

Jesus as Baby - Small Group Lesson

1. Check in with each other: **What is the yummiest thing that happened today? What is the smelliest thing that happened today?**
2. Remember the Story Game: Give everyone a post-it note and pen, and ask students to write down all the people, animals, or objects that were part of the first Christmas story, from the birth of Jesus to the Wisemen. Give them a minute to win-it. (Here is who you are looking for: Mary, Joseph, Donkey, Innkeeper, Baby Jesus, Shepherds, Sheep. Angels, Wisemen, King Herod, Stars, Camels, Gifts, Manger, Stable) See who can get as many participants/ animals/ objects as possible.
3. Open the Bible: Pass out one Bible story sheet per student. **Today's story is from the book of Luke, which is found in the New Testament. It's where we find the Christmas story.** Ask for three volunteers to read the three major sections of the story aloud (verses 1-7, 8-14, and 15-20). Encourage the rest of the class to read along silently. Read the story aloud again. This time, as you read the story, ask kids to sketch things from the story that they hear on a piece of paper.
4. Help kids use the Bible page to memorize Luke 2:11. **Look at Luke 2:11. We're going to memorize this verse. We'll read it aloud one word at a time. As we go around the table, say your word.** Repeat this a couple of times with a variety of moves or voices. Have kids try to recite the verse in their heads. **Flip the Bible page over, and we'll try to say it together.**
5. Ask some follow-up questions. **How would you feel about making that trip shortly before having a baby (or your wife or other family member having a baby)? What does it say about Mary and Joseph's faithfulness that they made this trip?**
6. Recreate the Nativity Scene. **Let's recreate the nativity scene using SPAM, marshmallows, and toothpicks. We won't be making the whole scene, just _____.** **When we are done, we will put our piece with the other groups and that will create the nativity scene.** (Before you start making your pieces of the nativity, come up with a plan on how to make it. Save your items on a plate, and then bring them back to large group. We will add all the pieces together. It will smell beautiful.)
7. Prayer: **God of new life, we thank you for the birth of your son, who came into the world to give us hope, to give us a new life, and to give us a reason to celebrate! Help us to never tire of rejoicing in all you have given us. Amen.**

Luke 2:1-20

1 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** All went to their own towns to be registered. **4** Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. **5** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. **6** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

8 In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: **11** to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,^[b]praising God and saying, **14** “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” **16** So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. **17** When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; **18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. **19** But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. **20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.