

IN THE MANGER

Bible Verse

She [Mary] gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.
(Luke 2:7)

Bible Story Reference Luke 2:1-20

PowerXpress!® Bible Experience Stations®

MAIN IDEA

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, where Mary laid him in a manger. His humble birth reminds us that the Messiah began life as a helpless baby, just as we do.

OBJECTIVES

Children will prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus as they

- * learn that Jesus is called Emmanuel and explore the meaning of “God with us;”
- * hear that Jesus is the Messiah and talk about what that means;
- * discover the significance of the Messiah’s coming, not as a king or warrior, but as a baby born in a humble place;
- * see how Jesus’ birth connects the Messiah to all people of all ages;
- * recognize that Jesus has a special connection with the poor;
- * be able to locate the story of Jesus’ birth in the Book of Luke.

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Written by: Suzann Wade

Creative Consultants: Larry Beman, Gail Britt, Barbara Bruce, Mark Burrows, Cathy Hoop, Sandy Mabry, Carol McDonough, Suzann Wade, Sally Wizik Wills

Editor: Larry Beman

Development Editors: Daphna Flegal, Linda R. Whited

Production Editor: Linda R. Whited

Designer: Paige Easter

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MANUFACTURED IN
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Jesus was born in Bethlehem, where Mary laid him in a manger. His humble birth reminds us that the Messiah began life as a helpless baby, just as we do.

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- * learn that Jesus is called Emmanuel and explore the meaning of “God with us;”
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- * recognize that Jesus has a special connection with the poor;
- * be able to locate the story of Jesus’ birth in the Book of Luke.

FOR ALL YOUR VOLUNTEERS

Photocopy these sections for all your leaders:

- * Main Idea; Objectives (page 3)
- * Bible References; Bible Story; Bible Background (pages 4–5)
- * Check Your Facts; About the Children (pages 5–6)
- * Shepherd Tips (page 7)

BIBLE REFERENCES

Luke 2:1-20

BIBLE STORY

Luke 2:1-20

Emperor Augustus ordered a census of all the people in the Roman Empire. According to tradition, each man returned to the town of origin of his family or clan. Joseph and Mary, his fiancée, traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem, where Joseph's family originated, to be registered.

In Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to a son in a place where animals were kept because there was no room in the inn. Mary wrapped the baby in swaddling cloths, as was the custom, and laid him in a manger.

Nearby, shepherds were watching their flocks when the sky was suddenly filled with light and an angel appeared. The angel said, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11). The angel told the shepherds to look for a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. The sky then filled with angels singing praises to God.

The shepherds left their flocks in the field and went to find the child. They found Mary and Joseph, and the baby in the manger. Then they went and told their good news to all who would listen, and people were amazed by what the shepherds said. Mary kept these memories and thoughts in her heart. The shepherds then went back to the field praising God for the child they had seen in the manger.

BIBLE BACKGROUND

Every year we remember the story of Christmas. This year as you prepare to celebrate, stop to remember the humble story of Jesus' birth.

Years before Jesus was born, God's people had been preparing for the coming of the promised Messiah. Some believed the Messiah would ride to Jerusalem on a white stallion and lead the Jews to victory over the Romans. Others expected a king dancing like King David, returning the Ark to the Temple. Whatever their plans, it is safe to say that no one imagined what God had in store.

Just think about the facts of Jesus birth: Jesus was born to a woman who was engaged but not yet married. Jesus was born on the road to a poor family who, at the time, had no place to stay. Jesus was born in a place where animals were kept. Jesus was born as a baby; the Messiah began life dependent on the care of others to survive. This was not the type of Messiah the world expected.

What can we learn from Jesus' humble beginnings? Some scholars argue that the humble nature of Jesus' birth was so revolutionary that, as Christians, we still gloss over the humility of his birth in favor of the celebration of the angels.

Think about the baby, Jesus. God, who has the power to do anything, chose to come as a helpless baby. There is a scene in the movie *Aladdin* where the genie, played by Robin Williams, describes the life of a genie. He says he has phenomenal cosmic powers in an itty-bitty living space. Not to equate a fictional character with the story of the birth of our Savior, but take a moment to consider the contrast. When Jesus was born, God placed the full and complete power of the Creator in the tiny, little body of a baby. Is it any wonder that no one dreamed of the Messiah coming in such a way? Think about the arrival of Jesus the baby. No great plans were made. No feast was held in his honor. Instead, Jesus was born away from home, on the road, to a mother and father going about the normal business of life. There were no flowers, no cards, and no family members coming to see the baby. In fact, the only visitors were shepherds that Mary and Joseph had never met. Is this the expected arrival of the King of Kings?

