

LESSON AIM:

Today we want to simply celebrate the most important birth that ever took place on planet earth:
The birth of the Lord Jesus Christ!

KEY SCRIPTURES: John 1:1-4, 14 and Luke 2:1-14

REVIEW QUESTIONS: (*“Ok, who remembers from last week’s lesson...”*)

- 1) Who led the people of Israel out of Egypt?
- 2) What happened when they got to the Red Sea?
- 3) Can someone explain last week’s Bible verse in their own words?

INTRODUCTION:

This lesson is a brief explanation of who Jesus is and why and how He came. We want the students to identify with Jesus: He was once a baby, He was born into a family. He wasn't born under ideal circumstances. Most importantly, He was born for us and that is why we celebrate!

LESSON:

Ask the students what is Christmas and how do they celebrate it. Although it has many different traditions, Christmas is a time of year that we celebrate the birth of Jesus! Have students open their Bibles to John 1 and read verses 1-4 and then verse 14.

John 1:1 tells us that Jesus actually existed before time began. He has **always** existed. The only way we could know what God was like was for Him to become a man. Jesus was, is, and always will be God. But He became a man not only to show to us the grace and love of the Father, but He came to die for us. Ask the students why they think Jesus needed to die, make sure they understand this concept from the previous lessons.

There were many ways that Jesus could have come to earth, like in an explosive flash of light and glory for all to see! But He chose to come into the world just like we came into the world - He was born into a family. Most of you were probably born in a hospital room where there were doctors and nurses to take care of you. The room where you were born was probably cleaned very carefully and all the medical equipment was sterilized so there wouldn't be any germs to make you sick or infected. There were bright lights to help the doctor deliver you. Possibly one of the worst places to be born would be a cold, dark, stinky barn with dirty animals all around you. Have any of you been on a farm or in a barn before? How would you describe it? Is that a good place for a baby to be born? Who would ever want to be born in a place like that? Well, that was where Jesus was born. But why? If He was King, shouldn't He be born in a palace? No. He came in the most humble way possible. To identify with every human being who ever lived, from the rich to the very absolute poorest of poor.

All of the angels were watching -- some of them were probably appalled to see the Lord of Glory born in such a place! But when Jesus was finally born, that crying little baby in the stable, they wanted to tell someone... anyone! They found some shepherds in the field taking care of their sheep, and those shepherds became a part of an angelic celebration in the sky! Who would ever believe that they saw a sky full of angels proclaiming that the Son of God had been born right near by! They left their sheep and ran to see for themselves this newborn baby, the King of Glory!

Right now we are going to read the Christmas story in the gospel of Luke and then we are going to have our own celebration of Jesus' birthday! **(Have the students take turns reading Luke 2:1-14).**

Sadly, some people completely miss the meaning of Christmas. They get so distracted by shopping and buying gifts that often times this is the most stressful time of the year! But we need to remember that the reason for the season is JESUS! Remind someone that Christmas is a time to celebrate how much God loves us! So much that He sent us His only Son to die for our sins so that we could have a relationship with Him and be with Him forever in heaven!

Let's pray and thank God for the greatest gift we could ever receive. Ask Him to help us to share this gift with others, especially during this Christmas season when people are stressed and even sad because of many different things. Let's thank Him that He found us and we now belong to Him!

JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!

MEMORY VERSE:

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called: Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

Isaiah 9:6