

Get Ready!

My Baby Jesus

By: Linda Carlblom



Text

Matthew 1:18-2:12; Luke 2:1-20

Key Quest Verse

“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us” (Isaiah 9:6).

Bible Background

The God we worship is infinitely capable as author of life, sustainer of all creation, and designer of the plan for all time. He had everything orchestrated before the creation of the first thing! He knew in advance all that would happen and planned accordingly. The most incredible aspect of God’s plan is the gift of His Son, Jesus. Before God spoke the words “let there be,” God knew that mankind would sin and be in need of a savior. He formulated a plan (Logos – John 1) that became flesh (vs. 14) in the life of Jesus. On account of (or because of) Jesus, all things could be created (Colossians 1).

It is interesting to examine the birth of Jesus from the viewpoint of God planning for it all to happen. There are numerous Old Testament accounts prophesying the birth of Christ. Many of them are very specific, defining the place, the family line, and the virgin birth. The selection of parents for Jesus, the requirement of a census that brought them to Bethlehem, and the placement of the magnificent star in the heavens to lead the Magi, are all further evidence of our God controlling everything and perfectly presenting His plan of redemption to His people. All creation should marvel at His awesome works!

Get Ready!



Lesson Quest

What I want my students to:

- Know:** We celebrate Christmas because it's Jesus' birthday. Jesus was born for me!
- Feel:** Happiness that Jesus was born; and loved by God for His wonderful gift of Jesus.
- Do:** To be able to tell the true meaning of Christmas when asked.

Leader's Devotion

We've all heard the Christmas Story so many times, it may seem a little stale. But imagine yourself as a child hearing about the Christ child's birth for the very first time. Who ever heard of a baby being born in a barn? And what's with those weird gifts the wise men brought? Where were Jesus' grandma and grandpa? No doubt your young students will give you fresh perspectives as you share with them the good news of Jesus' birth.

We know Jesus was born for us. The Bible states clearly He was born to save us from our sins and to reconcile us to God. But consider *how* God sent Jesus. The Lamb of God was born in a stable. Seems fitting, (isn't that where a lamb should be born?) until you add that this Lamb was also a King who would save the world. He came to us humbly so we wouldn't be intimidated by his lofty title. He came poor, so no matter how poor we are in material possessions or in spirit, we can still come to Him. He came as a baby, so we could relate to His humanity. Even the youngest child can relate to Jesus, for who doesn't love a baby? What a wonderful God to send His Son in such an approachable way!

Get Set!

Option A**Sweet Baby Jesus**

Materials: One small paper plate for each child, coconut, pretzel nuggets (or pretzel rods broken into 1 – 2 inch lengths), individually wrapped cheese slices, lifesaver candies, miniature marshmallows, white frosting.

Story Tie-In: Do you know why we celebrate Christmas? We're going to learn about when Jesus was born. Do you know where Baby Jesus was born? (In a stable or barn.) His mommy wrapped something around Him. What was it? (Swaddling clothes or a blanket.) What kind of bed do you think He slept in? (Hay, soft straw.) Let's make baby Jesus. Then we'll wrap Him in a blanket and lay Him in the hay.

Procedure: Put frosting on paper plate (one plate per every three or four children). Give each child a plate, pretzel nugget, a miniature marshmallow, half a slice of cheese and one lifesaver candy. Sprinkle a "bed" of coconut on each plate. Have children wrap their cheese slices "blanket" around their pretzel nugget "Baby Jesus" and lay it seam-side down on the coconut. Have children dip one end of their marshmallows into the frosting and stick the lifesaver on it for a halo. Place the marshmallow head and halo above the pretzel nugget.

Teacher Tip: Have a container of baby wipes handy to wipe sticky hands. Let the children have a few pretzels, marshmallows, or a slice of cheese to snack on when they're finished making their craft. If time allows, you can also make animals to place around Baby Jesus by using large marshmallows for the animal bodies and mini marshmallows for their heads. Pretzel sticks broken in half become a neck connecting the head to the body and four legs.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!**Option B****Footprint Birth Announcements**

Story Tie-In: How can a baby be good news for a family? Do you know of a baby born long ago that was good news to the whole world? Yes, it was Jesus! When a baby is born, what do the parents send out to tell others their happy news? We're going to make birth announcements today that tell the good news that Jesus was born. You can share this good news with your friends.

