



Advent 3: Jesus Is Born

Lesson Aim: To know Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The God Who Comes Near

THE WORD

Bible Story: Luke 2:1-7

What He Has Done: God gave us His Son, baby Jesus.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "A Savior has been born."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Glory to God in the highest!" Luke 2:14a

Unit 10: The God Who Comes Near			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
48	Advent 1: Gabriel Visits Zechariah, Luke 1:11-22, 62-64	God sent His angel Gabriel to tell Zechariah the good news.	To know God gets believers ready for Christmas.
49	Advent 2: Gabriel and Mary, Luke 1:28-33	God sent His angel Gabriel to prepare Mary for the birth of Jesus.	To know the Lord is with us as He was with Mary.
50	Advent 3: Jesus Is Born, Luke 2:1-7	God gave us His Son, baby Jesus.	To know Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem.
51	Advent 4: An Angel Visits the Shepherds, Luke 2:8-16	God sent an angel to announce the birth of Jesus to the shepherds.	To know God sent an angel to tell the shepherds about Jesus.
52	Following the Star, Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11	God sent a star.	To know the wise men followed a star.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Philippians 2:5-11. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for coming to earth as a baby so we can know You in a way that is familiar to us. Help the children understand You are always near them. Amen."



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of baby Jesus
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "A Savior has been born."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs are available at ResourceWell.org. Additional Supplies: Advent wreath (See GOT TIME?)	Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song: "I Bring You Good News" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Give Thanks to the Lord" "His One and Only Son" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" Additional Song Suggestions: "Away in a Manger" "O Come, All Ye Faithful"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: God of Wonders Unit 10, Lesson 50
		Watch the Word: Luke 2:1-7	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Luke 2:7 Visual: Nativity scene or baby blanket
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Baby Jesus Ornament	Angel created in Lesson 48, white felt (or fabric or paper), sturdy white paper, light blue fabric for swaddling cloth (may substitute paper or felt), glue, crayons or markers
		Game: Act It Out	Jesus in a manger (baby doll wrapped in cloth in box with straw, hay, or shredded paper), stable (sheet or blanket), costumes for Mary, Joseph, and the innkeeper (pillowcases with the sides cut open and a slit in the top for the head, bathrobes or shawls, strips of cloth or ropes for belts)
		Game: No Room in the Inn Relay	None
		Snack: Manger Munchies	Any fruit, sugar cubes, or granola (foods that donkeys might enjoy)
		Circle of Prayer	None
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 10, Lesson 50 Color This Story: "Jesus Is Born"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Luke 2:1-7	None
	Up to 10	Craft: Advent Wreath	See GOT TIME?
	Up to 10	Game: Quiet Time	Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Bring You Good News"
	Up to 10	Game: Memory Verse Echo	None
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about the birth of Jesus

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



A Savior has been born

THE WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a sticker or stamp of baby Jesus. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of baby Jesus remind you that Jesus the Savior was born in a manger. Today's Whisper Verse is "A Savior has been born." A savior is someone who saves us.** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "A Savior has been born."

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com.)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

- "A Savior"** Begin with both fists crossed in front of the chest. Pull hands and arms apart, as if breaking bonds. Then, open fists and move hands slightly forward.
- "has been born."** Place left palm, facing the body, approximately six inches from chest. Move right hand and arm away from body, palm facing down, crossing under the left.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
 Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "A Savior has been born," Luke 2:11. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



The God who comes near

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play “Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God” as children move to that designated area.

To prepare for the lighting of the Christmas candles, light the first two candles on the Advent wreath.



It’s Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the God who comes near. He came near when He sent His Son Jesus to be born in the town of Bethlehem. We can spend time with God today by giving our offering, singing, and praying to Him. These are great ways to thank God for all He has done for us. Let’s start by giving our offering. Play: “Give Thanks to the Lord” as background music while collecting the offering.

