



LESSON 49

3rd and 4th Grade

Principle: Jesus is God and man. Supernatural birth. We should worship Him.

Bible Character: Jesus

Scripture Reference: Luke 2:1-20, Matthew 1:18-25



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read Luke 2 and Matthew 1:18-25.

As you read, look for the extraordinary events of Jesus' birth, and focus on the extraordinary love and purpose in His life. God chose ordinary people, Mary and Joseph, to be the parents of His extraordinary Son. Jesus was fully God, but He was also fully human and experienced life the same way we do. After His birth, the angels praised God for Jesus. The shepherds went directly to where Jesus was, and glorified God for Jesus. Their response to Jesus was worship.

How does it make you feel to know that although Jesus was God, He also lived an ordinary life on earth and understands what you experience? How do you respond to what God has done for you through Jesus? Do you have a heart of worship to praise God for this gift? Spend some time in prayer, thanking and praising God for sending Jesus to earth as our Savior.

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Nativity Scene

Supplies:

Picture of nativity (1 per bin)

Show your campers the colorful picture of the nativity scene and have them tell you what they see and what they know about the nativity. Then show them the additional pictures and explain that these are more accurate to how it would have been when Jesus was born.



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

*Take your cabin flag to Big Group.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will continue our study about Jesus and the extraordinary gift God gave us in Him. We will focus on the extraordinary purpose God had for Jesus to save ordinary people like you and me, and how we should worship Him everyday with our life.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group? What did you learn about Jesus? What did you learn about sharing Jesus with others?

Last week, we began our study of the New Testament. We studied about Jesus and how He has always existed. We also learned about how God used John the Baptist to prepare the way for Jesus' coming.

Today we are going to read about the actual birth of Jesus. Jesus has always existed, yet He came to the earth as a baby to live as we do. He was still God when He was born, but He was also a person, just like we are people. Jesus' birth is pretty amazing because He was born as a baby, but was still God.

Baby Boy. Son of God



The purpose is to show the campers that Jesus was fully God and fully man.

Supplies:

Baby doll or picture of a baby (1 per bin)

Small blanket (1 per bin)

Diaper (1 per bin)

Show the items to the campers. Pass the doll or picture of the baby around. Ask the campers if they have siblings who are babies. Do their brothers/sisters cry a lot? Do they require a lot of attention?

Tie It Together



Jesus was born as a baby. He cried like babies do. He had to be fed. He had to be held. He depended on His parents to care for Him. He was a baby just like you were at one point, but he was also God. He came to live as we do; yet He lived a perfect life. He never sinned. He did this so that one day, when He had grown much older, He could die for us and save us from our sin. Jesus was fully man and fully God. Isn't it amazing that Jesus was a baby just like you and I were? He came into the world having to depend on His mother to feed Him and care for Him, just like you and I did. He experienced life on earth as a human, just like us, except He never sinned. He did all of this because of His love for us.

Ordinary Men and an Extraordinary Savior



The purpose is to define ordinary and extraordinary.

Supplies:

Ordinary/Extraordinary sign (1 per bin)

Rocks (3 per bin)

Gem/faux diamond (1 per bin)

Passage printout poster for the Tie It Together (1 per bin)

What does *ordinary* mean? (Allow time for answers.) Ordinary means usual and common – *not* remarkable or special in any way. What does *extraordinary* mean? (Allow time for answers.) It means of great value, remarkable or exceptional; something amazing and great. Place all the rocks on the table, then place the gem in the middle of the rocks.

Tie It Together



All of these rocks are very ordinary. You would see these rocks anywhere. They are common. They are not very special. The gem is extraordinary. It is not common. You would not see it lying around outside. It is very special. In the same way, Jesus' birth was –extraordinary, God brought His Son into the world in an ordinary way. He used very ordinary things to do something extraordinary.

Let's begin reading the Bible in Luke and see what events are ordinary and what are extraordinary. (Put the passage printout on the board or on the table so the children can see it as you read aloud. Ask for a volunteer to help you as you read the passages give that child the "extraordinary"/"ordinary" sign.) As we read through this scripture, _____ (the volunteer) will hold up the sign for each event – the "ordinary" side for every day, ordinary events and the "extraordinary" side for super special, extraordinary events. We will make lists of the ordinary and extraordinary events on the whiteboard. We will first review a passage that we read last week about Jesus' birth foretold.

Teachers, the scripture below is **bold for ordinary events** and underlined for extraordinary events.

Luke 1:30-33, 38 [NLT]

30 "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! **31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus.** 32 He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. **33 And**

he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

38 Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true." And then the angel left her.

