

A Baby Is Born

By RLD Editorial Team

for use as
STEP 1 

**Lesson 3
Focus:**
We celebrate
Jesus' birth.

**Lesson 3
Bible Basis:**
Luke 2:1-20

**Lesson 3
Memory Verse:**
"Today in the town of David a Savior
has been born to you; he is the
Messiah, the Lord." —Luke 2:11

Students will prepare their hearts to welcome and celebrate Jesus, the Savior.

Materials:

- Internet access

Imagine the excitement and emotion when bringing a new baby home for the first time. You may have firsthand experience with a baby brother, sister, or cousin. If not, try to imagine what it would be like for a tiny new life to join your family as we watch this video together.

Share the following video [1:57]:

North Carolina family brings baby boy home for holidays after 17 months in NICU

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2J3u2b5WFU8>

After his 17-month stay in the NICU, Phillip got to go home—and people celebrated! Phillip's parents, nurses, and extended family all celebrated this big milestone. Whether a baby goes home shortly after being born or after a NICU stay, families often do something to celebrate their new family member coming home.

- **What are some ways that families often welcome babies home from the hospital?** (Answers will vary; family members gather at the house, balloons are put in the yard, etc.)
- **How do parents or guardians typically prepare the house for the new baby?** (Answers will vary; paint a room, set up a crib, buy diapers and other supplies, make sure the house is safe, etc.)
- **What do people do to celebrate the birth of a baby?** (Answers will vary; send announcements, share photos and videos, have parties, etc.)

You do not remember the day you came home from the hospital as a newborn, but someone was full of joy over your birth. Someone was overwhelmed with love and watched over you. There may have been tears of joy. There were probably a lot of smiles. There was probably some fear, too, with adults a bit nervous about taking care of such a precious and tiny being.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus was a baby once.

➤ **When you think of Jesus as a baby, what do you imagine He was like?** (Answers will vary.)

➤ **Imagine being Mary and Joseph, knowing your Son is going to be Jesus. Would you prepare for His coming any differently than for the birth of any other child? If so, how? If not, why?** (Answers will vary.)

The world was in need of a Savior. Generations waited hundreds of years for the promised Messiah. Finally, the day arrived; Jesus was born! Let's celebrate as we reflect on the story of Jesus' birth.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your teacher's guide; your Step 4 appears below.)

Lesson 3 / December 15, 2024

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STEP 4 

Lesson 3**Focus:**

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Lesson 3**Bible Basis:**

Luke 2:1-20

Lesson 3**Memory Verse:**

"Today in the town of David a Savior
has been born to you; he is the
Messiah, the Lord." —Luke 2:11

Materials:

- Internet access
- Paper folding guide (1 for teacher; template at the end of this document)
- Red paper or cardstock (1 8 ½" x 11" sheet per student)
- Rulers
- Scissors
- Pencils
- Markers
- Hole punch
- Yarn, jute, or ribbon
- Clear or washi tape
- Writing paper (1 sheet per student)

Before class, familiarize yourself with the diagram on how to fold a heart pocket (template at the end of this document). If your class is meeting online, send a list of supplies for families to prepare for their students ahead of time.

In today's Bible lesson, we read the story of Jesus' birth. In Luke 2:19, we read that, "Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

- **What sorts of things do you think Mary thought about? What did she feel?** (Answers will vary.)
- **When you think about our Savior coming to earth, being born as a baby, what are your thoughts and feelings?** (Answers will vary.)

We are going to make heart ornaments to hang in your rooms to remind you to keep Jesus at the heart of your life all year around. What are your own thoughts about Jesus' birth? What questions would you ask Jesus if you had the chance? Do you see a friend—or a stranger—in need? Write down a prayer for them. Do you see something worthy of praise? Write down a thanksgiving. Each day, add another note to your heart pocket.

What are your thoughts about how Jesus came to earth as a child and later saved us from our sins? Express what that means to you. Treasure them up in your heart, and when your pocket is full, take them out and ponder them.

Distribute supplies (or invite students to have them ready at home). Guide your preteens through the following activity (use the diagram provided at the end of this document as a reference).

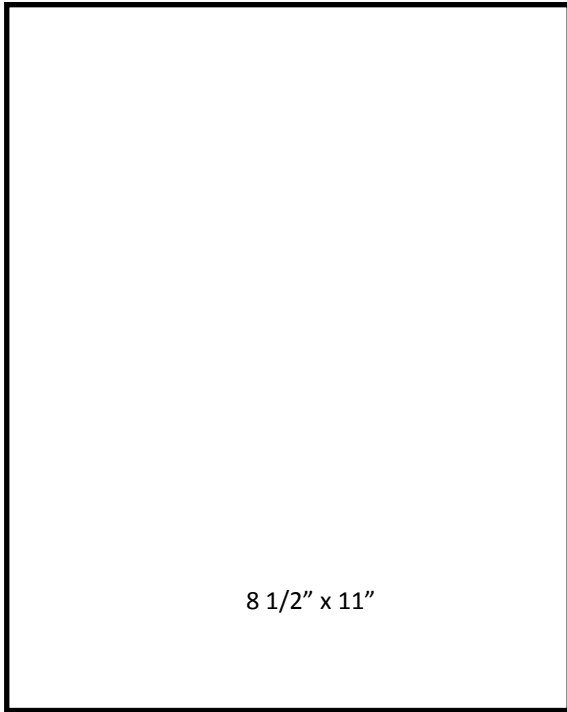
- With an 8 ½" x 11" sheet of red paper or cardstock in the portrait position, fold the paper upward at about 4 ½" from the bottom of the page. You now have a folded paper where the back part is about 6 ½" and the top part (or flap) from the fold up is about 4 ½".
- Fold the paper in half sideways. The pocket formed by the first fold is now inside the folded page
- With the paper folded, draw half a heart out from the fold, filling as much of the page as possible. The bottom point of the heart should go in at the bottom corner of the fold but be sure to leave enough of a folded base at the bottom so the fold up is still attached to the main page after cutting (see diagram).
- Cut out the half heart, being careful not to cut away all the folded base.
- Open the heart.
- There is now a full heart with a pocket flap on top of it. Tape the edges of the flap to the edges of the heart.
- Punch a hole near the top on each rounded side of the heart.
- Thread yarn or ribbon through the holes and tie it at the top to make a loop to hang the heart.
- Write the memory verse on the pocket flap of the heart: "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

