



Preschool Ministry Curriculum for
December 4, 2016

Dear Teacher,

Today marks the second Sunday in Advent and our theme for this morning is Faith. Since Genesis 3 all of humanity has longed and expected the Messiah to come and make things right again. Throughout the Old Testament we see the expectation for a King to come. Even when things were going right for the Hebrew people, it always ended in disappointment (King David and Solomon). But the promised One is here! The King has arrived not in might or in strength, but in gentleness and humility. This wasn't the kind of King most people know. This week we read about Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and what made them travel to this small town. The King has finally come, and for those at that time, faith had become sight.

We encourage all classrooms to read the story from the options provided in class (Vos, Jesus Story Book Bible, Gospel Story Book Bible or printed Handout), read the selected Scripture passages aloud in class, discuss or explain what the passages mean, and use the questions below to help guide the discussion. Also, use the time to teach the Scripture memory for Advent and the Catechism Questions.

Morning Overview

Lesson: Advent: Faith – The King is Here!

Lesson Objective: To communicate to children that God knew people needed a King to rescue them. People have always wanted someone to fix the world and make it right again, and now that person, that King, has arrived and his name is Jesus.

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-7

Story: Printed Handout; Gospel Story Book Bible, Pages 160-161; Jesus Story Book Bible, Pages 176-183; The Beginner's Bible, Pages 272-277.

Teaching Summary:

- God always keeps His promises.
- Nothing is impossible with God.
- All of the Old Testament has been waiting for the King to come. The Hebrew people had been waiting for over 400 years to hear from God.
- Everyone has set their hope on this King to make the world right again – to make it work properly – that all the sad and terrible things He would make go away.
- The King has finally come! Everyone's hope had become sight, but this King did not come in might and strength, but in humility and gentleness as a baby.
- Mary, Jesus' mother, was engaged to a man named Joseph. Mary and Joseph were not married and Mary had never been a mother before.
- Jesus was the King everyone had been waiting on and He would rule forever.
- Jesus was Mary's firstborn son. He was born in a stable wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

9:30am Sunday Schedule

For the Sunday Schedule, please see “Sunday Schedule for Preschool” found in Handbook on the teacher’s table.

Cherub Church

- Kindergarten/5’s – 9:35-10:00 (Classroom’s: 162, 163, 121, 123, 124)
- 3’s/4’s – 10:05-10:30 (Classroom’s: 166, 165, 164)

Craft: Nativity Scene

Supplies: Blue cardstock scene, Nativity Sticker Sheet

Instructions: Each child should receive a sticker sheet – allow them to place the stickers as they’d like on the blue cardstock scene.



Snack

11am Sunday Schedule

Craft: Build A Manger

Supplies: Popsicle Sticks, Triangle “manger” shape, Circle “Baby Jesus’ head” shape, Star with Verse, hole punch, ribbon/yarn, glue sticks

Instructions: Reference picture as needed. Assist children in each step as needed.

1. Glue popsicle sticks together in an uneven X shape.
2. Glue the triangle manger shape behind them.
3. Center the circle shape at the top of the manger shape and glue it to the back.
4. Draw eyes and mouth on the circle.
5. Punch a hole at the top of the star shape.
6. Glue the star to the tops of the craft sticks.
7. Thread the ribbon/yarn through the hole at the top



Story: Faith – The King is Here!

1. **PRAY** for your time and any requests the children may have.
2. **ASK** the Transition Question: Last week we talked about a baby who was promised before Jesus, does anyone remember his name? (John or John the Baptist) Do you remember his job? (He was to tell everyone that the King was coming, that Jesus was coming). Well today, the King is here! King Jesus has arrived, but not as a strong and mighty king. Jesus comes quite differently, let’s read our story to find out.
3. **TELL** the Story. Use the story in the curriculum, the Vos Children’s Bible, the Jesus StoryBook Bible, the Beginner’s Bible to aid in telling the story.
4. **REVIEW** the questions to help children understand the story.

Questions for Review

Scripture Memory (Isaiah 9:6)

Catechism Questions (1-12)

Hymn of the Month: Joy To The World

Free Play

Scripture

Matthew 1:18-25

8 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. **19** And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. **20** But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." **22** All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

(which means, God with us). **24** When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, **25** but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Luke 2:1-7

2 In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** And all went to be registered, each to his own town. **4** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, **5** to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. **6** And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. **7** And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Questions for Review

Questions for Younger Children:

- Who was going to Bethlehem?
- What happened in the stable?
- Who were Jesus' parents?
- What does Immanuel mean?
- Where was Jesus born?

Questions for Older Children:

- Why did Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem?
- What was so different about baby Jesus?
- Why do you think Jesus left his beautiful heaven to be born in a stable?
- Joseph is called a son of David. Why is that important?

