

*Get Ready!*

## Jesus is a Gift

By: Julie Gallagher



### Text

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-20

### Key Quest Verse

“Today a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11).

### 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:** Jesus is God's gift to me.
- Feel:** Be happy that Jesus is born.
- Do:** Give gifts to others to show God's love.

**Leader's Devotion**

The prophet Isaiah foretold the birth of Christ saying, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders" (Isaiah 9:6). In this lesson we will be seeing that Jesus is God's gift to us. He is not only a gift of a baby born in a stable, but a King for us to follow. He is a Lord for us to serve. Let us remember these other aspects of our Savior as we enter the hectic Christmas Season. Jesus is God's gift of salvation, and even more than that, a Lord to lead us in the right way and who is worthy of our time, our love, and our praise.

---

**Get Set!****Option A**

**Materials:** Index cards, boxes, wrapping paper, tape, scissors, decorations for a present

**Procedure:** Does anyone here like to get presents? I thought so! I have wrapped 14 presents and hidden them around the room. Let's all work to find them, but don't open them until I ask you to. Let the children find the presents, open them and work to put the Memory Verse in order. We all love to get presents, but do you know what the best present of all is? Take a look at our Memory Verse and see if you can figure it out. I want to tell you a story about when God gave us the very best present we could ever have.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

**Option B**

**Materials:** Bag with items or pictures of things that God has given to us (for example: family, food, animals, sunshine, snow, flowers, etc.)

**Procedure:** Anyone want to guess what I have in my bag? All of these things have something in common. Let's take a look and see if we can figure it out. Let individual children choose something from the bag and discuss what they might have in common. These are all wonderful gifts that God has given to us! But the best gift that God ever gave is not in my bag. Does anyone have an idea what that might be? You're right – Jesus! He's much better than any of the things in my bag. Now, listen carefully as I tell you about how God gave us the gift of Jesus.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

---

**Get Set!**

---

**Bible Story**

---

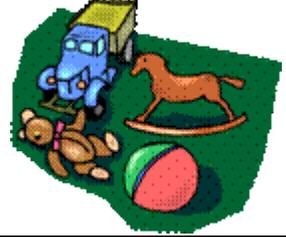
**Materials:** Paper, markers or crayons

**Procedure:** Prepare cue cards ahead of time for different sound effects the children will add to the story as you tell it. Include “the Lord’s servant” (Mary), “waah” (baby), “No Room!” (Innkeepers), “animal noises” (stable), “baa” (sheep), “Here sheepy, sheepy” (shepherds), “Good News!” (angels) and any others that you think of. Explain the cue cards and rehearse briefly with the children.

A long time ago a woman named Mary (the Lord’s servant) and a man named Joseph traveled to a city called Bethlehem, because they were to be counted in a census. Mary (the Lord’s Servant) was going to have a baby (waah), but this was not just any baby (waah), it was a special baby (waah) sent from God. Bethlehem was very crowded, because so many people were coming to be counted that Mary (the Lord’s servant) and Joseph could not find an inn to stay in. They would ask each innkeeper (no room!) but the answer was always the same. No room! Finally one innkeeper (no room!) said that he would let them stay in his stable (animal noises) with the animals. Mary (the Lord’s servant) and Joseph were happy to have a place to get inside. While they were there, it was time for Mary (the Lord’s servant) to have her baby (waah). They named Him Jesus, because that was what God had told them to name Him. They wrapped Him in clothes and let Him sleep in a manger, which is like a food box for the animals in the stable (animal noises).

That same night, in a field nearby, there were some shepherds (here sheepy, sheepy) watching over their sheep (baaa). All of a sudden, the shepherds (here sheepy, sheepy) saw an angel (Good News!) and the sky was light all around the angel (Good News!). The shepherds (here sheepy, sheepy) were scared to death! The angel (Good News!) told them not to be afraid because He was bringing Good News about a special gift from God – a baby (waah) named Jesus. The shepherds (here sheepy, sheepy) jumped right up and decided to go see Jesus. They were so excited about being the first ones to know about God’s special gift to the whole world!

---

**Go!**

---

**Helping Hands****SERVICE PROJECT**

**Materials:** None

---

**Quest Connection**

**God sure has given us some very special gifts. He even gave us His own son, because He knew we would need Him. We're going to talk today about how we can give gifts to others that they need.**

**Procedure:** Contact homeless shelters in your area about specific items that you could collect. As an example, a men's shelter we contacted needed socks and underwear. If there is not a shelter nearby, you might check into the Josh McDowell website, [www.josh.org](http://www.josh.org), and Operation Carelift or local Toys for Tots programs. You might also consider helping a family in your community. Team up with another class or the whole Sunday School to collect items to give to others. This will take several weeks, so plan ahead!

