



8

The Birth of Christ

Key Theme

- Jesus is God in the flesh.

Key Passages

- Luke 2:1–20; John 1:1, 1:14, 5:18, 10:30, 10:33, 20:28

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe how Jesus was born.
- Explain why Jesus's humble birth was surprising.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will practice the memory verse by working on a crossword puzzle and reciting the verse to a friend.



Activity 1: The Birth of Christ Class Notes

Students will fill out The Birth of Christ Class Notes as you study the lesson.



Studying God's Word

Jesus, the King of kings, was born humbly and laid in a manger. His birth was first announced, not to kings and royalty, but to shepherds tending their flocks in the fields. Who would have thought that the Creator God would enter the world this way? But that is how Jesus, the God-Man, chose to come. The Creator God came quietly and humbly to save His people from their sins.



Activity 2: Is This What the Bible Says?

Students will read and sort cards as to whether the card depicts something that IS in the Bible or something that IS NOT in the Bible according to the account of Jesus's birth in Luke 2:1–20.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print the Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student



THE BIRTH OF CHRIST CLASS NOTES

- Print, collate, and staple one The Birth of Christ Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- The Birth of Christ Class Notes for each student, collated and stapled
- The Birth of Christ Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Lesson Theme Posters



IS THIS WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS?

- Print and cut out the Is This What the Bible Says? Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM. Each student should get at least one card.
- Print one Is This What the Bible Says? Teacher Guide for your use.

- Is This What the Bible Says? Cards
- Is This What the Bible Says? Teacher Guide
- Poster Putty



Memory Verse

Philippians 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above along with this background.

God's angels were sent to herald the coming of the promised Messiah—first, to the priest Zacharias about his son, John the Baptist, who would prepare the people for the coming of the Lord (Luke 1:13–15), and then to the virgin Mary, who would miraculously conceive a Son. This Son—Jesus, Immanuel, God with us—was the one who would save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21–23).

Mary was a young Jewish woman who recognized herself as a maidservant of the Lord and willingly accepted God's plan for her (Luke 1:38). By the world's standards, her credentials should not merit this call from God to be the mother of Jesus. Like all people, she was also in need of a Savior (Luke 1:47), and Jesus, though He honored her, did not elevate her (e.g., Matthew 12:46–50; Luke 11:27–28).

And yet this is how it started. In the little town of Bethlehem, Mary brought forth her firstborn Son, wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him—not with kings and royalty—but in a manger used to feed animals, because there were no other rooms for them to stay in (Luke 2:7). This simple birth was not announced to the affluent society of Judea, nor to the Jewish scribes and Pharisees, but instead to simple shepherds living out in the nearby fields (Luke 2:8). The announcement was spectacular. First, an angel of God appeared to the shepherds with the glory of the Lord shining all around. The angel brought good tidings of great joy—that a Savior, who was Christ the Lord, was born. Suddenly, the shepherds witnessed a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:9–14). With haste, the shepherds made their way to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger just as the angel had said (Luke 2:15–16).

This was a humble, earthly beginning for the great Redeemer King—the incarnate God Himself. Some say He couldn't be God—that God wouldn't enter the world that way. Yet Scripture instructs us in many places that this Jesus, the humble Babe, was in fact God. As John begins his Gospel, we read that "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He [the Word] was in the beginning with God" (John 1:1–2). God, through the Apostle John, revealed Jesus Christ as God. A little later in his

Gospel, John stated that "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father" (John 1:14). The Word was God and the Word became flesh. The Word was Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah and Savior.

Again in the Gospel of John, Jesus's disciple Thomas, upon seeing the resurrected Jesus, confirmed Jesus's deity when he proclaimed, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

Jesus Himself proclaimed that He was God when He told the Jews that He and His Father are one (John 10:30). And when the Jews picked up stones to stone Him, they revealed that they had no doubt that Jesus, being a man, had claimed to be God (John 10:33).

Jesus is fully God and fully human. Jesus knew He was God, yet though He was God, He willingly gave up the heavenly honor, glory, and rights that were His. He took the form of a bondservant and came to earth as a man. He lived in humility and finally humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death on the Cross (Philippians 2:6–8).

