



At-A-Glance: Ages 8-9
God of Wonders: The Wonder of Advent
Unit 10, Lesson 50

Advent 3: Jesus Is Born

Lesson Aim: To consider the miracle of the Savior coming near to us as a baby.

THE WELCOME

MEET & GREET: What is your favorite thing about babies?

GAME: Near and Far

THE WORSHIP THE GOD WHO COMES NEAR

Read Worship Scripture: Luke 2:6-7.

Sing songs and worship God.

Bless and collect the offering.

Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony: The Bethlehem Candle

Perform High Seas Adventures script or read storybook.

THE WORD JESUS IS BORN

Children sign note cards; place in Golden Bowl. Classroom Covenant.

Review: God sent His angel Gabriel to prepare Mary for the birth of Jesus.

Point to Jesus on Earth (Circa 1-33 A.D.). **Today, we will hear how Jesus came into the world as a baby with a humble birth in a manger. He was born in a small town in Israel called Bethlehem.** Point to Bethlehem. **This story may be familiar to you. If so, as we read, look for something new that God might show you about Jesus' birth.**

Reveal Bible Story Scripture Reference: Luke 2:4-7; John 1:1-2. Find It First. Highlight Key Verse: Luke 2:7. Pray. Read Luke 2:4-7. **Jesus lived in heaven before He was born. Let's find out when life began for Jesus. He is also named the Word.** Read John 1:1-2.

THE WAY GOD CAME NEAR TO US

What makes a baby special? Jesus was special in all those ways. In what ways was His birth different than the birth of other babies?

(ie. born in a stable, angels announced His birth, Son of God, star over His birthplace.) **When does the Bible say life began for Jesus, the Word?** (Before the beginning of creation.) **Unlike other babies, Jesus lived before He was in His mother's womb. He has been alive since before the creation of the heavens and earth. Who is Jesus' father?** (God.) **Unlike other babies, He had no earthly father.**

Where did Mary place baby Jesus? (She laid Him in a manger.) **A manger is a box filled with hay or food for animals. Why did Mary have to place Him in a manger?** (There was no room in the inn.) **The manger was probably inside some sort of stable for animals. Imagine God's own Son sleeping in a manger with stable animals nearby. Mary wrapped baby Jesus in cloths.** Give a cloth strip to each child. **Let this soft strip of baby cloth remind you of the way Jesus came near to us. Tie the cloth around your wrist so it is close to your skin. Let its closeness remind you of Jesus being near to you.**

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Through the appearance of angels, God came near to many people like Abraham, Hagar, Jacob, Zechariah, Mary, and Joseph. God came near to Moses through the burning bush, the pillar of cloud at the Red Sea, and on Mount Sinai. **Let's review what happened on Mount Sinai when God came near to Moses to give him the Ten Commandments.** Reveal Exodus 19:16-20. Find It First. Highlight. Read.

What do you think it would have been like to stand on Mount Sinai when God came near? What do you think it would have been like to stand by the manger when baby Jesus was born? Only Moses was allowed to be near God on Mount Sinai. Who was allowed to come near baby Jesus? (Anyone.)

What did Jesus grow up to do? (He died on the cross to save us.) **God came near to us as a baby. He was born, just like each of us, so He could grow up to save us from life forever without Him. Now that Jesus has returned to heaven, who can come near Him?** (Anyone who believes in Him can be near Him forever, now on earth and later in heaven.)

Let's take a moment to think about the amazing miracle of the God who created the heavens and the earth coming to be with us as a little baby. What other ways could Jesus have come to earth? Jesus left His throne in heaven to come to earth. He came in a way that anyone could come near Him. Shepherds and even stable animals could see Him. Why do you think Jesus might have come this way?

THE GOLDEN BOWL: Pray for individuals. Pray the Lord's Prayer.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES:

- TREASURE TREAT: Strip of soft pastel-colored cloth
- DAILY WAY CHALLENGE
- OFFERING OF ART: Jesus lying in the manger
- PRAYER REQUESTS
- BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG

GOT TIME?

SNACK: Manger Snack

GAME: Census

CRAFT: Baby Blanket

DISCUSSION: God Comes Near

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES: Appearing Angel, Memory Verse

Circle

BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW