

The Best Gift: Jesus' Birth

Bible Verse

Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, which will make everyone happy. This very day in King David's hometown a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. (Luke 2:10)

Teacher Enrichment

This is the first lesson in the *Who Do You Say I Am: Jesus' Life* series. This series follows the moments from Jesus' life which will be depicted on the stained glass windows in the new chapel. Each week will explore how those moments define different aspects of Jesus and our relationship with Him.

The first stained glass window portrays Jesus' birth. Through Jesus' birth a Savior was born into the world and Jesus is seen as Emmanuel, which is translated "God with us." Sending Jesus to live with us as fully human and fully divine is God's ultimate gift of salvation. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." In our lives we often celebrate with gift giving and receiving: birthdays, Christmas, new babies, new homes. These gifts and the acts of exchanging them are wonderful, but often fleeting. But Jesus as our Savior is the greatest gift of all.

In this lesson children will learn that Jesus is the ultimate gift from God and will explore what makes Jesus such a special gift. This lesson is also the fall Sunday School kickoff and includes Blessing of the Backpacks. Children will receive backpack tags that remind them of the gift of Jesus.

Welcome

- ◆ Greet each child individually as they arrive. Introduce yourself by name.
- ◆ If children bring monetary offering, they may place it in the offering basket on the altar table.
- ◆ Direct children to complete a **Jesus' Birth activity sheet**.
- ◆ Encourage conversation among the children and with you! Get to know the children in your group by asking about their week including activities and families. Introduce new children to each other and encourage friendships.

Children's Worship

- ◆ The Children's Worship Leader will direct the class to leave their tables and sit in the carpet area.
- ◆ Encourage children to participate in Children's Worship and provide re-direction if necessary. Assist the Children's Worship leader with activities as needed.

Small Groups

All Grades – Jesus is the Best Gift Experiment

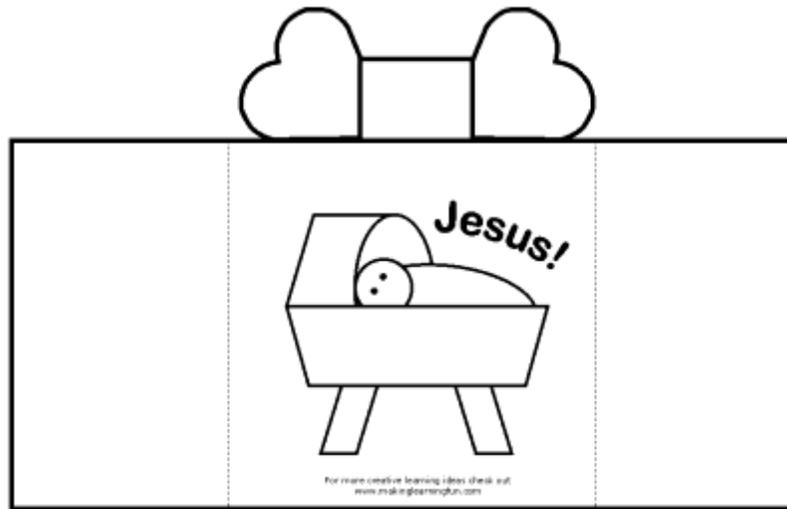
This activity is led by the Children's Worship leader, but requires supervision at the grade level tables.

- ◆ Provide your table with four small cups of liquid – vegetable oil, dish soap, milk, honey – and one large cup.
- ◆ Select five children to be pouring volunteers.
- ◆ As directed by the Children's Worship leader, assist children with pouring small cups of liquid into large cup.

K/1st and 2nd/3rd Grade – Jesus is the Best Gift Craft

- ◆ Provide each child with a card worksheet and a word cutout.

- ◆ Direct children to decorate and color their card.
- ◆ Assist children with cutting out their card and attaching the word cutout to the front.



4th/5th Grade – Jesus is the Best Gift Box Craft

- ◆ Provide each child with a gift box cutout.
- ◆ Direct children to color and decorate their gift box.
- ◆ Direct children to cutout and assemble their gift box using tape.