---

**Close**

**Thank You, God, for giving so many good gifts to us. Thank You that we can help others by giving. Help us to show others that You love them. Amen.**



---

**Go!**

---

**Homemade Wrapping Paper****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

**Materials:** Large paper sacks or large rolls of butcher paper, ribbon, ink pads and stamps, paints and sponges, or markers and stencils

---

**Quest Connection**

When Jesus was born, what did His mom wrap Him in? He didn't have any fancy clothes or blankets – no special wrapping! We're going to make some pretty wrapping paper today to wrap the gifts we give to others.

**Procedure:** Cut the paper sacks into large pieces or give each child a piece of butcher paper. Allow the children to decorate with stamps, paint – using handprints, or Christmas shaped sponges, or markers. Allow to dry. Either save to wrap gifts for the homeless, or send home for children to use to wrap presents for their families.

---

**Close**

Thank You, God, for giving us everything that we need. Help us to be happy with the things You give us. Amen.



---

**Go!**

---

**Celebration****PARTY**

**Materials:** Items to decorate for a party (for example: streamers, balloons, confetti, etc.)

---

**Quest Connection**

**God loved us enough to send us a special gift – Jesus. We’re going to show God’s love to others today by delivering the gifts we’ve collected. Let’s try to do our best job when we’re wrapping to show them we care.**

**Procedure:** Plan a party for your class and any parents that will come. Use some of your time to wrap the gifts you’ve collected. If you have parents involved and parental permission, take your class (with parents) to deliver the gifts to the homeless shelter. It’s so good for children to actually see where the gifts are going and how much they are needed and appreciated.

---

**Close**

**Thank You, God, for giving us good gifts and helping us to share with others.**



---

**Go!**

---

**Cheerio Christmas Trees**

**FOOD: Don't forget to check for food allergies!**

**Materials:** 1/4 c. margarine, 1 package regular marshmallows, 1/2 tsp. vanilla, 6 cups Cheerios, red & green M & M's, white icing, green food coloring

---

**Quest Connection**

**How many of you have Christmas trees at home? We often put gifts for each other under our tree. Today we're going to make some yummy Christmas trees to remind us of the greatest gift of all – Jesus!**

**Procedure:** Melt margarine in a large saucepan over low heat, add marshmallows and stir until melted. Remove from heat and add vanilla and green food coloring. Add Cheerios. Stir until well coated. Butter each child's hands well, check to see that the Cheerio mixture is cool enough to handle, then give them a large amount of Cheerios to shape into the Christmas tree (pyramid). When it is well packed with their hands, let them use the white icing to stick the M & M's on as ornaments or Christmas lights.

---

**Close**

**When you look at your Christmas trees at home, remember that the best gift is Jesus!**

**Go!****Footprint Birth Announcements****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

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

**Quest Connection**

**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.**

**Procedure:** Fold construction paper in half to make a card. Write on the inside of each card, "Today a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11). (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 or her fist and fingers on the sponge. Then press his painted fist on the front of the card. Roll his hand from the wrist to the 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 each child sign his or her card.

**Close**

**Let's tell everyone we know that Jesus was born on Christmas Day and that He's the best gift of all!**

---

**Go!**

---

**Tic-Tac-Toe Tunes****MUSIC**

**Materials:** CD or tape player, CD or tape with several familiar Christmas carols (instrumental) including: “Away in a Manger,” “Silent Night,” “Joy to the World,” tic-tac-toe grid drawn on a whiteboard or chalkboard

---

**Quest Connection**

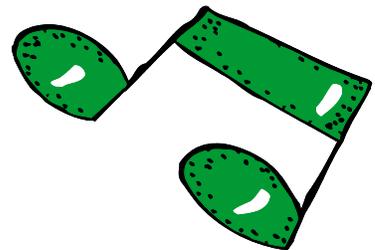
**Our Bibles tell us that angels sang when Jesus was born. Let’s give God the gift of our voices by singing some songs for Him.**

**Procedure:** Divide the class up into two groups – one group being the X’s and one group being the O’s. Play one Christmas carol from the CD or tape. Whatever team guesses the song first will receive the X or O to add to the tic-tac-toe board. The team to get three X’s or O’s in a row wins. After the game is finished, sing the Christmas carols with the children.

---

**Close**

**I know that God is happy with your gift. Singing to God is a gift that we can give to Him everyday. Let’s remember this week to sing to our great God!**



---

**Go!**

---

**God's Greatest Gift****DRAMA**

**Materials:** Doll, 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**

Today we're going to see what it might have been like to have been there when Jesus was born.

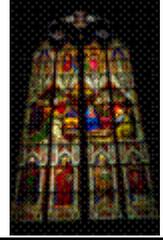
**Procedure:** Divide the children into the different roles of the story. Help them to dress simply as Bible characters. Tell the story again (without the cue cards) and let them act the story out.

---

**Close**

It must have really been something to have been there when Jesus was born. I hope this helps make the story more real to you.

