

LESSON



Baby Jesus Is Born

WORSHIP

We are thankful for the birth of Jesus.

References

Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 2:1-12; *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 43-49, 59-67.

Memory Verse

"I love you, Lord" (Psalm 18:1, NIV).

Objectives

The children will:

Know that we worship Jesus.

Feel love for Jesus.

Respond by worshipping Jesus.

The Message



We love Jesus.

Getting Ready to Teach

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem to be counted as ordered by Caesar Augustus, the Roman emperor. But they can't find any place to stay because the city is full of people who have come for the same reason. An innkeeper lets them stay in his stable. Jesus is born there, and Mary wraps Him in swaddling cloths and lays Him in a manger. Angels show the shepherds where Jesus was born. The shepherds come and worship Jesus. The Wise Men follow a

star to find Jesus. They worship Him and give Him valuable gifts.

This is a lesson about worship.

Worship is our response to God as we recognize Him as the source of all. It is not possible to fully comprehend what it meant for Jesus, the God of the universe and our all-powerful Creator, to leave heaven and come to this earth as a newborn child. When we meditate on this radical act of love and accept His love for us, we can't help worshipping Him.

THREE



Teacher Enrichment

"The King of glory stooped low to take humanity. Rude and forbidding were His earthly surroundings. His glory was veiled, that the majesty of His outward form might not become an object of attraction. He shunned all outward display. . . . Only the beauty of heavenly truth must draw those who would follow Him" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 43).

Those celebrating the birth* of Jesus were but a few men who traveled from afar to worship Him. "'When they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary His mother, and fell down, and worshiped him.' Beneath the lowly guise of Jesus, they recognized the presence of Divinity. They gave their

hearts to Him as their Saviour, and then poured out their gifts,—'gold, and frankincense, and myrrh'" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 63).

Room Decorations

Divide the room into an indoor and outdoor scene. For the indoor scene, set up a nonbreakable Nativity set with a large star above it. Attach white lights to a sheet and drape it across the ceiling like stars or hang it on the wall with a "window frame" of wood or paper around it (to see the stars through the window). For the outdoor scene, hang on the wall green or brown paper with drawings of hills. Cover boxes with burlap and add a few trees.

* Note to teachers: The word *birth* here means that the Wise Men were celebrating the fact that Jesus was born, not that they were present at His birth. Notice that the text below says that they came into the house, not the stable. It is believed that Jesus was at least 6 weeks old or older. See *SDA Bible Commentary*, p. 288.

Program Overview

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students	
1 Parent Time	up to 5		
2 Arrival Activities	up to 10	<p>A. <i>Good Bed/Bad Bed</i></p> <p>B. <i>How Many?</i></p> <p>C. <i>Farm Animal Sounds</i></p> <p>D. <i>Baby Care</i></p> <p>E. <i>Light</i></p> <p>F. <i>Rocking Chair</i></p>	<p>items of different textures such as cotton balls, extra-fine sandpaper, pine cones, shredded tissue paper, clean straw, soft flannel</p> <p>toy animals, stars, or doll babies</p> <p>toy stuffed farm animals or pictures of farm animals</p> <p>dolls, doll clothes, bottles, soft music</p> <p>small flashlights, black construction paper, tape</p> <p>adult-sized rocking chair</p>
3 Getting Started	up to 10	<p>Welcome</p> <p>Prayer</p> <p>Visitors</p> <p>Offering</p> <p>Birthdays</p>	<p>mirror or toy stuffed sheep, bells</p> <p>stickers or other small gifts (optional)</p> <p>offering container</p> <p>artificial birthday cake, candles, matches, small gift (optional)</p>
4 Experiencing the Story	up to 30	<p>A. <i>Memory Verse</i></p> <p>B. <i>Counted</i></p> <p>C. <i>Donkey Ride</i></p> <p>D. <i>No Room Finger Play</i></p> <p>E. <i>Birth of Jesus</i></p> <p>F. <i>Animals</i></p> <p>G. <i>Happy Day</i></p> <p>H. <i>Shepherds</i></p> <p>I. <i>Angels Sing</i></p> <p>J. <i>Shepherds Worship</i></p> <p>K. <i>Star</i></p> <p>L. <i>Camel Ride</i></p>	<p>small felt or cardboard Bibles</p> <p>rocking horse or hobbyhorse or chairs</p> <p>baby doll, something to serve as a manger, candle, matches, blanket</p> <p>toy stuffed farm animals</p> <p>bells or rainbow sticks or ribbon sticks</p> <p>pillowcases, elastic headbands, toy stuffed sheep</p> <p>bells, small white robes (optional)</p> <p>flashlight or star sticks</p>

