

Jesus' Birth and Childhood

Focus: Jesus' Birth

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 2:40

MEMORY WORK

Have students practice the Memory Verse throughout the week using the following direction:

- Have students stand in a circle. Read the Memory Verse several times. Then begin with the reference. Have each student take a turn adding a word to the verse. A student who forgets the next word sits down. The remaining students continue to repeat the verse until it is clear that all know the verse by heart.

★ PREPARATION

Draw on the board a 3 × 3 grid. Label across the top: *Who is praising? To whom is it addressed?* and *What is the topic of the song of praise?* Label down the left side: *Luke 1:39–45, Luke 1:46–55, and Luke 1:67–79.* (*Directed Instruction*)

Make a copy of **BLM 2A Jesus' Birth** and cut apart each section. (*Directed Instruction*)

Assemble and display the **Time Line** in such a way that students can see it throughout the year. (*Directed Instruction*)

↻ EXTENSION

For each lesson in this grade, read the optional Extension activities to determine the materials needed and to make necessary preparations.

1A Direct students to choose an animal, such as the donkey that carried Mary or a sheep that followed the shepherds, and write the Christmas story from that animal's point of view.

Introduction

Ask students why Christmas is important to Christians. (**It is the time when they celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Savior of the world.**) Explain that today's focus, which is Jesus' birth, highlights the fulfillment of prophecies and the humanity of God's Son. Emphasize that the reason God sent Jesus into the world was that sin had separated people from God. God loves people, and for that reason, Jesus came to provide a way for people to have a right relationship with God. Explain that because God is perfect and cannot be in the presence of sin, there was no way people could be in right relationship to God unless God Himself came to the earth as a human and paid the price for sin. Read **Hebrews 4:15**. Explain that Jesus was fully God but became fully man so that He could connect people to God and show God's love. Jesus can understand temptations and trials because He was fully human.

Directed Instruction ★ ↻

Begin today's lesson by identifying statements that were said about Jesus before His birth. Use the grid on the board and assign volunteers to read each of the songs of praise from **Luke 1:39–45, 46–55, and 67–79**. Discuss each song of praise and fill in the grid on the board. (**Row 1: Elizabeth, Mary's cousin; Mary, blessed is Mary and the baby she carries. Row 2: Mary; God; God is a merciful Savior. Row 3: Zechariah; God; God's salvation through Jesus**) Emphasize that God showed mercy and salvation to human beings by sending Jesus to the earth. God revealed Himself through Jesus so that people could know about God's plan of salvation. Instruct students to use their Glossary to look up the word **revelation**, which is defined as *an act of making truth known*. Ask a volunteer to read the definition to the class. Explain that God chose to let people know His plans concerning Jesus and salvation.

Divide the class into three to six groups. Give each group one or more of the Christmas Bible truths from **BLM 2A Jesus' Birth**. Let each group read the Scriptures and decide how to act out the Bible truth they received. As each group takes a turn portraying the Bible truth, direct the rest of the class to guess what the group is depicting. Remind students that even though the events of Jesus' birth may be very familiar to them, the purpose of Jesus' coming to the earth is very important to them because it started the events that provided salvation and a right relationship with God.

Student Page 2.1

Read the directions aloud. Direct students to complete the page. Remind students to look up the definition of a highlighted word in the Glossary.

Review

- Who had a revelation about Jesus' birth? (**Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Zechariah, Simeon, Anna, shepherds, and wise men**)
- How did Mary, Elizabeth, and Zechariah respond to the knowledge of the Jesus' birth? (**They praised God for His mercy and salvation.**)

- Why did Jesus come to the earth? (**Jesus came so that He could make a way to end the separation between people and God caused by sin.**)
- What message did the shepherds receive as they were watching their flocks in the field? (**The angel told them that a Savior, who is Christ the Lord, had been born in Bethlehem.**)
- What did the wise men bring for Jesus? (**They brought gifts of gold, frankincense or incense, and myrrh.**)

Time Line

Point out Jesus' birth. Explain that the account of His birth begins the New Testament. There were 400 years, known as *the silent years*, between the Old Testament and Jesus' birth. Gabriel's appearance to Mary and Joseph was the first time God had given a prophetic word in 400 years.

Notes:

APPLICATION

- How can you praise God for sending His Son? (**Possible answers: by singing, by telling others about Him, by loving Him, by serving Him and others**)
- How does it make you feel to know that God sent His Son so you could have a relationship with Him? (**Answers will vary.**)

REINFORCEMENT

The birth of Christ has long been celebrated on December 25, though it cannot be proved with certainty that this was His actual birthday. The ancient Romans had many end-of-year celebrations around the winter solstice. On December 25, they celebrated the birth of the god Mithra. Many theorized that the Roman church, during the fourth century, officially declared December 25 Jesus' birth date as a date of convenience rather than a historically proven date.

DAY 1

Name _____

Jesus' Birth and Childhood 2.1

Read the Scriptures. Use the Word Bank, and write the name of who is being described in each box. Circle each answer that shows someone who received a **revelation** from God about Jesus' birth.

1. They visited Jesus after an angel told them to find Him in a manger. _____
(Luke 2:8-12)

shepherds

WORD BANK

Mary
Joseph
Gabriel
Elizabeth
shepherds
wise men

2. An angel told him Mary was going to have a son through the Holy Spirit. _____
(Matthew 1:20-21)

Joseph

3. He told Mary she would have God's Son and she was to name Him Jesus. _____
(Luke 1:26-27 and 1:31)

Gabriel

4. They came to give Jesus gifts after seeing His star in the sky.

(Matthew 2:1 and 2:9-11)

wise men

5. The baby inside this woman leaped when he heard Mary's greeting.

(Luke 1:41)

Elizabeth

6. She was Jesus' mother and praised God.

(Luke 1:30 and 1:46)

Mary

