

This is Jesus: The One We Are Looking For

Bible Passage: Luke 2:1-4; Isaiah 9:6

Key Passage: 23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). **Matthew 1:23**

Big Picture Question: What does Christmas teach us about who Jesus is? Jesus is God's Son who was born, died, and rose again to give life to all who believe.

Christ Connection: Jesus was born to bring peace between us and God.

Leader Notes:

Context

People had been waiting a long time for Jesus. God hinted at His coming in the garden of Eden when He promised a seed to conquer the serpent. The prophets told of His coming hundreds of years before His birth. God was working His plan to bring people back to Himself.

Facts about Messiah coming from Luke 1:30-33

- He has unqualified greatness
- He is God's Son
- Is given King David's throne
- Fulfillment of promise to David
- He rules over Israel
- His kingdom lasts forever

In today's passage, we see important details that prove the Jesus is the one that we are looking for. It was prophesied that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. The census brought them from Nazareth to the very place the Old Testament said the Messiah would be born. It was also predicted that the Savior would come from the family line of David, which is line that Joseph was from. God left no detail uncovered when it comes to Jesus' birth so that we would know that He, Jesus, is the one we are looking for.

TODAY'S PASSAGES

6 For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **Isaiah 9:6**

1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. **2** (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) **3** And everyone went to their own town to register. **4** So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. **Luke 2:1-4**

TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

- The Christmas story reminds us that God is in charge of all – look at all of the details that come together in the birth of Jesus!
- The Christmas story reminds us that God loves us – He sent His Son.
- **BL:** Jesus was born to bring peace between us and God.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Prepare to offer the following activities to 3-, 4-, 5- year olds as they arrive.

Nativity Memory Game

What you Need: Nativity Memory Game

What You Do:

- Help kids layout all the cards face down on a flat surface.

- Give each kid a chance to turn over 2 cards. If they match they get to keep the cards. If they do not match play continues to the next person.
- Keep taking turns till all the cards are gone.
- As you see them turn cards over, ask them if they know what is on the card and how it fits in the Christmas Story.

What You Say:

"Who got the most cards? Who got the least? Did you know that Jesus came so that everyone could have a relationship with God? That is what the Christmas Story is all about and in groups this month we are going to look at all the details God planned out to make it happen."

Worship Time

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

Play the DVD of All Star Kids worship (choose 1 song for today)

What You Say: "Way to go! You are such amazing singers. Now let's sit down to learn from the Bible today."

Story Time: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Bible Story

What You Need: Bible

What You Do: Place a bookmark at Luke 2:1-4 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it.

What You Say:

"The Bible is called 'the Word of God' because it contains God's words to us. Everything that God says is true, and all the words of the Bible are true. Today's story is from the third book of the New Testament called Luke. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Talk about the Bible Story:

People had been waiting a long time for Jesus. God hinted at His coming in the garden of Eden when He promised a seed to conquer the serpent. The prophets told of His coming hundreds of years before His birth. God was working His plan to bring people back to focus on Him.

In the Bible, we see important details that prove that Jesus is the one that we are looking for. It was predicted that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. The census brought them from Nazareth to the very place the Old Testament said the Messiah would be born. It was also predicted that

the Savior would come from the family line of David, which is line that Joseph was from. God covered all the details when it comes to Jesus' birth so that we would know that He, Jesus, is the one we are looking for.

Learn the Big Picture Question

What You Say: Our big picture question is, ***What does Christmas teach us about who Jesus is? Jesus is God's Son who was born, died, and rose again to give life to all who believe.***

Practice the Memory Verse

Open your Bible to Matthew 1:23. Read the memory verse aloud several times.

What You Say: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" which means "God with us") Matthew 1:23 Jesus was the person God promised in Genesis would bring peace between us and God.

Transition to small group.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Main Point that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

1. Scavenger Hunt

What You Need: Scavenger Hunt List, items around the room, basket to collect items in

What You Do:

- Have kids take turns finding one of the objects on the list.
- Encourage and help those who get distracted.
- When you have collected all the items, have the kids sit in a circle and talk about what they found and how they think it fits the category.

What You Say "Jesus was the promised Savior a long time before anyone knew to look for Him. Today we remembered that God promised Jesus would come all the way back in Genesis in the Garden of Eden. Then there were other specific things prophets told people to look for. When you were looking for items in our hunt today, did you know what to find? How? Just like the people of Israel knew to look for a Savior in Bethlehem who was to be born to King David's family, we know we can look and find the same Savior. **Jesus is the one we are looking for.**"

2. Practice signing the Memory Verse

What you need: Memory Verse Poster

What You Do:

- Show the poster to the kids
- As you say the words point to them on the poster
- Create simple hand motions to teach toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include "**The virgin** (act like you are flipping your hair or brushing long hair), **will conceive** (move hands in front of your belly like

motioning a baby bump) **and give birth to a Son** (swaddle a baby and rock) **and they will call him Immanuel** (point to the ground, God with us)
Matthew 1:23

- Our memory verse tells us that Jesus was the promised Savior who came to live as a man on earth.

What You Say: Our Bible verse tells us that Jesus was the promised Savior who came to live as a man on earth. We needed Jesus to do this so that we can have peace with God. Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection allowed us to have life with God forever when we believe.

Pray and Dismiss:

What You need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- Pray- " God thank you for making a way for Jesus to be born exactly like you told people for hundreds of years. Help us all to see Jesus' birth as Good News that is for all people.

What You Say: Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Send home the Scavenger Hunt list for families to do at home.