--Matthew 2:2
- Work on memorizing commandment #\_\_\_\_\_.
- Complete the **The Wise Men/Escape to Egypt** coloring sheet as your parents read you the Sunday School Lesson. Return your coloring page for a sticker.
- Is there someone famous that you really admire? Bring in a picture or write down their name and bring it to class to share.

### Other Resources

[www.daniellesplace.com](http://www.daniellesplace.com) → Resource Room → Search "Christmas" or "Worship"

<http://children.ccm.com/curriculum/> → NT Support Curriculum → Page 1 → "Birth of Jesus"

## Activity - Role Play: Birth of a Savior

- Narrator: Caesar Augustus issued a law. Everyone in the country was to return to the place where their family had originally come from to record and register their names. Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem.
- Mary: (Very pregnant, tired and looking weary.) Joseph, I am so tired from our travels, I need to find a place where we can rest for the night.
- Joseph: Maybe one of these places will have a room for us.
- Narrator: Joseph went to inn after inn. All of them turned him away. They simply did not have room.
- Joseph: There is no room anywhere for us, Mary. We will have to find somewhere else to go for the night.
- Mary: We better find something quickly; I think the baby is coming!
- Narrator: Mary and Joseph found a stable where they rested for the night. Mary gave birth to Jesus. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger. Meanwhile, that same night in the fields near Bethlehem, some shepherds were guarding their sheep. Suddenly, a light appeared and it became bright as day.
- Shepherd 1: What was that? (The other 2 shepherds shrug their shoulders.)
- Narrator: The shepherds became afraid when an angel appeared to them.
- Angel 1: Do not be afraid. Today in Bethlehem a Savior has been born. You will find the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger.
- Angel 2: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!
- Shepherd 2: We better go to see what this is about.
- Shepherd 3: Yes, let us go find the Savior!
- Narrator: The shepherds followed the star and found everything just as the angel described it to them. Afterwards, they told everyone about their experiences.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Wise Men/Escape to Egypt



"...We have come to worship Him."  
--Matthew 2:2

## Take Home Page: F11. Jesus is Born

### Today I learned...

Today your child learned that we should **we are waiting for Jesus to return** to us again. The children explored the story of Jesus' birth. They also were reminded that Jesus is the Son of God and was sent to be our Savior.

### Help me learn my memory verse...

*"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior,  
who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11)*

### Ask me...

1. Tell me what happened when Jesus was born.
2. How would you have worshiped Jesus if you were there when He was born?
3. What do you think you would want to say to Jesus when He comes again?

### Live Your Faith...

*When Jesus was born, God used the light of a very bright star to show others the way to find the baby Jesus. Our actions, the things we do and say, and how we treat others all can shine a light and draw others to the love of Jesus too. How can you share the love of Jesus with others this Christmas season? What can your family do? Maybe you can help a family or child in need or do something kind for your neighbors. Decide together on one way your family can be a light and share Jesus' love in the next few weeks. Pray that you would also be able to share the story of Jesus with others too.*

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