Think about where Jesus was born—a place where animals slept and ate. Among the hay and animals, Jesus came into the world. It is worth remembering that, even now, millions of babies enter the world in humble ways each year. However, few could claim a more humble beginning than Jesus' beginning. Even for Jesus' time, his birth was a humble one. Most babies were born at home, but Jesus was born away from home, among animals. His first bed was a manger. Is that where one would expect to find the Messiah?

What is the significance of these humble beginnings? Jesus birth showed that God is literally with us. We enter the world as babies, and so did Jesus. We learn how to walk and grow as toddlers, and so did Jesus. We grow older and face puberty, and so did Jesus. Jesus identifies with all of us at all ages.

Jesus' birth reminds us that God chose for Jesus to identify with the poor of the world. Jesus knew the challenges faced by the poor; he lived it. Perhaps this is why Jesus proclaimed so strongly that what we do to the least, we do to Him. After all, as a baby, wasn't he literally the least?

CHECK YOUR FACTS

- Jesus was born in Bethlehem while Mary and Joseph were there to register in a Roman census.
- Mary wrapped Jesus in yards of swaddling cloths, as was the custom for babies at that time. Swaddling was believed to make the baby feel safe and warm. A swaddled baby was also easy to carry. Babies could be tied on to the mother's front or back, leaving her hands free. Some cultures still swaddle newborn babies.

- ❑ Many cultures have ways to make carrying babies easier, including the use of baby backpacks, baby wraps, and baby slings.
- ❑ The Bible says Mary placed Jesus in a manger. A manger is a feeding trough for animals. However, the word is also used to describe an animal stall.
- ❑ The Bible does not say where the manger was. Tradition says the manger was in a cave, but it could have also been in a stable or a courtyard.
- ❑ Tradition depicts the lack of room as a tragedy. However, inns at the time were often crowded with many people sleeping in one area. The area where the animals were kept probably had more privacy.
- ❑ God chose to announce the birth of the Messiah to shepherds, who were poor and on the outside of society.
- ❑ Shepherds, then and now, lived and worked in the hills and valleys around Bethlehem.
- ❑ Some scholars think that Jesus was born in the spring instead of the winter, since shepherds tended sheep in the fields during nicer weather.
- ❑ Advent is a special church season when we prepare for the coming of the Messiah. Advent prepares us to remember the birth of Jesus—the arrival of the Messiah in the world.
- ❑ Advent is defined as the arrival of something momentous.

ABOUT THE CHILDREN

Younger Children

Children are filled with excitement now, for no month is longer for a child than the days between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Children almost seem to vibrate with anticipation. Be patient with younger children. Allow yourself to be caught up in their excitement. Encourage them to tell stories about Christmas, as well as their own birth stories. Talk about how Jesus was once their age. Talk about babies they have known. Ask them to tell what they know about caring for a baby. Talk about the people who would have helped care for Jesus.

Older Children

Older children often feel the stress of the season. Support them. Remind them of the promise of peace that comes with Christmas. Help them see the stresses that had to be overcome by the people in the Christmas story. Talk about the stress faced by new parents and families when a baby is born. Encourage children to tell their earliest Christmas memories. Help children think of ways to share with younger children. Talk about people who helped care for Jesus. Let the children think of ways they can help those who are in need.

SHEPHERD TIPS

- * Pray each week for the children under your care.
- * Model the behavior you want from the children.
- * Assist the station leader as needed.
- * Make sure the children use tools and equipment in a safe manner.
- * Talk to the church school superintendent or coordinator if you have any questions or concerns about the children in your care.
- * If your group does not use the Gathering Time activities, consider them as suggestions for discussions with the children in your group as they arrive each week.

Greet the Children

Help with nametags.

Thank the children for remembering to bring their offerings. Have the children place their offerings in the offering basket.

Take attendance. Note any children who are absent. Make plans to send absent children a note or card. Record names, addresses, and phone numbers of any children who are attending for the first time, and plan to call them or to send a welcoming card.

Read the **Talk Tips** in each of the station plans and support the station leader in helping the children explore the ideas of the unit.

MISSION PROJECT

The Science Station includes two separate mission activities.

- The “Warmth for a Little One” activity (page 63) includes making parts of a quilt each week. The younger children will begin the quilt by drawing animal pictures on quilt blocks. The middle children will sew the blocks together in rows. The older children will complete the quilt. At the end of the rotation unit the children will have completed a baby quilt that can be donated to a local infant crisis center or shelter to give to a baby in need.
- The “Animals at Christmas: A Lesson in Caring” activity (page 64) lets the children respond to the traditional stories of animals caring for the baby Jesus by making animal and bird treats to take home to hang outside to help care for the animals and birds during the winter months.

There is also a mission activity in the Creative Cookery Station.