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
		M. <i>Gifts</i> N. <i>Jesus' Birth Finger Play</i> O. <i>Worship the Baby</i> P. <i>Talk to Jesus</i> Q. <i>Memory Verse</i>	play coins, box, colored water, pretty bottle, decorative box, robes and crowns (optional) (see p. 79) felt or paper hearts
5 Make and Take (Optional)	up to 10		
	Week 1	<i>Star</i>	star outline (see p. 76), construction paper, hole punch, ribbon, crayons or glitter crayons, scissors
	Week 2	<i>Angel</i>	medium-size coin; heavy paper; plain, white paper; construction paper; glue; colorful stickers or glitter crayons
	Week 3	<i>Animal Ears Hat</i>	construction paper, reproducible animal ears (see p. 77), crayons, stapler or glue, scissors
	Week 4	<i>Incense Pouch</i>	netting, ribbon, potpourri
	Week 5 (Optional)	<i>Add the Star</i>	copies of Bethlehem scene (see p. 78), aluminum foil or shiny star, glue sticks, crayons (optional)
Snack Center (Optional)		<i>Mangers</i>	pretzel sticks, rectangular crackers, spread, square shredded wheat cereal

1 PARENT TIME

Busy parents often arrive at church tired and worn out from the week's activities and from getting the family ready for the "day of rest." Share a word of encouragement with them sometime during Sabbath School (possibly during Arrival Activities), something that will express your care and concern for them. The following statements were prepared

by young mothers and fathers as suggestions, and may be used at your discretion at any time you wish.

Week 1

Outside at the park one day we were playing with rocks: tiny ones, big ones, smooth ones, and rough ones. "Mommy," said my sweet little girl,

“Jesus is my favorite rock!” That’s right, my darling. Keep Jesus as your favorite rock. “The Lord is my rock, my place of safety, my Savior” (2 Samuel 22:2, ICB).

How can we teach our children to cling to Jesus? Is Jesus your favorite rock?

Week 2

Our baby was dying. He was born with a rare heart defect, and at that time there was no procedure to correct it. As the days passed and he became weaker, I would just hold him and look at his perfect little fingers and toes, and wonder *Why?* He lived for several months, and I began to look at each day as a gift. His short little life was truly a gift. Before he died, I became pregnant with our second child. I also began to see that my kind Father was giving me another gift. Those months with my baby, though bittersweet, were precious.

Children are a gift from the Father’s heart. You may face heartaches and trials with them, but they are a loving gift. “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father” (James 1:17, NIV).

Week 3

I had told our 18-month-old countless times not to pull the blooms off my flowers. Now he was out on the deck, and his brother was yelling at me: “He’s doing it again!” In came my little boy with a plucked marigold in his tiny hands. He thrust it at me and said, “Mommy!” How could I get upset at the preciousness and sincerity of his gift? I took the flower from him and kissed his chubby cheek.

How much more was God’s gift to us, His Son. Jesus was a helpless, crying, wetting baby. But what a priceless gift He was!

Can you think of a time your child’s gift to you was from their heart?

Week 4

Every year I had longed to dash out and buy a “Baby’s First Christmas” ornament. But year after year I was childless. I was teaching school, and one day after dismissal I went to the church to get ready for my students’ Christmas program. As I walked into the sanctuary, I was impressed with the presence of God. “You are here,” I whispered as I knelt there in worship. I knew I was in His care in a special way.

It was still three years before I was able to hang that “Baby’s First Christmas” ornament on my tree, but when I held my young son on the eve of his first Christmas, the same feeling of God’s presence surrounded me, and all I could do was whisper, “Thank You.”

Share a time you just wanted to say to God, “Thank You.”

Week 5

The stomach flu had hit with a vengeance. When I wasn’t in the bathroom, I was huddled in a ball on the couch. My 3-year-old daughter, seeing my obvious distress, knew exactly what I needed. I opened my eyes when I felt something soft thrust into my hand. It was Pinky, her most beloved stuffed animal. “He’ll make you feel better, Mommy,” she whispered as she tucked him in.

It was the best gift she could give me. In the same way, our heavenly Father gave the best gift He could to rescue us from our distress—the gift of His Son.

Share a time you have been overwhelmed by an awesome gift from our Father.