Materials: Red and green construction paper, thinned, white tempera paint in a bowl, a sponge

Procedure: Fold construction paper in half to make a card. Write on the inside of each card, "For unto us a child is born" from Isaiah 9:6. (You may want to do this before class to save time.) Dip the sponge into the paint. Have each student make a fist and press the bottom part of his/her fist and fingers on the sponge. Then press his/her painted fist on the front of the card. Roll his/her hand from his wrist to his fingers to leave what will look like a footprint. Now dip his index finger into the paint and make dots above your "footprint" to look like toes! Have children sign their cards if they're able to write their names. If not, write it for them, or let them draw a picture of themselves as their signature.

Teacher Tip: Have a tub of soapy water and a towel nearby for children to immediately wash their hands after they have made their footprint.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!

Bible Story

Materials: A doll, a blanket, a lamp without a shade, or a flashlight

Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles.

A long time ago, Mary and Joseph were so excited because they were going to have a baby! But first they had to go on a long trip to a town called Bethlehem to pay their taxes. They didn't have cars back then, so they had to walk the whole way. Mary was so tired and sometimes rode their donkey. When they arrived in Bethlehem, they needed a place to stay for the night, but all the rooms were taken. Finally, one kind man told them they could sleep in his barn with the animals. At least they would be sheltered if it should rain, and hay would be softer to sleep on than the hard ground.

That night, Mary's baby boy was born. (Bring out the doll.) Do you know what she named him? Mary wrapped the baby in soft cloths (wrap doll in the blanket) and laid him in the manger. What is a manger? (Allow children to guess.) A manger is the trough where the hay is laid for the animals to eat. It was shaped almost like a baby's cradle.

That same night, God sent out an unusual birth announcement. An angel appeared to shepherds who were taking care of their sheep in the fields. Turn on lamp or flashlight. It was so bright it scared the shepherds, but the angel said, "Don't be afraid. I bring you good news of a special baby that was born tonight. His name is Jesus." Then the sky was filled with bright angels singing praises to God for his gift, Jesus.

The shepherds rushed off to find Mary, Joseph and the baby. The angel had told them where to look for them. They found them just where the angels said they would be and knelt down and worshipped the new baby king. They told all their friends about Jesus.

Go!**Birthday Party For Jesus****FOOD:** Check for food allergies**Materials:** Birthday cake or cupcakes, birthday candles, balloons, decorations (for example: crepe paper streamers, happy birthday signs, etc.)**Quest Connection**

Does anyone remember why we celebrate Christmas? (Jesus' birthday.) **To help us remember, let's plan a birthday party to celebrate His birth!**

Procedure: Plan a birthday party for Jesus. Let children decorate the room with streamers and balloons. Light the candle(s) on the cake or cupcakes and sing "Happy Birthday" before blowing them out.

Close

I'm so glad Jesus was born, aren't you? Without Jesus, we wouldn't have Christmas!

Prayer: Thank You, God, for sending us Your Son, Jesus.



Go!**Christmas Musical Chairs****MUSIC**

Materials: A chair for every child, a tape or CD of Christmas songs (“Away in a Manger” would be a good song to use), a tape or CD player

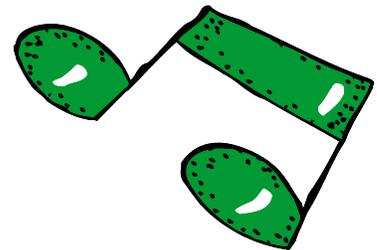
Quest Connection

Sometimes it’s easier to remember something if it’s put to music. That’s why we have Christmas carols, to help us remember the story of Jesus’ birth.

Procedure: Arrange the chairs in a circle and have a child stand in front of each one. Start the music and have children walk around the inside of the circle of chairs. When you stop the music, have children sit quickly in the chair closest to them. At this age, children enjoy playing this game without even removing a chair. This way, every child wins! Have children sing along with the music if they want.

Close

We need to always thank God for giving us His son Jesus. Can you think of any songs we could sing that are about Jesus? (“Jesus Loves Me,” etc.)



