

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

A Christmas Craft

On Christmas Day we celebrate the glorious birth of Jesus. Today's craft will give the students an opportunity to focus on the true meaning of Christmas and put into practice how it is better to give than receive.

SUPPLIES NEEDED

- Paper bags
- Ribbon
- Tissue paper
- Crayons, colored pencils, or colored markers
- Scissors
- Birthday Gift Template (*pg. 2 to follow*)
- Birth of Jesus Template (*pg. 3 to follow*)
- *Optional:* Small treat (chocolate kiss or other candy)

PREPARATION BEFORE ACTIVITY

- Print the "Birthday Gift" Template (*each student needs 1*)
- Print the "Birth of Jesus" Template and cut in $\frac{1}{2}$ (*each student needs a $\frac{1}{2}$ sheet copy*)

WHAT TO DO

1. Give each child a bag and a copy of the Birthday Gift Template.
2. Instruct students to color the Birthday Gift Template pictures. Cut out each picture.
3. On one side of the bag, glue the NATIVITY pictures.
4. On the other side of the bag, glue the BIRTHDAY CAKE picture.
5. Place *inside* the bag:
 - The red heart
 - The $\frac{1}{2}$ sheet of the story of the "Birth of Jesus"
 - A "treat" (*optional*)
6. Place the tissue inside and tie the bag up with a ribbon.
7. Instruct students to take their gift home and place under their Christmas tree. They may open and read aloud the story of the "Birth of Jesus" with their families on Christmas morning to be reminded of the true meaning of the day.



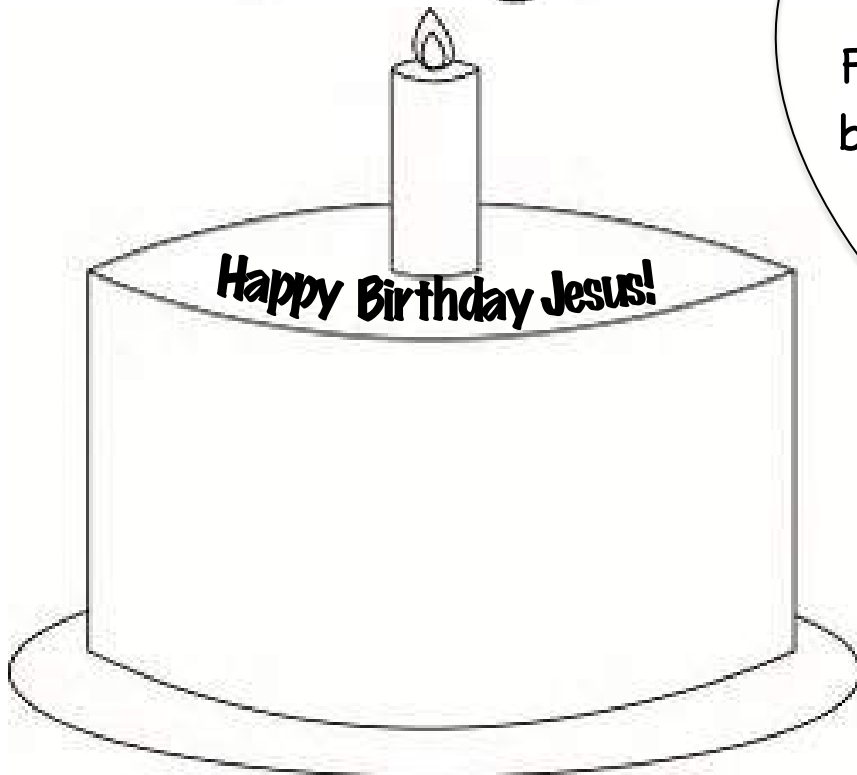
Birthday Gift TEMPLATE



COLOR THE
HEART RED



For unto us a child is
born, unto us a son is
given . . .
Isaiah 9:6



READ ALOUD ON CHRISTMAS MORNING:

Luke 2:1-20 (RSV)

The Birth of Jesus

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. ² This was the first enrollment, when Quirin'i-us was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. ⁷ And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸ And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; ¹¹ for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!" ¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

CUT HERE

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