

Main Lesson, Activity & Discussion

Week 36 | September 6, 2026 | Ages 6 to 10

Lesson	Jesus Is Born: God With Us	Primary Scripture	Luke 2:1-20
Bible Timeline	The promised Savior comes	Big Idea	God kept His promise and sent Jesus to be our Savior.

MEMORY VERSE

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you." Luke 2:11

MAIN LESSON - READ ALOUD

Have you ever waited a very long time for something?

Maybe you knew your birthday was coming, but it was still weeks away. Maybe someone you love was coming to visit, and you kept asking, "How many more days?" When you are waiting for something wonderful, even a few days can feel like forever.

God's people knew something about waiting.

For hundreds and hundreds of years, God had been making them a promise. He promised that someone was coming who would rescue people from sin. God gave that promise to His people little by little, through different people and at different times.

Last week we learned about some of those promises. The prophet Isaiah said a child would come who would be called "Mighty God" and "Prince of Peace." Micah said a ruler would come from a little town called Bethlehem.

Generation after generation heard those promises. Children grew old. Their children grew old. Kings came and went. Nations rose and fell. God's people sometimes obeyed Him, and sometimes they wandered terribly far from Him. Still, God did not forget.

I wonder if you have ever felt as though God was taking a very long time. Maybe you have prayed about something and nothing seems to change. Maybe there is something happening in your family that you wish God would fix. Maybe you have wondered whether God really hears you when you pray.

Waiting can be hard because we cannot see everything God sees. But the Bible shows us something important again and again. Waiting does not mean God has forgotten. God keeps His promises.

And one day, after all those years of waiting, the time had finally come.

There was a young woman named Mary who lived in a town called Nazareth. God had already sent the angel Gabriel to tell Mary that she would have a Son. His name would be Jesus, and He would be called the Son of God.

This would not happen in the ordinary way babies are conceived. Mary was a virgin, which means she had never been with a man in the way a husband and wife are together. The angel explained that God would do a miracle through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus would truly be Mary's baby, but Jesus was not merely another baby. He is God the Son.

Before Mary was born, Jesus existed. Before King David lived, Jesus existed. Before Abraham lived, Jesus existed. Before God created the earth, the Son existed with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Later in the Bible, John would write:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1

John calls Jesus "the Word." He is telling us that Jesus did not begin when He was born in Bethlehem.

Then John tells us something amazing:

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." John 1:14

God the Son became human. He did not stop being God. He truly became one of us.

Now something was happening far away from Mary and Joseph. A powerful Roman ruler named Caesar Augustus gave an order. Rome controlled a huge empire, and Caesar wanted people to be registered.

Listen to how Luke begins this part of the account:

"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world." Luke 2:1

A census was a way for the government to count and register people. Because Joseph belonged to the family line of King David, he had to travel to David's town, Bethlehem.

Do you remember that name? **Bethlehem**.

Hundreds of years earlier, God had spoken through the prophet Micah and said that the promised ruler would come from Bethlehem. Now Joseph and Mary were going there.

Caesar probably thought his command was about running his empire. Joseph probably saw it as something the government required him to do. But God could see something much bigger. God was keeping His promise.

That does not mean Caesar loved God or even understood what God was doing. It means no king, ruler, government, problem, or surprise can stop God from accomplishing what He has promised.

Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, and while they were there, the time came for Mary's baby to be born.

Luke tells us:

"She gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger." Luke 2:7

A manger was a feeding place for animals. Think about that for a moment. The One through whom the world was made had entered His creation. God the Son had become human. And Mary laid Him in a manger.

The Bible does not tell us every little detail about the place. It does not tell us there was an innkeeper standing at a door. It does not tell us how many animals were nearby. It does not even tell us exactly what the place looked like.

Sometimes pictures and Christmas plays add details because they are trying to help us imagine the scene. But we should learn something important when we read the Bible. We do not need to make God's Word more exciting by adding things God did not tell us. What He did tell us is wonderful enough.

Jesus had come.

Can you say our memory verse with me?

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you." Luke 2:11

We will come back to that verse because there is something very important hiding right in plain sight.

That night there were shepherds out in the fields nearby, watching their sheep. Being a shepherd meant staying with the flock and protecting the sheep. Shepherds had to watch for animals that might attack, keep sheep from wandering away, and make sure the flock was cared for.

Then something happened that no ordinary shepherd could have expected.

"An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified." Luke 2:9

The shepherds were frightened. I think most of us would have been frightened too.

The angel immediately told them:

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people." Luke 2:10

Then came the announcement God's people had been waiting to hear:

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." Luke 2:11

There is our memory verse again, but now we can understand more of it. The angel called Jesus **Savior**. A savior is someone who rescues.

Why would we need someone to rescue us? That question takes us all the way back to the beginning of the Bible.

