

MD KIDS CURRICULUM: LUKE

Week 4: Birth of Jesus (Luke 2: 1-20) Preschool Lesson

To the Teacher:

Sometimes when I'm eating really good food, I do a little happy dance while I'm eating. I don't even realize I'm doing it. There is something about joy and experiencing goodness that brings out a reaction. We are designed to enjoy good things. Our kids hear tons of stories from our culture about which things are good and worth responding to. This week, we look at the joyous good news that stirred Mary and Zechariah to a response of singing and praising God. Pray that our kids would be stirred by that same good news.

Big Idea and Missio Basic: The birth of Jesus brings good news of great joy for all the people and we need to share that with others!

Starter Ideas: You may choose to set up all or some of these activity centers for the children to play with or do as they arrive. Help children with the activities. Kids can stay in one center or travel to more than one.

1. Coloring page: Have the kids color a picture of Jesus in the manger.
2. Free Play: Allow the kids to play with the classroom toys. (dolls, basketball, cars, tea party set, dress up, etc)
3. The Brightest Star: Have kids decorate a pre-cut star to make it shine bright like the star shone when Jesus was born. It was the biggest, brightest star in the sky.

Circle Time: When all the kids have arrived and have had time to participate in at least one center, walk around the room and have each child follow you around the circle until you have a line with everyone in it. Lead them to the circle for prayer time. (Like playing follow the leader.)

Welcome Song: (To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

Welcome, [Name]
Welcome, [Name]
Hear God's Word
Hear God's Word

We can trust in Jesus.

We can trust in Jesus.

Welcome, friends.

Welcome, friends.

Repeat until every kid and adult has been welcomed.

Jesus taught us to share peace. We share peace in a special way by repeating Jesus' special words. Jesus used these words of peace when the disciples were scared. Jesus said, "Peace be with you." We share the peace of Jesus. During worship we can say, "Peace be with you."

Make sure kids are sitting in a circle on the floor. Kneel down in front of each person/kid and share God's peace by shaking their hand and saying, "Peace be with you." Remember to honor those kids who do not want to be touched! **Let's all say Jesus' words of peace. "Peace be with you."** Repeat a few times before moving on to prayer.

Prayer Time:

Praying for Others: Ask the kids if they have anything that they would like to have prayed for. Share requests and then have someone pray for them. Remind the kids to pray for friends throughout the week.

Praying Together: *(touch your nose for 'smell', your ears for 'hear', etc.) God, help us use our **ears** to **hear** you, our **eyes** to **see** you, and our **brains** to **understand** your word. Thank you Jesus that you live in a body like ours.*

Story: from Luke 2:1-20

[You may choose to read 'Light of the Whole World' from The Jesus Storybook Bible page 184-190]

[OR READ]

God's people had been waiting centuries for the Rescuer to come and make all things right. They were being being treated badly by Rome, they were poor, and they were wondering when God would show up to save them. The king of Rome was Caesar Augustus. He was in charge of most of the world and he thought that he was lord over everything. He looked very powerful, but he didn't know that someone who seemed not very powerful was about to come to rule a new kingdom; one that would last forever and be much greater than Caesar's (or anyone else's for that matter).

At this time Joseph and Mary, who were about to get married, were traveling from their home of Nazareth to Bethlehem, where his great- great-great-great-great grandfather King David was from. While they were traveling, Mary gave birth to her first child, a son. They didn't have a hospital or even a bedroom, so the baby was born in a stable where animals lived.

Nearby in some fields, an angel visited some shepherds to tell them about the baby. They were scared when they saw the angel, but he said, "Don't be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy for all people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to the world. He is the Rescuer you have been waiting for. You'll know which baby it is when you see him wrapped in sheets lying in an animal manger."

Just then, an army of God's angels appeared and starting chanting: "Glory to God in the highest of heavens, and peace down on earth for those God is happy with!"

Then the angels left. The shepherds ran as fast as they could and found Joseph, Mary, and the baby lying in the manger. They told everyone they could about what happened and everyone who heard it was amazed. The shepherds praised God for everything that was going to happen through this child, and Mary's heart was filled with joy.

[Some Things to Point Out] Some of these points are for older ages but try your best to see if you can put them into words the kids can understand.

- Ask:
 - Do you think it's important that God chose to show up as a baby that did not have a home?
- Glory to God
 - 'heavenly host' is an army of angels - this is less a song and more a battle cry to declare victory!
 - Israel had choose not to worship the Lord and instead worshipped themselves and other false gods
 - The news of Jesus was that the truly Exalted One had come into the world to establish his kingdom
- Peace on earth
 - Not just calmness or quietnesses; the word 'shalom' means wholeness
 - Christ has come to make the broken whole again

Snack Time: Let's take a big stretch! Pause for kids to stretch and get the wiggles out. Clean the table for snack time. Help the kids wash hands together before delving into today's snack. Sing songs while you wash hands. You can give them each a wipe or a squirt of hand sanitizer. Have the children have a seat at the table. Today's snack is goldfish or veggie straws. Make sure none of the kids have an allergy to them. Begin passing out the napkins, goldfish or veggie straws, and cups of water.

BLESS Activity:

For kids to do during the week

Speak - Jesus has come to bring peace on earth. Can you speak peace to someone on Christmas day? Before you open gifts, tell your parents or brothers and sisters, "**Peace be with you.**"

Optional playground time: If you have extra time please feel free to take the kids to the playground. Please be mindful that 2-4's playground time does not start until 5:30PM.

Closing Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank you that you came down to earth to be with your people.

We want to be with you.

Fill us with your Spirit so we can have peace and bring you glory.

Thank you God, Jesus and Holy Spirit.