



Lesson 20:

TRAVELING NATIVITY



TEACHING GOAL: We can celebrate Christmas by acting out the story of Jesus' birth.

1. Play theme song
2. Pray
3. Review last lesson
4. Lesson and discussion
5. Memorize: **Kings, shepherds, and angels came to see the baby Jesus born to Joseph and Mary.**
6. Close in prayer



SCRIPTURE: **Luke 2** and **Matthew 2**

MATERIALS: **OPTION 1** Pre-made unbreakable nativity set
OPTION 2 Make your own set and characters:
 10 Styrofoam cones
 10 Styrofoam balls
 Water color, washable paint
 Toothpicks
 Box
 Construction paper and markers
 Popsicle sticks
 Glue
 Cotton balls
 Hay, straw, or dried grass
 Toilet paper rolls
 Small piece of cloth
 String or thread

Words that are written in **bold** are when you, the parent, are speaking. Feel free to use your own words.



Big Idea

Read the story of Jesus' birth from a children's Bible or regular Bible.

Talk about the different characters and where they came from to see baby Jesus. Talk about who came to the stable first, second, third, fourth, etc.

B Activity

OPTION 1: Have the children pick different rooms in the house (or areas in a room) to represent the different character locations: (Nazareth, the fields, the East, heaven, Bethlehem). Make signs to place over the doorways to identify the different locations.



Place the characters in the appropriate rooms:

- Mary and Joseph in Nazareth
- Shepherds in the fields
- Wise men in the East
- Angels in heaven
- Stable, manger, and sheep in Bethlehem

Start a few weeks or days before Christmas and move the characters around the house. As it gets closer to Christmas, have the characters move closer to Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph arrive the day before Christmas.

Baby Jesus is in the manger on Christmas morning.

The Shepherds arrive the day after Christmas, and the wise men arrive days or weeks later. Another option is to save a gift from Christmas that the kids can open when the wise men arrive with their gifts for Jesus (possibly on New Year's day).

OPTION 2: Build the nativity set. This activity may involve several weeks of Family Time. Paint the cones and balls using washable paints. Pick colors to define the characters. Color will be the primary way kids tell the characters apart. Following is one option for color combinations:

- 10 balls (heads): yellow
- Mary cone: red

- Joseph cone: blue
- 2 Shepherd cones: orange
- 3 Wise men cones: purple and pink
- 3 Angel cones: yellow

After the paint dries, attach the ball heads to the cone bodies with toothpicks and glue.

Make the stable. Cut the top out of a box. The box needs to be big enough to hold the characters. Turn the box on its side with the opening facing forward. This will serve as the stable. You may choose to paint the box or cover it with wood grain contact paper.

Cut the shapes of sheep and/or cows out of construction paper. Glue cotton balls on the sheep. Glue a toilet paper tube on the back of the animals to help them stand.

Make a manger using popsicle sticks and glue. Fill the manger with hay, straw, or dry grass.

Make a star to hang above the stable out of construction paper.

Make a baby Jesus using half of a popsicle stick. Draw a face on the rounded end, and wrap the small piece of cloth around the stick and tie with string or thread.

Continue with the instructions from Option 1.

Application

Part of the significance of the Christmas story is the humble beginning in Bethlehem. Many kids today imagine that Bethlehem had lights, presents, and tremendous fanfare. Although the wise men were likely wealthy, the rest of the story illustrates a poor town, simple shepherds, and ordinary people involved in the story. God wants us to realize that he has come to care for all of us no matter how much money we have or what our social status is. That is the true meaning of Christmas.