Jesus came as a humble servant, and we should follow His example (Matthew 10:24–25). We are called to do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but humbly consider others better than ourselves (Philippians 2:3–5). Believers in Jesus Christ are called to be followers of Jesus Christ (Matthew 16:24; John 10:27). We are called to be conformed to His image (Romans 8:29). And we can be confident that if we are in Christ, He who began a good work in us will complete it according to His will and for His glory (Philippians 1:6).

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Stop and think about this for a minute: this Jesus, who was born as an infant and laid in a manger, is the one who made and holds the entire universe together (Colossians 1:15–17). That very striking fact should boggle our minds and give us pause to worship the babe in the manger as the Lord of all. This amazing union of God and man is something that we cannot fully comprehend, but it is clearly taught in Scripture. The doctrine is known as the hypostatic union and describes how Jesus was fully God and fully man. Scripture teaches that Jesus had two natures in one Person—He was 100 percent God and 100 percent man—the God-Man, Jesus Christ. Early in the history of Christianity, this idea was attacked in several differ-

ent ways. Let's briefly review a few of them, pointing out the errors they lead to.

Arianism—Arius taught that Jesus was created by God at a certain point in time. This is similar to the modern view of Mormons. However, Scripture soundly refutes this idea. Jesus has always been fully God (Genesis 1; John 1). He was not created, but was the Creator of all things (Colossians 1:16). If we say Jesus was created, He can't be the Creator. Arianism is a false doctrine.

Docetism—The Gnostics and others in the first and second century taught that Jesus was a divine being who "appeared" (from the Greek *dokein*) to be a man but was not. If we adopt this view, we again find ourselves fighting against Scripture. Jesus had to come in a body and the form of a man so that He could identify with Adam's race, obey the Law as a man, and act as the substitute to appease God's wrath against mankind. The sin of the first Adam was removed by the Last Adam, our kinsman-redeemer (1 Corinthians 15:45–49).

Adoptionism—This view teaches that Jesus was born as a normal human and was adopted as the Son of God at His baptism. This view stands in contradiction to Scripture because it denies the virgin birth and the preexistence of Jesus as the Word that was with God in the beginning (John 1).

All of these views are heretical—they lead to a false view of Jesus and a false view of the salvation He offers. Holding to one of these views, or the many other variations (e.g., Apollinarianism, Modalism, Monophysitism, etc.), leads to a false gospel and damnation for those who persist in these errors (Galatians 1:6–12; 2 John 9).

These false views of Christ's nature arose early in church history. Arianism was part of the Trinitarian Controversy, which led to the Nicene Creed in AD 325, defining the orthodox view of Christ. In part it states: "I believe . . . in one Lord Jesus Christ . . . God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father."

Sadly, many of the false views of Jesus are held by people today. Understanding that Jesus is fully God and fully man is a necessary part of biblical Christianity. Our God humbled Himself to become like one of His creatures who had rebelled against Him and stepped into our lawless world, even being laid as a newborn baby in a feed trough. He came from the glories of heaven to a sin-cursed world to redeem rebels. God became man to bring mankind back to God.

Switching to a less-dangerous type of error, there are a lot of misconceptions about the birth of Christ in the minds of people. Many of these misconceptions

have come from relying on popular media or dramatic recreations of the birth narrative. Have you ever played the innkeeper in a Christmas pageant? Where did your lines come from? Well, they didn't come from the Bible because there is no innkeeper mentioned in the Bible! What about all of the animals? Well, none of them are mentioned in the Bible either. We infer that there were likely animals around since Jesus was laid in a manger, so having animals in a nativity scene is not unrealistic. Well, there were three wise men, right? We will answer that in the next lesson.

Many of these elements make for good drama, but they aren't found in Scripture. Most presentations have Mary barely making it off the donkey she rode from Nazareth before she goes into labor. But Scripture is clear that is not the case. Luke 2:1–7 gives the account. In those verses we read, "So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered." They were already in Bethlehem for some time before the birth, possibly staying with relatives in a crowded house.