- The children will participate in “A Baby Shower for Jesus” (page 42). They will enjoy shower food and games as well bringing baby gifts for babies in need. The gifts can be donated to a crisis center, a shelter, or individual families with new babies.

Resources

Bible
 “Many Mangers Cookies” from the Creative Cookery Station (page 39) directions for
 “Warmth for a Little One” from the Science Station (page 63)
Room for a Little One: A Christmas Tale by Martin Waddell
 copies of pages 3–7

Supplies

ingredients for cookies (page 39)
 iced tea and lemonade
 cups and ice napkins
 sewing machines, thread, and bobbins

STAFF MEETING

Prepare

Prepare “Many Mangers Cookies” from the Creative Cookery Station. Prepare to serve them with iced tea and lemonade.

With the Participants

Welcome the staff members and invite them to get a snack and drink.

Read, or ask a volunteer to read, Luke 2:1-20.

Option: Ask staff members to tell the story without looking at the Bible. Then read the Scripture and make comparisons.

Give information in your own words from “Bible Background” (pages 4–5) and “About the Children” (page 6).

Introduce the unit and the stations that will be used.

Say: Christmas is a time when it is easy to get caught up in the hectic pace of the season. It is easy to get frantic over to-do lists and to go overboard purchasing gifts, decorations, and food for the holiday. By remembering the humble nature of Jesus’ birth, we remind ourselves of the amazing statement God made to the world at Christmas. God truly is a God who identifies with the least in our world: the poor, the helpless, and those who are completely dependent on others.

In this unit we focus on caring for the needs of “the least, the last, and the lost” in our community. During the next several weeks, the children will make quilts to give to babies in need. Today, we will contribute our part to that process.

Follow the preparation directions from the “Warmth for a Little One” activity in the Science Station (page 63). Have the staff members cut the fabric into the required block sizes, thread the sewing machines, and fill the bobbins.

As the staff members work, read aloud *Room for a Little One: A Christmas Tale* by Martin Waddell.

Ask: What can we learn from the generous spirit of the animals in this story? What does the story teach us about the focus we need at Christmas?

Explain that the youngest children will visit the Science Station first so that they can start the quilt by drawing pictures of animals from the Christmas story, like those in the book, on the quilt blocks. Then the middle children will sew the blocks together in rows, and the oldest children will complete the quilt by quilting the basted blanket.

Explain that the goal of this project is to find ways for children to work together to care for the least among us. Making these quilts will help children explore the significance of Jesus being born in the manner and

the place that he was. In addition, through this and other activities, children will be encouraged to think about their own birth stories and deepen their understandings of Jesus as Emmanuel, God with us.

Hand out copies of pages 3-7. Work with the staff members to deal with any details or issues related to teaching this unit.

Thank the staff members for their participation. Then close with a prayer for the children.

REFLECTION WEEK

Prepare

Gather items made by the children in the stations.

1. Decorate the space with the "Welcome Baby Jesus" banners from the Video Station (page 87).
2. Edit the "Jesus' Baby Video" made by the older children in the Video Station (page 87) and prepare to view it.
3. Collect the Nativity sets made during the "Put Yourself in the Story" activity in the Art Station (page 22).
4. Make Many Mangers Cookies from the Creative Cookery Station (page 39) to have for snacks.
5. Display all the Nativity sets that have been used in the stations.
6. Adapt the instructions below to fit the activities the children used.

With the Children

Sing "Away in the Manger."

Watch the "Jesus' Baby Video."

If you made a video of the older children retelling the Christmas story while wearing their Elevated Elegant Animals masks in the Art Station (page 25), let the children watch the video during this time.

Serve the Many Manger Cookies while watching the video.

Play "Bundled-Baby Relays" from the Game Station (page 49).

Hold a Nativity processional parade: Play "Joy to the World" from the *In the Manger* CD, and let the children process while carrying the life-size Nativity sets that they made during the "Put Yourself in the Story" activity in the Art Station (page 22). (Or let them process while carrying pieces from the Nativity sets that were displayed in the setup of some of the stations.)

Say: We have remembered the Christmas story and how Jesus' birth continues to shape and change our lives. Today, surrounded by Nativity sets, we remember that the gift of Jesus is a gift for all people. Now this unit is finished, but we can go and share the good news about Jesus. So, go from here with the joy and excitement of the shepherds. Share the good news about all that you have seen and heard with everyone you meet, and continue to offer the love and acceptance of Christmas to others throughout the year.

