

JESUS

GOD COMES TO EARTH

Lesson # 6 of 27

Scripture/Memory Verse

“Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:11

(NIV)

Lesson Goal & Objectives

Goal

- In the last session the goal was to have the participants “come in contact” with Jesus for themselves by reading from the New Testament and begin to understand who He said He was. This session builds on that experience. In the last session the participants should have seen that Jesus was more than a great teacher, that he was more than a nice person, but in fact that he told us that he was God. **We will now answer the question: “How did this happen?”**

Objectives

- Each participant will have a Bible or printed New Testament story that he or she can read, actually understand and take with them.
- Each participant will listen to the story about Jesus’ birth and then share what they thought about how Jesus came to earth and what was special about this event.
- Each participant will listen to an Old Testament story about how God did promise to send Jesus to this world (*this will help the participants connect to the earlier teachings about God*).

Introduction and Background for the Teacher

This session continues to build on the last session about Jesus – to get the participants to see the uniqueness of Jesus: that He was born of a virgin. This will require some thought on your part as the teacher, but an important part of the uniqueness of Jesus’ Incarnation is that God came to be born of a human woman.

As the teacher your objective is to connect the students with the way in which the Bible describes first: Jesus’ conception; and then: his birth. Furthermore, the uniqueness of Jesus’ conception and birth is key to a genuine understanding of Jesus’ personal identity. Consider asking the students: “Do you believe that God is able to put into motion all that was necessary for our universe to exist?” If they answer, “Yes.” then ask: “Then do you think God would be able to create one life by super natural (outside of nature) means?”

Time may not permit a discussion on the following section from the Old Testament, but at least read to the participants from the Old Testament the story that indicates that hundreds of years before Jesus' birth, God told us about His intention to send His Son into the world.

Materials Needed for Lesson

- Some parishes have the, ***That the World May Know*** videos
 - they have a great one on Jesus' birth. If possible, use the video from Set 3, Lesson 11: "In the shadow of Herod".
- DVD "Jesus of Nazareth:" the section on the Annunciation and/or Jesus' birth.

Opening Prayer (5 min.)

*(Over the course of the Confirmation class one of your goals as teacher is to help the students learn about prayer through **both** increasing familiarity with the Book of Common Prayer **and** also by praying extemporaneously.)*

Here is a prayer you can use from the Book of Common Prayer, page 213: "Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. AMEN."

Review of the Previous Lesson (5min.)

- Review what you talked about last lesson about who Jesus is.
- Questionnaire project: discuss the results.
- Did you go to a soup kitchen? What was it like?

Introductory Activity (5-10 Min.)

*(These ideas are intended to ensure a lively and exciting atmosphere for the beginning of this lesson. It is fine for each parish to approach this differently if you wish to make use of your own games or materials. It is best **not** to eliminate doing any activity at all.)*

Choose ONE activity from the following:

- Have the participants share about where they were born; ask if they know what time of the day it was when they were born (or other details).
- **OR**
- Show a video clip from movie, *Jesus of Nazareth*.
- **OR**
- Have the students search the question, "How Jesus was

born?"
on the
computer.
OR

– Have the students talk about Christmas – what it means to
them.

Lesson (20 – 25 minutes)

(If time permits, make every effort to use all three Scriptures for this lesson. Also: if the class is large enough, break the class into small groups of 2 or 3 in order to discuss one or a small section of 2 – 3 verses from the Scripture readings. Or, simply discuss the readings with the whole class.)

Read aloud from the Gospel of St. Luke chapter 1, verses 26-38: The Angel Gabriel visits Mary.

Discussion questions:

What does the Angel tell Mary?
How would Mary become pregnant?
Who then is Jesus' father?

Read aloud from the Gospel of St. Luke chapter 2, verses 1-7: The birth of Jesus

Discussion questions:

What city was Jesus born in? How did Mary and Joseph get there?
Where was Jesus born?

At the end of the discussion read aloud from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah chapter 7, verse 14.

Point out that God promised this hundreds of years before Jesus was actually born.

Reflection (10-15 min.)

Let the students choose one of the readings, and re-read it aloud. Let them share together, or write a brief paragraph describing what they think about Jesus' birth.

Take-home Activity (5 min.)

The students will find out more about their own births. Are there any special memories in their families. Briefly make note of some of the ways in which the birth of Jesus includes real and special details.

Closing Prayer (5 min.)

Almighty God you took off all your majesty and came to earth as a baby, you gave up your heavenly realm in order to show us how much you love us, Lord help us we pray to grasp the depth of your love and love you in return through the power of your Holy Spirit; we pray this all in Jesus name. AMEN. *(Give the students some time to express their own prayers also.)*

Scripture References

- Mark 4:35-41
- Matthew 5:1-12
- John 10:1-21

Additional Resources

- [That the World May Know Him](#) videos series can be found at christianbook.com