

## *Lesson One: The Story of Christmas*

**Objective:** Announce the Good News of the Birth of Our Savior

**Target Group:** Grades K-3

**Time Allotted:** 40 minutes

**Materials Required:** Nativity set, colored pencils, crayons, etc., age-appropriate storybook

Recommended storybooks:

*Room for a Little One: A Christmas Tale* by Martin Waddell

*The First Noel* by Jody Wheeler

*The Donkey's Dream* by Barbara Helen Berger



### *Lesson Plan*

**Background resource for educators:** Gospel of Luke, (Luke 2:1-40)

**Lesson Topic:** Introducing the Christmas story by way of the Nativity.

**Goals:**

- a. Remove modern commercialization from the Christmas story
- b. Learn who was present for the birth of Christ

**Lesson:**

- a. Begin with an empty Nativity set. Invite students to explain what the Nativity is and what it means.
- b. Ask students to name the people present at the Nativity. As students answer, place corresponding pieces into the Nativity scene.
  - a. Holy Family
  - b. Shepherds and animals
  - c. Wise Men
- c. Read storybook about the Nativity story to students aloud.
- d. Recommended discussion questions:
  - a. Who has a Nativity or Crèche at home?
  - b. What is your family tradition for setting up the Nativity?
  - c. Do Santa and the Elves belong in the Nativity scene? Why not?
- e. Activity

Drawing the Nativity: On accompanying worksheet, invite students to fill in the empty Nativity with the people who were present for the birth of Jesus.

**Conclusion:**

Examining the Nativity is a way for students to engage in the story of Christmas by understanding those who were present for the birth of Jesus and the surroundings into which he was born. This helps students to better understand our Catholic Christmas traditions and their significance, as opposed to more commercialized aspects of the season.