

3. Jesus Is Born!





3 Jesus Is Born!

Leader Notes:

- View [this session's focus](#), faith nurture goals, leader devotional, and story symbol (click on the story symbol to download or print).
- For the full set of DWELL Flex story symbols use the link in the sidebar.
- Need this as a PDF? Just [print this page](#) and choose to save/print as a PDF.

Take a few moments to greet the children and let them know how glad you are to see them.

I love exploring God's story with you. Let's get ready to do that together.

Breathe

Use this time to focus your attention on God.

Do this with me: calm your head, heart, and hands as you slowly breathe in . . . and out. (*Demonstrate a few deep "in and out breaths" with eyes closed.*)

Tell and Wonder

Let's enter God's story together. Here's the story symbol for the part of God's story that we'll be spending time in today. I wonder what clues it gives us about the story we're about to hear? (*Show the story symbol. Accept any answers without giving away whether or not the kids have guessed correctly.*)

Listen closely as we read the story together to see which story our symbol represents.

Read "Jesus Is Born!" aloud (below), pausing throughout to allow children to answer the wondering questions. NOTE: It's always a good idea to read through the story beforehand so you'll be able to tell it well.

You can also read the story from a children's Bible or a simplified translation of Scripture like the New International Reader's Version (NIRV). Remember to pause throughout to allow time to wonder.

Pray

Close with this simple call and response prayer.

Leader: Dear God, we come together to celebrate your greatest gift to us, Jesus.

All: Jesus is the best gift ever!

Leader: We thank you for loving us so much that you sent Jesus to be our Savior.

All: Jesus is the best gift ever!

Leader: Your love is amazing!

All: Jesus is the best gift ever!

Leader: We thank you today and will thank you for the rest of our lives.

All: Jesus is the best gift ever!

Leader: Amen

All: Amen and Amen!

See [5 Ways to Pray with Kids](#) for other ways to pray.

Respond

Select and do one or more of the response activities from God's Big Story card #82 or check out [5 Ways to Retell a Bible Story with Kids](#) for some fun ways to retell this story. Include older kids in the retelling by having them read the story aloud while the younger children act it out.*

**God's Big Story cards can be ordered from FaithAliveResources.org.*

Easy Extra

Expand your closing prayer with a celebration of Jesus' birth. Distribute [these Celebration Invitations](#) for the kids to color, and then follow the program written inside the invitation.

Story: Jesus Is Born! [Luke 2:1-20](#)

Caesar, the Roman ruler, wanted to know exactly how many people lived in part of his empire. To figure that out, he made everyone travel back to the cities in which they were born. Joseph and Mary had to pack up and leave Nazareth and travel all the way to Bethlehem. Perhaps they both walked, or maybe Mary rode on the donkey while Joseph led it along, step by tiresome step.

Think about the longest, most tiring walk you've ever taken. (Pause) I wonder how Mary and Joseph felt during their long journey. (Pause for responses.)

Imagine finally arriving in Bethlehem and having to look for a place to stay when so many others were looking too. The problem was, every space was full. Even worse, it was almost time for Mary's baby to be born. Joseph and Mary ended up having to spend the night among the animals with hay for a bed.

In the quiet of that night, Jesus was born. Mary wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger.

Far away, some other people were watchful that night too—shepherds who had to keep an eye on their sheep. They had no idea that this night would turn out to be so amazing. As they dozed, eyes half open, an angel of the Lord appeared in the sky and God's glory shone all around them.

Think about it. What thoughts might have raced through their minds at that surprising sight? (Pause for responses.)

The Bible says the shepherds were terrified. But the angel quickly said, “Do not be afraid! I bring you great news that is for everyone everywhere! Today, in the city of David, a Savior— Christ the Lord—is born! And this will be a sign for you: You will find him wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly the sky was filled with angels! They were praising God and saying: “Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to all people on whom God’s favors rests.”

I wonder what that looked like and how it sounded. *(Pause for responses.)*

And then, almost as suddenly as the angels appeared, the sky went dark and the silent night returned.

I wonder how long it took for the shepherds to decide whether or not to go. *(Pause for responses.)*

Yes, they decided that they should go and find this baby. They knew that the city of David was Bethlehem, and soon they were on their way, eager to find this baby that the angels spoke about.

They found him just exactly as the angel said—lying in a manger all wrapped up in cloths.

What do you think they thought as they saw the Savior of the world as a baby lying on some straw in a manger? *(Pause for responses.)*

The shepherds left to go back to their sheep. As they met others, they told them about the angel’s message and about seeing baby Jesus. As they headed back to the fields—walking or running or jumping or skipping—they praised God for all the things they had heard and seen that night. Jesus Christ, the Messiah, was born!

Meanwhile, Mary held her baby and quietly thought about everything that had happened, just as the angel Gabriel had said. God kept his promise!

Looking for More Activities for This Story?

Click below to access the full age-specific *Dwell* session for this story:

- [Preschool: Jesus Is Born](#)
 - [Kindergarten-1st Grade: Shepherds Learn about Jesus](#)
 - [Kindergarten-1st Grade: Christmas: Angels and Shepherds Welcome Jesus](#)
 - [2nd-3rd Grade: The Birth of John the Baptist](#)
 - [2nd-3rd Grade: Christmas: Shepherds and Angels](#)
 - [4th-5th Grade: Christmas: Celebrate Jesus’ Birth](#)
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