

## The First Christmas: Lesson 1

**SuperTruth:** God keeps His promises and sent His Son to us.

**SuperVerse:** “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.” Micah 5:2 (NKJV)

**Bible Story:** Matthew 1:18–2:12, Luke 2:1–20

### LARGE GROUP / GRADES 1–6

For the next three lessons, we’ll be learning the true meaning of Christmas: the Savior of the world came as a baby to grow up and die on the cross and save us from our sins!

- Select a video to have playing as children enter the Large Group room. Videos are under Resources on the top menu bar.
- God always keep His promises. He fulfilled His promise by sending His Son to us.
- In the Superbook adventure, Chris learns the true meaning of Christmas.

### SMALL GROUP / GRADES 1–6

**Game:** The Reason for the Season (15 minutes)

*Objective:* Explore the Superbook story with a matching game.

- The reason for the Christmas season is the birth of Jesus. Play a matching game that compares symbols of the world’s meaning of Christmas to symbols of the true meaning of Christmas.

*Game Instructions:*

- Divide the class into two teams. Have each team sit together as a group. Teams alternate turns selecting cards and trying to match the symbols. After each match, ask the children if the cards represent the true meaning of Christmas. Emphasize that symbols like the Christmas tree, gifts, etc. are not necessarily bad, but they should not become more important than Jesus’ birth!

**Teaching:** At the Manger (15 minutes)

*Objective:* Discuss a nativity set.

- Many people don’t know that Jesus came into the world as a little baby, and that He grew up to bring us forgiveness and salvation.
- Place the nativity stable on the table or floor and randomly lay out the individual pieces of the nativity set around it. Talk about how each of the people represented reacted to Jesus’ coming as a baby to fulfill God’s promise.
- Hold up each piece as you discuss its significance. If the pieces are unbreakable, you may pass them around as you discuss them and then have a child position it in the manger scene. You can look up the scriptures if you have time.

*Take Home Activity—Discipleship Challenge (5 minutes)*

- Hand out two invitations to each child along with the decorating supplies. Encourage the children to pray about who they wish to invite and give their invitations to in the next few days.

**SuperVerse:** Superbook Background (5 minutes)

*Objective:* Memorize the Superverse with a group activity.

- The SuperVerse promises that a Ruler of Israel will come from the distant past. Jesus existed with God from the beginning—He is the promised Ruler who came from the past!
- Read the SuperVerse aloud together and discuss how it is speaking about Jesus.

**Prayer:** Gift of Salvation Prayer (5 minutes)

*Objective:* Communicate with God.

- God offers us His gift of salvation. But there is still one thing we must do—we must accept this gift from God.
- Pray a prayer of salvation and have children repeat it after you to receive God’s gift.

### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES (REFER TO THE LESSON GUIDE FOR DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS)

**Musical Activity:** Hum Christmas carols celebrating God’s gift. | **Grades 1–6** | 10 min

**Writing Craft:** Write notes of gratitude to Jesus. | **Grades 1–3** | 15 min

**Word Games:** Find hidden words in the video title. | **Grades 4–6** | 10 min

**Discussion:** Discuss what Jesus gave up to come to Earth. | **Grades 1–6** | 10 min

#### Game Materials Needed:

- Sixteen pieces of cardstock or thick paper
- Optional: fine tipped marker
- Tape
- Scissors
- Match Cards

#### Teaching Materials Needed:

- A nativity set—preferably with unbreakable pieces; or you may find and print a picture of one from the Internet
- Markers, crayons, or colored pencils
- Optional: stickers, candy canes, and/or ribbon to decorate invitations
- Invitations
- Optional: Bible or the Superbook Bible App

#### SuperVerse Materials Needed:

- Bible or the Superbook Bible App

#### Prayer Materials Needed:

- Bible or the Superbook Bible App