

# Jesus Was Born in a Stable

**Activity:** The child makes a manger to prepare for the birth of baby Jesus.

## Concept

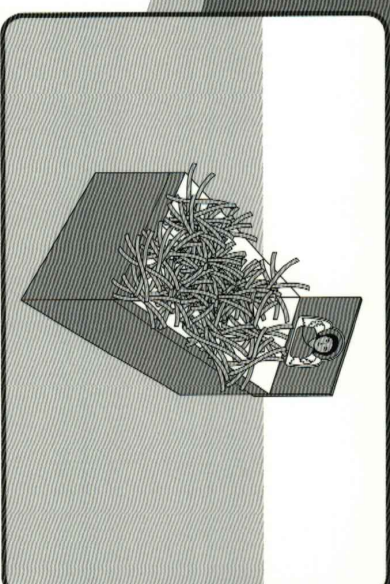
Jesus was born in a stable and placed in a manger.

## What You Need

- ▶ pictures or doll furniture of a baby crib and a table
- ▶ picture of a manger or manger piece from a Nativity set
- ▶ children's Bible, such as *The Catholic Children's Bible* (St. Mary's Press)
- ▶ photocopy of Side B of this Lesson Card
- ▶ shoebox or small box
- ▶ small piece of cardboard
- ▶ Easter grass or shredded paper for straw
- ▶ art supplies

## At Home

Invite the parents to display the manger at home during the Christmas season. Then on Christmas Eve, suggest that they wrap a doll in a blanket, representing baby Jesus, and have their child place him in the manger.



Example

## Lesson Steps

1

### Opening Prayer

Pray the Sign of the Cross with the child, followed by: ***Dear God, please help us get ready for your most precious gift, your Son, Jesus. Open our hearts to love him and welcome him into our lives.*** Pray the Sign of the Cross.

2

### Begin with Life Experience

Show the child pictures or play furniture of a table and a baby's crib. Have the child point to the furniture item that completes this idea: A baby sleeps in a \_\_\_\_\_. Then say: ***A crib is where a baby sleeps.*** Then display the baby crib and manger and identify each object. Say: ***When Jesus was born, there was no crib for him to sleep in.*** Take away the crib. Say: ***A manger is a box used to feed animals.*** Point out how the manger looks like a crib: the high sides, the bedding, and the size. Share the Scripture passage Luke 2:4–7 (The Birth of Jesus). Then say: ***Jesus was born in a stable and placed in a manger.***

3

### Connect

Ahead of time, attach the cardboard to one of the short ends of the box and paint both pieces to resemble a wooden manger. Color and cut out the angel from the photocopy of Side B of this card. Say: ***It's almost time for Jesus' birth. The baby will need a safe and soft place to sleep.*** Then help the child arrange the "straw" in the manger. Say: ***Let's add an angel to watch over baby Jesus.*** Help the child glue the angel cutout to the cardboard piece of the manger. Say: ***Jesus was born in a stable and placed in a manger.***

4

### Closing Prayer

Pray the Sign of the Cross with the child, followed by: ***Dear God, thank you for the best gift we have ever received, our Lord and Savior, Jesus.*** Conclude by praying the Sign of the Cross.