Our Whisper Verse for today is “A Savior has been born.” Review the Whisper Verse with the sign language. **A savior is someone who saves people. Jesus is the called the Savior because He came to save the world.** Sing: “I Bring You Good News.”



The Lighting of the Christmas Candles: The Bethlehem Candle

Advent Wreath: 4 candles set in a wreath

We light the Christmas candles to get our hearts ready to celebrate Christmas. Last time, we lit the Angel’s candle and Mary’s candle. Today, we light our third candle, the Bethlehem candle. We light it to remind us that Jesus the Savior was born in Bethlehem. Choose a child to assist in lighting the third of the four candles on the Advent wreath. The candle lighting takes place during the performance of *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello* puppet script or after reading the storybook version.



Before we light the Bethlehem candle, let’s hear from Delbert and Lello.

Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: God of Wonders Unit 10, Lesson 50.

If you chose to read the storybook, have a child light the third candle now.



Where did baby Jesus sleep? (In a manger.) A manger is a big box that holds the food for the stable animals. Because there was no room in the inn (hotel), Mary wrapped Jesus in cloths and laid Him in a manger. There, even the shepherds and animals could see Him and worship Him. Let’s worship Him now by singing “Away in a Manger” and “O Come, All Ye Faithful.” Sing the first verse of “Away in a Manger” and “O Come, All Ye Faithful” or other favorite Christmas worship songs.



Jesus was born in a manger

THE WORD

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

With my eyes on my teacher;
My mouth quiet as can be,
I will listen to hear,
How God loves you and me.

Point to eyes.
Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
Cup hand around ear.
Hug self, point to others, and then self.

Last time, we learned God sent the angel Gabriel to tell Mary the good news. Today, we will hear about the miracle of baby Jesus coming to earth. Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Luke 2:7.

WATCH THE WORD: LUKE 2:1-7

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display a nativity scene or hold a baby blanket. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story picture, or any related picture.

- **Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem town.**
- **They went there for it was Joseph's hometown.**
- **They arrived after traveling for a very long while.**
- **Soon it was time to have Mary's first child.**

- **He was born in a manger in Bethlehem;**
- **For there was no room for them in the inn.**
- **Mary wrapped baby Jesus in swaddling clothes,**
- **And lay Him in the manger—the place that God chose.**



Why did Mary and Joseph have to put baby Jesus in a manger? (There was no room in the inn.) **Let's find our answer in the Bible.** Read Luke 2:7 from the teacher's Bible.

Who was born in the manger? (Baby Jesus, our Savior.) **Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer.** Let's say it together, **"A Savior has been born."** Include sign language or hand motions.



God came near to us through baby Jesus

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: BABY JESUS ORNAMENT

Purpose: To know Jesus was born in a manger.

Supplies: Advent Angel craft created in Lesson 48, white felt (or fabric or paper), sturdy white paper, light blue fabric for swaddling cloth (may substitute paper or felt), glue, crayons or markers

Prepare: From white felt, cut a 4-inch triangle. Draw and cut out the shape of baby Jesus from sturdy white paper. Cut out a piece of light blue fabric for swaddling cloth. On a label, print: **“A Savior has been born.”**

Alternate Craft: Instead of adding this ornament to the Advent Angel created in lesson 48, create an individual ornament by punching a hole in the top and threading ribbon through the hole.

Directions:

1. Use crayons or markers to color baby Jesus.
2. Glue the fabric onto the baby Jesus cut-out for swaddling cloth.
3. Glue the baby Jesus cut-out onto the felt triangle.

Craft Discussion:

- **Baby Jesus was laid in a manger because there was no room in the inn. Who remembers what a manger is?** (A large box from which animals eat.)
- **How was baby Jesus' first bed and first outfit different than most babies?** (He was wrapped in cloth instead of a baby blanket. He was laid in a manger instead of a crib or basket.)

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: ACT IT OUT

Purpose: To remember the details of Jesus' birth by acting out the story.