All of God's Word is true. And it is important that we study it and use it as our absolute authority. Regardless of whether our misconceptions lead to damnable error or some small misunderstandings, we cannot compromise the truth of the Word of God. We must seek biblical accuracy in order to glean a better understanding of the living Word, who became flesh to dwell among us, who lived a life of perfect obedience, and who died for our sins to redeem us. We can only learn about the Word, Jesus, from God's Word—the Bible. And we must be diligent to do that thoroughly and with discernment.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Dear Jesus, you are the Word made flesh, and I glorify your name. Some people say you were born to die. And while that is true, I also see that you were born to live, so that we, too, could live. Your life, from the very first moment, was an example for us. My desire is to be like you—humble and obedient. Thank you for the grace, truth, and clarity of the gospel. Please move in the hearts of the students in my class to see you for who you really are. Reveal the truth of your Word to them that they may one day come to humble repentance and faith and become new creations in Christ.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will review the memory verse by completing the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, they will recite the verse to a friend or to the class.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



The Birth of Christ Class Notes

MATERIALS

- The Birth of Christ Class Notes for each student
- The Birth of Christ Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Do not work ahead. We'll complete them together.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes today, we will hear about Jesus's humble birth and why His quiet entry into the world should be a surprise.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Refer to the Lesson 7 Lesson Theme Poster. God sent the angel Gabriel to deliver the message that the Messiah was coming soon. This Messiah would be the fulfillment of prophecies made hundreds of years earlier. First, the old priest Zacharias received the message that he would have a son, John. God would use John to prepare the hearts of the people for the Messiah.

God's angel Gabriel also appeared to Mary. She, too, would have a Son, and she would call His name Jesus! He would be the Messiah, the Savior, God had promised to send.

➤ Use the New Testament History Poster included with your teacher kit as you teach the lesson. Emphasize that Jesus ministered only 3 years and He lived only about 35 years. Yet His life changed the world forever and brought eternal life to all who believe.

Today we are going to read about the birth of Jesus, the Messiah. He didn't come as a great king would be expected to come. Turn in your Bibles to Luke 2:1–20. You may have heard this before, but it is wonderful news and exciting to read again and again! *Choose students to read the entire passage.*

EXAMINE THE WORD

Sometimes we call this “The Christmas Story,” but it is so much more than that! You'll see what I mean after we answer some questions about it.

Observe the Text

► As you ask these questions, encourage students to look at and/or re-read the verses.

? Look at Luke 2:1. Who was the ruler in the day of Jesus's birth? *Caesar Augustus.*

? And what did Caesar Augustus want the people to do? *Luke 2:1. They had to be registered.*

This was called a census. A census is when people are counted because the rulers want to know about everyone in the land. In order to be counted, the people had to register or sign up.

? Where did the people have to go? *Luke 2:3. To their own city.*

Yes. They went to their own cities—the cities their families were originally from.

? Where did Mary and Joseph go to be registered? Look in Luke 2:4. *Luke 2:4. To Bethlehem.*

? Will someone read #1 on the class notes for us? How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. Bethlehem.*

? Ok. What happened while they were in Bethlehem? Look in Luke 2:7. *Mary gave birth to a son.*

? And where did Mary lay her baby? *Luke 2:7. In a manger.*

? Why was Jesus laid in a manger? What does it say? *Luke 2:7. There was no room for Joseph, Mary, and Jesus in the inn.*

? Does anyone know what a manger is? *Allow discussion.*

A manger is a kind of food holder for animals. It may have been wooden or even a hollowed out stone. But it was something animals ate out of. And it must have been big enough to lay a baby in. This is where the Savior laid His head for the first time—in a feeding trough.

? Will someone read #2 on your class notes. How would you answer that? *Manger.*

? In Luke 2:8 we move from the manger out to the country. Who was in the country—out in the fields? *Luke 2:8. Shepherds.*

? What happened on this special night? What did the shepherds see? *Luke 2:9. An angel of the Lord.*

? What did the shepherds think of this angel? How did they feel? *Luke 2:9. They were greatly afraid.*

? Will someone read #3 on your class notes? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Shepherds.*

? Refer to Lesson 7 Lesson Theme Poster. What are angels? Who remembers? *God's messengers!*

Yes! God had sent His messenger, the angel Gabriel, to Zacharias and to Mary. Now again, God sent an angel/messenger to the shepherds in the fields with a very important announcement.