2

ARRIVAL ACTIVITIES

Plan simple play activities on a blanket, sheet, or quilt for children who arrive early. The children participate in these activities, under the supervision of an adult, until the program begins. The child's play should be with materials that relate to the program, which is based on the monthly Bible story.

Choose from the following suggested activities for this month. Be sure to include something for the span of children's ages:

A. Good Bed/Bad Bed

Supply items of different textures and talk about Baby Jesus' bed. Suggestions: cotton balls, extra-fine sandpaper, pine cones, shredded tissue paper, clean straw, soft flannel.

B. How Many?

Put a few toy animals, stars, or doll babies on the floor or a table. Count them with the children.

C. Farm Animal Sounds

Show the children toy stuffed farm

animals or pictures of farm animals. Talk about the sounds they make and how Baby Jesus shared a stable with the farm animals.

D. Baby Care

Provide dolls for the children to hold, dress, pretend to feed, and wash. Talk about how mommies and daddies take care of their babies. Provide soft music for children who might wish to rock or sing to their baby.

E. Light

Bring in several small flashlights the children can hold and turn on and off. Create a star effect by cutting a piece of black construction paper a little bigger than the lens of the flashlight. Punch a few tiny holes in the paper and tape it securely to the flashlight lens.

F. Rocking Chair

Provide an adult-sized rocking chair for parents to hold and rock children who are too tired or shy to join in the activities.

3 GETTING STARTED

A. Welcome

You Need:

- hand mirror or toy stuffed sheep
- bells

Say: **Good morning, boys and girls, and moms and dads! I'm so glad you're here this morning! Can we say good morning to each other?**

Welcome each child personally as you sing the following song. (Suggestions: Hold a mirror up to each child's face so they can see

themselves, or take a toy stuffed animal to each child, shake each child's hand, etc. Encourage adults to greet each other with a hug, handshake, etc.)

Sing "Good Morning" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 1).

Good morning, Good morning,
Good morning, we say;
We're happy, so happy
to see you today!

—Janet Sage

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Say: **Sabbath is such a happy day, and I love coming to Sabbath School. Let's ring our Sabbath bells and sing a happy Sabbath song.**

Sing "Listen to the Bells Ring" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 236) while you ring the bells.

Listen to the bells ring,
Ding-a-ling-a-ling-a-ling.
Listen to the bells ring,
Ding-a-ling-a-ling-a-ling.
Listen to the bells as they
Ding-a-ling-a-ling-a-ling.
Come to Sabbath school
is what they always sing.

—Florence P. Jorgensen

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Say: **Christmas is such a happy time of year. It's when we celebrate the birth of a special baby. That baby was Jesus! Let's ring our bells and sing.** Sing "Christmastime" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 144).

Christmastime, Christmastime tells of
Jesus' love;
Christmastime, Christmastime tells of
Jesus' love;
Merry Christmas, Merry Christmas,
sing the happy song!
Christmastime, Christmastime tells of
Jesus' love.

—Janet Sage

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B. Prayer Time

Say: **We talk to Jesus when we pray. Let's kneel down while we talk to Jesus now.** Prepare for prayer by singing the adapted fourth verse of "I Have Hands That Clap" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 215).

I have knees that bend for prayer,
I have eyes that close for prayer,
I have hands that fold in prayer.
Now I talk to Jesus.

—S. Vance. Adapted.

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Pray a simple prayer similar to the following and have the children repeat it: **Dear Jesus, thank You for coming to earth as a baby. Thank You**

for loving us. We love You too, Jesus. Amen.

Sing: "Tiny Tot Response" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 21).

Thank You, Jesus, for everything.
Amen.

—Joy Hicklin Stewart

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C. Visitors

You Need:

- stickers or other small gifts (optional)

Greet the visiting children and parents. You may choose to give the visitors a sticker or other small gift. Sing "We're Glad You Came to Our Sabbath School" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 25).

We're glad you came to our Sabbath school.
Won't you come again?
We're glad you came to our Sabbath school.
Won't you come again?

—Mary E. Schwab

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D. Offering

You Need:

- offering container

Say: **Jesus loves everyone. Jesus loves little boys and girls. Jesus loves mommies and daddies. We can help others know Jesus loves them. We share our money so others will learn about Jesus.** Use a basket, a bank, or some other container for the offering. Invite children and parents to give their offerings to Jesus. Sing "God Loves a Cheerful Giver" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 29).

God loves a cheerful giver,
God loves a cheerful giver,
Cheerful, cheerful, cheerful giver,
God loves a cheerful giver.

—Janet Sage

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Say: **Thank you, boys and girls, for bringing your offering. Let's ask Jesus to bless the money.** Pray a simple offering prayer.

