



JOSEPH AND THE ANGEL

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 1:18–25

FOCUS VERSES: John 3:16, Ephesians 2:8-9, Romans 6:23

Summary: Joseph was engaged to be married. He learned that Mary was pregnant and was trying to figure out how to handle it. An angel appeared to him in a dream and told him that the baby was the Son of God. They were to name Him Jesus because He would save everyone from their sins. Jesus means “God of salvation.” This baby was God’s promised Savior.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

(LUKE 2:11)



Jesus brings salvation.

We will go deeper in God’s truth by answering these questions:



HOW CAN JESUS SAVE PEOPLE?

Jesus came to take the punishment for our sin and make a way for us to be right with God. Because He saves us from sin, we can have eternal life.



WHAT MUST WE DO TO BE SAVED?

God saves us by His grace when we trust in Jesus, accepting His free gift of forgiveness.



HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?

Kids will reflect and respond to the truth they learned about God.

Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: THE QUIET FAMILY

Quiet doesn't mean uncaring. These caregivers can often be unintentionally overlooked, but we want to ensure they know we see and value them.

- **Mail Matters.** Take a moment to send these caregivers notes in the mail, sharing the ways you see God working in their kid's life. Include your phone number and ask them to text you with any ways you can pray for their kid or support their family better.
- **One-on-One.** Find a way to get one-on-one with the caregiver in hopes they will be more comfortable talking. You can invite them to coffee, sit near them at church, or try to catch them in the hallway after church to build a relationship.
- **Get the Kid to Share.** At pick-up, ask their kid to share one thing they learned with the adult picking them up.
- **Invite them In.** Invite them to be an extra set of hands (if they are fully background checked) during a week when you are making a craft or having a special Sunday. Through serving together, get to know the caregiver and encourage them.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE?

Nearly 20 percent of adults surveyed indicated that they don't believe in any kind of afterlife when people die.* In addition, the world offers many theories on what happens when people die. Some believe in reincarnation—that we come back as another person or object. Some believe we turn into angels. Some believe our spirits rejoin the energy of the universe. All of these ideas show up in various kid movies and media. There may be kids in your group who are unsure of what really happens when people die. In today's lesson, kids will learn that we have the opportunity to live forever in heaven with God, but we need a Savior to forgive us of our sins. Jesus is that Savior! Jesus provides the true answer for what happens when we die, and He provides the way to eternal life.

*For more resources on this topic, check out:

[brightcurriculum.com/resources](https://www.brightcurriculum.com/resources)

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Grace: giving what is not deserved

Savior: the only One who can save us from our sins

Sin: anything we think, say, or do that disobeys God

Son of God: special name for Jesus that shows He is fully God

Bible TEACHING

JOSEPH AND THE ANGEL MATTHEW 1:18–25



PRAY: God, thank You for Christmas. Thank You for speaking to Joseph and using Him in Your plan to bring salvation to the world through Jesus. Speak to us now through his story. Amen.

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, printable pages, 3 boxes, wrapping paper, tape, permanent marker

PREP:

Print the printable pages. Place a page in each box, then seal and wrap each one like a present. Write a small number 1 on the wrapped gift with the first page, 2 on the second, and 3 on the third.

Say: A young girl named Mary was given a beautiful, miraculous gift from God!

Call up a girl and have her unwrap gift 1. Allow her to reveal the page inside, marked “Having a baby!” to the group.

Say: Mary was pregnant with a baby. She was committed to marry a man named Joseph. When Joseph found out that she was expecting a baby, he didn’t want to embarrass her, but he also didn’t feel like he could marry her. He didn’t understand yet what God was doing! But then Joseph was given a gift of His own.

Call up a boy and have him unwrap gift 2. Allow him to reveal the page inside, marked “Angel Visits in a Dream,” to the group.

Show teaching illustration: Angel Appears to Joseph.

Say: An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, “Joseph, don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife. This baby is from God!”

