



WEEK 2

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

We can celebrate Jesus' birth.

THE BIBLE

Jesus is Born: Luke 2:1-7;
(Isaiah 9:6-7)

LARGE GROUP TIME

Champions meet in the Youth Room for worship.

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Match the Babies

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass out a worksheet to each kid and have them try to correctly match the animals to the the names of their babies. You can download the worksheet and answers [here](https://www.ebabyshowergames.com/printable-baby-animal-matchup-game.html). (<https://www.ebabyshowergames.com/printable-baby-animal-matchup-game.html>)
- Which of these names were you the most surprised about?
- Today we are going to learn about a special baby who also has a unique name!

QUESTION | Why Celebrate Birthdays?

- Why do you think we celebrate birthdays?
- Do you ever count down the days to a birthday or special event/holiday in your family?

THE BIG IDEA | We can celebrate Jesus' birth.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have kids go out of the space and line up by the door. Tell them that we're celebrating a special birthday today, but you need an invitation to attend. Hand out invitations (available in your printables folder) while they're waiting in line, and have them show it to you before re-entering the room. You could even do the previous activities in



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another room and have your main meeting space decorated ahead of time, so it feels like they're really coming to a birthday party!

- Today's Big Idea: **We can celebrate Jesus' birth!**

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

VIDEO | Main Event, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's [teaching video](#). ([Main Event Elementary Week 2 on Vimeo](#))

SCRIPTURE | Luke 2:1-7

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read Luke 2:1-7 aloud with or to your kids.
- Before Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph had a long journey ahead of them to Joseph's hometown of Bethlehem. They were traveling such a long way because King Caesar Augustus declared that all people needed to be counted, and to make this easier, they needed to go back to their hometown.
- Before any great celebration, there must be preparation! So, Mary and Joseph prepared for Jesus' birth by arriving safely to Bethlehem. Can you imagine how tired they must have been after such a long journey while also waiting for a baby to be born? I would've been thinking, "Are we there yet?" Wouldn't you?
- To make matters worse, once they finally arrived, there was not enough room for all the people. Mary and Joseph ended up having to place baby Jesus in a manger – which is not a place for babies at all!
- Even though the conditions surrounding the birth of Jesus was not the best, God sent Jesus to us anyway! God knew we needed a savior and that's reason enough to celebrate!

VIDEO | "Time Stands Still"

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Watch [this video clip](#) ([Big Fish \(5/8\) Movie CLIP - Time Stands Still \(2003\) HD](#)) from the movie, "Big Fish" with your group.
- **Can you all try moving in slow motion right now to get to the other side of the room?**
- Didn't that feel like it would take forever? Waiting can be hard, right? When we are looking forward to a big event, being patient can be even more difficult.
- Imagine seeing Jesus for the first time. It must have felt like time stopped for Mary and Joseph. All of the waiting and anticipation leading up to that moment probably washed away when Jesus was finally right there. And guess what? We can celebrate Jesus' birth, too! Because Jesus was born, we can live out an awesome life filled with cool experiences, dreams, and purpose!

OBJECT LESSON | Hourglass

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use a mini hourglass (preferably a 60-second hourglass) to demonstrate the value of using time.



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- Okay, when I flip the hourglass, we are going to sit silently until all the sand falls. Ready?
- Time sometimes feels like it goes too slowly. Like sitting quietly, waiting for all the sand to fall in an hourglass. But if I gave you the same amount of time to watch TV or play a video game, you would think that time went by much too quickly, right?
- I know a lot of you can't wait for Christmas, but let's use this time to prepare our hearts to receive Jesus.

SCRIPTURE | Isaiah 9:6-7

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the passage and read it.*
- The prophet Isaiah is speaking to a people who have been waiting for years and years for a savior. What they wanted was for someone to make them a powerful kingdom. And even though this Bible passage talks about how the child that to be born will be a mighty ruler, you and I know that we are not actually talking about a kingdom.
- Jesus came to this earth as a baby so that one day He can die on the cross for the sins of the world. From a humble manger to dying on the cross then rising again and going to heaven. . . that is not something an ordinary person can do! No wonder Isaiah calls Jesus, "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace!"

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

PRAYER

- Dear God, we want to celebrate You in this season. Please show us the many different ways we can prepare our hearts for that celebration. Thank You for using Mary and Joseph to teach us the importance of Your birth, and why we should celebrate that.

REFLECTION | What Jesus' Birth Means to Me

- Sometimes, we can be so focused on the fun time we have celebrating during Christmastime that we forget that Jesus is the main event!
- **What does the birth of Jesus mean to you?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *This would be a good opportunity to share the salvation message with kids, especially for those who are visiting for the first time, or for kids who have yet to receive Jesus.*

ACTIVITY | Let's Celebrate!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Have a birthday celebration, complete with [noisemakers](#), [party hats](#), [confetti poppers](#), and a birthday cake. Sing "Happy birthday, dear Jesus." Let kids blow out the candles and take turns making a wish they can share aloud if they want.*

MEMORY VERSE | Memory Ornaments

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Write each word of the memory verse on a Christmas ornament (preferably inexpensive, shatterproof ones like [these](#) ([Amazon.com: KI Store Silver](#)*



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[Christmas Balls 34pcs 1.57-Inch Small Christmas Tree Decoration Ornaments for Xmas Tree Holiday Wreath Garland Decor Ornaments Hooks Included : Home & Kitchen](#)), and pass them out to the kids. Let the kids come up in order and hang the ornament on a mini Christmas tree, or hang it on a clothesline with clothespins. Have kids say each word together. Once all the ornaments are up, say the verse together!

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- Why did Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem?
- Why was Jesus placed in a manger?
- What about Jesus' birth should we celebrate?
- Re-read Isaiah 9:6-7. What other names can we call Jesus?
- What is your favorite part of birthdays?
- What are some ways you and your family celebrate?
- Why do you think Jesus came to us as a baby?

ACTIVITY | Birthday Card

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a piece of paper and art supplies. Have them fold the paper in half and make a birthday card to Jesus. Make sure they decorate the cover and write a heartfelt message inside.
- Even though it's Jesus' birthday, we are the ones who got the gift! Let's remember to thank Jesus for being born for us!

MEMORY VERSE | Luke 1:46-47 (NIV)

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