Resources

- * *In the Manger* CD
- * "Away in the Manger" lyrics and sheet music
- * "Joy to the World" lyrics and sheet music
- "Welcome Baby Jesus" banner and the "Jesus' Baby Video" made in the Video Station (page 87)
- Nativity sets made in the Art Station (page 22)
- Many Mangers Cookies (page 39)
- video make with "Elevated Elegant Animals" masks in the Art Station (page 25)

Supplies

napkins

GATHERING TIME

optional but highly recommended

Resources

- * *In the Manger* CD
- * "Away in the Manger" lyrics and sheet music
- * "Good News" lyrics and sheet music
- * "Joy to the World" lyrics and sheet music

Nativity set (needs to include Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus in a manger, animals, shepherds, and an angel)

Supplies

carpet squares or large pillows in a different color for each group
table for altar
purple tablecloth
CD player
4 x 4-foot square of burlap
two 8-inch by 4-foot lengths of white cotton fabric

If you use Gathering Time each week, plan a way for the children to form groups as they arrive. Ask the shepherds for each group to sit in the same area of the gathering place each week. Each group should have a different color flag, sign, or carpet square for identification. Ask the shepherds to visit with the children as they arrive, making them welcome and reminding them to stay with the group.

If you do not have a Gathering Time, review the activities suggested for these times as possibilities for additional activities in your stations or in other settings.

SETTING THE STAGE

Prepare

Place a table for an altar in a prominent place in the Gathering Time area. Cover the table with a purple tablecloth or purple fabric.

Each Week

Begin by singing "Away in a Manger" as you take up the offering.

Do the Gathering Time worship devotional for the week. Each week a new item will be added to the altar space. As you place the item on the altar, tell the children about the part of the story represented by the item and explain how it helps us remember the Christmas story.

Sing stanza 4 of "Good News!" which proclaims, "Good News, Children!" (On Christmas Sunday, sing "Joy to the World.")

Close with the prayer for the week. Then, dismiss the children to go to their stations.

Note: Use the devotional for Christmas Sunday (labeled "Week 5") wherever it falls during the weeks of the sessions.

GATHERING ACTIVITIES

Week 1

Say: Good morning, and welcome! For the next several weeks we will be learning the story of Christmas and the importance of Jesus' birth. Each week, we will begin with a time of singing and worship.

Notice that the altar is covered with a purple cloth. The purple reminds us that this is the season of the year Christians call Advent. During Advent, we prepare our hearts to receive the gift of God's son as we remember the birth of Jesus. The color purple stands for preparation and anticipation. During the next several weeks we will prepare for Christmas by adding decorations to our altar that teach us more about the story of Jesus' birth.

Add a square of burlap to the altar. Explain the significance of the burlap to the children.

Say: Burlap is a rough fabric that was widely used among the poor in Jesus' time. The burlap reminds us that Jesus was not born into a wealthy family as many expected that the King of Kings would be. Instead, Jesus was born to a poor family facing hard times. When we see the burlap, we remember that, from his birth, Jesus faced hard times. God cares for the poor and understands what it is like to face hard times.

Close With Prayer: Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus as a poor baby so many years ago. Remind us when we face hard times that Jesus faced hard times too. Remind us that Jesus came to show us how much you love and understand us. Prepare our hearts to learn about Christmas again this year. Show us new and wonderful things about the story that we may have overlooked when we have heard the story before. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Week 2

Remind the children of the significance of the purple cloth. Add the burlap and review the meaning of the burlap.

Add the animals from the Nativity set to the altar arrangement.

Say: Animals remind us that Jesus was born in an out-of-the-way place among animals. Most people did not even know anything about Jesus' birth. Yet this simple, out-of-the-way birth wound up changing the world forever. The animals and the simple nature of Jesus' birth remind us that it is often the small, simple, unnoticed acts that eventually change the world for the better.

Close With Prayer: Dear God, continue to prepare our hearts for Christmas. Give us eyes to see opportunities to offer love and kindness to others in simple ways. Remind us that the little things we do can have a big impact on others. Send us out to learn more about you and your son, Jesus. His humble birth continues to be the good news that changed the world forever. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Week 3

Remind the children of the significance of the purple cloth. Add the burlap and the animals to the altar. Review the meaning and significance of each item.

Add Mary and Joseph to the altar.

Say: Mary and Joseph remind us that God brought the baby Jesus into a family. His family loved him, cared for him, and taught him about God as he grew. When we see Mary and Joseph, we can remember and celebrate the people God has placed in our lives to love us, care for us, and teach us more about God as we grow.

Close With Prayer: Dear God, as we prepare for Christmas, help us to be grateful for our families. Thank you, God, for placing people in our lives who love and care for us. Help us to remember just how important our families are. Challenge us to honor and celebrate our families in new ways. Send us out to hear and share the good news with our families. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Week 4

Remind the children of the significance of the purple cloth. Add the burlap, the animals, and Mary and Joseph to the altar. Review the meaning and significance of each item.

Add two strips of cotton fabric to the altar.