---

**Go!**

---

**Stained Glass Windows****ARTS AND CRAFTS**

**Materials:** Crayon shavings, waxed paper, hot iron, towel, yarn

---

**Quest Connection**

**Did you know that sometimes big churches have beautiful windows that have pictures that tell a story from the Bible? Those special windows are called stained glass windows. They help people see and remember stories. Today we're going to make our own stained glass windows, to help us remember that Jesus was born.**

**Procedure:** Tear a long sheet of waxed paper and fold it in half-width wise. Have children sprinkle crayon shavings onto one half of the waxed paper. The more you use, the more colorful it will be. Fold the other half over and place the waxed paper on a towel or ironing board. Let a grown up gently press the iron over the waxed paper until the two halves are stuck together. Punch a hole in the top and tie the yarn through as a hanger.

---

**Close**

**When you hang this in your window and see the sun shine through the pretty colors, remember that God gave His son as a gift to us and that makes our lives more colorful.**

**Go!****Jesus' Baby Book****CREATIVE WRITING**

**Materials:** An example of a baby book, title page from Resource Pages, Jesus' Baby Book worksheet

**Quest Connection**

**I want to show you a book that's all about my baby. You see, moms like to keep track of the things their babies do while they're growing up. They write down funny things they do or say and even keep hair from their first haircut. We're going to stop and think today what Mary's Baby Book for Jesus might have looked like.**

**Procedure:** Work with the children to answer the questions on the worksheet. Help them look up any scripture references. Many of the questions we don't really know the answers to, have fun and take some guesses!

**Close**

**Isn't it neat to think that Jesus was a baby just like us?**

**Prayer: Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to us. Amen.**

---

**Go!**

---

**Christmas is More****MOVIE**

**Materials:** The movie “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” (Dr. Seuss version)

---

**Quest Connection**

**How many of you like to get presents for Christmas? It is nice, isn't it? Have you noticed that a lot of times that's all people think about? We wonder what we're going to get and we worry about the tree and decorating and making cookies and having parties. There's a lot of stuff that seems to be Christmas. We're going to watch part of a movie about someone who didn't like Christmas and tried to take it away.**

**Procedure:** Watch the movie beginning where the Grinch is going into Whoville to steal from the houses – around 13:00 – and ending right after he says “Christmas doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas means a little more.” This clip is around 10 minutes.

---

**Close**

**How did the Grinch think he could take Christmas away? (By taking the presents and things away.) What did the people do even though they didn't have any presents? (Sang. They were still happy.) What did the Grinch learn? (Christmas is more than all the stuff.) What do we know that Christmas is all about? (Jesus.) Let's remember to keep Jesus as an important part of Christmas this year.**

*What was the good news the angels told the shepherds? Color in the squares and triangles. Use the letters that are left to fill in the blanks.*

T W O K D N A  
 I F Y Z H  
 A B S U E  
 T R A P V Q I  
 V O H R I E H O A  
 S T B N E  
 P D E Y B  
 y N C B S O  
 R N

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem. Follow the path and color in every other stone starting with the second one. The ones that are left will tell you what really happened in Bethlehem the night that Jesus was born.



Mary & Joseph came

to Bethlehem to be counted.

No crib for a bed.

While they were there, it was time

Baby Jesus was born.

swaddling clothes

for Jesus to be born.



Peace to all.

He was born in the stable

Christmas Day

the Good News about Jesus.

to pay taxes

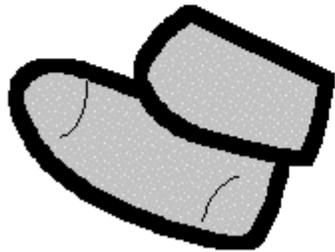
because there was no room in the inn.

Angels told the shepherds

Laid him in a manger



# Baby Book for Jesus



## Resource Page

**Baby's name:**

**Nicknames:**

**Hair Color:**

**Eye Color:**

**Mother's name:**

**Her birthday:**

**She grew up in:**

**How she found out about me: (Luke 1:26-33)**

**My real Father:**

**My other Father's name:**

**He grew up in:**

**His job:**

**My Birthdate:**

**Time of Birth:**

**Place of Birth: (Luke 2:4, 7)**

**My first visitors: (Luke 2:15-16)**

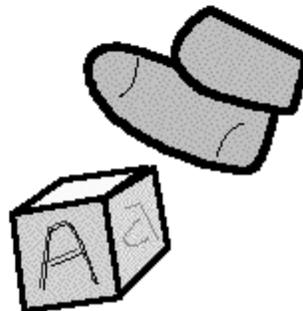
**My favorite toy:**

**My favorite food:**

**My favorite song:**

**My favorite pet:**

# Our Baby Book



Imagine that you are an animal in the stable where Jesus was born. What animal are you? Draw what you see.



# Journal Page

Write a thank you note to God  
thanking Him for the gift of  
Jesus.

Dear God,

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Love,