E. Birthdays

Say: **It's a special day for _____ . It's his/her birthday!** Lead the child to the birthday chair. Sing "Happy Birthday!" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 38).

Just two* years old today,
Just two* years old today;
Happy birthday, happy birthday!
Jack's* two* years old today.

—C. Harold Lowden

*Insert child's name and age.
Copyright Heidelberg Press.

Light the birthday candles and then lead in singing "Happy Birthday to You."

Happy birthday to you,
Happy birthday to you,
Jesus loves you, dear [child's name],
Happy birthday to you.

—Traditional. Adapted.

Encourage the child to blow out the candle(s). Say: **Let's thank Jesus for your birthday.** Have a short prayer for the birthday child and their parents. If possible, give the child a small gift from Sabbath School.

You Need:

- artificial birthday cake
- candles
- matches
- small gifts (optional)

4

EXPERIENCING THE STORY

A. Memory Verse

You Need:

- felt or cardboard Bibles

Say: **It's time to look in our Bibles.** Distribute small individual felt, cardboard, etc., Bibles to the children. Sing "Jesus Talks to Me" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 51).

Bible, Bible, Jesus talks to me.
 Bible Book, let me look, Jesus talks to me.
 Bible, Bible, Jesus talks to me.
 Bible Book, let me look, Jesus talks to me.

—Susan Davis

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Say: **Our memory verse today is "I love you, Lord." Can you say that with me?** Ask the children to repeat it after you. **We have a memory verse song. And it has motions with it.**

Show the children how to do the motions:



- I** *Point to self.*
- love** *Cross arms over chest.*
- you, Lord.** *Point to heaven.*
- Psalm 18:1** *Place palms together, then open as if reading a book.*

Sing the following to the tune of "I Love Thee, O Lord" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 208).

I love you, Lord, I love you,
 Lord. (Repeat twice.)
 —based on Psalm 18:1

B. Counted

Say: **Before Baby Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem for a census, or to be counted. Let's count how many of us are in this room.**

Point to each child and then adult while the children count out loud. Before you count, sing the following to the tune of "Shall We Go for a Walk Today?" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 82).

Mary and Joseph were on their way,
 on their way, on their way,
 Mary and Joseph were on their way,
 to be counted.

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C. Donkey Ride

You Need:

- rocking horse or hobbyhorse or chairs

Say: **It was a long trip to Bethlehem. But Mary and Joseph didn't ride in a car. They didn't take a bus or a train. They rode a donkey.**

Let the children take turns on the rocking or hobbyhorse, or to sit in a chair while an adult rocks it. Sing "Clip-clop" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 158).

Clip-clip, clip-clop, hear the donkey walk;
 Clip-clip, clip-clop, hear the donkey walk;
 The donkey's walking down the street;
 Clip-clop, clip-clop, clip-clop.

—Janet Sage

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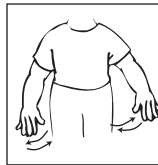
D. No Room Finger Play

Say: Mary and Joseph were so tired when they got to Bethlehem.

But there was no place for them to stay. Let's do a finger play about their trip.

No Room Finger Play

**Clop, clop, clop,
went the donkey's feet.
Clop, clop, clop
down the stony street.**



Pat hands on thighs to make clopping sound.

**Knock, knock, knock,
went Joseph at the door.**



Make fist in knocking motion.

**No, no, no,
there's room for no more.**



Wag index finger from side to side in "no" motion.

**Nod, nod, nod
went Mary's head.**



Nod head as if falling asleep.

**She was so tired;
she needed a bed.**



Place palms together as if pillow under one cheek.

**"Wait, wait, wait!"
the innkeeper said.**



Hold hand up in "stop" motion.

**"You can use the stable
as a place for your bed."**



Point thumb over shoulder in "over there" motion.

—Unknown

E. Birth of Jesus

You Need:

- baby doll
- blanket
- something to serve as a manger
- candle
- matches

Say: **That night Mary’s baby was born. It was a very special baby. It was Baby Jesus!** Turn out the lights and light the candle. Be sure to keep it out of the children’s reach. Sing “Silent Night, Holy Night” (*The Seventh-day Adventist® Hymnal*, no. 143).

Silent night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright;
Round yon virgin mother and Child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

—Joseph Mohr,
translated by John F. Young

Say: **Mary loved Baby Jesus. And we love Jesus too. Let’s say our memory verse again and sing the memory verse song.**



I *Point to self.*



love *Cross arms over chest.*



you, Lord. *Point to heaven.*



Psalm 18:1 *Place palms together, then open as if reading a book.*

Sing the following to the tune of “I Love Thee, O Lord” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 208).