God made people to know Him and live with Him. God is perfectly good and holy, which means there is no evil or sin in Him. But people turned away from God. We have done the same thing.

Sin is more than making a mistake. Sin is anything we think, say, or do that goes against God, and it also includes refusing the good God tells us to do.

Maybe you have lied because you were afraid of getting into trouble. Maybe you have been cruel to someone because you were angry. Maybe you have wanted something so badly that you became jealous of somebody who had it. Adults have the same problem. All of us have sinned.

And here is something we cannot fix ourselves. We cannot make our sin disappear by doing enough good things afterward. We cannot save ourselves by trying harder to become good enough for God.

That is why the angel's words are such good news. **A Savior has been born.**

God did not look down at sinful people and tell us to find our own way back to Him. He came to rescue us.

Jesus is God the Son, and He became truly human. He would grow from a baby into a child, and from a child into a man. Jesus would experience hunger, tiredness, sadness, pain, friendship, and temptation, yet He would never sin.

Years after Bethlehem, Jesus would willingly go to a cross. He would die for our sins. And on the third day, Jesus would rise from the dead.

So when you look at the baby in Bethlehem, remember where the Bible is taking us. Jesus did not come only to give us a beautiful scene at Christmas. Jesus came to save us.

Can we say our verse again?

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you." Luke 2:11

Now perhaps that word **Savior** means a little more than it did the first time.

The angel also called Jesus **Messiah**. Messiah means God's promised King and Rescuer. For all those years when God's people were waiting, God had not forgotten what He said. The promised King was here.

Then the angel called Jesus **Lord**. This baby was not simply a good person who would grow up and become important. He is God the Son.

Christians sometimes use a big word for what happened when Jesus became human. The word is **incarnation**. You do not have to remember that big word today, but the truth behind it is important. God the Son became human without stopping being God.

And this also helps us understand something about who God is. There is one God in three Persons: **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**.

The Father is God. Jesus the Son is God. The Holy Spirit is God. But there are not three gods. There is one God.

We cannot find anything in creation that perfectly explains God because nothing else is exactly like Him. We simply believe what God has shown us about Himself in His Word.

The Father sent the Son. The Son came into our world. The Holy Spirit was at work in the miracle of Jesus' conception. One God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Back in the fields, the shepherds had barely heard the angel's announcement when suddenly the sky was filled with more angels praising God:

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:14

Then the angels left. Imagine standing there in the dark after that. A moment earlier, the sky had been filled with God's glory and the sound of angels praising Him. Now the shepherds had a choice. Would they believe what God had told them?

They decided to go to Bethlehem.

"So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger." Luke 2:16

They found what God had told them they would find. After seeing Jesus, the shepherds began telling other people what they had been told about this child. Then they returned to their sheep “glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen.”

I love that Luke gives us names, places, rulers, and towns throughout his Gospel. Luke even tells us at the beginning of his book that he carefully investigated what happened so that his reader could know the truth about Jesus with certainty.

Christianity is not asking you to believe that Jesus was born because someone once made up a beautiful tale. Luke places Jesus in real history. Caesar Augustus was a real ruler. Rome was a real empire. Nazareth and Bethlehem were real places. Shepherding was part of ordinary life in that world.

Now, does that mean historians can prove an angel appeared in the sky? No. History can help us learn about the world around an event. It cannot put an angel in a museum for us to inspect. We believe the miracle because God tells us about it in His Word.

That gives us a helpful way to think when someone asks us a hard question about the Bible. We can ask, **What does the Bible really say?** Then we can ask, **What do we know from history or science?** And finally, **What are we only guessing about?**

You never have to make something up to defend the Bible. Sometimes the most truthful answer is, “I don’t know because the Bible doesn’t tell us.” God is not frightened by your questions. You can ask Him honest questions, and you can search His Word carefully for answers.

Maybe you are wondering what any of this has to do with your life on an ordinary Monday morning. It has everything to do with it. The same Jesus who came into our world is still alive.

Maybe you feel lonely at school. Maybe your family is going through something hard. Maybe you have done something wrong and you feel guilty. Maybe you are worried about something you cannot control.

Jesus never promised that trusting Him means nothing painful will happen to us. Christians still become sick. Families still go through hard seasons. Friends sometimes hurt us, and prayers are not always answered in the way we hoped.

But Bethlehem tells us something better than the promise of an easy life. **God came near.**

Jesus knows what it means to live in this broken world, and He did not come simply to watch us struggle. He came to save.

When you sin, you can come honestly to Jesus instead of hiding from Him. When you are afraid, you can pray to Him. When you have questions, you can bring those questions to Him. When something hurts and you do not understand why God has allowed it, you can tell Him that too.

And when you wonder whether God really keeps His promises, remember Bethlehem. People waited a long time. God did not forget. At exactly the right time, the Savior came.

