

Unit 3: GOD'S GREATEST GIFTS

LESSON 3.2: Jesus, the Greatest Gift

Teacher Preparation and Materials Needed:

For the lesson: A child friendly nativity set. If there is none available, the teacher can prepare nametags (Joseph, Mary, shepherds, three Magi, sheep, donkey, ox, angels, gold, frankincense, myrrh) and assign roles to children to create their own nativity set. Before placing/directing each character in his/her place, ask the children what they already know and gauge their prior knowledge of the nativity scene/icon.

When you start reading the story have children place the characters in their places or stand themselves in a dedicated spot if children are the character of the nativity scene/icon.

Guide them in re-enacting the story of Jesus's birth.

Craft/Activity: The Star of Bethlehem

Items needed: Craft sticks (five per child), light yellow paint, darker yellow paint, brushes (one per student), stick-on gems or glitter glue, wood glue, newspaper, thin gold yarn or thread.

Coloring Page: The coloring sheet on next page is provided as an alternative activity or a time filler.

Christmas Carol: [Silent Night](#) (duration 3:53)

Memory Verse:

“And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.”

- Luke 2:7

Lesson

Lesson Opening & Creating Interest:

Open with prayer:

Wisdom of the Father, O Jesus, grant to me the wisdom to think, speak, and do that which is good in Your sight. Save me from all evil and distracting thoughts, words, and deeds. Have mercy upon your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

Lesson Body:

“And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:7).

Q: Who do you think this little baby is?

We are in a very special season. All the Christians of the world are celebrating Christmas, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. It happened more than two thousand years ago, and it all started with a young girl named Mary. Nine months earlier, on April 7th, the archangel Gabriel came to deliver good news to Mary that she was chosen and with the power of the Holy Spirit, she would have a child.

Mary was frightened and confused because she was going to marry Joseph very soon. Joseph was also confused and wanted to let Mary go, but then the angel appeared to Joseph and told him that he should marry Mary, and that her child, Jesus, was from the Holy Spirit and would save His people from their sins.

After nine months of being pregnant, the emperor of the Roman Empire, Augustus Caesar, ordered that a census take place. A census is when they count all the people in the country. It was ordered that everyone go back to their hometown to be counted. So, Joseph and Mary had to travel from Nazareth, where they were living, to Joseph’s city called Bethlehem to be registered.

When they entered Bethlehem, they needed a place to stay because they were tired from traveling and Mary was going to have a baby soon. Because there were so many people returning to the city to be registered for the census, it was difficult to find any place to stay at the inn. The kind innkeeper, understanding their situation, allowed Joseph and Mary to stay in a small cavern nearby where they kept animals (something like a barn). That night the baby Jesus was born. Mary did not have any clothes for him to wear, or a crib to sleep in, so she wrapped Jesus in cloth and placed him in a manger (the trough which animals would eat out of), surrounded by the animals.

That night something amazing happened. There were shepherds in the fields watching their flocks of sheep. A group of fiery angels appeared to them, frightening them, but the angels told them not to be afraid and got toward Bethlehem and find the new-born Savior.

Weeks or months later, Magi, sometimes known as wise men, who were most likely astrologers, came from the east and visited the new-born Jesus because they had seen His star in the skies.

The Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh for Jesus, who was the greatest gift God could give humanity.

Read out loud:

“And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.”

- Luke 2:7



Image from www.miffytown.com

CRAFTS/ACTIVITIES: Star of Bethlehem

Items needed: Craft sticks (five per child), light yellow paint, darker yellow paint, brushes (one per student), stick-on gems or glitter glue, wood glue, newspaper, thin gold yarn or thread.

Instructions:

1. Cover the worktable with newspaper/newsprint to avoid paint messes.
2. Instruct students to paint two craft sticks dark yellow and three light yellow.
3. For the bottom layer and the point, put two craft sticks together so that an inch of one is covering an inch of the other. Glue them together.
4. Layer the next three craft sticks dark, light, dark. Lay them on top of the point and move them around so that there is an even amount of space between the shorter points. Then glue them down using wood glue.
5. Add stick-on gems or make thin lines down each point using glitter glue.
6. Allow to dry.
7. After drying, cut a piece of the gold yarn 18 inches long. Loop it around the center sticks and tie a knot at the top.

Listen to this Christmas carol while working on your own star of Bethlehem: [Silent Night](#) (duration 3:53)



Image from www.christianitycove.com

Christmas Greeting:

When you greet one another, say:
Քրիստոս ծնաւ եւ յայտնեցաւ:
Kreesdos dznav yev haydnetsav!
Christ is born and revealed!

The response is:
Օրհնեալ է յայտնութիւնն Քրիստոսի:
Orhnyal eh haydnootyoonun Kreesdosee!
Blessed is the revelation of Christ!

Another common greeting is:
Ձեզ եւ մեզ մեծ աւետիս:
Tsez yev mez medz aveedes!
To you and to us is great news!



Review

Memory Verse Review:

“And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:7).

Lesson Review:

Help children retell the story of the Nativity (Birth of Christ) with prompts from you. Feel free to use the illustration in this lesson as a guide.

Questions:

1. Where did Mary and Joseph go to have Jesus? (Bethlehem)
2. Why did they go there? (People needed to go back to their hometowns to get counted in the census)
3. Was there any place for them to stay? (No, all the inns were full)
4. Where was Jesus born? (A barn/cave)
5. What gifts did the Magi bring to Jesus? (Gold, frankincense, and myrrh)

Words of the Week:

When you greet one another, say:
Քրիստոս ծնաւ եւ յայտնեցաւ:
Kreesdos dznay yev haydnetsav!
Christ is born and revealed!

The response is:
Օրհնեալ է յայտնութիւնն Քրիստոսի:
Orhnyal eh haydnootyoonun Kreesdosee!
Blessed is the revelation of Christ!

Another common greeting is:
Ձեզ եւ մեզ մեծ անետիս:
Tsez yev mez medz avedees!
To you and to us is great news!

Life Application:

What are we going to do with what we have learned today?

Like the shepherds, who were told the good news of Christ’s birth, we too must go out and tell the same good news to others. We do this not only by telling people about the miracle of Christmas, but also by sharing the blessings that we have. God has blessed each of us with gifts and we are called to share those gifts with people who do not have. In doing so, we spread the the good news, help others and glorify God.

Close with prayer:

O Christ, guardian of all, let Your right hand guard and shelter me, by day and by night, at home and abroad, in sleeping and in waking, that I may never stumble. Have mercy upon Your creatures and upon me, a great sinner. Amen.

At Home

No homework at this time.

*Քրիստոս ծնաւ եւ յայտնեցաւ:
Kreesdos dznav yev haydnetsav!
Christ is born and revealed!*

*Օրհնեալ է յայտնութիւնն Քրիստոսի:
Orhnyal eh haydnootyoonun Kreesdosee!
Blessed is the revelation of Christ!*

*Ձեզ եւ մեզ մեծ ատենիս:
Tsez yev mez medz avedees!
To you and to us is great news!*