I love you, Lord, I love you,
Lord. (Repeat twice.)
—based on Psalm 18:1

F. Animals

You Need:

- toy stuffed farm animals

Say: **Baby Jesus wasn’t born in a nice, clean hospital, or even in a comfortable home. Baby Jesus was born in a**

stable, with all the animals. He had to share His first home with the sheep and the cows and the donkeys.

Distribute toy stuffed farm animals. Invite the children to bring them to the manger while you sing “I’ll Share My Home” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 147) or “Away in a Manger” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 141).

I’ll Share My Home

“I’ll share my home with You,
Baby Jesus,”
Said the spotted cow,* said the
spotted cow;*
“I’ll share my home with You,
Baby Jesus,”
Said the spotted cow* long ago.
—Janet Sage

* woolly lamb, donkey gray
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Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed;
The little Lord Jesus laid down His
sweet head;
The stars in the sky looked down
where He lay;
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
—Martin Luther

G. Happy Day

You Need:

- bells or rainbow sticks or ribbon sticks

Say: **Baby Jesus was a very special baby. Mary and Joseph were so happy when He was born. It was a very happy day.**

Distribute bells, or rainbow sticks, or ribbon sticks for the children to ring or wave while you sing "It Was a Happy Day" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 148).

It was a happy day, happy day,
 happy day
 When little Baby Jesus was born;
 It was a happy day, happy day,
 happy day
 When little Baby Jesus was born.
 —Janet Sage

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Say: **Mary loved Baby Jesus, and we love Jesus too. Let's say our memory verse again and sing our memory verse song.**

- I** *Point to self.*
- love** *Cross arms over chest.*
- you, Lord.** *Point to heaven.*
- Psalm 18:1** *Place palms together, then open as if reading a book.*

Sing the following to the tune of "I Love Thee, O Lord" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 208).

I love you, Lord, I love you,
 Lord. (Repeat twice.)
 —based on Psalm 18:1

H. Shepherds

Say: **Shepherds were out on the hills around Bethlehem on the night that Baby Jesus was born. They were watching their sheep.**

Dress the children in a simple shepherd headdress (pillowcase or dish towel and elastic headband) and give each a toy sheep to hold while you sing the following adaptation of the second verse of "Angels Singing" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 140).

Shepherds watched their sheep at night;
 Their sheep at night, their sheep at night;
 Shepherds watched their sheep at night
 When Jesus dear was born.
 —Virginia Cason. Adapted.

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Say: **The shepherds loved Baby Jesus. And we love Jesus too. Let's say our memory verse and sing our memory verse song again.**

- I** *Point to self.*
- love** *Cross arms over chest.*
- you, Lord.** *Point to heaven.*
- Psalm 18:1** *Place palms together, then open as if reading a book.*

Sing the following to the tune of "I Love Thee, O Lord" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 208).

I love you, Lord, I love you,
 Lord. (Repeat twice.)
 —based on Psalm 18:1

You Need:

- simple shepherd costumes
- toy stuffed sheep



I. Angels Sing

You Need:

- bells
- white robes (optional)

Say: **Suddenly, an angel appeared to the shepherds. The shepherds were very frightened, but the angel said, “Don’t be afraid! The Saviour has been born!” Then they**

sang a glorious song to celebrate Jesus’ birth.

Distribute bells to the children and dress them in white robes (optional) while you sing the chorus to “Angels We Have Heard on High” (*The Seventh-day Adventist® Hymnal*, no. 142) or “Joy to the World” (*The Seventh-day Adventist® Hymnal*, no. 125).

Angels We Have Heard on High
(chorus only)

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

—French carol. Adapted by Earl Marlatt.

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Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

—Isaac Watts

Say: **The angels loved Baby Jesus. And we love Jesus too. Let’s say our memory verse and sing our memory verse song again.**

- I** *Point to self.*
- love** *Cross arms over chest.*
- you, Lord.** *Point to heaven.*
- Psalm 18:1** *Place palms together, then open as if reading a book.*

Sing the following to the tune of “I Love Thee, O Lord” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 208).

I love you, Lord, I love you,
Lord. (Repeat twice.)

—based on Psalm 18:1

J. Shepherds Worship

Say: **The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem to see the new baby. They found Baby Jesus and Mary and Joseph in the stable. Baby Jesus was lying in the manger. The shepherds knelt down beside Baby Jesus and worshipped Him.**

Invite the children to join you while you kneel at the manger. Sing the third verse of “It Was a Happy Day” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 148).

