



Honoring Christ in Christmas

*The Bible helps us focus on what really
matters at Christmastime.*

Lesson Focus

Many things at Christmas can distract us from the real purpose of the holiday—to celebrate Christ coming to earth to save us from sin. The Bible gives the details of how God sent angels to prepare for the birth of his Son, Jesus. Christ's birth was revealed to shepherds near Bethlehem and to wise men from the east, who worshipped the King and presented valuable gifts.

Key Passages

Luke 1:31, 2:8–11; Matthew 1:21, 2:1–2, 2:11

Memory Verse

Matthew 2:11 And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Prepare to Share

Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

At Christmastime, we celebrate the day that the eternal Creator entered his creation. It is because of Jesus' birth into this world, and his redemptive work of the cross, that the sinner can be born into the family of God. In the true Christmas story, Jesus took on human flesh, conquered sin and Satan by his death and resurrection, and reconciles sinful believers to the holy God.

We often think of the Christmas story as the passages recorded in Luke 2 and Matthew 2. Although the holiday is set aside to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we must realize that the true Christmas account begins in Genesis. Before time began, Jesus was God and was with God, and it was through him that the universe was created (John 1:1–3). As part of his creation, God fashioned man in his image. This man, along with his wife, rebelled against God, disobeying his command not to eat the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Genesis 3:1–7). Because of their sin, all of creation was cursed. But in the midst of this bad news, God promised to send a redeemer (Genesis 3:15).

The Old Testament continually points toward the coming Messiah, and the New Testament begins with the incarnation of God the Son (John 1:14). Matthew and Luke record the events surrounding the birth of Jesus, focusing on different aspects. Matthew begins by showing that Jesus was born from the line of David, as prophecy dictated. Luke's genealogy traces his ancestry back to Adam. Luke gives more details of the events leading up to Jesus' birth and of the nativity itself. The angel Gabriel announced to Zechariah that he would have a son in the spirit and power of Elijah (Luke 1:13–17) and that this son, John, would prepare the way for the Messiah. Then Gabriel appeared to Mary, announcing that she would conceive, even though she was a virgin (Luke 1:34). Her son would be the Son of the Most High, and she would call him Jesus. Matthew's account adds that Joseph was also visited by an angel in a

dream (possibly Gabriel, but not named). The angel told him not to divorce Mary as he had intended, for her child was of the Holy Spirit, and to name the boy Jesus because he would save his people from their sins (Matthew 1:18–21).

Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John. At Mary's greeting, John leaped for joy in his mother's womb, and Elizabeth praised Mary's faithful obedience. Mary turned the praise toward God, recognizing that God was allowing her to be a part of his plan to redeem Israel (Luke 1:46–55). When John was born, Zechariah prophesied about Jesus and John, praising God and celebrating the horn of salvation that was soon to be born (Luke 1:68–79).

Then, Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem to be registered in the census (Luke 2:1–4). While they were there, Mary gave birth to the Savior and laid him in a manger (Luke 2:7). In a field near Bethlehem, an angel announced the birth of Jesus to some shepherds and then was joined by a heavenly host to proclaim the glory of God (Luke 2:10–14). The shepherds hurried to see the Messiah, glorifying and praising God (Luke 2:20).

After 40 days, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple to present him to the Lord (Luke 2:22–23). While there, Simeon and Anna both celebrated the arrival of the Messiah, thanking and praising God for his faithfulness to provide salvation. Sometime after this, the wise men from the east arrived in Bethlehem. A star led them straight to the house in which Jesus and his family was staying, and the wise men worshipped the child, offering him gifts befitting a king (Matthew 2:11).

The child grew up, lived a sinless life, and willingly offered his life on the cross in order to pay the debt that sin required. Then he conquered the grave and ascended to the right hand of the Father (Ephesians 1:20). Because of his humble obedience, God has exalted him and given him the name above all names, so that every tongue will bow to him and proclaim that Jesus is Lord (Philippians 2:9–10). This is the Christmas story.

