The First Christmas *Bible lesson*



BIG IDEA

God's good news is for you.

MEMORY VERSE · LUKE 2:11 BSB

"Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord!"

LESSON AT A GLANCE

0–6	**Welcome** · Find the shepherds	
6–10	**Hook** · The best gift	
10–20	**The Story** · The Story	●
20–30	**Talk** · Talk	●
30–35	**Memory Verse** · Memory Verse	●
35–40	**Sing** · Sing	
40–50	**Activity** · Christmas review	
50–55	**Respond** · Tell someone	
55–60	**Pray & Send Home** · Pray & Send Home	●

● Core step. Teach just these for the 30-minute version.

Leader prep

Bible background

Caesar Augustus ordered a census, so Joseph traveled with Mary, who was expecting a baby, to Bethlehem, the town of King David's family (Luke 2:1–5). God had promised long before that the Messiah would come from David's family and be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).

There was no room for them in the guest room, so when Jesus was born, Mary wrapped Him in cloths and laid Him in a manger, an animals' feeding trough (2:6–7). God's Son came small and humble.

The first people to hear the news were shepherds working at night, ordinary workers most people overlooked. An angel told them not to be afraid, because a Savior had been born, Christ the Lord, and a whole army of angels praised God (2:8–14). The shepherds hurried to see Jesus and told everyone (2:15–20).

Where is Jesus in this story?

This story IS Jesus. The baby in the manger is the Savior God promised: Christ (the Messiah, God's chosen King) and Lord. He came as a baby so that He could grow up, live the life we couldn't, die for our sins and rise again. That's why the angel called it "good news of great joy for all the people."

Supplies

- A doll wrapped in a blanket and a box or basket with hay or shredded paper (the manger)
- A flashlight
- A wrapped gift box with a picture of baby Jesus inside
  Prep: Wrap a small box before class.
- Printed story cards, verse poster, coloring pages and parent pages
  Prep: Print from the Classroom resources section.
- A screen for the story video (optional)

Questions kids might ask

"Was Jesus born on December 25?"

The Bible doesn't tell us the date. Christmas is the day Christians around the world celebrate His birth.

"Why was Jesus born with the animals?"

There was no room anywhere else. God chose for His Son to come in a small, humble way, so that anyone could come near Him.

"Why did the angels tell shepherds first?"

God wanted ordinary, overlooked people to hear first, to show that His good news is for everyone.

"Is Jesus still a baby?"

No. Jesus grew up, died for our sins, rose again, and is alive in heaven now. At Christmas we remember how He came.

If a child shares something serious

When kids share what scares or worries them, some may mention something serious, like someone hurting them or a big fear at home. Listen, thank them for telling you, and don't promise to keep it secret. Tell your ministry leader the same day and follow your church's child-safety policy.

Teach it

SAY read aloud DO leader action KIDS SAY call and response

1 Welcome 6 min

Full lesson

Find the shepherds

DO Hide paper sheep around the room. Kids are shepherds and must find them all and bring them back to the 'field' (a taped square).

SAY Shepherds took care of sheep all night long. Tonight, they got the biggest surprise in history.

2 Hook 4 min

Full lesson

The best gift

DO Hold up the wrapped box. Let kids guess what's inside. Then open it and show the picture of baby Jesus.

SAY This is the best gift anyone has ever been given. Today we'll find out why the angels said He was good news for ALL people.

3 The Story 10 min

Core

DO Play The First Christmas video (4 min), or read it aloud with the story cards.

SAY Listen for the three names the angel gives baby Jesus.

DO After the video, have kids open their Bibles to Luke 2:8–14. Ask a confident reader to read it aloud.

SAY The angel called Him Savior, Christ, and Lord. A Savior rescues. Christ means God's chosen King. Lord means He is God.

KIDS SAY **A Savior has been born to you!**

4 Talk 10 min

Core

Why did Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem?
Listen for: The ruler ordered everyone to be counted in their family's town, and Joseph's family came from Bethlehem.

Who heard the good news first? Were they important people?
Listen for: Shepherds. Most people didn't think they were important, but God told them first.

What does 'Savior' mean? Why do we need one?
Listen for: Someone who rescues. We all do wrong things, and Jesus came to rescue us from sin.

What good news would you want to run and tell someone?
Listen for: Answers vary. The news about Jesus is even better.

OLDER KIDS Read Micah 5:2, written hundreds of years before Jesus. What does it tell you about God keeping His promises?

5 Memory Verse 5 min

Core

DO Write the verse on a whiteboard or hold up the poster. Teach the motions.

> **"Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord!"**
> Luke 2:11 · BSB

MOTIONS

- **Today in the city of David** Point down, 'right here, right now'.
- **a Savior has been born to you.** Rock a baby in your arms, then point to a friend.
- **He is Christ the Lord!** Both arms up high, like the angels singing.

PRACTICE IT THREE WAYS

1. Say it with motions.
2. Disappearing words: erase or cover one word at a time until kids say it from memory.
3. Say it fast, then slow, then in a whisper.

6 Sing 5 min

Full lesson

> The Little Lantern song for this story is coming soon. For now, sing a favorite worship song about Jesus' birth, like a Christmas carol.

7 Activity 10 min

Full lesson

Christmas review

DO Two teams. Correct answers earn a turn to place a ‘sheep’ in the stable. Most sheep wins.

What town was Jesus born in?
Listen for: Bethlehem.

Where did Mary lay baby Jesus?
Listen for: In a manger.

Who told the shepherds the news?
Listen for: An angel.

What three names did the angel give Jesus?
Listen for: Savior, Christ and Lord.

What did the shepherds do after they saw Jesus?
Listen for: They told everyone and praised God.

> Prefer a quieter room? Hand out the mini-book or a coloring page instead.

8 Respond 5 min

Full lesson

Tell someone

DO Kids write: “The good news is ____. I will tell ____.”

OLDER KIDS Write a short thank-you prayer to God for sending Jesus.

9 Pray & Send Home 5 min

Core

DO Pair kids up. Each one names someone they could tell about Jesus this Christmas, and their partner prays for that person.

SAY Close: God, thank you for sending Jesus, our Savior. Help us share your good news this Christmas. Amen.

DO Hand out parent pages.