

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.

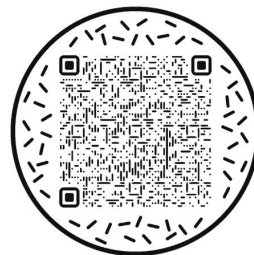
WORD OF WONDER: A child will be born. He will be the Prince of Peace. —from Isaiah 9:6

CURIOSITY

BELIEF

FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation
- Worship: O Come (All Ye Faithful), Go Tell it on the Mountain
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing



[Waiting for the King Preschool Spotify playlist](#)



INVITATION

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Invites People to Meet Jesus
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WORD OF WONDER: From Isaiah 9:6

When our son was born, we couldn't wait to share the news, to send out the first pictures, to let friends and family know his name. His 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.

—**Michael Rade**
Care & Support Ministry Assistant; Itinerant Preacher
Contributor to Wonder Ink

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.



LESSON 4 EARLY CHILDHOOD

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Invites People to Meet Jesus

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WORD OF WONDER: From Isaiah 9:6

Welcome

Slide: Series Welcome Loop

As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

Video: Countdown

Welcome kids to worship time. Introduce yourself by name.

Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

Leader: Hi, Tac! You look excited. What's up?

Tac the Cat: I'm so excited! There have been lots of exciting things happening at my house.

Leader: Really? What kind of things?

Tac the Cat: Well, my parents bought some new furniture, clothes, toys, and other things too. There is a big change coming!

Leader: Hmm, that sounds interesting. Are these things for you?

Tac the Cat: Oh no! They are all for someone very important.

Leader: I see. Who is this important someone? Will he or she be living at your house?

Tac the Cat: Yes! It's a girl, and she will be coming to live in our cat house soon!

Leader: (Leader gasps in surprise.) Tac! Are you getting a baby sister kitten?

Tac the Cat: Yes! A sister, named Tic, and I cannot wait to meet her! My parents have invited me to the animal hospital to meet her. I feel very special to meet this important new member of my family! Soon she'll come home and sleep in her new cat bed at our house.

Leader: Tac, that is so exciting that you get to meet your sister, Tic. I wonder ... has anyone else here met a new baby brother or sister? (Allow kids to respond.)

Tac the Cat: I like to meet new friends, and I have a feeling this new friend is going to be my best friend!

Leader: You know, Tac, this reminds me of today's part of God's big story. God invited a simple group of people to meet a very important person right after that person was born. Except that person was not born in a nice clean hospital like your sister will be. The person we are going to talk about today was very important, but He was born in a place where the animals were. It was kind of an unexpected place for a baby to be born.

Tac the Cat: Wow! That sounds interesting. I can't wait to hear more about this while we are waiting for me to go meet my sister, Tic!

"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: Have you ever met someone important? Allow the kids to respond. What makes a person important? Allow the kids to respond. We all see and hear things that make us curious. Did you ever stop to think about how God invites us to meet Jesus?"

Today's Wonder Truth is GOD INVITES PEOPLE TO MEET JESUS. Today we'll discover how God invites people to meet Jesus!"

Declaring God's Wonder

SLIDE: DECLARATION

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

"Let's say these words together."

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.)

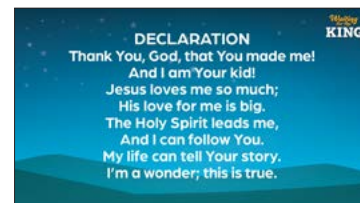
March in place like you're following the leader.

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").



Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use your own words. Here is an example: **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.**

Worship

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

WORSHIP VIDEOS: O Come (All Ye Faithful), Go Tell it on the Mountain

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.

Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

I open my Bible and what do I see? *(Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)*

God's big story, waiting for me! *(Point to yourself.)*

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

VIDEO: GODS BIG STORY

GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: brown paper bag, scissors (prep only), shredded paper, large bag or bin, 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! 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.**

Make It Inclusive! Kids who are neurodivergent may enjoy playing with their own nativity sensory bins while you tell the story. You can create individual bins using the props and smaller bins for kids who want their own.

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!"

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God’s big story:

SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD INVITES PEOPLE TO MEET JESUS**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

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!"

Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish their activity, pray with them, thanking God for inviting us to meet His Son, Jesus. Use your own words. Here is an example:

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. Use your own words. Here is an example:

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.