? What did this messenger say? *Luke 2:10. Do not be afraid! I bring good tidings of great joy.*

? What was this great news? Look in Luke 2:11. *In the city of David a Savior is born. He is Christ the Lord!*

The angel said the Savior was born in the City of David. Don't be confused by that city name. The City of David is another name for Bethlehem, which is where Mary and Joseph went to be registered for the census and where Jesus was born.

? Will someone read #4? How will you complete that? *Assign a reader. David.*

? God sent one angel to the shepherds. But what followed this one angel? What suddenly appeared? Look in Luke 2:13. *A multitude of the heavenly host.*

? What does all that mean? A multitude of the heavenly host? *Allow discussion.*

A multitude is a whole lot! And heavenly host refers to angels or angelic beings. So, it seems that God sent one angel to make the first announcement, and then a whole lot—a multitude—of angels appeared.

? They were praising God! What were they saying? What did the shepherds hear? *Luke 2:14. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!*

They were praising God saying, "Glory to God in the highest!" And then the angels left them. Could you imagine that? This was another spectacular message sent by God to announce the Savior who would change the world!

? What did the shepherds do once the angels disappeared? *Luke 2:15. They went to Bethlehem.*

Remember, the City of David was another name for Bethlehem. And that is where they headed!

? Who was in Bethlehem? Who had just been born? Look in Luke 2:16. *Jesus! Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were in Bethlehem.*

? Who was Jesus? Take a look at #5 on your class notes. Will someone read that? How will you answer it? *Assign a reader. Savior.*

? What did the shepherds do after seeing the Savior in the manger? Look at Luke 2:17. *They told others about Him.*

Yes! They went to see the Savior, Christ the Lord! And after they saw Him, they rejoiced. And the Bible says they went and told many people what they had seen and heard about the child born in Bethlehem.

- ? And will someone read #6 on the class notes? What word completes that statement? *Assign a reader. Told.*
 - ? Now look at Luke 2:20. When the Shepherds returned to the fields and their sheep, how had they changed? What did they do? *They were glorifying and praising God for all they had seen and heard.*
- Seeing the Christ child had changed them. They were now glorifying and praising God! What joy must have filled their hearts!
- ? Will someone read #7 on your class notes? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Glorifying.*

Discover the Truth

Our God is so wonderful! He came into the world to save His people from their sins. And He did it in such a simple and humble way. He was born to a young Jewish girl and her husband. They were not even at their home, but in another town, when He was born. After He was born, they laid Him in a manger. A feeding trough was the first bed for the Lord Jesus.

Then God sent His messengers to announce Jesus’s birth. God didn’t send His angels to kings, rulers, or religious leaders—but to simple shepherds who were out in the field caring for their sheep. What humble beginnings for Jesus—this Man who would one day die for sinners so that we could be forgiven and spend eternity with Him.



READ THE WORD

The way Jesus, the God-Man, came into the world may seem surprising to us. But why? Let’s take a closer look to see why this humble beginning to Jesus’s life SHOULD surprise us!

The next few verses we will be reading are on Page 2 of your class notes. They are all from the book of John. Let’s start with John 1:1. *Choose a student to read the verse.*

John 1:1

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? When is this verse taking place? Look at the first three words. *In the beginning.*
- ? What was in the beginning? *The Word.*
- ? Who was the Word with? *God.*
- ? Who was the Word? *God.*

It says, the Word was God. And the Word was with God. Let’s see if we can figure out what that means.

- ? Will someone read John 1:14 from the class notes, please? *Choose a student to read the verse.*

John 1:14

? What did the Word become? *The Word became flesh.*

? Who did the Word dwell among? *Among us.*

? Who is the Word talking about? *Allow discussion. Jesus Christ.*

John was telling us that the Word was God and the Word lived with us—the Word is Jesus Christ.

? Will someone read #8 on your class notes? How will you answer that?
Assign a reader. God.