Historical/Apologetics Background

You have likely heard the arguments about keeping Christ in Christmas and whether or not Christmas is a pagan holiday. There are many questions surrounding how we should celebrate Christmas, or whether we should celebrate at all. The Bible does not give explicit instructions on how we should remember the night of Christ's birth, so we cannot be dogmatic about how Christians ought to approach December 25th. However, we should be careful to distinguish between the biblical focus of Christmas and the secular focus.

One way to maintain a biblical focus during the season is to allow the account in Scripture to inform our understanding of the nativity. The shepherds didn't see a star, we don't know how many wise men there were, Jesus wasn't born in a stable, the Bible doesn't say the angels sang, and the wise men

(magi) were not present at the same time as the shepherds. Tradition should never trump Scripture as we remember and recount the night of Christ's birth and the surrounding events.

Another way we can rescue the holiday from secular influence is to be intentional about which traditions we choose to participate in. Many of our festivities are influenced by secular ideas, or even ancient Norse mythology, while others are well-intentioned. Do you know where your traditions come from or what they mean? As we celebrate the season of Christmas, we must be careful to consider who (or what) our festivities honor.

The War on Christmas, available at our online bookstore, offers an in-depth look at the biblical message of Christmas and its common misconceptions.

Unit 19 Grace Group (Sunday School) & Children's Church Activities

3s-K Grace Groups, 3s-2nd Grade Children's Church

Date & Lesson	Grace Group Activity Options	Children's Church Activity Options
November 23, 2025 Thanksgiving Lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass the Pumpkin Echo! Echo! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turkey Hunt Review Game Thank You Candle
November 30, 2025 Advent Lesson?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBD
December 7, 2025 Christmas 1A Lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bag of Bows Review Game Gift Go Around 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Echo! Echo! Christmas Bingo
December 14, 2025 Christmas 1B Lesson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Freeze! Ornament from Oriental Trading (see below) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quick Christmas Cleanup Christmas Poster
December 21, 2025 Christmas Lesson 2B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Game Cards Missing Gift Game Gift Certificate (from Christmas Lesson 2A) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Popcorn Memory Verse Game Decoration Dash
December 28, 2025 Christmas Lesson 2A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Card Match <i>Another activity to be provided</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pass the Present <i>Another activity to be provided</i>

December 14 Grace Group Crafts:



3s-2nd Grade



3rd-5th Grade

Memory Verses For Children's Church (November-December 2025)

*Verses are in ESV Translation

Date	3's-PreK	Kindergarten	1 st Grade	2 nd Grade
Nov 23	Psalm 100:4 "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!"	Psalm 100:4 "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!"	Psalm 100:4 "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!"	Psalm 100:4 "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!"
Nov 30	Psalm 4:8 "In peace I will both lie down and sleep; for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety. "	R 2.1-2 "For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it."	Psalm 23:6 "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."	Isaiah 9:6 "For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
Dec 7	Genesis 9:13 " I [God] have set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and the earth."	R 2.3 "...Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..." 1 John 4:14 "... The Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world."	Mark 16:15 "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.'"	1 John 4:15 "Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God."
Dec 14	Luke 2:11 " For unto you is born this day...a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."	R 2.4 "... These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God ..."	1 Peter 1:25 "But the word of the Lord remains forever..."	Romans 5:8 "But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."
Dec 21	Luke 2:10-11 And the angel said to them, "...Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."	Luke 2:10-11 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."	Luke 2:10-11 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."	John 1:1 Luke 2:10-11 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."
Dec 28	Luke 2:10-11 And the angel said to them, "...Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."	Luke 2:10-11 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."	Luke 2:10-11 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."	Luke 2:10-11 And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

Popcorn Memory Verse Game

Materials

- ☐ Memory Verse Poster
- ☐ Optional: popcorn to share

Instructions

Print the Memory Verse Poster and use it to review the memory verse together. Have students sit around a table or squat down in a circle. Begin by saying the first word in the memory verse. As you go around the circle, have each child take turns “popping” up as they say the next word.

Once you get to the end of the verse, and everyone is standing up, go around again and have the children sit down when they say a word. Repeat.