Scripture Memory for Advent:

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given...his name shall be called...Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

Catechism Questions:

- Question 1 – Who made you? *God*
- Question 2 – What else did God make? *God made all things.*
- Question 3 – Why did God make you and all things? *For his own glory.*
- Question 4 – How can you glorify God? *By loving him and doing what he commands.*
- Question 5 – Why are you to glorify God? *Because he made me and takes care of me.*
- Question 6 – Is there more than one true God? *No. There is only one true God.*
- Question 7 – In how many persons does this One God exist? *In three persons.*
- Question 8 – Who are they? *Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.*
- Question 9 – What is God? *God is a Spirit and does not have a body like men.*
- Question 10 – Where is God? *God is everywhere.*
- Question 11 - Can you see God? *No; I cannot see God, but He can always see me.*
- Question 12 – Does God know all things? *Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God.*

Story

Historical setting

The Bible says once there was a man named Caesar Augustus. He was a very important man in the Roman government – he was in charge of his kingdom. Caesar Augustus made a law. He said, “I want to take a census.” That means he wanted to count the people. Caesar Augustus wanted to know how many people lived in his kingdom. Caesar Augustus said, “Everybody must go back to the city where they were born and register” (That means write their name down.)

Journey to Bethlehem

There was another man. His name was Joseph. Joseph lived in Nazareth. He was a very nice man. But Joseph had been born in Bethlehem, not Nazareth. And so when Caesar Augustus said, “Go back to the town where you were born,” off to Bethlehem Joseph went. He would write his name down there. Mary went with him to Bethlehem. She was going to be his wife.

But there was something very special about Mary. The Bible says she was going to have a little baby. Remember God had sent an angel named Gabriel to give Mary that good news! The angel had even said she would have a baby boy and she was to name him Jesus. Nazareth wasn't too far from Bethlehem, but remember there were no trains or cars or anything like that. So Mary and kind Joseph had to walk or ride on a donkey. It was a hard trip. When somebody's going to have a baby, they can't walk really fast or anything like that. So I bet Mary rode on the donkey. Maybe Joseph rode on one too or maybe he just walked next to Mary. But it took a long time and I bet they were very, very tired and I bet they were very, very happy when they finally saw the little town of Bethlehem off in the distance. “It won't be long, now,” Mary probably thought. “Soon we'll be in Bethlehem.” (sound relieved)

Humble birth

The Bible says when Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem they found an inn. An inn is like a hotel where people sleep when they're not close to their own house. I bet Mary couldn't wait to put her head down and rest. But you know what...it didn't work out that way. Remember I told you that Caesar Augustus said everybody had to go to the town where they were born to register? Well, lots of people had come to Bethlehem and the city was so crowded. There were people everywhere. When Mary and Joseph got to the inn, the man in charge said, “There's no more room. The inn is all full!” (Look sad) Poor Mary, poor Joseph. Where would they rest? Maybe the man in charge of the inn showed Mary and Joseph a stable nearby. We don't know. The Bible doesn't tell us that. But it does say that Mary and Joseph found a stable where they could spend the night. But you know what? People don't usually sleep in stables. (chuckle) Animals do! So stables aren't usually very nice. They're not very clean that's for sure. You know how animals eat!! They always make big messes! Stables usually don't smell too good either. But it was a place to rest. And Mary was so tired. Remember (whisper)...she was going to have a baby! When Mary and Joseph were in that city called Bethlehem,

staying in that little stable, the most exciting thing happened that has ever happened in the whole world. Mary had a baby. She had a baby boy. God had sent his very own Son. Mary took her little baby boy and wrapped him in pieces of cloth. (If you have a doll and an old white sheet, torn in pieces, you may want to demonstrate as you tell this part of the story by wrapping strips of cloth around the baby). Then she laid him down in the manger. A manger is where animals eat! You know how your dog or kitty have a bowl where they eat their food from, well a manger is where cows and donkeys and horses and animals like that can get their food. Joseph might have cleaned all the animals' food out of the manger and I bet he bent down and found some fresh straw and put it all in the bottom of that manger. He probably made it as soft as he could. Then Mary laid her sweet baby right in the manger. Mary's baby was warm and all cuddly. Mary named her baby Jesus. God had chosen that name. Mary did just what the angel, Gabriel, had told her to do.

The Baby

Baby Jesus looked like other babies. He was probably cute and all wiggly and he probably cried too. He sure didn't look like God, born right there in that dirty stable, sleeping in that manger. But you know what boys and girls, He was. That baby was God's very own Son. Jesus had wanted to come down to earth to live for a while. He wanted to live here just like we do. Now God had come near to people. They could see him. They could touch him. This little baby was Mary's baby, but he was also the Son of the great and mighty God.

Next week we learn that more people were told about Jesus's birth and it made them very, very excited!