Call up a volunteer and have them unwrap gift 3. Allow them to reveal the page inside, marked “Jesus,” to the group.

Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Say: The angel said more to Joseph!

Read Matthew 1:21 directly from the Bible: *She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.*

Say: This was exactly what the Old Testament prophets like Isaiah had promised.

Read Isaiah 7:14 directly from the Bible: *Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.*

Say: Even Jesus' name showed what He was coming to do. The angel wasn't just telling Joseph a random name; he was telling Joseph who Jesus would be. Jesus was the promised Savior. In fact, the name "Jesus" literally means "God is salvation."

Show teaching illustration: Joseph Goes to Mary.

Say: Joseph woke up from his dream and went to Mary. He took her as his wife and did everything the Lord had told him to do.

Show teaching slide: Point to Jesus.



POINT TO JESUS

Say: Philippians 2:9–10 says: *Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.* This promised baby would die on the cross for our sin and rise from the dead, beating death and making a way for us to live forever with Him. When we believe in Him, we can be saved. One day He will return to Earth and everyone will realize that He is the true Savior of the whole world. "Jesus"—the same name the angel told to Joseph—will one day be the name that everyone will bow to.



HAVING A BABY!



ANGEL VISITS IN A DREAM



JESUS

Small Group ROADMAP

1

BELONG (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to experience God's love through a welcoming community

FIND THE SURPRISE

SUPPLIES: Stickers (1 per kid)

OR

PASS THE BOX

SUPPLIES: Christmas box, upbeat Christmas music, music player

2

BELIEVE (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to discover who God is by engaging with the Bible

FREEZE AND MEMORIZE

SUPPLIES: Bibles, teaching slide, upbeat Christmas music, music player

OR

OVERBOARD!

SUPPLIES: Bible, 5 Hula-Hoops, painter's tape

3



DISCIPLESHIP DISCUSSION (10 MINUTES)

Goal: To engage kids in faith conversations that help them navigate a broken world with biblical wisdom

4

BECOME (10 MINUTES)

Goal: For kids to learn to follow Jesus by applying faith to their lives

GOD'S PLAN

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable pages, scissors, sandwich zipper bags (1 per 4 kids)

OR

THE GIFT OF JESUS

SUPPLIES: Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, gift box, printable pages, soft worship music, music player



FIND THE SURPRISE

SUPPLIES:

Stickers (1 per kid)

PREP:

Hide the stickers around your space.

LEADER TIP: Substitute the stickers with any small gift or surprise.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For struggling learners, limit the space of where they are looking as needed (e.g., "I want you to start in that corner").

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. **Discuss:** What was the best and worst part of your week?
3. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that Jesus is our Savior! How have you seen this week that Jesus is the Savior?
4. **Say:** Sometimes we get news that we were not expecting, when that happens it's called a surprise!
5. **Discuss:** Did anything surprise you this week?
6. **Discuss:** What is the biggest surprise you have ever had?
7. **Say:** I hid a small surprise for each of you!
8. *Encourage kids to find a sticker hidden around your space. Once they have found one, they can come sit down.*
9. **Say:** Yay! You all found your surprise! Surprises can be so fun! Sometimes surprises are big, and sometimes they are small, like our surprise.



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

In our story today we are learning about a very big surprise. A man named Joseph was surprised by some news that completely changed his life!



PASS THE BOX

SUPPLIES:

Christmas box, upbeat Christmas music, music player

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP: Place a fun surprise in the Christmas box for kids to open at the end of the game!

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For kids struggling with anxiety to speak in front of the group, provide extra encouragement, leading questions and extended time.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*
2. *Gather kids in a seated circle.*
3. **Discuss:** What was the best and worst part of your week?
4. **Discuss:** This month we are learning that Jesus is our Savior! How have you seen this week that Jesus is the Savior?
5. **Discuss:** What is a surprise?
6. **Say:** A surprise is when something unexpected happens!
7. *Share a time you were surprised or when you surprised someone else.*
8. *Show kids the Christmas box.*
9. **Say:** Let's play a game! We will pass this box around our circle while I play music. When the music stops, whoever is holding the box will share about a time they were surprised!
10. *Begin passing the box and playing music.*
11. *Start and stop the music until everyone has had a turn to share about a surprise.*



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Wow, you all have had lots of times when you have been surprised! Today we are learning about a time Joseph was pretty surprised too!



