



# A Child Is Born



## THE MISSION AIM

To teach Christ's divinity and humanity by studying His birth.



## KEY VERSE

**Isaiah 9:6:** "For unto us is child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."



## Pre-Mission Activity



## Supplies Needed

- The name of each month should be written out individually on a piece of paper.
- Tape these around the room on the wall or on the floor out of order (i.e., September could follow February, etc.)
- Three Index cards for each recruit
- Tape

## Directions

**SAY:** Births are important events for families. Your parents waited with excitement for you to be born. They probably prepared for you by purchasing diapers, baby clothes and blankets and maybe even decorated a room just for you. They did this before they even met you.

Parents don't usually know exactly when their baby will be born. They may have an approximate date and month but only God knows the exact time and place.

Every year after your birth, you celebrate your birthday. You may have a party, eat birthday cake and maybe even open presents.

Today, we are going to put your birthday to a test. Each of you will get three index cards. On the first, write your name. On the second, write the date/number of your birthday and on the third draw a picture to show how you celebrate your birthday. When you have finished each index card, find the month in which you were born and tape all three index cards under the name of that month.

Let's see who can complete this the fastest. Ready, Set, Go...

**DO:** Allow the recruits to complete the challenge. Encourage them as they make their cards and help where you may be needed. When everyone has finished, have them join you in a circle.

**SAY:** Does anyone want to share their birthday cards with us? How do you celebrate your birthday? Today we will be learning about a very special birth, the birth of Jesus Christ. Long before He was born, the Old Testament prophets spoke of this amazing event. Let's check in with the RTS Recon Team to see if we can help them in any way.



### Mission Uplink 1



Have ready YouTube playlist: "Season 2 – Who Is This Jesus? Episode 1: A Child Is Born"

Play "Who Is This Jesus? (S2) Episode 1 (1/4)". Episode begins with the *Ready to Serve* theme song, followed automatically by the MISSION # 1 VIDEO. Pause the video when the MISSION # 1 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 1.

If using PPT for video, have WITJ-Episode\_1-A\_Child\_Is\_Born.pptx ready and play slide one. Pause on the MISSION # 1 CARD so you and your recruits can complete Mission # 1.



### Mission #1



### Supplies Needed

- Four Hula hoops or string to form four circles
- Four Cards with Scripture references written on them (Isaiah 7:14, Micah 5:2b, Jeremiah 23:5, Deuteronomy 18:18)
- One set of cards for each group of recruits (if you want, you could colour code the cards or place a sticker on each group's cards to identify the group that it came from)

The cards should have the following words written on them:

- Prophet
- Virgin
- Immanuel
- Bethlehem
- Ruler over Israel
- David
- A King who will reign wisely

- Bibles for each group of recruits



### Mission Assignment

**SAY:** Let's have a drumroll as we ready our first mission for today (reading mission card from satellite uplink). "Recruits, explore the prophecies of the Old Testament that foretold the birth of Jesus. What did the prophets say would happen?"

**SAY:** Recruits, Simon seemed to be having a difficult time. He didn't want to admit it but he



did want to see what Madame Sneezetallie was doing in her tent. There is a huge difference between the physic reader's guesses about what could happen and the prophecies that predicted the birth of Jesus. The prophets spoke the truth as it was revealed to them by God. We have been asked to look into these prophecies of old to find out what was told. What did the prophets say about Jesus' birth? Recruits, are you ready to take on this mission? Are you ready to serve?

**SAY:** Excellent! I have placed four hula hoops in front of you. Each circle has a scripture reference in it. With your group, you need to look up the reference in your Bible, read it and find from your set of cards the words you read in the verse. When you have found the words, place only your card with the matching words to your verse into the circle.

**DO:** Split the recruits into groups of three or four. Be sure each group has one or two Bibles and a set of cards.

**SAY:** This is a race. Which group can place the words with the correct Scripture reference first? Ready, set, go...

**DO:** Allow time for each group to look up the Bible references and to place the cards in the correct circles. Offer help if needed and assistance in finding the verses. Be sure to wander around the groups so that you are able to keep each group on task.

Once each group has completed the activity, confirm the fastest working group and assemble all the recruits around the hula hoops.

**SAY:** You worked hard to complete this task. Let's look at these verses.

**DO:** Look at each Scripture reference separately. Allow a recruit to read the verse to the rest of the recruits. Be prepared to read them from your Bible if needed.

