

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Use props:** Hold up Bible story props one at a time as you tell the story. Suggestions for props include a clipboard, a baby bottle, a receiving blanket or cloth, a toy sheep, a newspaper, a star cutout, a paper crown, and a gift bag.
- **Display art:** Cut pictures of Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, shepherds, angels, and other Bible story elements from Christmas cards. Attach double-sided tape to the back and move them around on a focal wall as you tell the story.

Jesus Was Born

Luke 2:1-20

During the time Mary was pregnant with Baby Jesus, the Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus, announced that everyone needed to be registered for a census.

Every person traveled to the town where his family was from. Since **Joseph** was a descendant of King David, he **and Mary** left their home in Nazareth and **traveled to Bethlehem**, the city of David.

While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. Mary and Joseph looked for a safe place for Mary to have her baby, but every place was full because of all the people who were in town to be counted.

So Mary and Joseph found a place where animals were kept, and that is where Mary had her baby. She wrapped Baby Jesus snugly in cloth, and she laid Him in a feeding trough.

In the same region, some shepherds were staying out in the fields and watching their sheep to protect them from thieves and predators. All of a sudden, an angel of the Lord stood before them. A bright light shone around the shepherds, and they were terrified!

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid! I have very good news for you: Today a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord, was born for you in the city of David.”

Then the angel said, “You will find a baby wrapped snugly in cloth and lying in a feeding trough.” A king in a feeding trough? That was no place for a king!

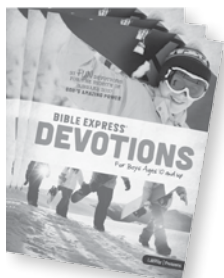
All of a sudden, many angels appeared, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to people He favors!”

So the shepherds went straight to Bethlehem to find Baby Jesus. They found Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the feeding trough. The shepherds went and told others about the baby Jesus.

Everyone who heard about Jesus was surprised and amazed. Mary thought about everything that was happening and tried to understand it.

The shepherds returned to their fields, praising God because everything had happened just as the angel had said.

Christ Connection: The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus was not an ordinary baby. He was God's Son, sent to earth from heaven. Jesus came into the world to save people from their sins and to be their King.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover how God's Word can help them grow in the gospel. Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

What Does Not Belong?

DOWNLOAD THE
TGP FAMILY APP

INSTRUCTIONS: Look at the picture. Circle the 10 things that do not belong.



KEY PASSAGE: 1 John 4:9

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us.

BIBLE STORY:

JESUS WAS BORN

- Jesus was born as God promised.
- Angels appeared to shepherds and told them the promised Messiah was born.
- The shepherds found Baby Jesus and told others about Him.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- Who are some people we can tell the good news about Jesus?
- What are some things that can distract us from the true meaning of Christmas?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Talk about the day your kids were born or when an adoption was finalized. Who were the first people who came to visit? Talk about the joy of that day.
- Purchase or donate gently used baby blankets, clothes, or toys to a pregnancy crisis center or women and children's shelter. Include a Christmas card with the message: Jesus was born!

Preschool Activity Pages
Unit 29, Session 2

Draw It Yourself!

DOWNLOAD THE
TGP FAMILY APP

INSTRUCTIONS: Follow the steps to draw your own nativity scene.



your turn! →



KEY PASSAGE: 1 John 4:9

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- Why was Jesus born? Jesus was born to rescue us from sin.

BIBLE STORY:

JESUS WAS BORN

- Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem to be counted.
- While they were there, the time came for Jesus to be born.
- Angels appeared to shepherds to tell them about the King's arrival.
- Jesus was born to be God's promised Savior.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- What is your favorite part about Christmas?
- Why do you think the angels appeared to shepherds, instead of important rulers or religious leaders?
- Why is Jesus' birth still celebrated today?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Take your family to hear a Christmas choir. Talk to your kids about what it might have been like to hear the angels singing about Jesus' birth.
- Box up unused toys to donate.

Younger Kids Activity Pages
Unit 29, Session 2



The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.