Go!**Who Am I?****DRAMA/GAME****Materials:** None**Quest Connection**

God’s plan for Jesus to be born involved many people. Let’s see how many you can remember!

Procedure: Have the children stand up. To review the story, have the children act out the different parts and let the other students try to guess who they are. Or, say the name of a character or part in the story and let them act out how they think they might have acted.

Mary and Joseph walking to Bethlehem (tired, discouraged)

The angels telling the shepherds about Jesus (say, “Jesus has been born,” “He’s in a stable,” etc.)

The star (hold your arms out like you are hanging in the sky. Open and close fingers to “sparkle.”)

The shepherds hearing the news about Jesus (frightened, bowing down)

The shepherds looking for Jesus and finally finding him (look around, then rush over to stable and kneel down)

The animals in the barn (down on all fours, surprised to have people sleeping in their barn; craning necks to see the baby)

Close

Mary, Joseph and the shepherds were ordinary people, just like us. They loved Jesus very much. We can love Jesus too, just like they did.

Go!**Lamb Puppets****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Materials: Brown or white lunch bags, cotton balls, glue, markers or crayons

Quest Connection

What kinds of animals live in barns? There may have been sheep in the barn when Jesus was born. What do you think they thought of sharing their stable with a newborn baby? Let's make a lamb puppet to remind us of the animals that were there when Jesus was born.

Procedure: Have children draw a lamb's eyes and nose on the bottom flap of the bag. Then have them glue cotton balls on the bag to make its woolly coat.

Close

It must have been exciting to be there when Jesus was born. How exciting was it? It was as exciting as Christmas morning, because that's when it all began!

Go!**Sounds of Christmas****DRAMA****Materials:** None**Quest Connection**

Do you remember the name of the town where Jesus was born? (Bethlehem.) Was Jesus born in a hospital? At home? Where was He born? (in a stable.) Can you imagine what animals were there in the stable that night? There were plenty of sounds the night Jesus was born. Let's think about some of them.

Procedure: Let children help you think of sounds that may have occurred the night Jesus was born. Then assign the sounds to the children. Tell the story briefly and let the children add their sound effects. Here are some suggestions:

Mary and Joseph walking – pat hands on legs like footsteps
The tired donkey – “Hee-haw, hee-haw!”
The wind blowing – blow through mouth
Baby Jesus crying – “Waah, waah!”
Angels proclaiming – “Don’t be afraid! Jesus is born!”
Shepherds rejoicing – “Hurray! Jesus is born!”
Mary singing – “Lullaby, lullaby.”

**Close**

There are many nice sounds to hear at Christmas time when we are celebrating Jesus' birthday. I love hearing beautiful Christmas carols. Let's sing one together right now! Sing carol.

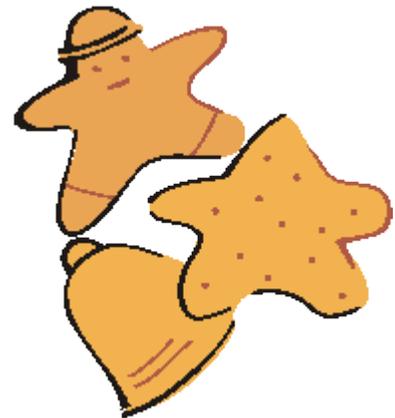
Go!**Cookies Made With Love****FOOD:** Check for food allergies!**Materials:** Christmas cookies, pre-baked, two per each child, several colors of frosting, one plastic knife per child to spread frosting, sprinkles, sandwich-sized plastic bags (two per child)**Quest Connection**

God loved us so much that gave us His Son, Jesus on that long ago Christmas day. Let's decorate these Christmas cookies to remind us of God's wonderful gift to us! You will each get two cookies. One is for you and one is to give as a gift to someone you love, so they'll remember God's gift of love, too.

Procedure: Put colored frostings in bowls and set them in the center of the table. Give each child a plastic knife and two cookies. Allow children to decorate their cookies any way they want. As children finish decorating, put each cookie in its own plastic bag. Each child will receive two plastic bags. One will say, "Jesus is God's gift to me!" The other will say, "Jesus is God's gift to you!" (You may want to write this on the bags in permanent markers before class). Tell children they'll be like the angels telling others about the good news of Jesus when they give their cookie away. Encourage them to think of whom they'll give their second cookie to.