Supplies: Jesus in a manger (baby doll wrapped in cloth in box with straw, hay, or shredded paper), stable (sheet or blanket), costumes for Mary, Joseph, and the innkeeper (pillowcases with the sides cut open and a slit in the top for the head, bathrobes or shawls, strips of cloth or ropes for belts)

Let's imagine what it was like to be there when the Savior was born!

Directions:

1. Set-up
 - The Inn: Place two chairs with a space between for the inn.
 - The Stable: Lay a sheet on the floor for the stable. Set the manger (without Jesus) on the sheet. Keep baby Jesus separate.
 - Assign the roles of innkeeper, Mary and Joseph. Distribute costumes, if available. The remaining children can be the stable animals: sheep, oxen, sheep dogs, cows, donkeys, etc.
 - The innkeeper stands next to the door of the inn.
 - Mary and Joseph stand away from the inn and stable.
 - The animals sit on the sheet (the stable) around the manger.
2. Lead the children in retelling the story below (Luke 2:1-7) as they act it out.
 - **Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem.** (Mary and Joseph walk slowly toward the inn.)
 - **When they arrived, they asked for a place to stay. But, the innkeeper told there there was no room.** (Mary and Joseph ask if there is room. The innkeeper tells them there is no room.)
 - **Finally, they found a stable. It didn't smell very good and the animals were noisy.** (Mary and Joseph walk to the stable. The animals make noise.)
 - **When Jesus was born, His mother, Mary, wrapped him in cloths and laid Him in the manger.** (Give baby Jesus to Mary. Mary wraps Him and places Him in the manger.)
 - **Jesus' birth was good news!**
3. As time allows, play again, switching roles among the children.

GAME: NO ROOM IN THE INN RELAY

Purpose: To connect with Mary and Joseph's search for a room at the inn.

Supplies: None

Let's pretend we are Mary and Joseph and see what it would have been like when they arrived in Bethlehem.

Directions:

1. Divide the group into two teams. Have the teams line up at one end of the room.
2. Designate an innkeeper (helper or one of the children) to stand at the other end of the room.
3. **In this game, you and your teammates are going to take turns pretending to be Mary or Joseph. When it is your turn, I want you to:**
 - **Ride your pretend donkey to the inn.** (Show how to hold pretend reins and gallop.)
 - **Ask the innkeeper, "Is there room?"**
 - **The innkeeper will reply, "I am sorry, but there is no room."**
 - **Then, ride back to your team and tag the next person in line.**
4. On your signal, the first player begins the relay. Play until all the children have had a turn.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: MANGER MUNCHIES

Purpose: To remember Jesus' birth.

Snack Suggestion: Any fruit, sugar cubes, or granola (foods that donkeys might enjoy)

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.
God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.
Thank You for our blessings. Thank You for our blessings. Amen. Amen.
3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **Who remembers the Whisper Verse?** ("A Savior has been born.") **Let's say it together with the hand motions.**
 - **Today, our snack reminds us of food a donkey would eat. Along with hay, this is the kind of food that would be in a manger. A manger is a box that holds the food for stable animals.**
 - **Do you have any pets?** (Children respond.) **What do your pets eat?** (Children respond.) **Do they eat from a bowl or from a manger?** (Children respond.)
 - **Joseph and Mary had a long journey to Bethlehem. Have you ever taken a long trip?** (Children respond.) **Where did you go?** (Children respond.) **Who went with you?** (Children respond.) **Where did you stay?** (Children respond.)
 - **How was your trip the same as Mary and Joseph's trip?** (Children respond.) **How was it different?** (Children respond.)



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (read every name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Baby Jesus Ornament" craft. You may hang it in your home or attach it to the robe of the angel you made two weeks ago. Tell someone how Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about the difference between a manger and a baby basket or crib.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "Jesus Is Born." Discuss the Bible Story and play the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song, "I Bring You Good News," as children color.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: LUKE 2:1-7

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

Supplies: None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem town.** (Walk in place.)
- **They went there for it was Joseph's hometown.** (Point as in stating a fact.)
- **They arrived after traveling for a very long while.** (Look at wrist watch.)
- **Soon it was time to have Mary's first child.** (Rub belly.)