Can you pick out the ordinary and extraordinary events in this passage? (Allow responses.) Here we see that an ordinary event was Mary becoming pregnant with a baby. The extraordinary event was that her son was to be called the Son of the Most High, He would be King and would reign forever.

Let's read the Bible now from Matthew 1. (Flip the passage printout poster to the other side so the children can see it as you read aloud.)

Matthew 1:20-24

20 ...an angel of the Lord appeared to him [Joseph] in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

22 All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet:

23 "Look! The virgin will conceive a child!
She will give birth to a son,
and they will call him Immanuel,
which means 'God is with us.'"

24 When Joseph woke up, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife.

What do you notice in this passage? (Allow responses.) We see the extraordinary event that an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. God sent the angel to tell Joseph about his son. The baby inside Mary was put there by God. The angel also told Joseph that his son would save people from their sins, another extraordinary event.

Now we are going to read from Luke again, in chapter 2, about when Jesus was born. At that time, the Roman Emperor Augustus declared that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. A census is an official count of the number of people in the land. Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem because of the census. (Put the next passage printout on the board or on the table so the children can see it as you read aloud.)

Luke 2:6-7

6 And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. 7 She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

What ordinary or extraordinary events can you see in this passage? (Allow responses.) There is an ordinary event: Mary gave birth to her baby, wrapped him in cloth, and laid him in a manger. Let's take

a closer look at the arrival of Jesus.

Ordinary Arrival of an Extraordinary King



The purpose is to see how Jesus' life began humbly.

Supplies:

Set of pictures (robe, scepter, throne, crown, burlap, cave, manger) (1 set per bin)

Place the pictures on the table. Ask the campers to pick up any items representing a king off the table.

Tie It Together



We have studied many kings in the Old Testament. Do you remember King Solomon? He had a lot of money and many of the things we pulled off the table. Normally a king would be born into riches and royalty, with an extravagant room and crib. Jesus was born and laid in a manger. He didn't even have a crib to sleep in. Jesus was not an ordinary king. He did not have the things that ordinary kings had. The picture of the cave represents where Jesus was born. The burlap represents what they might have used as a blanket. The picture of the manger represents where Jesus slept. Jesus came into the world in a very ordinary way, but He is an extraordinary King. He is God, yet He was willing to come into the world as a common man so that He could live as we do. He did this because of His love for us. How can you respond to the fact that Jesus came to earth to live as we do, but is also an extraordinary King because He is God? (Allow responses.)

Let's continue reading the Bible in Luke to see how the angels and shepherds responded to Jesus' birth.

Luke 2:9-20

9 Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, 10 but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. 11 The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! 12 And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God and saying,

*14 "Glory to God in highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."*

15 When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

16 They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. 17 After seeing him, the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. 18 All who heard the shepherds' story were astonished, 19 but Mary kept all these things in her heart and thought about them often. 20 The shepherds went back to their

flocks, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. It was just as the angel had told them.

That is pretty amazing! The angels were singing and praising God for Jesus' birth! An angel appeared to the shepherds to tell them of Jesus' birth, and then they saw the angels celebrating. They immediately went to Bethlehem. They saw baby Jesus, and their response was to tell everyone about him, and glorify and praise God for what they had seen.

Responding to an Extraordinary Gift



The purpose is to examine our response to the extraordinary gift of a Savior.

Supplies:

Christmas tree ornament (1 per camper)

Foil star stickers (2-3 per camper)

Verse printouts – Psalm 145:1-2 (1 per camper)

Give each camper an ornament, a few star stickers, and a verse printout. Have them stick the stickers to the ornament (inside or outside). Then have them roll up the verse printout like a scroll and put it inside the ornament. (If time allows, and if they would like, they can color the verse printout before putting it in the ornament.) As they work, talk through the Tie It Together below and go over the verse with them a few times.

Tie It Together



Each year we set aside one day to celebrate the birth of Jesus and to worship Him because of what He has done for us. This day is Christmas. Jesus came to earth as a baby, to live the life that we live, yet He never sinned. He came to save the world because He loves all of us so much. When we hear the story of Jesus' birth, we can see how extraordinary Jesus is! What a great reason to worship God! We should not only worship Him on Christmas, but every day of the year because He deserves all of the praise and glory. We can remember this story and how extraordinary Jesus is every day. Take this ornament home and hang it in your room to remind you that Christmas should be celebrated every day by worshiping our God. When Christmas comes around, you can hang it on your Christmas tree as a reminder to the whole family!

Prayer Time

Spend a few minutes in prayer to close small group time. Thank God for sending His Son, Jesus. Praise Him for this extraordinary gift, and ask God to help us worship Him everyday.



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