

LESSON 4

JESUS' BIRTH

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Invites People to Meet Jesus

SCRIPTURE: [Luke 2](#)

GOD'S BIG STORY: Jesus—the everlasting King—is born in Bethlehem! An angel announces His birth to nearby shepherds, who hurry to meet the baby and then tell everyone about the child.

MEMORY VERSE: A child will be born. He will be the Prince of Peace. —[from Isaiah 9:6](#)

CURIOSITY

Interactive hands-on activities to help kids begin thinking about the wonder of God.

- Free Play
- Declaring God's Wonder



BELIEF

A deep and interactive dive into Scripture that guides kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

- Prayer of Invitation
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Memory Verse: [From Isaiah 9:6](#)

FAITH

An intentional interactive discussion that helps kids discover the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own.

- Circle Time: Discussion
- Prayer and Blessing

CLOSING

An interactive activity to reinforce the lesson and keep kids engaged during pick up.

- Option 1: Meet My Friend
- Option 2: Come and Meet Jesus

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

When our daughter was born, we couldn't wait to share the news, to send out the first pictures, to let friends and family know her name. Her birth was important to us. A new life had arrived, and our world was changed.

Read [Luke 2:1–20](#). When Jesus was born, God didn't wait long to let people know. He sent a host of angels to a group of shepherds. The Savior had come. The Messiah. The Lord. A real flesh and blood person who could know people and be known by them. Immanuel. God with us.

“Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about” ([Luke 2:15](#)). That's how the shepherds responded. How will you respond?

God invites people to meet Jesus—to know Him and be known by Him. Jesus isn't hiding from us. He isn't distant. He's available. He has time for us. How will you meet Him this week? Through prayer? Through His Word? Through worship and participation in the life of the church?

Jesus has come, and the world is changed. He isn't far off. God invites you to meet Him, day by day, and to know the depths of His love and power.

DID YOU KNOW?**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS****WHO?**

An angel announced Jesus' birth to a group of shepherds. Shepherds were part of the lower class in Israel, sometimes despised by others. They lived outside during much of the year, sleeping among their flocks in order to protect their sheep from thieves or predators.

WHAT?

Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem because of the Roman census. After Jesus was born, an angel announced Jesus' birth to a group shepherds, who came to meet Jesus. The shepherds spread the news of Jesus' birth and identity to everyone they met.

WHERE?

Mary and Joseph traveled from Nazareth in the northern region of Galilee to Bethlehem in the southern region of Judea. Bethlehem is about five miles south of Jerusalem. The shepherds were tending their flocks in the fields near Bethlehem.

WHEN?

Caesar Augustus reigned between 31 BC and AD 14. Jesus was born shortly before the death of Herod, king of Judea in 4 BC, which means the census must have taken place toward the end of Herod's life.

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY

Jesus' birth fulfilled expectations that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem and would be a descendant of David. These prophecies point to the fact that the Messiah is royalty. Jesus, the everlasting King, would go on to proclaim God's kingdom, establishing it through power greater than death itself.

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

Free Play

As kids arrive...

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and help them find a game or activity to enjoy until the lesson begins.

This is a great opportunity to get to know kids and start building relationships! That happens best when you get on their level and play right along with them.

PRO TIP: This is also a great opportunity for a bathroom reminder!

Worship Playlist

During free play...

Play one of the Spotify playlists as background music while kids arrive.

Clean Up

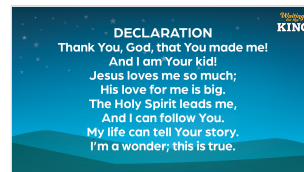
At the end of free play...

Play the Clean Up video to signal time to put away toys and activities. After working together to clean up, gather kids on sit spots, chairs, or benches to begin the lesson.

Declaring God's Wonder

SUPPLIES: Early Childhood [Slide](#)

Show the Declaration [Slide](#) and encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.



Hello friends! Welcome to church today! I am so glad to be here with all of you as we get ready to celebrate Christmas!! I'm so excited.

We like to start our time together with something special called a declaration. These words that we're going to say together remind us of what God says is true about me and you! You can repeat after me:

Thank You, God, that You made me! *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

And I am Your kid! *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands on your hips.

Jesus loves me so much; *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

His love for me is big. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

The Holy Spirit leads me, *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

And I can follow You. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

March like you're following the leader.

My life can tell Your story, *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

I'm a wonder; this is true. *(Kids repeat words and motions.)*

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



Belief

LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

Guide kids into knowing God more deeply, exploring His big story, and marveling at His wonder.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Invites People to Meet Jesus

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2

MEMORY VERSE: From Isaiah 9:6

Worship

SUPPLIES: Worship music videos

Today we'll learn about how God invites people to meet Jesus. Let's sing about Jesus being born!

