

## LESSON 2: JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, IS BORN

Leader Guide for Ages 3-6

Classroom: Christmas Preschool

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 Luke 2:1-20

12/20/2020

### Teachers Dig In

#### Dig In to the Bible

- Read: Luke 2:1-20
- In This Passage: Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem to take part in a census. In those days, a census was merely a way of collecting more taxes. Because the law required it, they went to Bethlehem, and Jesus was born there. This fulfilled prophecies that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (see Micah 5:2). After Jesus was born, angels appeared to shepherds and told them the good news about the Savior's birth. The shepherds rushed to find and worship Jesus, and then they shared the good news with others.
- Bible Point: Jesus is the light of the world.
- Summary Verse: "Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased" (Luke 2:14).

#### Dig Deeper

- You'll Be Teaching: *Jesus is the light of the world.* Jesus came in the midst of a dark time. Although his birth wasn't extravagant, God's glory lit up the night sky when the angels proclaimed Jesus' birth. And Jesus can light up the dark places in kids' lives today!
- Think About: What feels dark in your life right now? Where do you need Jesus' light? In what ways have you seen glimpses of Jesus' light in the past?

#### Dig In to Prayer

- Pray by name for kids who are living through dark times right now.

#### Quick Tip

- “Pair shares” (kids answering a question with a partner) ensure everyone gets to talk and listen. If you want to hear kids’ answers, ask a few kids to report back after their pair share.

## This Lesson at a Glance



### OPENING

Preschoolers share about a topic related to the lesson.

#### Supplies

- Bible



### MUSIC VIDEO

Preschoolers sing songs of praise to God.

#### Supplies

- “You Are the Messiah” (Matthew 16:16) music video (watch or download [here](#))
- “He Loved Us First” music video (watch or download [here](#))
- “Hope in the Lord” (Psalm 33:20) music video (watch or download [here](#))



### LOW-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers use glow sticks to find hidden pictures.

#### Supplies

#### Easy Prep

- 1 glow stick per child\*
- “Baby Jesus” handout (1 for every 4 kids) (download [here](#))
- crying baby sound effect and music player or device to play the sound effect (optional)
- Cut apart the pictures on the “Baby Jesus” handout. You’ll need one picture for each child.
- Hide the pictures around the room.



## HIGH-ENERGY GAME

Preschoolers hold glow sticks and share good news.

### Supplies

- 1 glow stick per child\*



## CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY

Preschoolers experience the light Jesus brings.

### Supplies

- Bible
- music player
- CD or MP3 of quiet music
- small box or basket
- thick blanket
- 1 glow stick per child, plus 2 extras
- rubber bands for binding 2 glow sticks together to make a cross
- small bag of potting soil

### Easy Prep

- Darken the room as much as possible.
- Set up a box or basket as a manger. Crack two glow sticks, use rubber bands to bind them together in a cross shape, and set the cross in the manger. Put uncracked glow sticks around the cross. Cover the cross with a thick blanket to obscure the light.



## PRESCHOOL PUPPET SKIT

Recommended for preschoolers.

### Supplies

### Easy Prep

- Theophilus the FaithRetriever™ Puppet (order [here](#))
- baby doll
- flashlight
- Attach the flashlight to the baby doll's chest, facing its head. Then attach the baby doll to Theo, as if he's cradling it. The flashlight can be turned off.



## LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

Preschoolers try to hide glow sticks, and then hold them high.

### Supplies

- glow sticks\*

*\*Marked supplies can be reused from Core Bible Discovery*

Let's keep kids safe! You can help by using supplies as instructed for only ages 3+, purchasing child-safe items, and being aware of allergy concerns.

## WELCOME TIME



## OPENING

Welcome

[5 min]

### Supplies

- Bible

### Welcome

Thank preschoolers for coming.

Just for fun, have kids high-five three of their friends.  
Make announcements.  
Introduce new kids.  
Celebrate birthdays by whispering the “Happy Birthday” song.  
Collect the offering.