The shepherds came to pray, came to pray,
came to pray,
When little Baby Jesus was born.
The shepherds came to pray, came to pray,
came to pray,
When little Baby Jesus was born.

—Janet Sage

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K. Star

You Need:

- flashlight or star sticks

Say: **Some Wise Men lived far away from where Baby Jesus was born. But they saw something very different in the**

night sky. They saw a special star that had never been there before. They studied their Bible scrolls and learned that the star meant a special baby had been born.

Turn out the lights in the room and use a flashlight to shine a light on the ceiling or give each child a star stick to wave while you sing "Christmas Star" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 143).

Shine, shine, star of light;
Shine, shine, shine tonight;
Shine, shine, shine so bright,
Beautiful Christmas star.

—Janet Sage

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L. Camel Ride

Say: **The Wise Men rode on their camels to go see Baby Jesus. It was a long trip, and they had to travel at night so they could see the star. The star led them to Baby Jesus.**

Invite the children to hold pretend reins and bend their knees with the music as if riding a pretend camel while you sing "Riding on a Camel" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 152).

Riding on a camel, a camel, a camel;
Following a star, following a star;
Riding on a camel, a camel, a camel;
See the Wise Men come from afar.

—Janet Sage

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M. Gifts

Say: **The Wise Men brought presents for Baby Jesus. They brought gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. They brought very nice gifts to Baby Jesus. And when they saw Him, they knelt down and worshipped Him.**

Dress the children as Wise Men (if you choose) and give them the gifts to carry around the room while you sing the fourth verse of "It Was a Happy Day" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 148).

The Wise Men brought their gifts,
brought their gifts,
brought their gifts
When little Baby Jesus was born.
The Wise Men brought their gifts,
brought their gifts,
brought their gifts
When little Baby Jesus was born.

—Janet Sage

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You Need:

- play coins in a box
- colored water in a pretty bottle or perfume in a bottle
- decorative box
- robes (optional)
- crowns (optional)

N. Jesus' Birth Finger Play

Say: **Let's learn/do a finger play about Jesus' birth.** Turn to page 79 and teach/do the finger play titled "Jesus' Birth Finger Play."

O. Worship the Baby

You Need:

- felt or paper hearts

Say: **Mary and Joseph loved Baby Jesus. The angels loved Baby Jesus. The shepherds and the Wise Men loved Baby Jesus. We love Jesus too.**

Give each child a heart to bring to the manger while you sing "Baby Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 142).

Baby Jesus, sweet Baby Jesus,
Baby Jesus, I love You.

—Janet Sage

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Say: **Mary and Joseph loved Baby Jesus. The shepherds loved Jesus. The angels loved Baby Jesus. The Wise Men loved Baby Jesus. And we love Jesus too. Let's say our memory verse and sing our memory verse song again.**



- I** *Point to self.*
- love** *Cross arms over chest.*
- you, Lord.** *Point to heaven.*
- Psalm 18:1** *Place palms together, then open as if reading a book.*

Sing the following to the tune of "I Love Thee, O Lord" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 208).

I love you, Lord, I love you,
Lord. (Repeat twice.)

—based on Psalm 18:1

P. Talk to Jesus

Say: **How can we show Jesus we love Him? We can talk to Jesus. When we pray, we talk to Jesus. Can you fold your hands and get on your knees with me? Let's talk to Jesus.**

Kneel with hands folded while you sing the second verse of "I Talk to Jesus" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 10).

I talk to Jesus when I pray, when I pray, when I pray.

I talk to Jesus when I pray, and He hears me, I know.

—Dorothy Robison

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Q. Memory Verse

Say: **We love Jesus too. Jesus loves to hear us sing our worship to Him.** Say the memory verse and sing the memory verse song, "I Love the Lord" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 207). Use the motions.

- I** *Point to self.*
- love** *Cross arms over chest.*
- you, Lord.** *Point to heaven.*
- Psalm 18:1** *Place palms together, then open as if reading a book.*

Sing the following to the tune of "I Love Thee, O Lord" (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 208).

I love you, Lord, I love you,
Lord. (Repeat twice.)

