

7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)

Lesson Plan: The Birth of Jesus (A Worship Time)

Learning Goals: Students will be encouraged to experience the circumstances that Mary and Joseph faced as a young girl giving birth in a less-than-ideal situation through a time of worship.

At the beginning of class, tell the students we are going on a “field trip.” Assign to the students the various parts of the worship time (Psalm reading, Old Testament reading, New Testament reading). Each student should be given a cup with the instructions to fill it up on the way out of the school. They should not drink the water, but carry it with them. Then, take students out to the dumpsters behind the cafeteria, where we will conduct a time of worship there.

A “Dumpster” Christmas Service

Opening/Invocation

Make your word known to our hearts, God. Help us to know your Son. Amen.

Prayer

God, this afternoon we will go back to our warm homes. But Mary and Joseph had no place to go. Their lives were changing forever on this night, and they entered into this responsibility willingly—and without a clue. They had faith, hope, love, and the word of an angel to guide them. Help us to follow that path tonight, God. Let us seek the faith, hold on to the hope, express that love, and listen for that angel’s voice to guide us. Amen.

Music (Kyrie Eleison)

F G Am Am/G
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God

F Dm7 Am
have mercy on me, a sinner

F G Am Am/G
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God

F Dm7 Am
have mercy on me, a sinner

Dm7 C F Am Em F
kyrie e - lei - son, Lord Jesus Christ

Dm7 C F Am F Dm7 Am
kyrie e - lei - son, have mercy on me, a sinner

C Dm7 C
have mercy on me, a sinner

Responsive Reading

Instruct your group to quietly reply, "He was born in a stable," after each leader statement.

Leader: Jesus wasn't born in a hospital with modern equipment.

Group: He was born in a stable.

Leader: He wasn't born in a comfortable hotel inn with hundreds of people attending his every need.

Group: He was born in a stable.

Leader: Jesus wasn't born into kingly privilege, although God could have made that happen.

Group: He was born in a stable.

Leader: Jesus was born to teenage parents.

Group: He was born in a stable.

Leader: In a small town.

Group: He was born in a stable.

Leader: Behind a hotel.

Group: He was born in a stable.

Leader: He was the Son of God, coming into the world as a common man.

Group: He was born in a stable.

Leader: Working as a carpenter, like his father.

Group: He was born in a stable.

Leader: His voice was like a common man's.

Group: He was born in a stable.

Leader: But his teachings were of God.

Group: He was born in a stable.

Leader: He came into this world for us.

Group: He was born in a stable.

Leader: So that we could understand him.

Group: He was born in a stable.

Leader: So that we would learn his lessons.

Group: He was born in a stable.

Leader: So that we could be saved.

Group: He was born in a stable.

Leader: We are grateful.

Group: He was born in a stable.

Leader: Amen.

Psalm 89

God, I will sing your songs forever.

I will sing them to the world.

Those generations yet to be born will hear my songs

God said to David, "From your house I will bring the savior of the world."

Our God is the most powerful.

Our God is the creator of the universe.

Our God can call forth the storms or calm them.

Our God can shape the mountains or bring them down.

The world and all its people belong to you, God.

God, bless all those who join in this celebration.

We sing and dance all day.

Your kindness gives us strength.

David was chosen to be King.
God promised the house of David would last until the last star fell from the sky.
Amen.

Scripture

Old Testament Isaiah 9:2-7; New Testament Philippians 2:5-8

The Christmas Story (Message)

This is one of the most beautiful stories ever told. If you can, have someone tell the story rather than read it. If you are not comfortable as a storyteller, you'll find the passage in Luke 1:26-2:21

Question: According to all the songs we sing at Christmas, what was the birth of Jesus like?

Silent night
We Three Kings
Joy to the World, the Lord has Come
All creation rejoiced (Heaven and nature sing)
Away in a manger (no crying he makes)
Hark the Herald Angels sing
Angels we have heard on high

What do you think it was really like?

Song: "Labor of Love" (Andrew Peterson)

Labor of Love

by Andrew Peterson

Intro: D Dsus D (let ring out)

It was not a silent(G5)night
 There was blood on the ground(D Dsus4 D)
 You could hear a woman (G5)cry
 in the alleyway that (A)night
 on the streets of David's town(D Dsus4 D)

And the stable was not (Bm) clean,
 and the cobblestones were (F#m) cold.
 And little Mary full of (G5) grace
 with the tears upon her (A) face
 had no mother's hand to hold (D Dsus4 D)

It was a labor of (G5) pain,
 it was cold sky a (Bm) bove.
 But for the girl on the ground in the (G5) dark
 Every beat of her beautiful (A) heart
 was a labor of Love (D Dsus4 D)

Noble Joseph at her(G5)side
 Callused hands and weary eyes(D Dsus4 D)
 There were no midwives to be(G5)found
 In the streets of David's(A)town
 In the middle of the night(D Dsus4 D)

So he held her and he(Bm)prayed
 Shafts of moonlight on his(F#m)face
 But the baby in her womb(G5)
 He was the maker of the moon(A)
 He was the Author of the faith(D)
 That could(Dsus)make the mountains move(A Asus A let ring out)

Instrumental Bridge

| G ///|///// | D /// | ///// | G /// | A /// | Bm /// | F#m

Chorus:

It was a labor of (G5) pain,
 it was cold sky a (Bm) bove.
 But for the girl on the ground in the (G5) dark
 Every beat of her beautiful (A) heart
 was a labor of Love (Bm)
 For little Mary full of grace (G)
 With the tears upon her face (A)
 It was a labor of love (D Let ring out)

How does this compare.

What do you think it was like for Jesus to “empty himself” as the passage from Philippians describes it?

“Just as Jesus poured out everything he was to come in humility to us, so should we pour out our lives as an offering for others.” (Encourage students to participate in a ritual of pouring out their cup as a prayer and commitment to serve others as Christ served us.)

Closing/Benediction

On an ordinary day like this, more than two thousand years ago, the world was changed forever. May our hearts be changed, and may we never be the same from this moment forward. Amen.

Music

Choose an appropriate piece of music to send the group on its way.

C F C G C

Joy to the World , the Lord is come!

F G C

Let earth receive her King;

C F C C F C

Let every heart prepare Him room,

C

And Heaven and nature sing,

G

And Heaven and nature sing,

C F C F C G C

And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

Case, Steven L. (2009-07-13). *The Book of Uncommon Prayer: Contemplative and Celebratory Prayers and Worship Services for Youth Ministry* (Soul Shaper) (Kindle Locations 683-693). Zondervan/Youth Specialties. Kindle Edition.



THERE IS NO ROOM IN THE “INN”

Please place your books in your
locker and meet Mr. Norris in
the Drama Room