You may want to divide the class into two groups, squatting down and ready to pop up. Have the first group pop up together, say the first word, then squat back down. Then the second group pops up saying the next word and squats back down and so on until the verse is completed. Repeat—going faster and faster!

Luke 2:10-11

And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Review Questions

K-1st Review Questions

1. What does “angel” mean: holy one or messenger? *Messenger.*
2. What was the angel’s name who spoke to Mary: Gideon or Gabriel? *Gabriel.*
3. Gabriel told Mary she would have a *what?* A son/a baby boy.
4. What did the angel tell Mary to name her son? *Jesus.*
5. An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream or in a field? *In a dream.*
6. The angel told Joseph that Jesus would save his people from their *what?* *Sins.*
7. Joseph and Mary had to go to Bethlehem. While they were there, what happened? *Jesus was born.*
8. What were the shepherds doing when they saw an angel? *Watching their sheep.*
9. What kind of news did the angel bring the shepherds? Good news of great *what?* *Joy.*
10. Was the angel’s good news only for the shepherds or for everyone? *Everyone.*
11. Who did the angel say had just been born that day? *The Savior, Christ the Lord/Jesus.*
12. Who came from the east looking for the king of the Jews? *The wise men.*
13. What sign from God led the wise men to Jesus? *A special star.*
14. Where was Jesus when the wise men found him: in a house or in the manger? *A house.*
15. The memory verse tells us what the wise men did when they found Jesus. They fell down and *what?* *Worshipped him.*
16. How many gifts did the wise men give to Jesus? *Three.*
17. Name one of the gifts the wise men gave to Jesus. (Allow several students to answer.) *Gold, frankincense, myrrh.*

Pre-K Review Questions

1. What was the angel’s name who spoke to Mary: Gideon or Gabriel? *Gabriel.*
2. Gabriel told Mary she would have a *what?* A son/a baby boy.
3. What did the angel tell Mary to name her son? *Jesus.*
4. An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream or in a field? *In a dream.*
5. The angel told Joseph that Jesus would save his people from their *what?* *Sins.*
6. What were the shepherds doing when they saw an angel: watching their sheep or eating by the fire? *Watching their sheep.*
7. What kind of news did the angel bring the shepherds: good news or bad news? *Good news of great joy.*
8. Was the angel’s good news only for the shepherds or for everyone? *Everyone.*
9. Who did the angel say had just been born that day—the Savior, Christ the *what?* *Lord.*
10. Who came from another country looking for Jesus? *The wise men.*
11. What sign from God did the wise men see? *A special star.*
12. Where did the special star lead the wise men: to a manger or to a house where Jesus was? *To a house where Jesus was.*
13. Who was the child the wise men worshipped? *Jesus.*
14. How many gifts did the wise men give to Jesus? *Three.*
15. Name one of the gifts the wise men gave to Jesus. (Allow several students to answer.) *Gold, frankincense, myrrh.*

Decoration Dash

Materials

- ☐ Paper Ornaments (next page)
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Crayons or markers
- ☐ Tape
- ☐ Large paper Christmas trees, one per team

Instructions

Cut out a large Christmas tree on green paper for each team and tape them to the wall or draw a large Christmas tree on the board for each team. Mark a start line across the room from the trees using masking tape.

Print and cut apart one Paper Ornament for each student. Have each student color and cut out their ornament or simply write their name on it. Attach a piece of tape to each student's ornament.

Divide the class into teams. Have teams line up with their ornaments in hand behind the start line. When you say "Go," students will race one at a time to their team's tree, attach their ornament, and return to tag the next teammate. The first team to get all their ornaments attached to the tree wins.

Suggested Discussion

We made paper decorations and raced to get them on the Christmas trees. Christmas can be a busy time of running around doing fun activities like decorating, baking, and shopping for presents. But we should be careful not to let these things make us forget the real meaning of Christmas.

- ?** What can we do to remember the true meaning of Christmas? *Allow discussion. Worshipping Jesus. Celebrating Jesus' birth. Sharing Christ by loving, serving, helping, or giving to others.*

Let's remember to honor Jesus in everything we do this Christmas.