? Look on your class notes. In John 1:1 and John 1:14 the term “Word” is repeated. How many times did John repeat that word? *Four.*

? I want you to circle each of the four times the term “Word” is repeated. Who is the Word as John wrote about Him? *Jesus. Have students circle the word “Word.”*

Jesus is the Word. Jesus is God!

? What happened to Jesus while He was on earth? *Allow discussion. He was killed, crucified on the Cross.*

Yes. He was crucified on the Cross. The Jews began to hate Jesus. Let’s see if we can figure out why. We will read John 5:18 next. This occurred after Jesus had healed a man on the Sabbath. The Sabbath was a holy day for the Jews. Jews weren’t supposed to work on the Sabbath at all. The Jews told Jesus that healing a man was against their law because it was work. So that made the Jewish leaders angry. But there was something else Jesus said that made them even angrier. And this is why they wanted to kill Him! *Choose a student to read John 5:18.*

John 5:18

? Why were the Jews seeking Jesus? What did they want to do to Him? *Kill Him!*

? Why did they want to kill Him? There are two reasons listed in John 5:18. *He broke the Sabbath. He said that God was His Father, and He made Himself equal with God!*

Jesus did break the traditional laws of the Sabbath. But the thing that made them REALLY angry was who Jesus told them He was. He told the Jewish leaders that He was equal or just as important as God. Remember, we said the Word was with God and the Word was God. Jesus was speaking the truth about Himself. But it was going to get Him killed.

? And Jesus would not back down from the truth about who He is. Someone read John 10:30 from the class notes. *Choose a student to read the verse.*

John 10:30

? What did Jesus say here? *He and the Father are one.*

? And who is the Father? *God.*

Yes. Jesus had to share the truth. He and the Father—God—are one. But this made the Jews so angry!

? John 10:33 tells us how the Jews responded. Will someone read that for us? *John 10:33. Choose a student to read the verse.*

John 10:33

John 20:28

- ? What did the Jews want to do to Jesus? *Stone Him.*
- ? Yes! That was a way of killing someone in those days. And why did the Jews want to kill Jesus? Why were they so angry? *Jesus was a man, and He was making Himself God.*
- ? Again, Jesus was saying that He IS God! Will someone read #9 on your class notes? How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. God.*

We will look at one more Scripture that reveals the truth about who Jesus is! Look on your class notes at John 20:28. This was after Jesus died on the Cross, and after He had risen from the dead. His disciple Thomas saw the risen Jesus. Let's see what Thomas said! Let's read John 20:28. *Choose a student to read John 20:28 from the class notes.*

- ? What did Thomas say to Jesus? *My Lord and my God!*
- ? Who can read #10 on your class notes? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. God.*

Discover the Truth

Jesus Christ IS God! Jesus Christ IS Man! Jesus said He was God. He is God, the Creator of the world, who came to earth as a man to save sinners. Jesus had to give up heaven to come to earth. He was no longer honored and glorified. In fact, we know that many people hated Him, and they would end up killing Him.

Do you see why we should be surprised and humbled by Jesus's birth and life? The God who created the universe could have been born anywhere. He could have surrounded Himself with the best of everything. He could have sent birth announcements to the rich and famous people of His day. Yet, He was born in a humble way to a young Jewish girl and her husband, and laid in manger. His birth announcement was made by a heavenly host of angels to lowly shepherds out in the fields! Jesus, the God-Man, came to earth as a humble servant.

Will someone read #11 on your class notes? What is the answer to that? *Assign a reader. God.*



► We suggest you do the activity AFTER the Applying God's Word section. The activity will make more sense after you discuss those points.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

Refer to the Lesson 8 Theme Poster. Our God is so wonderful! He came into the world to save His people from their sins. And He did it in such a simple and humble way. He was born to a young Jewish girl and her husband. After He was born, they laid Him in a manger. A feeding trough was the first bed for the Lord Jesus.

Then God sent His messengers to announce Jesus’s birth. God didn’t send His angels to kings, rulers, or religious leaders—but to simple shepherds. What humble beginnings for Jesus—this Man who would one day die for sinners so that we could be forgiven and spend eternity with Him.

