

POINT ➔ **WE
CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.**

Open your Bible to Luke 2, and show children the words. **SAY: The Bible is God's special book. It tells us about Jesus' birth. Jesus was a Mighty Mini! We're going to pretend we're there at Jesus' birth and learn together how perfectly God planned for Jesus' birth.**

Designate an area to be the "stage." Select children to act out the roles of Joseph, Mary, baby Jesus, an innkeeper, a few shepherds, a few angels, and some animals if you need more roles. Tell children to watch you for cues to act out their parts. Say the following rhyme:

Joseph and Mary walked a long way to Bethlehem town. Have Joseph and Mary walk quickly.

They got very tired and had to slow down. Have Joseph and Mary walk slowly.

They looked for a place to stay. Have Mary and Joseph place hands around eyes.

But everyone sent them away.

Direct the innkeeper to shake his head and point away from him.

The animals had a special place where baby Jesus could have some space. Position Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, and any animals. Position shepherds and angels in another part of your area for the next stanza.

The angels told the shepherds about a baby boy. They ran to see and shouted with joy! Direct the angels and shepherds to gather near baby Jesus.

Once kids are comfortable in their roles, repeat the poem.

ASK: What's your favorite part about Christmas?

What helps you remember to celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas?

SAY: Christmas is a fun time of year. We get to hang up decorations and get presents. Sometimes it's easy to get more excited about those parts of Christmas than about Jesus' birth. But Jesus is the real reason we celebrate Christmas. Remember, ➔ WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.



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SAY: Let's pretend you're all angels. Decide who you can tell that ➔ WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.

Have children sit at a table. Give each child a piece of paper folded in half, and set out some crayons. Instruct the children to celebrate Jesus' birth by drawing a picture on the cards of baby Jesus. As kids color, go around and write "Jesus is born! Let's celebrate!" on the inside of each card.

When children are finished drawing, have them stand in a circle and share who they want to give their cards to. Then have them celebrate Jesus' birth by waving their cards in the air and saying, "Jesus is born! ➔ **WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.**"

SAY: Let's hear the angel's message.
Read aloud Luke 2:11.

ASK: What's a message you can share about Christmas?

Tell about people who've helped you learn about Jesus.

SAY: When Jesus was born, the angels made sure the shepherds knew. There are people who've helped you learn about Jesus, just as the angels did for the shepherds. And you can be like the angels when you tell others why ➔ WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.

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SAY: It's fun to celebrate Jesus' birth! One way ➔ **WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH** is by singing for Jesus.

Play ● "Glory" (track 9) on the *CD*. Encourage children to march in celebration during the verses, and lead them in singing the chorus along with you as they run around, arms out, pretending to be angels.

SING:

**The prophecy was given a long
time ago—
God's people needed a Savior, a
leader of their own.
King Jesus will be born to you, and
he will be your light.
Watch for Messiah, and wait for
that night!**

(Chorus)

**Glory, glory, glory in the highest.
Glory, glory, peace on earth,
good will to men.**

(Repeat chorus.)

The shepherds were watching their flocks by night,
When suddenly up in the sky, oh,
what a sight!

There were angels all around them,
singing praises to God.
"A savior had been born," they
sang. This was the night!

(Repeat chorus 4x.)

**Peace on earth, good will to men.
Peace on earth, good will to men.**

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ASK: **What does it mean that Jesus brought peace on earth?**

What can you learn from the angels and shepherds about celebrating Jesus' birth?

SAY: *Glory* is a word that brings praise to God. The angels said, "Glory to God in the highest," to celebrate Jesus' birth. The shepherds heard the angel's message and ran to see Jesus. They celebrated by going to be with Jesus. Then they told people about Jesus. ➔ **WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH** like the angels and the shepherds did.

POINT ➔ **WE
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SAY: ➔ **WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.** Give children each a lump of *Rainbow Clay*. Assign each child a person or animal to sculpt; include Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus in the manger, shepherds, sheep, and donkeys. (It's okay if kids' sculptures are just blobs.) When kids finish sculpting, have them use their sculptures to tell about Jesus' birth. If kids need prompts, have them do the following:

- Place donkeys in a designated "stable." You could use a compartment from inside your *Mighty Minis Box*.
- Walk Mary and Joseph to the stable.
- Place baby Jesus in front of Mary and Joseph in the stable.
- Walk shepherds and sheep to the stable.
- Make shepherds run from the stable to each child, as if they're telling kids about Jesus' birth.

ASK: Pick one person at Jesus' birth that you'd most like to be. Explain your choice.

What's something about Jesus' birth you'd love to tell about?

SAY: You did a great job creating your sculptures and telling about Jesus' birth! Remembering what happened that day and sharing about it with others is one way ➔ **WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.** Collect the *Rainbow Clay*.

Keep one of this week's *Bible Buzz Cards* to use next week.

POINT ➔ **WE
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SAY: Jesus was born in a strange place. But that was no accident—God had a plan for Jesus' birth.

Hold up the *Bible Buzz Card* and show kids the picture.

ASK: What do you see in this picture?

Where else have you seen some of these things?

What's surprising about Jesus' birth?

SAY: ➔ **WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.** When you celebrate Christmas, remember that it was God's plan for Jesus to be born where he was. Now let's celebrate Jesus' birth by acting out the different things that happened!

Choose different aspects of the illustration to act out, and have all the kids follow your lead. For starters, try these:

- Baa and graze like a sheep.
- Cry and rub your eyes like a new baby.

- Keep watch while holding your staff like a shepherd.
- Hold a pretend baby and rock him like Mary.
- Spread your fingers and wiggle them to "sparkle" like the star.
- Kneel down and hold your arms out straight like a manger holding a baby.

ASK: Tell anything you know about the place you were born.

Why is it strange that Jesus was born in a barn?

SAY: You've probably seen sheep at a farm or a zoo...but not at the hospital where a baby is born! You might've seen hay around those animals, or at a corn maze... but not in a crib! Jesus' birthplace might not seem like a very good way for God to come to earth. But God knew just what would happen when Jesus was born, and it happened just like God planned. Jesus came to earth so that we could be God's friends, so ➔ **WE CELEBRATE JESUS' BIRTH.**