



BIG STORIES OF THE BIBLE 41

JESUS IS BORN

Scripture: Luke 2:1-21, Matthew 2:1-12

Open: Greet, Praises, Requests, Pray

Supplies: Borax, yellow pipe cleaners, water, a star cookie cutter, string, popsicle sticks, mason jars, food coloring (optional).

Ask:

- Can you believe it? We made it through the Old Testament. Does anyone know what the New Testament is about? (The life of Jesus and the early church, and Jesus' return)
- The New Testament begins with 4 gospels. Gospel means good news, and the good news of the Bible is that Jesus was born, he walked the earth, and died for our sins so we could find forgiveness in him and live with him forever in heaven. That's good news, isn't it? Well, today we're going to start where that good news starts- with the birth of Jesus!
- Can anyone tell me about how Mary learned she would be the mother of Jesus? (Allow for answers, if kids don't know, explain an angel told her as seen in Luke 1.
- We will read the story of the night Jesus was born, but we're going to take some time today and learn about what happened after he was born. He was probably a toddler at this time.

Read: Matthew 2:1-12

Explain:

These magi came from far away because they knew a king had been born. How did this make King Herod feel? (Angry, jealous)

God kept these men safe and allowed them to see Jesus and present their gifts to him. All because they followed a star, looking for a king. Think about their journey. They endured hardships all to see Jesus because they knew he was worth it. He is still worth our time and treasures today. What can you do this Christmas season to focus on Jesus, rather than on presents and time off school?

Activity:

Make pipe cleaner star ornaments.

Create a solution with borax and water, you can add food coloring if you want different colored stars.

Use a star cookie cutter and bend the pipe cleaners around it. Once done, twist the pipe cleaner in place. Then, tie a string on the pipe cleaner star and hang the string from a popsicle stick over the jar and into the solution. Over the next 2-20 hours, crystals will form on the star, looking like rock candy.

Explain:

Take this home and hang it somewhere you can see it. Use this star to remind you that Jesus is worth seeking. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords, and he came to earth to make a way for us through his death and resurrection. This is the good news of the New Testament, and I can't wait to learn more with you over the next few weeks.

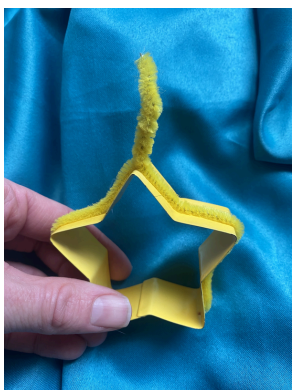
Either while the kids are creating their stars or after, read the story of Jesus' birth found in Luke 2:1-21

Comic Book Bibles:

Have the kids color the story of the birth of Jesus or the visit of the Magi in their comic book Bibles.

Memorize: Luke 2:11

Close in Prayer



Step 1: Using a star cookie cutter, bend and wrap a pipe cleaner around it, twisting at the top.



Step 2: Remove the pipe cleaner from the cookie cutter. Use a string to secure the star to a popsicle stick.



Step 3: Boil water. You will need 1 cup of water to three Tablespoons of borax. Once the water is boiling, pour in the borax and stir until dissolved, pour into a jar. Place your star in the solution. Allow to sit for 2-10 hours (either let your kids take the jar home or remove it for them and present it to them next week).



Step 4: Remove your star from the solution and either allow to dry by hanging, or by gently dabbing with a towel. This is mine after 8 hours.