Close

Prayer: Thank You, God for the sweet gift of Jesus.



Go!**Bible Clothes****DRAMA**

Materials: Scarves, robes, rope or fabric for belts, pieces of fabric large enough to wrap around a child, clothes pins with springs to act as fasteners

Quest Connection

I have some clothes here that I want to show you. These aren't clothes like we wear today.

Procedure: Explain how women and men dressed. Demonstrate a woman's biblical attire by wrapping a long piece of cloth around you, then draping one over your head. Men sometimes wore robes with belts. Have a box of dress-up supplies for children to try out. Try to guess who each child is dressed like. Or, have a biblical fashion show!

Close

Jesus had a mommy and a daddy to take care of Him just like we do. Mary was His mommy. Joseph was His daddy. And God was His daddy too, up in heaven. God is our daddy in heaven, too.

Prayer: Thank You for giving us parents to love and care for us.

Go!

Mary Had A Little Baby

MUSIC

Materials: None

Quest Connection

There are so many wonderful songs that we sing to celebrate the birth of Jesus! Can you name some of them? (Away In the Manger, Silent Night, etc.) I would like to teach you a new song today!

Procedure: Sing to the tune of “Ten Little Indians.”

Mary had a little baby, *(fold arms like you’re holding and rocking a baby)*

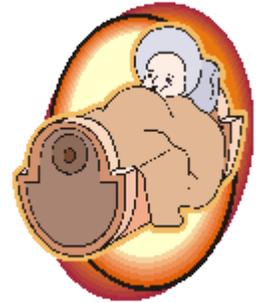
Mary had a little baby,
Mary had a little baby,
Jesus was His name.

Jesus is God’s gift to me, *(point up to God, then point to self)*
Jesus is God’s gift to me,
Jesus is God’s gift to me,
Thank You, thank You, God!



Close

Why don’t you teach this new song to your family today? Why do we celebrate Christmas? Jesus is the reason for celebrating!

Go!**Baby Jesus Cradles****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Materials: Toilet paper rolls cut in half lengthwise (one half per child), 1” wooden beads, fingers cut off of glove, cotton or stuffing, fabric scraps, hay or grass clippings, glue

Quest Connection

Jesus was born in a stable and didn’t have a nice bed to sleep in. Let’s make a cradle for Jesus. Then we can rock him to sleep.

Procedure: Give each child half a toilet paper roll and a small amount of hay or grass. Have each child glue hay into the bottom of the toilet roll. Distribute one glove finger and some cotton or stuffing to each child. Have child put the stuffing inside the finger. This will be the baby Jesus’ body. Glue the wooden bead to the open end of the stuffed finger for a head. Allow time for glue to dry. Cover the baby with a fabric scrap. Show children how the cradle can be gently rocked.

Close

Jesus started out as a baby just like we did!

Prayer: Thank You, God for your son Jesus.

Go!**Angelic Faces Ornaments****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

Materials: White yarn cut into eight-inch lengths, about ten pieces per child, photo of student, face only cut out (face should be about 1")

Quest Connection

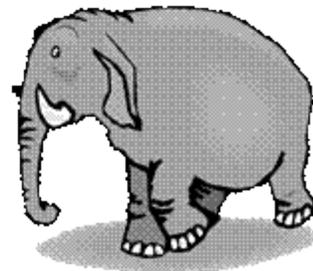
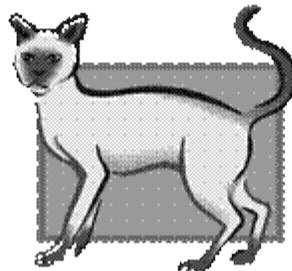
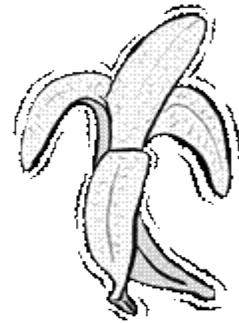
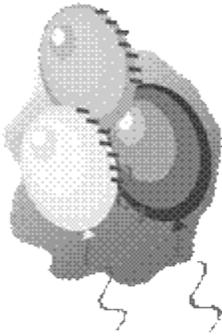
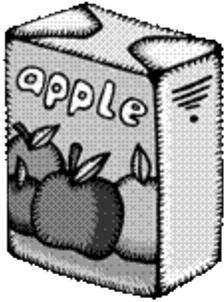
Angels told the shepherds that Jesus was born. We can be like angels and tell our friends the real meaning of Christmas, too. Let's make angels that look like us!