Play songs and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **Dear God, thank You for being with us today. We are so grateful for Your Son, Jesus. Please help us listen closely to Your story and what You want to say to us today. In Jesus' name, Amen.**

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Luke in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

Let's hear part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Luke in the Bible.

God's Big STORY SCRIPT: JESUS' BIRTH

SUPPLIES: [God's Big Story Video](#), large bag or bin with the following props: brown paper bag filled with shredded paper (manger), crown, baby doll, stuffed or toy sheep, flashlight,

Before the kids arrive, cut the brown bag in half so it will stand up and fill it with shredded paper. This will represent a manger. Put all the props, including the manger, in a large bag or bin.

Gather kids together and place the bag of props in the middle of the group.

Through all the twists and turns of God's big story, God was getting ready to send the forever King. It was finally time for that king to come! God sent an angel to tell a girl named Mary that she was going to have a baby. Mary's baby would be the forever King. The forever King would make the way for all people to know God. Pass the crown around the group.

When the baby was still in Mary's belly, the ruler said that everyone needed to go back to where they were born to be counted. Mary was going to get married to a man named Joseph. Joseph was from a town called Bethlehem. So Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem.

While Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem, it was time for the forever King to be born. Mary's baby was the one God's people waited for! He was Jesus! Jesus came to earth! Pass the baby doll around the group.

Jesus was the Son of God, but He was not born in a special place. He did not have a special crib or baby clothes. Bethlehem was so crowded that there wasn't even a place for Mary and Joseph to stay. So Mary, Joseph, and Jesus stayed with the animals. When Mary had the baby, she wrapped baby Jesus in some pieces of cloth and put down in a manger. A manger is an animal's feeding bin. Pass the manger around the group.

It was time to let people know that the forever King was here. Who would God invite to meet Jesus first? God did something amazing.

That night, shepherds were taking care of their sheep in a field close by. Some people did not think shepherds were special because they took care of dirty, stinky sheep. But God loved them. Everyone is important and special to God. Pass the stuffed or toy sheep around the group.

God sent an angel to the shepherds. The shepherds were very scared at first when they saw the angel. "But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord'" ([Luke 2:10-11](#)). The angel also told them they would find the baby lying in a manger, wrapped in pieces of cloth.

Suddenly there were more angels. So many angels! Angels everywhere! Suddenly there were more angels. So many angels! Angels everywhere! Remove the flashlight from the bag and shine it toward the ceiling. **"They were praising God. They said, 'May glory be given to God in the highest heaven! And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!'" ([Luke 2:13-14](#)). Jesus came! He was going to bring peace to the world.**

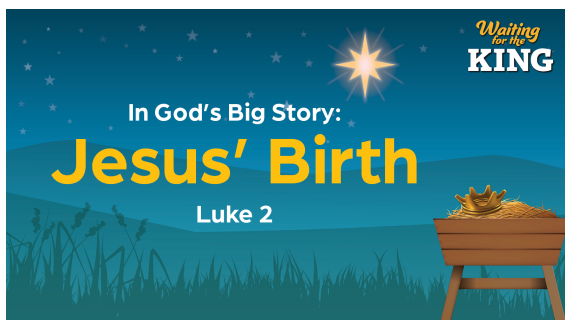
The shepherds were excited. They hurried to Bethlehem to meet Jesus—the King who would be in charge forever and rescue God's people. The shepherds saw baby Jesus in a manger with Mary and Joseph by His side. God kept His promise. Jesus was right there in front of them!

After that, the shepherds told everyone about baby Jesus and what the angel had said. The news about Jesus was good news for the whole world. Jesus came for everyone, and now everyone is

invited to come to Him. We are invited too! God invites people to meet Jesus!

Watch God's Big Story

Watch the [Jesus' Birth God's Big Story!](#)



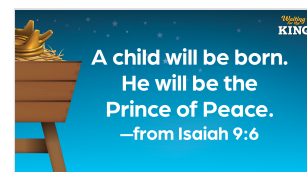
Connecting the Wonder Truth

Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD INVITES PEOPLE TO MEET JESUS.**

Prophets share messages from God. In the Old Testament, the prophet Micah shared that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem ([Micah 5:2](#)). That was Jesus! The Messiah, Savior, and forever King—Jesus—was born in Bethlehem!

Memory Verse

SUPPLIES: Memory Verse [Slide](#)



MEMORY VERSE

A child will be born. He will be the Prince of Peace.

—from Isaiah 9:6

Our verse tells us that a child will be born who will be the Prince of Peace. God made this promise hundreds of years before Jesus was born. God's people waited and waited, and Jesus was finally born! He came as the King who would bring peace to the world, just like God promised.

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you. Repeat this several times.

- **A CHILD WILL BE BORN.**—Pretend to rock a baby.
- **HE WILL BE**—Point up.

- **THE PRINCE OF PEACE.**—*Pretend to place a crown on your head.*
- **FROM ISAIAH 9:6**—*Hold your hands together in front, palms together, as if opening a book.*

Pair kids together and instruct them to stand with their backs to each other.