There may even be someone here today who knows about Jesus but has never trusted Him personally. Being in church does not save us. Knowing Bible answers does not save us. Having Christian parents does not save us. Jesus saves us.

We turn away from our sin and trust Him. We believe that Jesus is the Son of God, that He died for our sins, and that He rose again.

And when someone belongs to Jesus, the Holy Spirit begins working in that person’s life. He helps us grow, obey God, love others, tell the truth, forgive, and become more like Jesus. We do not change ourselves so Jesus will accept us. Jesus saves us, and then He begins changing us.

That is good news.

The shepherds returned to their ordinary lives after seeing Jesus. They still had sheep to care for. They still had work waiting for them. But they returned praising God because they had seen the Savior God promised.

Tomorrow you will return to ordinary things too. There will be school, chores, family, friends, homework, games, and probably a few things you wish you did not have to do.

But you can carry this truth with you: God keeps His promises. Jesus came. Jesus died for our sins. Jesus rose again. Jesus is alive. And because Jesus is alive, everyone who trusts Him has real hope, even when life is hard.

One last time, let's say our memory verse together, and this time think about what the word **Savior** means:

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you." Luke 2:11

That Savior has a name. His name is Jesus. And that is very good news.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS WITH SUGGESTED ANSWERS

1. Where was Jesus born?

Answer: Bethlehem. God had spoken through the prophet Micah long before Jesus' birth about a ruler coming from Bethlehem.

2. Why did Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem?

Answer: Caesar Augustus ordered a census, or registration, and Joseph went to Bethlehem because he belonged to David's family line.

3. Where did Mary place Jesus after He was born?

Answer: In a manger, which was a feeding place for animals.

4. Who heard the angel's announcement about Jesus?

Answer: Shepherds who were watching their sheep nearby.

5. What three important words did the angel use about Jesus in Luke 2:11?

Answer: Savior, Messiah, and Lord.

6. Why do we need a Savior?

Answer: Because all of us have sinned, and we cannot remove our own sin or make ourselves right with God. Jesus died for our sins and rose again.

7. Did Jesus begin to exist when He was born in Bethlehem?

Answer: No. Jesus is God the Son and existed before His human birth. John 1:1 tells us the Word was with God and was God.

8. Who is the Trinity?

Answer: God is one God in three Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

9. Does trusting Jesus mean nothing bad will ever happen to us?

Answer: No. Jesus never promised an easy life. He promises to save those who trust Him, be with His people, and finally make all things right.

10. What can we say if somebody asks us a Bible question and we do not know the answer?

Answer: We can tell the truth. We can say, "I don't know," and then look carefully at what Scripture says. We never need to make something up to defend God's Word.

HANDS ON ACTIVITY: THE PROMISE PATH

Purpose: Help children see that Jesus' birth was the fulfillment of God's promises rather than an event disconnected from the rest of Scripture.

Supplies: Five sheets of paper, marker, Bible, and tape if available.

Before class, write one phrase on each sheet: **GOD PROMISED, GOD'S PEOPLE WAITED, JESUS CAME, JESUS SAVES, JESUS IS ALIVE.** Place the papers on the floor several feet apart to form a simple path.

Have the children begin at **GOD PROMISED**. Briefly remind them that throughout the Old Testament God promised a Savior. Move to **GOD'S PEOPLE WAITED**. Ask, "Did waiting mean God forgot?" Let the children answer, "No."

Move to **JESUS CAME** and have everyone repeat the memory verse: "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you." Luke 2:11

Move to **JESUS SAVES** and ask, "What did Jesus come to save us from?" Help them answer, "Our sin." Finally, move to **JESUS IS ALIVE**. Remind the children that Jesus did not remain a baby and did not remain in the grave. He died for our sins and rose again.

Then walk the path once more as a group, saying each statement aloud together: **God promised. God's people waited. Jesus came. Jesus saves. Jesus is alive.**

Close by reminding the children that the Bible is one connected account of God's rescue plan, and Jesus is the Savior at the center of it.

TEACHER CLOSING

You may close by bringing the children back to the shepherds for one quiet moment. They returned to their fields after seeing Jesus, and Luke says they were "glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen."

The shepherds could not yet understand everything Jesus would do. They had not seen the cross. They had not seen the empty tomb. But we have been given the rest of the account in God's Word.

We know why the Savior came. Jesus came for sinners like us. He lived without sin, died for our sins, and rose from the dead. He is alive today, and anyone who turns from sin and trusts Him can be forgiven and receive new life.

Invite the children to pray with you. Thank the Father for sending His Son. Thank Jesus for coming to save us. Ask the Holy Spirit to help the children trust Jesus and grow to become more like Him.

Then leave them with the week's simple truth: **God kept His promise and sent Jesus to be our Savior.**