### **Introduce the Lesson**

Say: **Jesus is the light of the world. We call Jesus the light of the world because he helps us when our lives feel dark, such as when we’re sad or afraid. Today we’ll learn about the night Jesus was born.**

### **Share**

Tell a story about when *you* were a baby.  
Have preschoolers take turns telling stories about when *they* were babies or about babies they know.

### **Summarize**

Open a Bible, and say: **Today we’ll talk about how Jesus is the light of the world. We’ll learn about it from the Bible. The Bible is God’s special book. God can talk to us through the Bible. God is here right now, ready to talk to you.**  
Pray, thanking Jesus for being the light of the world.

## **LET’S GET STARTED**



### **OPTION 1: MUSIC VIDEO** **You Are the Messiah**

[10 min]

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### **Supplies**

- “You Are the Messiah” (Matthew 16:16) music video (watch or download [here](#))
- “He Loved Us First” music video (watch or download [here](#))
- “Hope in the Lord” (Psalm 33:20) music video (watch or download [here](#))

### **Tip**

- Don't have internet in your classroom? That's okay! You can download the videos before class using the "download" button at the link provided, or just purchase this quarter's DVD [here](#).

## Sing Songs to God

Sing the three songs in any order.



## OPTION 2: LOW-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

### Search for Baby Jesus

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#### Supplies

- 1 glow stick per child\*
- "Baby Jesus" handout (1 for every 4 kids) (download [here](#))
- crying baby sound effect and music player or device to play the sound effect (optional)

#### Easy Prep

- Cut apart the pictures on the "Baby Jesus" handout. You'll need one picture for each child.
- Hide the pictures around the room.

#### Tip

- Hide some of the pictures by taping them under a table or chair.

#### Find the Baby

Give each child a glow stick if he or she doesn't already have one.

Say: **In our Bible story, shepherds went to search for baby Jesus. Let's look for Jesus just like the shepherds did.**

Hold up a picture of baby Jesus so kids know what to look for.

Dim the lights. If the room is too dark with the lights dimmed, set a small lamp to one side of the room for safety.

Have children use their glow sticks to find the hidden pictures.

Optionally, play the sound effect of a baby crying while children search.

As each child finds a picture, have him or her sit in the middle of the room.

Once everyone has found a picture, have all the kids hold their lights high in the air and shout, "Jesus is the light of the world!"

Play a few rounds, hiding the pictures between each round. You can even choose a few children to hide the pictures.

Gather children. Say: **Just as the shepherds found Jesus, you found Jesus, too. Jesus is the light of the world, and he showed God's love to everyone.**



### OPTION 3: HIGH-ENERGY GAME

[10 min]

Heavenly Host

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#### Supplies

- 1 glow stick per child\*

#### Glow Together

Say: **When the angels appeared to the shepherds, there were lots of angels shining God's light together. Let's play a game to think about what that was like.**

Hand each preschooler a glow stick, and direct kids to scatter around the room.

Choose one child to be the Messenger Angel. He or she will hop to another child and say, "Good news! Jesus is born!"

Then the two children will join hands and hop to another child, where they'll both share the exciting message.

Continue until you have a "host" of angels telling you the good news.

Allow children to play the game a few times. You can change the message to "Peace on earth" or "Jesus is the light!"

#### Talk About It

After a few rounds, gather the glow sticks and set them in a corner of the room.

Have children sit in a circle.

Ask: • **What was the most fun about our game?**

Say: **The angels had the fun job of letting people know that Jesus—the light of the world—had been born! The angels even had God's special light glowing all around them for the shepherds to see. We can be like those angels, sharing with our family and friends the good news that Jesus is the light of the world.**

## **BIBLE STORY TIME**



### **CORE BIBLE DISCOVERY**

[20 min]

#### **The Night Jesus Was Born (Luke 2:1-20)**

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#### **Supplies**

- Bible
- music player
- CD or MP3 of quiet music
- small box or basket
- thick blanket
- 1 glow stick per child, plus 2 extras
- rubber bands for binding 2 glow sticks together to make a cross
- small bag of potting soil

#### **Easy Prep**

- Darken the room as much as possible.
- Set up a box or basket as a manger. Crack two glow sticks, use rubber bands to bind them together in a cross shape, and set the cross in the manger. Put uncracked glow sticks around the cross. Cover the cross with a thick blanket to obscure the light.