Say: The cotton fabric reminds us of the swaddling cloths Mary used to wrap Jesus when he was born. Swaddling was a way that mothers cared for their babies and helped the babies feel safe and warm. The swaddling cloths remind us that Mary cared for Jesus when he was so tiny he could not care for himself. When we see the swaddling cloths we can remember that we too can care for others who are unable to care for themselves. Whenever we care for others, we are following Mary's example.

Close With Prayer: Dear God, help us to care for people with special needs. Teach us ways to show the tenderness and love of Mary to others this Christmas season. Send us out to discover new ways to share the joy and love of Christmas with those in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Week 5: Christmas Sunday

Remind the children of the significance of the purple cloth. Add the burlap, the animals, Mary and Joseph, and the swaddling cloths to the altar. Review the meaning and significance of each item.

Add the baby Jesus in the manger to the altar.

Read Luke 2:5-7.

Say: The manger reminds us of the night Jesus was born. Christmas is a time to celebrate and rejoice because of the birth of Jesus.

Sing stanzas 1 and 4 of "Joy to the World."

Close With Prayer: "Joy to the world! The Lord has come!" Thank you, God, for Christmas! Thank you for the gift of the baby Jesus! Help us celebrate his birth and share the joy of Christmas with all the world! Send us out to discover again how Jesus continues to change our lives! In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Week 6

Remind the children of the significance of the purple cloth. Add the burlap, the animals, Mary and Joseph, the swaddling cloths, and the baby Jesus in the manger to the altar. Review the meaning and significance of each item.

Add the shepherds to the altar.

Say: The shepherds were in the fields outside of Bethlehem watching their sheep the night Jesus was born. Shepherds were considered outcasts and were not respected by others. The shepherds outside Bethlehem may have been people who tended the flocks of sheep for the Temple sacrifices. By announcing Jesus' birth to these shepherds, God showed that Jesus came even for the outcasts. In addition, by announcing the birth to those who cared for the Temple sacrifices, some say God was announcing that Jesus was the Messiah, the one who would save people and take away the need for all other sacrifices. When we see the shepherds, we can remember that God's love is offered to everyone, even those that we see as different from ourselves.

Close With Prayer: Dear God, during this time of Christmas help us reach out to people who are often left out. Help us to reach out in love and friendship to those who are different from us. Remind us that the birth of Jesus is not just a gift for us. Instead, Jesus is the Messiah, a gift to all people. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Week 7

Remind the children of the significance of the purple cloth. Add the burlap, the animals, Mary and Joseph, the swaddling cloths, baby Jesus in the manger, and the shepherds to the altar. Review the meaning and significance of each item.

Add the angel to the altar.

Say: God used angels to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to the world. The word *angel* really means messenger. God's messengers told the shepherds the good news of Jesus' birth. Different kinds of messengers still remind us that Jesus was Emmanuel, a name that means God with us. Part of what the angels were saying was that Jesus would understand what it is like to be a baby and a grownup. He would even understand what it is like to be the same age as each one of you.

Close With Prayer: Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to be God with us! As we celebrate Jesus' birth, remind us that Jesus was once a child the same age as each of us. You took on our joys and challenges, and you lived as we do. Remind us that we can always talk to you about the challenges we face and ask for help. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Week 8

Remind the children of the significance of the purple cloth. Add the burlap, the animals, Mary and Joseph, the swaddling cloths, baby Jesus in the manger, the shepherds, and the angel to the altar. Review the meaning and significance of each item.

Move the shepherds away from the center of the altar and place them at the corner of the table pointing away from the manger.

Say: The shepherds moving away from the manger remind us that the shepherds left the manger and went to tell everyone they met the good news about Jesus. Like the shepherds we have heard the good news these last few weeks. We know that Jesus is the Messiah sent to declare God's love and mercy to the world. Our job now is to be like the shepherds and leave here to tell others what we know.

Close With Prayer: Dear God, thank you for the gift of Jesus. Send us out from here to share the good news about Jesus' birth with each and every person we see and meet. May we be like the shepherds and announce all we have learned to our world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

14 STATIONS AT A GLANCE

Station Focus: Jesus was born in Bethlehem, where Mary laid him in a manger. His humble birth reminds us that the Messiah began life as a helpless baby, just as we do.