Take turns saying the memory verse by saying one word at a time. Keep going until the two of you have said the entire verse. You can use the motions we've learned, too, to help you remember the verse.

After pairs have finished, gather everyone together. **Great job, everyone! Let's all say our verse together one more time.** Lead the group in saying the verse aloud.

Gather kids to discuss these questions:

- **Why do you think God chose shepherds to be the first to meet the promised King?**
- **Why is it important that Jesus was born?**

Help kids see the wonder of God's story and how it connects to their own story.

Circle Time: Discussion and Prayer

SUPPLIES: coloring sheets, crayons, prizes

Divide kids into smaller groups, each with a leader. Pass out coloring sheets to keep hands busy while you discuss the Bible story. Don't forget to practice the memory verse and award prizes!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **Who did God invite to meet Jesus first?** (*shepherds*)
- **Who told the shepherds about Jesus?** (*angels*)
- **Where was baby Jesus born?** (*in a manger, in Bethlehem*)
- **Who did the shepherds tell about baby Jesus after they met Him?** (*everyone*)
- **How can you invite others to meet Jesus?**
- **What would you have done or said if you would have gotten to meet Jesus as a baby?**

Jesus came for everyone, and that's how we know that we can come to Jesus now! We can spend time reading God's Word, the Bible, learning more about Him and talking to Him every day. Let's talk to God now in prayer!

Invite kids to share prayer requests and praises and to pray for each other. Some kids may not be comfortable praying out loud. That's OK! Encourage them to pray silently and to thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, so everyone is invited to meet Him.

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for inviting us to meet His Son, Jesus.

Dear God, thank You so much for sending Jesus to be born. Thank You for inviting people—from the shepherds to us many years later to meet Jesus. Please show us Jesus in our life each day. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: **May you experience God's invitation to meet His Son, Jesus, the forever King, who is the good news for all people. May you meet Jesus in all that you do.**

Use the following activities to reinforce the lesson and keep kids engaged during pick up.

Closing activities can be done in small groups or together as a class.

Option 1: Meet My Friend

Pair kids up for this activity (if possible, with a partner they don't know well). **Meeting someone new can be exciting and a little scary! We might not know anything about them at first, but when we talk and listen to get to know one another. Before long, we go from being strangers who don't know each other ... to friends! Let's take time now to get to know someone better.**

Turn to your partner and ask this question:

- **What is your name?** Give kids time to answer each other.

Here is another question to ask your partner:

- **What is your favorite color?** Give kids time to answer each other.

Here is another question to ask your partner:

- **What do you like to do for fun?** Give kids time to answer each other.

Last question to ask your partner:

- **What is your favorite food?** Give kids time to answer each other.

When all have finished, gather into a large group.

Would anyone like to introduce your friend to the group? You can say, "Meet my friend, _____. His/her favorite color or food is _____." Consider modeling this statement so kids know how to respond.

When we meet someone, we learn new things about that person as we spend time with him. Today in God's big story, we heard about some shepherds who were the first people to meet Jesus. Many people didn't think shepherds were the most important people, but they were the first ones God invited to meet His newborn Son, Jesus. God wants everyone to meet his son, Jesus. Today's Wonder Truth says, **GOD INVITES PEOPLE TO MEET JESUS.**

Option 2: Come and Meet Jesus

SUPPLIES: paper (1 sheet per kid), coloring utensils

First, play a little game to get kids thinking about inviting others to meet Jesus. Then, help kids think about someone they could share the Good News with!

Divide kids into two teams facing each other.

We're going to play a game together. When your name is called, you'll leave your team and join the other team in their line. We will keep playing until everyone has had a chance. I will help you know who to call.

Each team will take turns saying the following rhyme, filling in a child's name (from the other team):

Oh, (child's name),

Oh, (child's name),

Come and meet Jesus.

Come and meet Jesus.

As each kid's name is called, guide her to join the opposite team. Instruct the other team to continue playing by choosing someone from the opposite team as they say the rhyme.

Today we learned that God invites people to meet Jesus, including you and me. We can spend time with Jesus by reading the Bible, learning more about Him, and talking to Him through prayer. It is special for us to be invited to meet Jesus, but we can also share this good news with other people we know.

Can you think of someone you want to tell that God is inviting them to meet Jesus? Give kids time to think and allow any to say a name if they wish.

Give each kid a blank sheet of paper and coloring utensils. **On your paper, draw a picture of a person you would like to share the good news that God invites us to meet Jesus with. This might be a friend or a family member, or maybe even a neighbor.**

Give kids time to draw their picture while music from the [Waiting for the King Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) is playing in the background. Encourage them to go and share the good news about Jesus with others this week!

Leader Tip: This activity might be challenging for some kids to think of a person they can share the good news with. Be ready with suggestions to help guide kids toward identifying someone in their life they can share Jesus with.