**SAY:** Isaiah 7:14 tells us that Jesus would be born of a virgin and that he would be called Immanuel, meaning "God with us." The two words that you added to the circle were, virgin and Immanuel. Well done.

Micah 5:2 tells us that the Messiah/Jesus will be born in Bethlehem and that He would be a ruler over Israel. Your two cards for this circle were Bethlehem and ruler over Israel. Again, a great job.

Jeremiah 23:5 tells us that Jesus will be a descendant of David and that He would be a king who would reign wisely. Those were the words on your two cards for this circle.

Finally, we looked at Deuteronomy 18:18. Who would like to read that verse for us? It tells us that Jesus, the Messiah, would be a prophet like Moses. The card you added here had the word prophet on it.

**SAY:** Recruits, you did a wonderful job looking at the Old Testament prophecies of Jesus' birth. We learned that it was prophesied that Jesus, the Messiah, would be a descendant of David, born in Bethlehem of a virgin mother. He would be a prophet like Moses and would be called Immanuel. Jesus would be a wise king, ruler over Israel.



Squad leader, if you have a small group work together or individually and time yourselves to see how quickly you can complete each verse.



**SAY:** Let's report back to the RTS Recon Team and tell them what we have found. I sure do hope that this helps all of the recruits, and especially Keesha, to know that God alone reveals the truth of what is to come. We should only be putting our trust in him.



## Mission Uplink 2



**YouTube:** Play "Who Is This Jesus? (S2) Episode 1 (2/4)". Pause the video when the MISSION # 2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.

**PPT:** Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when MISSION #2 CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete Mission # 2.



## Mission #2



## Supplies Needed

- Gift bags or wrapped packages numbered 1 – 5
- Inside each package have one of the story cards (see attachment page 8)
- Numbers one to five
- Hat or bowl



## Mission Assignment

**SAY:** Let's not wait. It's time to read our second mission. Are you ready? (Reading mission card from satellite uplink) "Recruits, our second mission is to look at Simeon and Anna who were both waiting for the prophecies about Jesus to be fulfilled. What did they know? How and when did they meet Jesus? How did they react?"

**SAY:** Simon is still very curious. I hope that he does speak with Michael and Christie. They would be able to answer a lot of his questions. He brought up a very good question. Could you imagine having to wait for a long time for something that you were excited about to finally happen? I would think that it must have been very difficult for both Simeon and Anna to have to wait and watch for the prophecies to be fulfilled. Have you ever had to wait like they did? Have you ever waited for a friend to come over or for your birthday party to begin?

**DO:** Allow for responses.

**SAY:** Now we will hear the story of Simeon and Anna. They knew of the prophecy of the Messiah's birth and yet they simply had to wait for it to happen. You are going to have to wait a little bit as well. Today some of you will get the opportunity to choose a number from this bowl. The number you pull out matches a number on one of our gifts over there. When it is your turn, you will be able to get your gift from the table and open it. You will then share what is inside with the rest of the recruits. Who would like to pull out a number?



**DO:** Choose some of the recruits to pick a number from the bowl and then allow the recruit with number one to retrieve his/her gift from the table. The recruit will open the gift and see what is inside. Allow the recruit to read the portion of the story, or read it on their behalf. Then have the recruit with number two retrieve their gift and open it. Continue until all the gifts are open and the recruits have heard the complete story of Simeon and Anna.

**SAY:** Those of you who had a number had to wait just a little to open your gift. It was such a short time but Simeon and Anna had to wait a very long time. Simeon and Anna knew that Jesus Christ was coming. When they finally met him in the temple they both praised and thanked God for Jesus and then each told Mary and Joseph something about Jesus' future. They had waited a long time to meet Jesus. Both were old when they met Jesus and they praised God when they met him.



### Prayer Huddle



YouTube: Play "Who Is This Jesus? (S2) Episode 1 (3/4)". Pause the video when the PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when PRAYER HUDDLE CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the prayer huddle.



### Supplies Needed

- None

### Directions

**SAY:** Simeon and Anna waited and Jesus came. We often have to wait for things. We sometimes find this difficult. I would like all of you to line up on the far wall. We are going to play a game that involves you having to wait.