	Objectives	Activities	Resources
ART	<p>Station Objective Children will learn the Bible story through art experiences.</p> <p>Learning Preference visual • verbal independent • physical logical</p>	<p>The Birth of Jesus Through Your Eyes Put Yourself in the Story Understated Nativity Scenes Animals of the Story Come to Life</p>	<p>Bible a variety of Nativity sets photos/videos from Christmas events <i>Botticelli</i> by Mike Venezia <i>Paul Klee Animal Tricks</i> by Christian Rumelin optional: <i>The Lion King: Pride Rock on Broadway</i> by Julie Taymor animal pictures from magazines or books</p>
COMPUTER	<p>Station Objective Children will learn the Bible story through computer experiences.</p> <p>Learning Preference visual • independent physical</p>	<p>Fluffy The Manger in Classical Art Illustrated Hymn iLumina Out of Print, But Still Valuable</p>	<p>Bibles and hymnals a variety of Nativity sets <i>Fluffy and God's Amazing Christmas Adventure</i> CD-Rom <i>Kid Pix Deluxe 4</i> CD-ROM <i>iLumina Gold Premium</i> or <i>iLumina Gold</i> CD-ROM word processing program</p>
COOKING	<p>Station Objective Children will learn the Bible story through experiences with food.</p> <p>Learning Preference visual • independent social • physical</p>	<p>Many Manger Cookies A Baby Shower for Jesus</p>	<p>Bible Nativity pictures baby pictures of children and leaders "You Are Invited" invitation (page 46) <i>That Blessed Christmas Night</i> by Dori Chaconas <i>December</i> by Eve Bunting optional: banner-making program</p>
GAMES	<p>Station Objective Children will play a series of learning games.</p> <p>Learning Preference visual • verbal • social physical • logical</p>	<p>Bundled Baby Relays Pass the Baby I Spy Animals Speak Out Jesus, Just Like Me Leave Something Out Many Voices, One Message Little Babies, Big Plans</p>	<p>Bibles baby photos of children and adult leaders Bible concordances In the Manger CD optional: banner-making program,</p>
MUSIC	<p>Station Objective Children will learn the Bible story through musical experiences.</p> <p>Learning Preference visual • verbal • social • musical • physical</p>	<p>Carol of the Cow Sing Noel Good News! Carol of the Animals Clippity Clop God With Us</p>	<p>Bible In the Manger CD In the Manger lyrics In the Manger sheet music picture of a Bible-times manger</p>
SCIENCE	<p>Station Objective Children will learn the Bible story through science experiences.</p> <p>Learning Preference visual • independent social • physical logical</p>	<p>Warmth for a Little One Animals at Christmas: A Lesson in Caring Swaddling Cloths Where Does the Manger Go? The Shepherds as a Sign of Things to Come</p>	<p>Bibles pictures of animals <i>The Children's Bible in 365 Stories</i> by Mary Batchelor <i>Room For a Little One</i> by Martin Waddell Bible dictionaries</p>
STORY	<p>Station Objective Children will retell the Bible story.</p> <p>Learning Preference verbal • physical musical</p>	<p>'Twas the Night The Polar Express Tangible Storytelling Bethlehem Times Jesus' Baby Book The Friendly Beasts An Extraordinary Weather Report</p>	<p>Bibles <i>'Twas the Night: The Nativity Story</i> by Melody Carlson <i>The Polar Express</i> by Chris Van Allsburg In the Manger CD <i>The Friendly Beasts</i> adapted by Karen L. Blumen</p>
VIDEO	<p>Station Objective Children will hear and see the Bible story.</p> <p>Learning Preference visual • verbal • social independent</p>	<p>Little House Christmas Timmy's Gift The Crippled Lamb and Alabaster's Song Jesus' Baby Video Select Your Own Videos</p>	<p>Bibles <i>Little House on the Prairie: Christmas at Plum Creek</i> <i>Timmy's Gift: A Christmas Story</i> <i>The Crippled Lamb</i> optional: <i>Alabaster's Song</i></p>

