



Jesus Is Born

Luke 2:1-7

WEEK 3*



POINT WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.

Open the Bible to Luke 2, and show kids the words. **SAY: The Bible is God's special book. I'm going to tell you what the Bible says about baby Jesus. We celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Some people celebrate by setting up little dolls that show what happened when Jesus was born. That's called a Nativity set. We're going to use some gizmos to make a Nativity set as I read.**

Mary was engaged to Joseph. Have kids hold up two *Color Switchers Markers* to be Mary and Joseph. Let kids take turns holding the markers.

Mary had baby Jesus, God's Son, growing inside of her. Have a child use *Buzz Play Foam* to attach a *Finger Spinner* to the middle of the Mary marker to represent baby Jesus.

Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem together. Have kids take turns "walking" the two markers around in front of them. If the "Jesus" *Finger Spinner* falls off, simply reattach it.

Jesus was born in a barn. Remove the *Finger Spinner* from the Mary marker. Give each child a *Finger Spinner* to hold and rock like a baby.

Mary wrapped Jesus in cloth to keep him warm. Have kids wrap their *Finger Spinners* in *Buzz Play Foam*.

God's own Son went to sleep in a manger. Have kids take turns placing their *Finger Spinners* on the *Orbit Ball*. Stand the Mary and Joseph markers up by the ball.

SAY: God gave Jesus to Mary, and through Jesus, God has given us all a special gift. The gift of Jesus means  WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.

ASK: What are some things Mary and Joseph did to take care of Jesus?

What do your parents do to take care of you?

What does God do to take care of you?

SAY: Parents take care of their children, just like Mary and Joseph took care of baby Jesus. And when we're God's children, we know he loves and cares for us, too.





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POINT ➔ **WE CAN BE
GOD'S CHILDREN.**

Have kids stand in a circle. Lead kids in singing the words below to the tune of "Jingle Bells" (not on the CD). Repeat it several times. As you sing together, toss the *Orbit Ball* back and forth.

SING:

**God gives gifts, God gives gifts,
I can be God's child.
Oh, what fun it is to be
A special child of God.**

ASK: ➔ **WE CAN BE GOD'S
CHILDREN.** How is God like a
really good father?

**What's fun about being
God's child?**

SAY: **At Christmas, a lot of people
give and get gifts. Christmas
presents can help us remember
the greatest gift of all: baby Jesus.
Jesus was born so he could make
a way that ➔ WE CAN BE GOD'S
CHILDREN.**



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Pass out *Buzz Play Foam* to each child. SAY: **Use your clay to sculpt a baby Jesus. Then you can rock your baby and take care of him the way Mary and Joseph took care of baby Jesus. And you can remember how God takes care of all his children.**

➔ **WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.**

Play ● "For to Us a Child Is Born" (Isaiah 9:6) (track 5) on the *CD* as children sculpt. When kids finish sculpting, encourage kids to sing the words they know as they rock their babies.

SING:

**For to us a child is born, to us a son
is given,
And the government will be on his
shoulders.**

**For to us a child is born, to us a son
is given,
And the government will be on his
shoulders.**

**And he will be called Wonderful
Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.**

**And he will be called Wonderful
Counselor,**

**Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace.**

(Repeat from the beginning.)

"For to Us a Child is Born" (Isaiah 9:6) by Dean-o. © 2003 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

ASK: **This song says Jesus is wonderful, mighty, and the Prince of Peace. Which of those things sounds like the best gift?**

This song also says that Jesus is the Everlasting Father. That means God can be our Father forever because of Jesus. What do you want to say to thank God?

SAY: **God sent Jesus so he could be our Everlasting Father. He loves us so much that he wants us to be his children. Jesus was a wonderful baby because he is God's Son. And because God's Son lived on earth and later died for us, ➔ WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.**



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SAY: Let's think about what it was like when Jesus was born. Joseph and Mary had to go to Bethlehem to be counted. Let's count how many of God's children are in our group today. Lead kids in counting everyone.

Now let's count everyone who's a girl. Lead kids in counting just the girls. **How about the boys?** Lead kids in counting.

As time allows, help kids count kids who fit in the following categories:

- Kids who have socks on
- Kids who have a brother
- Kids who don't have any brothers or sisters
- Kids who ate cereal today
- Kids who have a Bible

SAY: Mary and Joseph traveled really far to be counted, but they couldn't find a nice place to stay, so they stayed in a barn.

ASK: Tell about a time you went on a trip.

Tell about the nicest place you've ever visited.

What was the grossest?

SAY: Jesus wasn't born in a hospital or at home the way other babies are. His parents weren't in the city where they lived, so they weren't in their own house. Jesus was born in a barn, because that was the only place Mary and Joseph could find to sleep.

But Jesus was willing to come to earth and be born in a barn because he wanted to be a gift for us.  WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN. There's no limit to how many people can be God's children!



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POINT ➔ **WE CAN BE
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Form pairs, and have each pair line up against a wall. Place the *Family Tree Box* next to that wall. Along the opposite wall, across from each pair, place a *Finger Spinner* and a piece of paper. Demonstrate the following steps of the race as you describe them.

SAY: We're going to have a race to help us remember what happened when Jesus was born. Each pair is going to pretend to be Mary and Joseph. You have to get to the other wall, which we'll pretend is Bethlehem, the town that Mary and Joseph went to.

Once you're at the wall, you'll pick up your *Finger Spinner* and pretend it's baby Jesus. Work together to wrap the spinner in the paper the way Mary wrapped Jesus in cloth. When you finish, race back to the first wall and set your wrapped *Finger Spinner* in the box, the way Mary placed Jesus in a manger.

Congratulate all kids when they place their *Finger Spinners* in the box.

ASK: Tell about a gift you helped wrap. What's the best Christmas gift you've ever gotten?

Gifts are wrapped up, and Jesus was wrapped up. What are some other things you know about gifts?

How are the things you know about gifts like or unlike Jesus' birth?

SAY: Jesus is God's great gift to us. Mary wrapped him up in some cloths. And even though we can't touch Jesus or open a box with Jesus inside, we know he's the best present ever. It's because of Jesus that ➔ **WE CAN BE GOD'S CHILDREN.**