—based on Psalm 18:1

5

MAKE AND TAKE (optional)**Week 1****Star****You Need:**

- reproducible star pattern (see p. 76)
- construction paper
- scissors
- hole punch
- ribbon
- crayons or glitter crayons

Photocopy the star pattern (see page 76) onto a piece of construction paper for each child. Parents can cut out the star. Punch a hole near one of the tips. Use crayons or glitter crayons (you can also make your own) if you have them and have the children color their stars. Tie a ribbon through the hole and use for hanging.

Week 2**Angel****You Need:**

- medium-size coin
- heavy paper
- plain, white paper
- construction paper
- glue
- colorful stickers or glitter crayons

Ahead of time, use a coin (not too small) to draw circles on heavy paper. Cut out the circles. Distribute one circle to each child and have their parents or Sabbath School helpers help them glue it to a sheet of construction paper. Have them glue a rectangular piece of plain, white paper 1" x 2.5" (2 cm x 6 cm) to represent the body of the angel.

Give them colorful stickers to decorate or have them color with glitter crayons. Have an adult helper help them add facial features and hair. Have an adult write "The angels sang of Jesus' birth."

Week 3**Animal Ears Hat****You Need:**

- construction paper
- copies of animal ears patterns (see p. 77)
- crayons
- scissors
- stapler or glue

Photocopy one set of animal-ears patterns onto construction paper for each child. (Let the children decide which animal they will be.) Ask parents to cut them out. Let the children color them. Cut construction paper equal to the circumference of each child's head. Join the ends

and attach the ears.

Week 4**Incense Pouch****You Need:**

- netting
- ribbon
- woodland potpourri or other

Create small incense pouches by putting a tablespoon of potpourri into a square of netting then tying with a piece of ribbon.

Week 5 (or optional activity)**Add the Star****You Need:**

- copies of Bethlehem scene (see p. 78)
- aluminum foil or shiny star
- glue sticks
- crayons (optional)

Photocopy the Bethlehem scene (see p. 78) for each child. Give each child aluminum foil to fashion into a star or a shiny star sticker. Have available parents or adults help the children make the star then glue it over the Bethlehem scene. Alternately, teachers

may give a shiny star sticker. Children may color the picture if desired.

Bible Activities

If there is still time, families may choose from a variety of activities that reinforce this month’s Bible story. Those activities listed as Arrival Activities may be used again. In addition, you may want to provide a snack at one table.

Snack Center (optional)

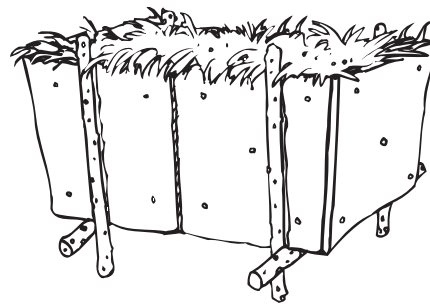
Mangers

You Need:

- pretzel sticks
- rectangular crackers
- spread
- square shredded wheat cereal

Give each child a few shredded wheat cereal squares to shred into “hay.” Use spread to hold together the pretzel sticks and rectangular crackers to form a manger, as shown. Place the “hay” in the manger.

*Be aware of any food allergies, and adjust the snack accordingly.



Closing

Say the memory verse and sing the memory verse song again. Use the motions.

I *Point to self.*

love *Cross arms over chest.*

you, Lord. *Point to heaven.*

Psalm 18:1 *Place palms together, then open as if reading a book.*

Sing the following to the tune of “I Love Thee, O Lord” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 208).

I love you, Lord, I love you,
Lord. (Repeat twice.)

—based on Psalm 18:1

Say a short prayer similar to the following: **Thank You, Jesus, for coming to earth as a baby. We know you are grown up now. We love You, Jesus, and we thank You for loving us too. Amen.**

As the children prepare to leave the room, sing “Good-bye Prayer” (*Little Voices Praise Him*, no. 44).

It is time to say good-bye now,
But first a prayer we pray,
“Dear Jesus, keep and bring us back
Again next Sabbath day.”

—Kathleen Maguire

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Notes

STUDENT LESSON

Baby Jesus Is Born

References

Luke 2:1-20;
 Matthew 2:1-12;
The Desire of Ages,
 pp. 43-49, 59-67.

Memory Verse

"I love you, Lord"
 (Psalm 18:1,
 NIV).

The Message
 We love Jesus.

See the mother with her new baby. New babies are so special.

See Joseph and Mary. They have traveled a long way. They want to rest.

"I'm sorry," says the man (*Point to the innkeeper.*), "all my rooms are full."

"But we have come a long way," Joseph says. (*Point to Joseph, then Mary.*) "And my wife will soon have a baby."