Plan-Ahead Supplies

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> a variety of Nativity sets <input type="checkbox"/> TV and VCR <input type="checkbox"/> watercolor paper <input type="checkbox"/> watercolor pencils <input type="checkbox"/> paintbrushes <input type="checkbox"/> cups of water <input type="checkbox"/> silver spray paint <input type="checkbox"/> yardsticks <input type="checkbox"/> masking tape <input type="checkbox"/> posterboard (See 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> activities for colors.) <input type="checkbox"/> transparency sheet and photocopier <input type="checkbox"/> overhead projector <input type="checkbox"/> markers, including black <input type="checkbox"/> heavy-duty scissors <input type="checkbox"/> shallow trays of tempera paints <input type="checkbox"/> newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> duct tape (See activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> for colors.) <input type="checkbox"/> plastic frozen whipped topping tubs and sand or cardstock, small wood blocks, and glue <input type="checkbox"/> drawing paper <input type="checkbox"/> pastels or pastel pencils <input type="checkbox"/> paper towels <input type="checkbox"/> pencils, regular and colored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> glue <input type="checkbox"/> heavy-duty paper plates <input type="checkbox"/> foam or plastic visors <input type="checkbox"/> paint sticks <input type="checkbox"/> felt, fleece, and faux fur (See activities for colors.) <input type="checkbox"/> stapler and staplers or glue <input type="checkbox"/> buttons <input type="checkbox"/> digital camera and photo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> printer <input type="checkbox"/> large wooden manger <input type="checkbox"/> optional: a variety of art media, face paint, video camera and playback equipment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> digital camera <input type="checkbox"/> doll wrapped in a blanket <input type="checkbox"/> computer with internet access <input type="checkbox"/> printer <input type="checkbox"/> paper <input type="checkbox"/> pencils <input type="checkbox"/> optional: Bible-times 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> costumes, paper punch, paper fasteners, construction paper 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> banner paper <input type="checkbox"/> markers <input type="checkbox"/> glue sticks <input type="checkbox"/> masking tape or wall hanging gum <input type="checkbox"/> napkins and plates <input type="checkbox"/> recipe ingredients <input type="checkbox"/> microwave <input type="checkbox"/> microwave-safe bowl 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> mixing bowls and spoons <input type="checkbox"/> wax paper <input type="checkbox"/> muffin tins <input type="checkbox"/> nonstick cooking spray <input type="checkbox"/> oven and oven mitts <input type="checkbox"/> fork <input type="checkbox"/> brown or yellow icing with decorating tip <input type="checkbox"/> graham crackers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> saucepan <input type="checkbox"/> electric burner <input type="checkbox"/> measuring cups and spoons <input type="checkbox"/> large box <input type="checkbox"/> baby giftwrap <input type="checkbox"/> scissors <input type="checkbox"/> tape <input type="checkbox"/> pastel paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> computer and printer <input type="checkbox"/> pastel streamers <input type="checkbox"/> electric mixer <input type="checkbox"/> rubber bowl scraper <input type="checkbox"/> wooden spoon <input type="checkbox"/> muffin cups <input type="checkbox"/> plastic knives for frosting <input type="checkbox"/> cups <input type="checkbox"/> lemonade or water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> baby shower piñata <input type="checkbox"/> Christmas candies <input type="checkbox"/> non-food items such as stickers or small toys <input type="checkbox"/> strips of paper <input type="checkbox"/> string <input type="checkbox"/> wooden stick or bat <input type="checkbox"/> large plastic bowl <input type="checkbox"/> plastic sandwich bags
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> large mirror <input type="checkbox"/> banner paper <input type="checkbox"/> markers <input type="checkbox"/> tape <input type="checkbox"/> photocopier <input type="checkbox"/> scissors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> glue sticks <input type="checkbox"/> baby dolls <input type="checkbox"/> baby blankets <input type="checkbox"/> strips of cotton muslin <input type="checkbox"/> baby carriers <input type="checkbox"/> baby backpacks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> baby slings <input type="checkbox"/> baskets big enough to hold baby doll <input type="checkbox"/> posterboard or newsprint <input type="checkbox"/> slips of paper <input type="checkbox"/> pencils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> basket <input type="checkbox"/> hand mirror <input type="checkbox"/> CD player <input type="checkbox"/> optional: computer and printer, paper 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> CD player <input type="checkbox"/> assorted rhythm instruments <input type="checkbox"/> index card <input type="checkbox"/> marker <input type="checkbox"/> optional: bails of hay, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> animal costumes 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> transparency sheets <input type="checkbox"/> photocopier <input type="checkbox"/> banner paper <input type="checkbox"/> markers <input type="checkbox"/> masking tape <input type="checkbox"/> scissors <input type="checkbox"/> glue sticks <input type="checkbox"/> 9½" muslin squares <input type="checkbox"/> freezer paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 9½" fabric squares <input type="checkbox"/> iron <input type="checkbox"/> fabric markers <input type="checkbox"/> polyester batting <input type="checkbox"/> sewing machines <input type="checkbox"/> overhead projector <input type="checkbox"/> quilting thread <input type="checkbox"/> basting spray <input type="checkbox"/> backing and binding fabric 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> ingredients for animal treats (see instructions) <input type="checkbox"/> muffin tin <input type="checkbox"/> nonstick cooking spray <input type="checkbox"/> mixing bowl <input type="checkbox"/> wooden spoon <input type="checkbox"/> pencil-size dowel pieces <input type="checkbox"/> refrigerator <input type="checkbox"/> yarn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> cross-stitch fabric with wide squares <input type="checkbox"/> thread to match fabric <input type="checkbox"/> graph paper (same size as the grid on the fabric) <input type="checkbox"/> red and green pencils <input type="checkbox"/> and embroidery thread <input type="checkbox"/> embroidery needles <input type="checkbox"/> 2 cardboard boxes, same 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> shape and height but different sizes <input type="checkbox"/> newspaper <input type="checkbox"/> brown craft paper <input type="checkbox"/> optional: box cutter, straw, berries, popcorn, nuts in shells, large needle, small baby dolls <input type="checkbox"/> pencils and paper
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> banner paper <input type="checkbox"/> markers <input type="checkbox"/> string <input type="checkbox"/> tape <input type="checkbox"/> posterboard <input type="checkbox"/> newsprint <input type="checkbox"/> colored pencils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> hay or straw <input type="checkbox"/> white cotton muslin <input type="checkbox"/> white cotton baby blanket <input type="checkbox"/> manger, sheep, and angel from a Nativity set <input type="checkbox"/> picture of a mother and baby 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> plastic sandwich bags <input type="checkbox"/> basket with lid <input type="checkbox"/> small scrapbooks <input type="checkbox"/> old Christmas cards and curriculum <input type="checkbox"/> magazines <input type="checkbox"/> scissors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> glue sticks <input type="checkbox"/> Bible-times costumes <input type="checkbox"/> microphone <input type="checkbox"/> news desk <input type="checkbox"/> pretend TV camera <input type="checkbox"/> video camera and playback equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> optional: construction paper, stapler and staples, animal costumes and animal masks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> posterboard <input type="checkbox"/> markers <input type="checkbox"/> tape <input type="checkbox"/> newsprint and marker or chalkboard and chalk <input type="checkbox"/> paper <input type="checkbox"/> pencils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> TV <input type="checkbox"/> VCR or DVD player <input type="checkbox"/> drawing paper <input type="checkbox"/> colored pencils <input type="checkbox"/> video camera and playback equipment <input type="checkbox"/> chair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> banner paper <input type="checkbox"/> optional: video editing equipment 		