This is VERY surprising because of who Jesus is. Jesus is God! Jesus knew He was God! And yet He came to earth in the simplest of ways. It is amazing! The Creator God entered this world in such a way—quietly, humbly, simply. And He lived a simple, humble life. He is indeed worthy to be praised!

GOD’S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

This account of Jesus’s birth is true. Let’s look at the New Testament History Poster to see where this event is listed. *Find Christ’s birth on the poster.*

All of God’s Word is true. And we shouldn’t add or take away from what it says. This lesson can be a reminder of how easy it is to forget that. Let me explain.

Throughout the 2,000 years since Jesus was born, people have added their own ideas about Jesus’s birth.

For example, we often hear about the “innkeeper” who helped Mary and Joseph. People believe there was an innkeeper because the Bible says, “There was no room for them in the inn” (Luke 2:7).

However, the Bible does not mention an innkeeper anywhere! In fact the word “inn” used in the Bible had a completely different meaning in Jesus’s time. The Bible was probably referring to an upper room in a private house. And in the case of Mary and Joseph, it was likely a relative’s home. That upper room was being used, so Mary and Joseph stayed downstairs in a lower room, where animals were often kept, to have the baby Jesus.

Now we often see animals in the typical Christmas scenes. But there are no animals mentioned! I’m thinking that Joseph would have cleared the animals out—and cleaned out the manger—so his wife could have her baby in private and relative cleanliness.

The only animals mentioned are the sheep in the fields where the shepherds were tending them. And the Bible does not say they brought any sheep with them when they came to see Jesus.

There are other things we see and hear about in popular Christmas stories and songs—like the innkeeper’s wife and a drummer boy. These are not mentioned in God’s Word either.

We need to be careful how we read the Bible and what we believe. God has warned us not to add to His Word. And we need to look carefully at the Bible as we learn more. It is good to trust pastors and teachers to know God’s Word. But God has the final say. And if something you see or hear doesn’t seem right, God wants you to go back to His Word to find answers.



► Emphasize that Jesus ministered only 3 years and He lived only about 35 years. Yet His life changed the world forever and brought eternal life to all who believe.

► Play the game in the activity below when you have finished discussing the Applying God’s Word section. The discussion there will explain further what the game is about.



Is This What The Bible Says?

MATERIALS

- Is This What The Bible Says? Cards
- Is This What The Bible Says? Teacher Guide
- Poster Putty

Pass out the *Is This What The Bible Says? Cards*. Be sure each student gets at least one card, but students can have more than one card. Make two columns on the board or have two different stacks at the front of the room to represent,

“This IS in the Bible” or “This IS NOT in the Bible.”

Students will read their card and put the card in the appropriate column or stack. When everyone is finished, you will go through the cards, indicating which items and people the Bible actually *DOES* mention in the account of Jesus’s birth in Luke 2:1–20.

I am going to pass out these cards to you. We read and discussed the biblical account of Jesus’s birth in Luke 1:1–20. I want you to read your card. Then bring it here and put it under the “This IS in the Bible” or “This is NOT in the Bible” column here on the board. Look at the account of Jesus’s birth in Luke 2:1–20 to see if the item on your card is mentioned in God’s Word. Let’s get

started! Have students read their cards and put them in the proper place.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

When finished, discuss the items that *ARE* and *ARE NOT* mentioned in the Bible. See the Teacher Guide for the answers.

Again, I want you to think about what you read in the Bible. God means every word. And He doesn’t want us to add or take away from His Word. He has given us all the things He wants us to know about Him, Jesus, salvation, heaven, hell, the Holy Spirit, how to live, how to obey, and so many other things in the Bible.

Be careful as you listen to teachers. Be a good student of God’s Word. Compare what you are hearing with what the Bible says. It isn’t always easy, and sometimes things are confusing. But God honors our efforts to know Him better and to read His Word correctly. So, we should all keep working at it!



MEMORY VERSE

Philippians 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God for Jesus, who is fully God and fully Man.
- Thank God for Jesus who came to earth humbly as a baby.
- Ask God to help us remember to look only to the Bible for truth and not to add or take away from what He has given us.