- **He was born in a manger in Bethlehem,** (Rock baby in arms.)
- **For there was no room for them in the inn.** (Shake head "no".)
- **Mary wrapped baby Jesus in swaddling clothes,** (Rock baby in arms.)
- **And lay Him in the manger—the place that God chose.** (Point to heaven.)

CRAFT: ADVENT WREATH

Purpose: Children work together to create an Advent wreath.

Supplies: Wire or pipe cleaners (brown or green), greenery (ivy strands, pine needles, etc.), four tall purple candles, four candleholders, sturdy paper plate, glue or tape

Teacher Tip: Create one wreath for the classroom or individual wreaths for children to take home. The directions for this wreath suggest four candles. Some wreaths add a fifth candle, "the Christ candle," which is in the center of the wreath and is lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Advent means coming. In the four weeks before Christmas, believers use an Advent wreath to celebrate the coming of Jesus our Lord. Each week we light a new candle. The circle shape of our Advent wreath has no beginning and no end reminds us of the promise of a never ending life forever with God.

Directions:

1. Use wire or pipe cleaners to create a wreath shape (circle) and place it on the plate.
2. Attach the greenery to the wreath shape using glue, tape, or additional pipe cleaners.
3. Place the four candleholders evenly along the inner rim of wreath.
4. Place the purple candles in the candleholders.
5. Note: Over time, you may need to replace any browning greenery with fresh greenery.

Flameless Advent Wreaths: (1) Cut candle shapes from sturdy gold or yellow paper. Color the flames red or orange. Attach the candles to the plate with tape. (2) Use battery operated candles.

GOT TIME *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"Glory to God in the highest!" Luke 2:14a

GAME: QUIET TIME

Purpose: To take a moment of silence to think about God's goodness.

Supplies: Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Bring You Good News"

Zechariah could not say a word for about 300 days. Since he was not talking, he had plenty of time to think about God and to listen. Let's take a minute to be quiet and hear what the angel said to the shepherds about baby Jesus.

Directions:

1. Invite children to get in a comfortable position either by laying their heads on a table or by resting on the floor.
2. **Listen for the words: "Glory to God in the highest." Glory is the praise and thanks we give to God. Glory to God in the highest means we give our biggest and highest praise and thanks to Him.**
3. **It is good to take time to be quiet and think about God. Let's be quiet and think about God while we listen to our Bible Memory Verse Song.** Play the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "I Bring You Good News." Children rest quietly as they listen.

GAME: MEMORY VERSE ECHO

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None

Glory to God in the highest means we give our biggest and highest praise and thanks to God. Let's echo our praises to God.

Directions:

1. Divide your class into three groups.
2. Assign one group to be the loud echo, one the regular echo, and one the whisper echo.
3. Shout the verse and have each group echo your words, the loud group first, then the regular voice group, and then finally the whisper echo.
4. Repeat a few times.
5. If you have time, reassign which group does each kind of echo and play again.

GOT TIME *continued...*



STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about the birth of Jesus.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 10, Lesson 50: Advent 3—Jesus Is Born

PONDER! To celebrate the coming of Jesus as a family, light candles on your Advent wreath (a circle of greenery and four candles). This week, gather your family to light three candles. As you light candle number three, the Bethlehem candle, read Luke 2:1-7. Ask your parent what it was like when you were born or when you first came home to your family.

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for coming near to everyone in Bethlehem. Thank You for leaving heaven and being born in a manger. Amen."

PLAY! Travel with your family around your neighborhood and sing "Away in a Manger" or another favorite Christmas carol. As you walk, imagine the journey Mary and Joseph took to Bethlehem.

Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse: Luke 2:14a

"Glory to God in the highest."