"Well, you could stay in the stable," answers the kind man. "I have some animals there, but it's warm and dry."

See the animals. (*Point to and name the animals.*)

See the manger. (*Point to the manger.*) The hay in the manger is soft. It will make a nice bed for a baby.

The stable will be a good place to stay for a while.

After a while, Baby Jesus was born.

"Let's put our baby on the soft hay in the manger," says Joseph. "You should rest a while." (*Point to Joseph, then to Mary.*)

Mother Mary looks at her new baby boy. She touches His curly, dark hair and

His tiny ears. (*Touch your child's hair and an ear.*) She loves him so much!

"Come," says Joseph. "Come and rest now."

Some shepherds watch their sheep on a nearby hillside. (*Point to shepherds, then sheep.*) They have heard that Jesus will come to earth. *When will He come? they wonder. Will He come soon? God's Word says He will.*

The shepherds see a bright, shining star. (*Point to the star.*)

Where did that star come from? they wonder.

Suddenly, an angel appears.

"Do not be afraid," says the angel. (*Point to the angel.*) "I bring you good news. Jesus the Saviour has been born. You will find Him in the city. Look for a baby lying in a manger."

Many more angels come. So many angels! (*Point to the angels.*)

The angels praise God.

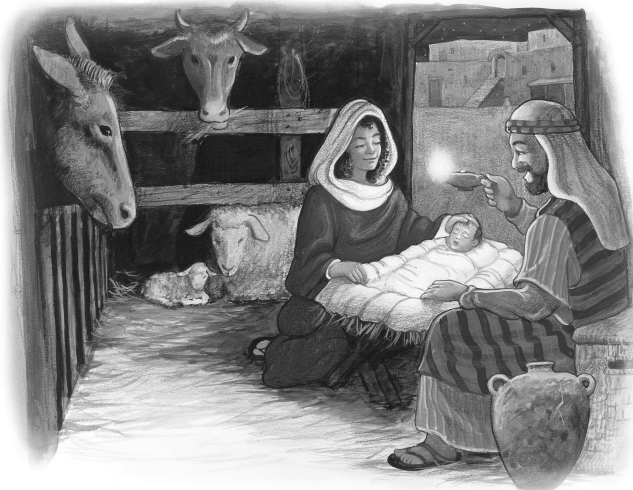
Glory to God in the highest.

And on earth peace to everyone.

"We must go," the shepherds say to one another. "We must go to the city and look for this baby."

"Thank You, God," the shepherds pray. "Thank You for sending Your Son to this earth. Thank You for sending Jesus to be our Saviour. We will tell everyone we meet about Him."

We can thank God too. (Pray a simple prayer, such as the following.) Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to love us, to save us, and to care for us. We love Him, and we love You too.



Do & Say

1. Roll both ends of a piece of paper together to look like a scroll. Decorate it and write “Follow the star. A Saviour has been born.” Talk to your child about the shepherds.

2. Make paper or elastic headbands for the family. Attach paper or felt animal ears—cow, donkey, sheep, etc. Sing “Away in a Manger.”

3. Allow your child to ride on a rocking horse. Talk to him/her about Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.

4. Arrange stuffed toy animals in a corner. Count them and talk to your child about Jesus’ birth.

5. Provide a “donkey ride” on your back for your older toddler. Talk to him or her about Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem.

6. Shine a flashlight on the ceiling of a darkened room. Show your child how to follow the “star” to find Baby Jesus.

7. Wrap a baby doll in strips of cloth. Sing a song about Baby Jesus. Thank God for Jesus.

Study these suggestions for something to do each day with your child. Select those that are appropriate for your child’s developmental stage and repeat them often.

8. Buy plaster ornaments of the Nativity scene—stars, or shepherds—and, with your child, paint them with finger paints.

9. Make a manger by shredding newspaper and putting it in a box. Use a doll for Baby Jesus. Sing “Away in a Manger.”

10. Roll out cookie dough and use a star-shaped cookie cutter. Have your child help you decorate with yellow icing and sprinkles.

11. Visit a Nativity scene and look at the straw. Have your child touch it if possible.

12. Make a cardboard crown and decorate it. Write “Jesus Is King” on the front.

13. Stuff a white sock with cloth scraps and glue cotton balls to it. Draw a sheep’s face and ears. Talk to your child about the shepherds who worshipped Jesus.

14. Use blocks or pillows to make a stable. Place toy animals inside it. Sing “Away in a Manger.”

15. Have a party for Jesus. Sing songs of praise to Him. Talk about a gift your child might give to Jesus.