Procedure: Give each student about ten pieces of white yarn. Have each child put his or her finger in the middle of the lengths of yarn. Double the yarn over his finger and tie a short piece of white yarn around the doubled yarn just beneath the child's finger. This will create the angel's head and a flowing, yarn body. Glue the photo of the child's face to the front of the angel's head. To make a loop for hanging the ornament, slip another eight-inch piece of yarn under the yarn that created the angel's "neck." Tie the ends together.

Close

The shepherds were glad to hear the angel's good news. But, the news about Jesus' birth wasn't just for them. It is for us, too. God wants us to spread the good news about His Son just like the angels did.

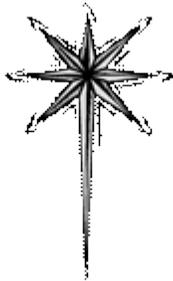
Baby Jesus' name starts with the letter "J." Can you find the items below that start with the letter "J"? Circle them.



How many sheep do you see below? Write the number in the blank.



How many stars do you see below? Write the number in the blank.



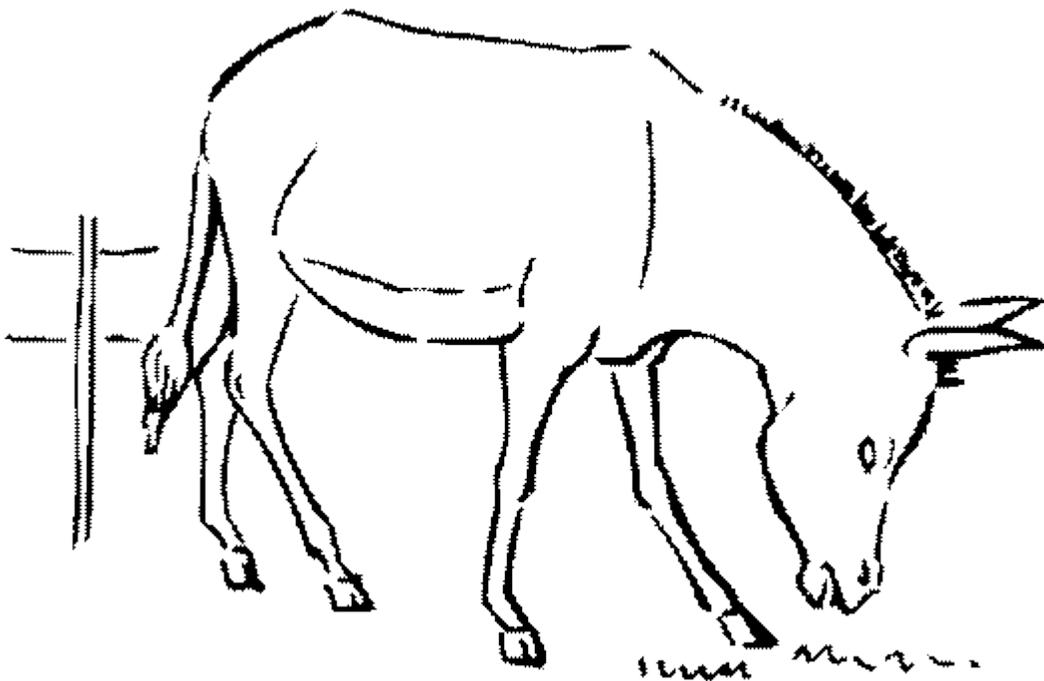
How many angels do you see below? Write the number in the blank.



Luke 2:1-7

Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem as the king commanded, to be counted. They could not find a place in the inn, so they spent the night in a stable. That night Jesus was born. His mother wrapped Him up and laid Him on the hay in the manger.

There were many donkeys on the road to Bethlehem. Can you finish this picture of a donkey?



Journal Page

Can you draw animals around the stable where baby
Jesus was born?



*"For a child is born to us, a son is given to us" (Isaiah
9:6).*

Website Exploring

