

The First Christmas

The Nativity of Jesus

Ages about 7-11 | Video 6:07 | Group lesson about 25-35 minutes

Central truth The eternal Son of God truly became human. Mary welcomed God's word, Joseph acted with faithful care, and the shepherds received and shared the good news of Jesus.

Learning goals Children will identify three responses to God's good news, explain Emmanuel, and name one detail showing the real humanity of the baby Jesus.

Gather Video access, one handout per child, pencils or crayons, and a Bible.

Watch online [Open this video on Servus Dei](#)

Before watching | 2 minutes

Ask: How can someone show 'yes' with actions as well as words? Watch for Mary's answer, Joseph's care, and the shepherds' journey.

Watch and notice

Watch the story. If useful, pause after Jesus is laid in the manger and notice his need for warmth and care. Then follow the shepherds as they hear, go, and share.

Talk together | 6-8 minutes

1. How did Mary respond to the angel's message?

She asked a question and then welcomed God's word with trust. She did not have to understand every future event to give her yes.

2. How did Joseph show his faithful yes?

He welcomed Mary and cared for her and Jesus. His response appeared in practical actions, not only spoken words.

3. What did the shepherds do with the good news?

They went to Bethlehem, saw the child, told what they had heard, and returned praising God. They became witnesses.

4. What does Emmanuel help us understand about Jesus?

God has come among us. Jesus is truly God and truly human; the baby needing warmth and care is the eternal Son of God.

Then respond and pray Allow 6-8 minutes for a handout or the activity on page 2; finish with the closing prayer.

Lead the response

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Short family lesson Watch the video, choose one recall question and one application question, then pray. About 12-18 minutes; the handout is optional.

Choose a handout

Draw & Tell Children draw one Nativity scene, then use three small spaces to show Mary's trust, Joseph's care, and the shepherds' joy. Spoken descriptions can replace drawings.

Read & Write Children choose a person or group and explain their response, explain Emmanuel, and notice a human detail about Jesus. Keep the focus on the birth story rather than holiday possessions.

Adapt by readiness

Ages 7-8: point to Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. Repeat 'God with us' and name one way a baby needs care.

Ages 9-11: discuss why Jesus' humble surroundings do not make him less divine. Distinguish the story's meaning from having an easy or perfect Christmas.

Hear, respond, share | Optional 4 minutes

Retell the shepherds' part with three gestures: hand to ear, hands moving forward, open hands. Invite children to tell the good news in one sentence. Then name a loving action that can express their response to Jesus.

Look for understanding Listen for Jesus as both God and human, Emmanuel as God with us, and distinct responses from Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds.

Closing prayer Jesus, Emmanuel, thank you for coming among us. Help us trust like Mary, care like Joseph, and share joy like the shepherds. Stay close to our families. Amen.

At home Read Luke 2:15-20 together or retell it using the handout. Let each person choose one way to express gratitude for Jesus.

Handout answer notes Mary trusts and welcomes God's word; Joseph obeys and cares; shepherds go, share, and praise. Emmanuel means God with us. Accept warmth, holding, swaddling, or another human need shown in the film.

Teach with care

Have a Bible open to Luke 2. A small Nativity image may help children point to the people. The film also draws on Matthew 1 and Luke 1. The film combines Gospel accounts with imagined domestic details. This video ends with the shepherds and Emmanuel; do not add Magi to its recall questions. Jesus did not begin to exist at Christmas. His coming does not mean families stop facing difficulties.

Words to explain Nativity: birth; here, the birth of Jesus. Emmanuel: God with us. Incarnation: the Son of God becoming human while remaining truly God. Manger: a feeding place for animals.

Sources for the leader

Birth and shepherds: [Luke 2:1-20](#)

Joseph and Emmanuel: [Matthew 1:18-25](#)

Welcome, Jesus!

