

### 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

- Play Stations:
  - You're Invited!
  - Nativity Exploration
  - Jesus' Birth Coloring Sheet
- Curiosity Activity: Meet My Friend
- Word of Wonder: From Isaiah 9:6
- God's Big Story / Snack
- Circle Time: Finding Baby Jesus
- LARGE GROUP
- Responding in Worship: Sharing Jesus with Friends
- Game: Shepherd Relay



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



## LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

### 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

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 2

**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.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

## 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

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 2

**WORD OF WONDER:** From Isaiah 9:6

### Play Stations

**SUPPLIES:** construction paper (1 sheet per kid), stickers, coloring utensils, streamers, tape, toy nativity set, scissors (optional)

**RESOURCES:** [Jesus' Birth Coloring Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#)

Greet kids warmly as they arrive and briefly explain the play stations. Invite them to play at any of the play stations.

**"Welcome to church! While we're getting ready to start, you can play at any of these stations to help get ready for our lesson today. Do you have any ideas of what we'll be learning about today?"**

#### Play Station: You're Invited!

**Set-up:** Set out invitation supplies (construction paper, stickers, markers, etc.) and party decorations (streamers and tape). To save time you may want to cut off long strips of the streamers.

**Play:** Encourage kids to create invitations to a party. Ask kids to share about a party they've been to, and what kind of things they did at the party. Ask kids if there were decorations at the party. Show kids the streamers and tape and encourage them to use the supplies to decorate the room.

#### Play Station: Nativity Exploration

**Set-up:** Set out the toy nativity set.

**Play:** Show kids the toy nativity set and encourage them to pick up the individual pieces and play with them. Ask kids if they know who or what the specific pieces are. Tell kids that today they're going to hear about Jesus' birth, and the nativity set reminds us of that story!

**Leader Tip:** Be creative with the nativity set(s) you select for this activity. Look for a variety of styles and include diverse and unique nativity sets for this play station. You might be surprised how many types and materials you can find!

## Play Station: Jesus' Birth Coloring Sheet

**Set-up:** Print one copy per kid of the Jesus' Birth Coloring Sheet. Set out the Coloring Sheets and coloring utensils.

**Play:** Let the kids color. The kids can also turn the sheet over and draw a picture of something that reminds them of Jesus' birth.

## Curiosity Activity: 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'll hear 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. Today's Wonder Truth says, **GOD INVITES PEOPLE TO MEET JESUS.**"**

## Word of Wonder

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

### WORD OF WONDER

**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.

**Leader Tip:** Be creative with how you pair kids together. You can challenge them to find someone wearing the same color or find someone who is the same height or who has a birthday in the same month.

**Take turns saying today's Word of Wonder 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 Word of Wonder together.**" Lead the group in saying the Word of Wonder 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?**

## God's Big Story / Snack

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

**Read pages 231–235 in the Laugh and Grow Bible**

## Circle Time: Finding Baby Jesus

**SUPPLIES:** scissors (prep only), boxes of various sizes (10)

**RESOURCES:** [Baby Jesus Sheet \(1/SG\)](#)

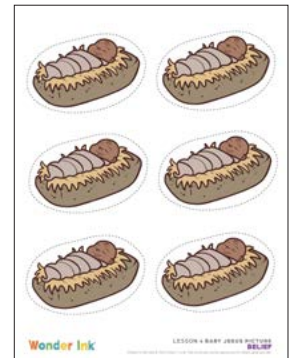
Before the kids arrive, print a copy of the Baby Jesus Sheet, and cut apart the images. Place pictures in six of the 10 boxes.

Have kids get into a circle. Place the boxes in the middle of the circle. **"Today we're learning that God invites people to meet Jesus. In today's part of God's big story, who were the people who met Jesus? Allow kids to respond. The shepherds met Jesus!**

**I have 10 boxes in the middle of our circle. Some of these boxes have a picture of baby Jesus in them and others do not. When it's your turn, come to the middle of the circle and pick a box to open. If your box has a picture of baby Jesus in it, you'll get to answer a question."**

Direct kids to select a box from the middle of the circle, one at a time. Use the Discussion Questions below as kids find a baby Jesus picture.

**Leader Tip:** If you have more than 10 kids in your group, put the boxes back in the middle of the circle so other kids have an opportunity to pick a box. Consider mixing up which boxes have the pictures as rounds of play continue.



### 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.

## Head to Large Group!

Return and finish the rest of this guide before parents arrive.

## Responding in Worship: Sharing Jesus with Friends

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

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** songs from the [Waiting for the King Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

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.

## Game: Shepherd Relay

**SUPPLIES:** painter's tape, full-size candy canes (1 per team), large cotton balls (1 per kid)

Use painter's tape on the floor to create a starting line at one end of the room and a finish line at the other. Divide kids into two (or more) teams and have the teams line up at the starting line. Give the first kid on each team a candy cane and each kid a cotton ball.

**Who were the first people God invited to meet Jesus in today's part of God's big story?** Allow kids to respond. **Yes, the shepherds! Shepherds used a staff that looked kind of like this** (point to the candy cane) **to protect their sheep.**

**Let's play a game where you pretend to be a shepherd and try to get your sheep** (point to a cotton ball) **across the finish line. When it's your turn, you'll drop your cotton ball on the floor and use the candy cane to push it to the finish line on the other side of the room. You cannot use your hands to move the cotton ball, only the candy cane. Once it's on the other side, run back to the next person on your team and give her the candy cane so she can have a turn. Once your team's cotton balls are moved to the other side, the game is finished.**

**Leader Tip:** You may want to test how easy it is to push the cotton ball across the room with a candy cane. Carpet may be challenging and may frustrate kids. Adjust the distance to the finish line as needed or allow the kids to push the cotton balls across a table instead of the floor.