

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.

Free Play

Declaration

Worship

Snack

Prayer and Blessing

God's Big Story

Activity: 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.

Free Play

As kids arrive...

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church. Help kids find a toy or activity to enjoy as check in continues.

SUPPLIES: baby doll

During free play, hide the baby doll somewhere in the room.

We are going to learn about a special baby who was born long ago. I have hidden a baby doll somewhere in the room. Can you help me look for this baby doll?

Lead kids to look around the room for the hidden baby doll. If time allows, hide the doll and let kids look for the doll a few times before moving on. **Do you know who the special baby was?** Allow the kids to respond. **Yes, it's Jesus! We'll learn about His birth and who came to meet Him first!**

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

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

GOD INVITES—*Point above.*

PEOPLE—*Point to others around the room.*

TO MEET JESUS—*Cradle arms like rocking a baby*

Clean Up

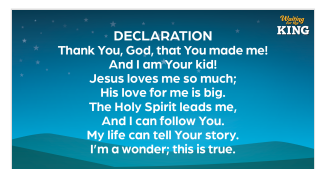
At the end of free play...

Play the Clean Up video and encourage kids to help clean up toys to prepare for worship, snack, and story time.

After working together to clean up, gather kids on sit spots to say the declaration together.

Declaring God's Wonder

**Hello friends! I am so excited to be here with you on this Christmasy day!
Today we get to learn what Christmas is all about! I'm so excited. Let's say
these words together.**



Encourage the kids to say the statements and do the motions with you.

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").

Worship

SUPPLIES: Worship music videos

Today we're learning God invites people to meet Jesus.

We'll learn in God's big story how God invited some shepherds to be the first ones to meet Jesus! Jesus came for everyone, and we are invited to meet Him too. Let's sing some songs about baby Jesus being born!

Play songs and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

Snack

SUPPLIES: small paper cups, cheerios, pitcher of water

Gather kids around snack tables and serve cheerios and water. After praying, begin Bible story while kids are busy eating.

Prayer and Blessing

Let's talk to God.

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.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, large bag or bin with the following props: brown paper bag (manger), crown, baby doll, stuffed or toy sheep, flashlight

God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about when Jesus was born. Encourage the kids to say, "Jesus." **Let's find out from the Bible about how Jesus was born and who came to meet Him!**

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

God sent an angel to tell Mary that she was going to have a baby. Mary's baby would be the forever King. Hold up the crown. **When the baby was still in Mary's belly, Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem. While Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem, it was time for the forever King to be born. He was Jesus! Jesus came to earth! When Mary had the baby, she wrapped baby Jesus in some pieces of cloth and put Him down in a manger. A manger is an animal's feeding bin.** Hold up the manger.

It was time to let people know that the forever King was here. God did something amazing. Pass the baby doll around the group. **That night, shepherds were taking care of their sheep in a field close by.** Hold up the stuffed or toy sheep.

God sent an angel to the shepherds. Remove the flashlight from the bag and shine it at the ceiling. **An angel told the shepherds that Jesus had just been born in Bethlehem. Suddenly there were more angels. They were praising God. The shepherds were excited. They hurried to Bethlehem to meet Jesus. After that, the shepherds told everyone about baby Jesus and what the angels had said. Jesus came for everyone, and now everyone is invited to come to Him. We are invited too! God invites people to meet Jesus!**

God sent Jesus so that we could be his friend!

Activity: Come and Meet Jesus

We're learning today that God invites us all to meet Jesus. Let's sing a song to help us remember that we are all invited to meet Jesus and worship Him!

Gather kids in a circle and sing the following rhyme to the tune of "Frère Jacques". It's important that every child is included in this activity. Be sure to repeat this song enough times that every child's name is used at least once. The third line can be sung by the child, and she can jump up after her name is said.

Where is "child's name"?

Where is “child’s name”?

Here I am (*child jumps up and says this line!*)

There he/she is!

Come and meet Jesus!

Come and meet Jesus!

He’s our King. He’s our King.