#### **Tip**

- For safety reasons, it's better to use thicker glow sticks, as the thinner, bracelet glow sticks can break.

#### **A Dark Night**

Turn off all the lights and darken the room as much as possible.

Say: **It's dark in our room, just like the night Jesus was born. Sometimes, even though it's light outside, we can feel dark or sad *inside*. We might feel sad, afraid, or lonely.**

Have preschoolers form small groups with a teenage or adult leader to discuss this question.

Ask: • **Tell about a time you felt sad, afraid, or lonely.**



Play music quietly while kids talk together. (This fills some of the background silence and makes it more comfortable for kids to share.)

Say: **When we go through dark times like the ones we've talked about, we need God's love. God sent Jesus to be born! Jesus is the light of the world who came to show God's love!**

### **Angels Visit Shepherds**

Say: **The Bible tells us that shepherds were out in a field that night, protecting their sheep from wild animals.** Have kids imagine they are the shepherds in the dark field as you read aloud Luke 2:8-12, with expression. Turn on the lights.

Say: **I need your help celebrating this good news like the angels did.**

Read aloud Luke 2:13-14.

Have kids pretend to be angels, crouch, and whisper "Glory to God" when your hand is low. Practice that. Have kids jump and shout "Glory to God" when your hand is high. Practice that.

Say: **There was one angel** (hand low)

**And then more** (hand medium)

**And then all the angels in heaven.** (hand high)

Do this again.

### **Heading to the Manger**

Say: **After the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds hurried to find Jesus. And they found baby Jesus in the manger—just as the angel had said.**

Motion to the manger.

Say: **A manger is kind of like a big tub and is something you'd find in a barn. Animals eat out of a manger. It would be scratchy, dirty, and smelly!**

Read aloud Luke 2:6-7, and then have kids make baby crying sound effects. And the baby was in a dirty stable.

Pass around the bag of potting soil and have kids smell it.

Ask: • **What would it be like to put a tiny baby in a dirty stable?**

### **Shining God's Light**

Have children gather around the manger; then turn off the lights.

Say: **Jesus was no ordinary baby; Jesus is God. Jesus is the light of the world. Jesus came to show God’s love to a world that was dark with sadness, fear, and sin.**

Pull back the blanket to show the glow cross. Let kids take turns looking inside the manger.

Give preschoolers each a glow stick, but tell them *not* to crack it.

Ask: • **What do you usually do with a glow stick like this?**

Say: **The shepherds had the most important news in the world. They ran and told everyone about the light of the world. The shepherds wanted to tell everyone about the light of the world—Jesus.**

Let kids crack their glow sticks and hold them up high.

### **Light Party**

Tell kids to hurry and tell as many people as possible that Jesus is the light of the world before you call “Stop!”

Say: **That was fun! We can tell everyone that Jesus is the light of the world. We can celebrate and share this amazing gift of God’s love for us!**

## **CLOSING**



### **PRESCHOOL PUPPET SKIT**

[10 min]

#### **Theo Wants to Light Up Jesus**

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#### **Supplies**

- Theophilus the FaithRetriever™ Puppet (order [here](#))
- baby doll
- flashlight

#### **Easy Prep**

- Attach the flashlight to the baby doll’s chest, facing its head. Then attach the baby doll to Theo, as if he’s cradling it. The flashlight can be turned off.

#### **Tip**

- Before printing, turn on page numbering in Word to keep the pages in order (or simply hand-number each page after printing). You may also find it helpful to highlight your part and set the script on a music stand nearby during the skit.