RESOURCES

These resources
may be ordered through
Cokesbury (800-672-1789)
and other Christian bookstores
or online through
www.cokesbury.com
(unless noted otherwise).

Art Station

- ❑ 9780516422916 **Botticelli: Getting to Know the World's Greatest Artists** by Mike Venezia. Children's Press, 1991. \$6.95.
- ❑ 9783791327594 **Animal Tricks: Adventures in Art** by Christian Rumelin and illustrated by Paul Klee. Prestel Publishing, 2002. \$14.95.
- ❑ Optional: **The Lion King: Pride Rock on Broadway** by Julie Taymor. Disney Editions, 1998. Check your local library.

Computer Station

- ❑ X514743 **Fluffy and God's Amazing Christmas Adventure CD-ROM**, Sunday Software. \$25.00.
- ❑ 705381321798 **Kid Pix Deluxe 4 CD-ROM**, Sunday School Software. \$25.00.
- ❑ 97814143393w20 **iLumina Bible Software CD-ROM**, Tyndale House, \$19.99. (If you already have *iLumina Gold* or *Gold Premium*, you may substitute that CD-ROM.)

Creative Cookery Station

- ❑ 9780687006267 **That Blessed Christmas Night** by Dori Chaconas. Abingdon Press, 2004. \$18.00.
- ❑ 9780152014346 **December** by Eve Bunting. Harcourt Children's Books, 1997. \$17.00.

Music Resources

- ❑ **In the Manger music**. (Compact disc, 9780687040520, \$10.50).
- ❑ **In the Manger sheet music**
- ❑ **In the Manger lyrics**

Science Station

- ❑ 9780745930688 **The Children's Bible in 365 Stories** by Mary Batchelor. Lion Publishing, 1995. \$19.99.
- ❑ 9780689868412 **Room For a Little One: A Christmas Tale** by Martin Waddell. Margaret K. McElderry Books, 2004. \$16.99.

Storytelling Station

- ❑ 9780395389492 **The Polar Express** by Chris Van Allsburg. Houghton Mifflin, 1985. \$18.95.
- ❑ 9780613115582 **The Friendly Beasts** by Tomie DePaola. San Val, Inc., 1998. \$18.40.

Video Station

- ❑ **A Charlie Brown Christmas** DVD. Paramount, 2004. Check your church library or local public library.
- ❑ **9781400301737 The Crippled Lamb** DVD. Based on a book by Max Lucado. Tommy Nelson, 2001. \$9.99.
- ❑ **Little House on the Prairie: Christmas at Plum Creek.** Goodtimes Home Video, 1995. Check your local library or video rental store, or purchase from *www.nestentertainment.com*.
- ❑ Optional: **Alabaster's Song** DVD. Check your church library or local public library.
- ❑ **Timmy's Gift: A Christmas Story.** Available at *www.nestentertainment.com*. \$5.99.

Resources are constantly changing and going out of print. Websites are also constantly changing. Although all websites were checked at the time this unit was developed, you should double-check each site to verify that it is still live and that it is still appropriate for children before using it in an activity.

*Go to **www.powerxpress.com** for any updated information and alternative activities.*

Notes