

04 THE PROMISED CHILD

KEY TEXT: **LUKE 2:1-15**

CENTRAL truth

We've been looking into the creation of the world and how wonderful it all was. That is, it was wonderful until sin entered the picture. Genesis 3 revealed to us the horror of sin (and spoiler alert: things will get even worse), but it also pointed us to a promised child. One day, a child of a woman would crush the head of the serpent, Satan. In celebration of Christmas, we'll look ahead to the birth of Jesus. **Jesus is the promised Rescuer who left perfection for our sakes.**

key question

What makes a baby so vulnerable? Why is it significant that God came as a baby? (Read Hebrews 2:17.)

Babies need help for everything! They can't feed themselves, put themselves to bed, or dress themselves—yet all of these needs must be met. They are utterly dependent on their caretakers. But here's the thing about God: He has no needs. He is completely sufficient. It's mind-blowing that the God of the universe would take on the limitations of being a human—especially a baby. But that's the depth of His love for us and His desire to rescue us from sin.

keep in mind

- The Christmas story can feel overly familiar to students who have grown up in church. But whether they are churched or unchurched, invite students to look at the story with fresh eyes and to leverage the foundational truths they've been learning in Genesis to understand the significance of this promised child God had been hinting toward Jesus's birth since the very beginning (see Gen. 3:15)!
- This session is full of context details that can help students connect with the story and gain a deeper understanding of the day's culture. All of it can invite us to deeper worship of the Lord because the details reveal so much about Him! Don't miss the details on the swaddling clothes, the manger, and the shepherds.

application

What would it look like for you to respond to Jesus's birth announcement like the shepherds did?

the win

FOR THE STUDENT: Students have the opportunity to connect more deeply with the Christmas story and connect it with the child promised in Genesis 3:15. This can help them feel better equipped to share about this Rescuer with others.

FOR THE LEADER: Leaders can make connections between Jesus and the narratives in Genesis 1–3. Then, using their new understanding, they can leverage the Christmas season to guide students to a richer understanding of God's story.

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