FREEZE AND MEMORIZE

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, teaching slide, upbeat Christmas music, music player

PREP:

Print or show the Memory Verse teaching slide.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Some kids may be sensitive to sounds. Allow for headphones, covering their ears or moving kids away from loud instruments.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lead kids to find Luke 2:11 in their Bibles. Read it aloud together.*
2. **Discuss:** What did the angel tell Joseph to call the baby?
3. **Say:** The baby was to be named Jesus. Jesus means “the Lord saves.” Jesus was coming as a baby to save us all. He is Christ the Lord!
4. **Discuss:** How can Jesus save people?
5. **Say:** Jesus came to take the punishment for our sin and make a way for us to be right with God. Because He saves us from sin, we can have eternal life.
6. **Say:** Let’s practice our verse together!
7. **Say:** I will play some Christmas music and you will dance around while the music plays. When it stops, you will freeze!
8. **Say:** I will say a portion of the memory verse. You will repeat it to a friend. We will go back and forth until we have said the entire verse.
 - *For unto you / is born this day / in the city of David / a Savior, / who is Christ the Lord. / (Luke 2:11)*
9. *Stop and start music, having kids repeat the portions of the memory verse to each other each time. Continue until you have said the verse several times.*
10. *Attempt to have kids say longer portions of the verse each time.*



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

We can celebrate at Christmastime because Jesus was born and is Christ the Lord!



OVERBOARD!

SUPPLIES:

Bibles, 5 Hula-Hoops, painter's tape

PREP:

Use painter's tape to designate a large square area on the floor (large enough for everyone to stand inside).

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For active learners who get too excited and carried away, utilize breathing to help calm down, talk calmly with them repeating after you (e.g., I have a calm body, etc.).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What did the angel tell Joseph?
2. **Say:** The baby was to be named Jesus. Jesus means "the Lord saves." Jesus was coming to save us all.
3. **Discuss:** How can Jesus save people?
4. **Say:** Jesus came to take the punishment for our sin and make a way for us to be right with God. Because He saves us from sin, we can have eternal life.
5. *Divide kids into two groups—the "Boaters" and the "Rescuers."*
6. *Gather kids on the painter's tape square. When you call, "overboard" the Boaters will jump out of the square. The Rescuers will use the Hula-Hoops to pull them back onto the boat to rescue them.*
7. *Play as many rounds as time allows. Then gather kids together.*
8. **Say:** In our game today, you couldn't save yourself. You needed the Rescuers. We can't save ourselves from our sin. We need a Savior.
9. **Read:** Romans 6:23.
10. **Say:** We are all separated from God because of our sin. Sin is anything that we think, say or do that disobeys God. Sin is so serious, the punishment for it is death. Someone has to die for our sins.
11. **Read:** Romans 5:8.
12. **Say:** Jesus came and died on the cross, taking our punishment for us. Anyone who believes in Him will be saved. He is our Rescuer!



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

You all did a great job rescuing each other! Jesus really can save us! If we believe in Him as our Savior, we can live with Him forever.



Discipleship DISCUSSION

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR FOLLOWERS OF JESUS?

Discuss: How does this true story from the Bible show us that God is good?

Say: God sent Jesus to be our Savior. He loves us so much that He gave His one and only Son to take the punishment for our sin. He loves us so much that He made a way for us to live forever with Him. He is so good to us.

Read John 3:16 directly from the Bible: *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*

BUT WHAT ABOUT ... WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE DIE?

Discuss: What happens in video games when someone dies?

Discuss: What have you seen in movies about what happens when people die?

Discuss: What does the Bible say happens when people die?