On a separate sheet of writing paper, write a note to Jesus letting Him know what He means to you. As your students work, you may want to share songs about Jesus birth.

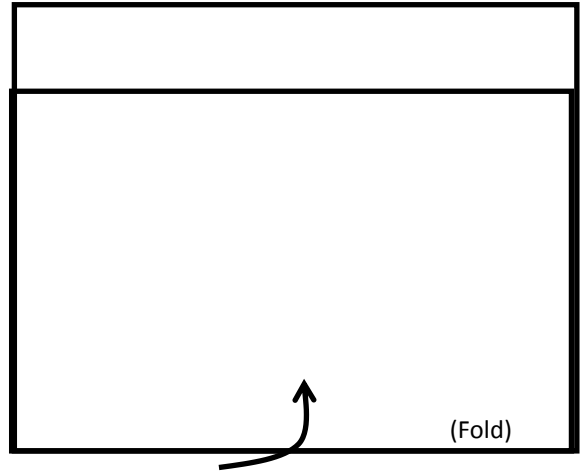
Turn today's memory verse into a closing prayer: **"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2:11). Glory to God in the highest. Amen.**

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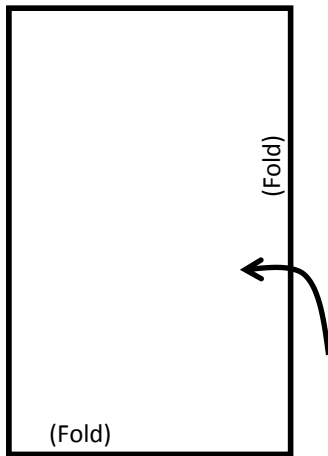
1. Place paper in the portrait position.



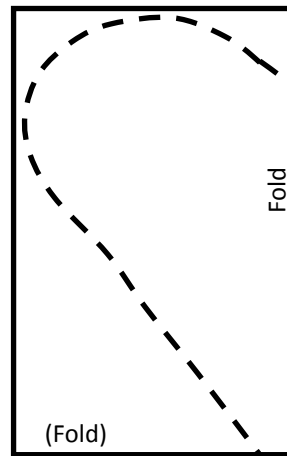
2. Fold paper upward at about 4 1/2" from the bottom.



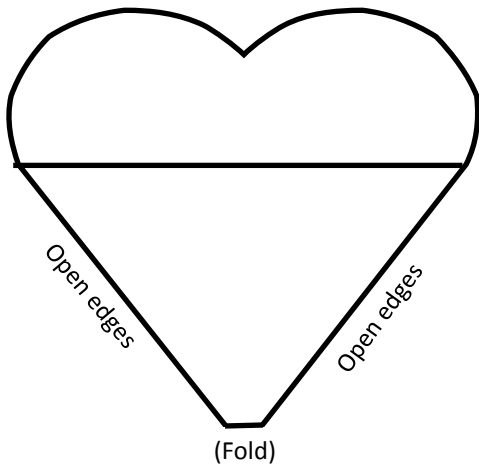
3. Fold sideways with the pocket formed by the fold in step 2 now inside the folded page.



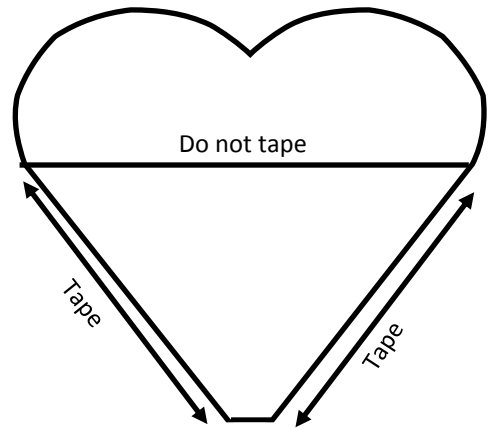
4. Draw and cut out half a heart. Do not cut on the fold.



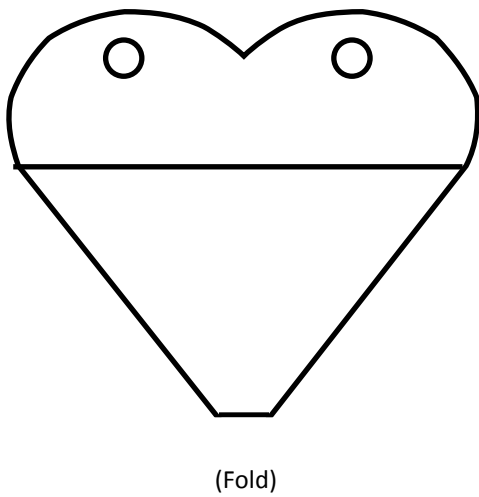
5. Open the heart.



6. Tape the sides to seal the open edges. Leave the opening at the top to form a pocket.



7. Punch a hole in the top of each side of the heart.



8. Thread yarn through holes and tie a knot to form a hanger.