Leader: **It's time for our puppy friend, Theo, to come for a visit. Let's call him to our class with a "woof, woof." Ready?** (*Leads kids to bark until Theo is brought into view.*)

Theo: **Hi, friends!** (*Pants loudly, as if out of breath.*) **I really, really want a good scratch. I was wondering if you'd scratch my back?** (*Sits and encourages kids to come to him to scratch him.*)

Leader: **Thanks for welcoming Theo, kids!**

Theo: **Yeah, thanks! And thank you for coming to me. This baby is heavy.**

Leader: **Is the baby supposed to be baby Jesus, Theo?**

Theo: **How did you guess? Was it the flashlight?**

Leader: **Actually, I was wondering what the flashlight was for.**

Theo: **Here, would you turn it on, please?**

Leader: **Okay.** (*Turns on the flashlight.*) **Now tell us what the flashlight is for.**

Theo: **How about you all guess!** (*Looks to kids and invites them to guess why he attached a light to baby Jesus. Theo doesn't give away his answer; he just nods in response to kids' guesses.*)

Leader: **Okay, tell us your reason, Theo.**

Theo: **It's because Jesus is the light of the world.**

Leader: **I get it.** (*Looks to kids.*) **Remember, friends, that's our Bible point today. Say it with me: Jesus is the light of the world.**

Theo: **Did you know that Jesus glows?**

Leader: **What?**

Theo: ***Yeah, he's so bright that you can use him like a lamp if it's dark out.***

Leader: I don't think that's what Jesus is the light of the world means.

Theo: ***What else could it mean?***

Leader: **It means Jesus brings love into our lives, and he helps us understand things we couldn't understand before. He helps us be friends with God and know all about him.**

Theo: ***What does that have to do with light? I don't get it.***

Leader: **Think about when you're in the dark.** *(Turns out the classroom lights.)*

Theo: **Okay.** *(Snuggles up next to the kids.)*

Leader: **If it's very dark, we can't see anything, but if we turn on the light** *(turns on the light)*, we can see again.

Theo: ***Yeah...***

Leader: **Like that,** *(turns off lights)* we can't see and know God without Jesus. **But Jesus teaches us about God** *(turns lights on again)* so we can be friends with God and know him.

Theo: ***So Jesus doesn't need a flashlight?***

Leader: *(Chuckles.)* **No, he doesn't.**

Theo: ***Well, let's take it off him, then. He's heavy enough on his own.***

Leader: *(Helps Theo detach the flashlight.)*

Theo: ***It's time for me to go now!*** *(Stands, and then looks at the doll.)* **Jesus, you're so much lighter now!** *(Giggles.)*

Leader: *(Chuckles.)* **We'll see you later, Theo. Kids, give Theo a big “woof, woof, goodbye”!** *(Leads kids to say “woof, woof, goodbye,” and then places Theo out of sight.)*



## LIFE APPLICATION WRAP-UP

[5 min]

### Grip the Light

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#### Supplies

- glow sticks\*

#### Glow

Darken the room. Have kids get out their glow sticks.

Say: **You're special to God—so special that Jesus came to the world for you. Jesus brought God's love to the world like a light.**

#### Thank God

Say: **Hold your glow stick close to your body as we thank God for sending Jesus, the light of the world, to be with us.**

Lead kids in thanking God for Jesus.

#### Hide the Light

Have kids each set their glow sticks on the floor in front of them and use their hands to cover the light.

Say: **We have something great to share. God doesn't want us to hide the news that Jesus is the light of the world. Let's show our lights!**

#### Show the Light

Say: **Jesus wants us to shine his light and show love to others so they can know him, too.**

Have kids name some people they would like to share Jesus' love with.

Ask: • **What things can you do to show Jesus' love to others?**

Say: **Hold your glow stick out in front of you as we ask God to help us share Jesus' light with others.**

Lead kids in asking God to help them show Jesus' love.

## **Shine**

Lead kids in holding up their lights and calling out the names of people who they want to share with.

Say: **Let's thank God for sending Jesus because God loves us so much.**

Lead kids in shouting, "Thank you, God, for Jesus—the light of the world!"

Thank kids for coming, and tell them you look forward to seeing them next week.