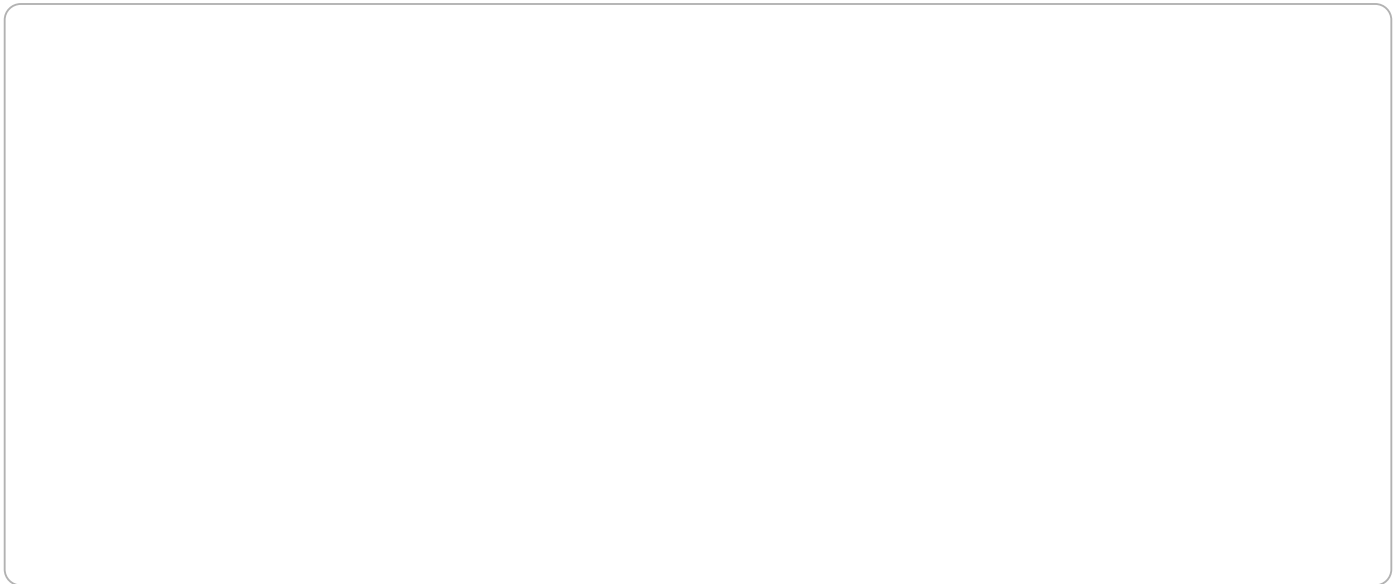
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Emmanuel means God with us.

Name _____

Adult helper Read aloud. Invite drawing, pointing, or spoken answers. Writing is optional.

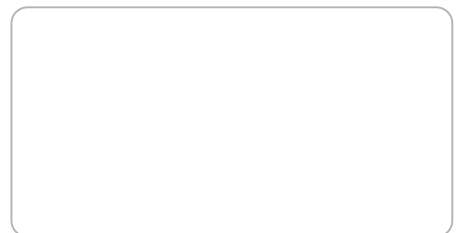
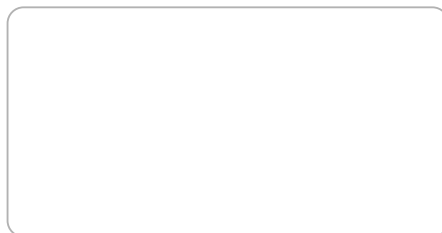
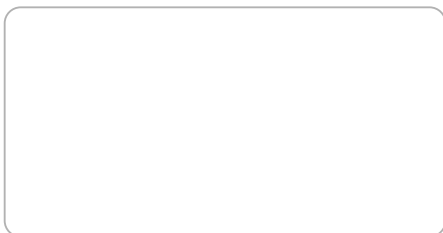
Draw Jesus with Mary, Joseph, and the visiting shepherds.



Mary trusts.

Joseph cares.

The shepherds rejoice.



Tell How did each person respond to the good news?

Pray Jesus, thank you for coming to be with us. Amen.

At home Share your picture and one thing you learned about God or following Jesus.

Good news of great joy

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Remember the different responses to Jesus' coming.

Name _____

1 Three responses

Choose Mary, Joseph, or the shepherds. How did that person or group respond to God?

I chose ...

2 A name with meaning

What does Emmanuel mean, and why is it good news?

Emmanuel means ...

3 Notice the baby

Name one detail that shows Jesus truly became human.

The baby Jesus needed ...

Pray Jesus, thank you for coming to be with us. Amen.

Go deeper Why does the manger tell us something different about greatness from a palace?