**DO:** Play the Waiting Game (somewhat like Red Light, Green Light). Have the recruits line up at one end of the room. At the far end, place a treat for each recruit. This could be a simple candy, or a bowl of apples (one for each). Tell the recruits that they have to make their way to the treat but can only move when you say, "It's time." When you say, "wait" the recruits must freeze. If you catch them moving at all, you can send them back to the far wall to start over. To make this activity more difficult, give the recruits a specific way that they must move to get to the treat. (i.e., crab walk, alligator walk, skip, etc.) Ensure that everyone does get their treat. Then gather everyone together.

**SAY:** Sometimes when we pray to God we expect an answer right away. It is hard for us to have to wait for the Lord to answer our prayers. God, though, does respond to our requests. He says either "yes", or "no" or "wait." We saw how Simeon and Anna waited. They knew the prophecies about Jesus' birth but they had to wait for God's perfect timing. Let's spend some time in prayer thanking God for his perfect timing and for His Son, Jesus.

**DO:** Pray. Allow recruits to pray but ensure that you open and close this time in prayer.

**SAY:** Well Recruits, we need to make sure that our reports have been received by the Recon Team. Let's check back in with them. I do hope that Simon and Kate have been able to figure some things out. Maybe Simon has even taken the time to speak with Michael or Christie. Let's check in.





### Mission Uplink 3



YouTube: Play "Who Is This Jesus? (S2) Episode 1 (4/4)". Pause the video when the FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.

PPT: Click to advance to next slide. Pause video when FIELD MISSION CARD appears on screen and remains as you and your recruits complete the Field Mission Project.



### Field Mission Project



### Supplies Needed

- If available, ask a mom and her baby to join the class for this section of your time together.
- Or
- Bring a doll in as a visual
  - Poster board cut in half (one for each recruit)
  - Your own birth story poster (include a picture of you as a baby, your date of birth, your weight and length at birth and where you were born)

### Mission Project

**SAY:** Well, that was a close one but I am glad Simon finally spoke up. He definitely learned that no one can tell the future. Of course, we do know that if we have given our lives to Jesus, we will get to heaven one day and that is something to look forward to. Let's read our final mission together (reading mission card from satellite uplink). "We know that Jesus came from heaven to earth as a baby. Think about babies. What do they need? What do they do? Why did Jesus come to earth as a baby?"

**DO:** Hold a discussion about babies. If you have a mom and her baby present, allow the recruits to ask questions. Direct the questions to include what do babies need? What do they do? How are they taken care of?

**SAY:** Have you ever stopped to think of God the Son as a baby? This is the way that Jesus came to earth. Why do you think He had to come to earth this way? (Encourage their answers.)

**DO:** Help the recruits to understand that Jesus had to be fully human as well as fully divine. Jesus came as a baby so he could experience life as we experience it. He grew, lived in a family, learned, was tempted and faced the same things we do. He shares our experiences.

**SAY:** Jesus, as a baby, cried to be fed, needed to be changed, needed to be cuddled and was dependent on His mother, Mary, to care for him in every way.

**SAY:** Now that you have looked at a baby, do you believe that God is bigger than you? How do you know that?



**DO:** Allow recruits to answer and remind them of how Jesus' birth had been prophesized years earlier. God already had the plan in place.

**SAY:** Jesus had to grow as we did. He faced temptations just as we do, and He did this so that we can understand Him even more. He was human just like us, but he was also God the Son!

**SAY:** This week I would like each of you to think about your own birth story. Where were you born? What did you look like? How big were you? Once you have the answers to those questions, make a poster with a picture of you as a baby and maybe even a picture of you now. Include the information you have learned about you when you were born. I have made a poster of my own birth story to show you as an example of what you might like to do. Next week we will spend some time at the beginning of our lesson sharing these posters.

**DO:** Hand out poster board and supplies to the recruits.

## NOTES



Squad leader, be sure to send a reminder to the recruits to complete their birth story poster this week and to bring it with them to the next meeting.



**Card Number 1**

Eight days after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. This was the Law of the Lord. Each firstborn male had to be consecrated to the Lord.

**Card Number 2**

Simeon was in Jerusalem. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would see Jesus before Simeon died. On this day, he went into the temple courts.

**Card Number 3**

Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple and Simeon took him in his arms and praised God. He then blessed Mary and Joseph and told them about Jesus' future

**Card Number 4**

A very old prophetess named Anna was also in the temple where she worshipped night and day and never left.

**Card Number 5**

Anna went up to Mary and Joseph and the Baby Jesus. She thanked God for him and spoke about him to those around.