Say: You may have heard many people's opinions on what happens when we die. In video games, you get another life. Movies depict us as becoming ghosts or angels. Some people believe that nothing happens and that this life on Earth is all that there is. Hebrews 9:27 says: *And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment.* Because our world is broken by sin, every single person will die. What happens next is determined only by whether or not we have trusted in Jesus as our Savior. If we have, we will spend forever with God. If we haven't trusted in Jesus, we will spend forever separated from Him. We don't turn into ghosts or angels or come back for a second life as something else. God loved us so much that He made a way for us to know what happens after our life on Earth is over.



GOD'S PLAN

SUPPLIES:

Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable pages, scissors, sandwich zipper bags (1 per 4 kids)

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable pages and cut out (1 puzzle and extra "Jesus" piece per 4 kids). Place each puzzle in a zipper bag.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Strategically divide kids into groups with stronger peers who could naturally assist.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Discuss:** What did the angel tell Joseph about the baby?
2. **Say:** The angel told Joseph that Jesus was God's promised Savior.
3. **Discuss:** What must we do to be saved?
4. **Say:** God saves us by His grace when we trust in Jesus, accepting His free gift of forgiveness.
5. *Divide the kids into groups of four and give each group a puzzle bag.*
6. *Invite groups to put their puzzles together.*
7. **Say:** God created a perfect world. He loves you all so much!
8. *Collect the puzzles and remove the middle piece. Then return the puzzles.*
9. *Instruct groups to reconstruct their puzzle.*
10. **Discuss:** What was different this time?
11. **Say:** There is a piece missing. When sin entered the world, it broke our relationship with God. When we think, say or do something that disobeys God, we are like these puzzles. Something is missing.
12. **Say:** We can't fix our sin on our own. That's why God sent Jesus to be our Savior and to take the punishment for our sin.
13. **Read:** John 3:16.
14. *Give groups the new middle puzzle piece that says "Jesus" to put in their puzzle.*
15. **Pray:** Thank You, God, for the gift of salvation and for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Help us to trust in You. Amen.
16. **Say:** Jesus brings salvation. Let's take time to respond to Him.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages. Ask fun, relationship-building questions while kids wait to be picked up. As parents arrive, connect with them and point out the Take-Home page.



THE GIFT OF JESUS

SUPPLIES:

Bible, Take-Home page, coloring supplies, gift box, printable pages, soft worship music, music player

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable pages. Place the pages inside the gift box.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Gather kids in a seated circle.*
2. **Discuss:** What did the angel tell Joseph about the baby?
3. **Say:** The angel told Joseph that the baby was the Son of God. He would save everyone from their sins. Jesus was God's promised Savior.
4. **Read:** Ephesians 2:8.
5. **Discuss:** What gift does God give us?
6. **Say:** God sent His son to save us from our sins. All we have to do is believe in Him and we can have eternal life!
7. **Read:** John 3:16.
8. **Discuss:** What must we do to be saved?
9. **Say:** God saves us by His grace when we trust in Jesus, accepting His free gift of forgiveness.
10. *Show kids the gift box. Take out each page and explain what they mean.*
11. **Say:** Jesus is the greatest gift at Christmas! When we pray, we can thank Jesus for His grace, say sorry for the things we have done, ask Him what we or others need or trust in Him and His ways. Let's do that together!
12. *Play the music and pass the printable pages around the circle. Randomly stop the music. Encourage whoever is holding a page to pray that portion aloud.*
13. *Play the music and begin passing the papers again. Stop the music and repeat the process for as many times as you have time for.*
14. **Pray:** Thank You, God, for the gift of salvation and for sending Jesus to be our Savior. Help us to trust in You. Amen.
15. **Say:** Jesus brings salvation. Let's take time to respond to Him.



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Lead kids to use the "Me Question" box on their Take-Home pages. Ask fun, relationship-building questions while kids wait to be picked up. As parents arrive, connect with them and point out the Take-Home page.

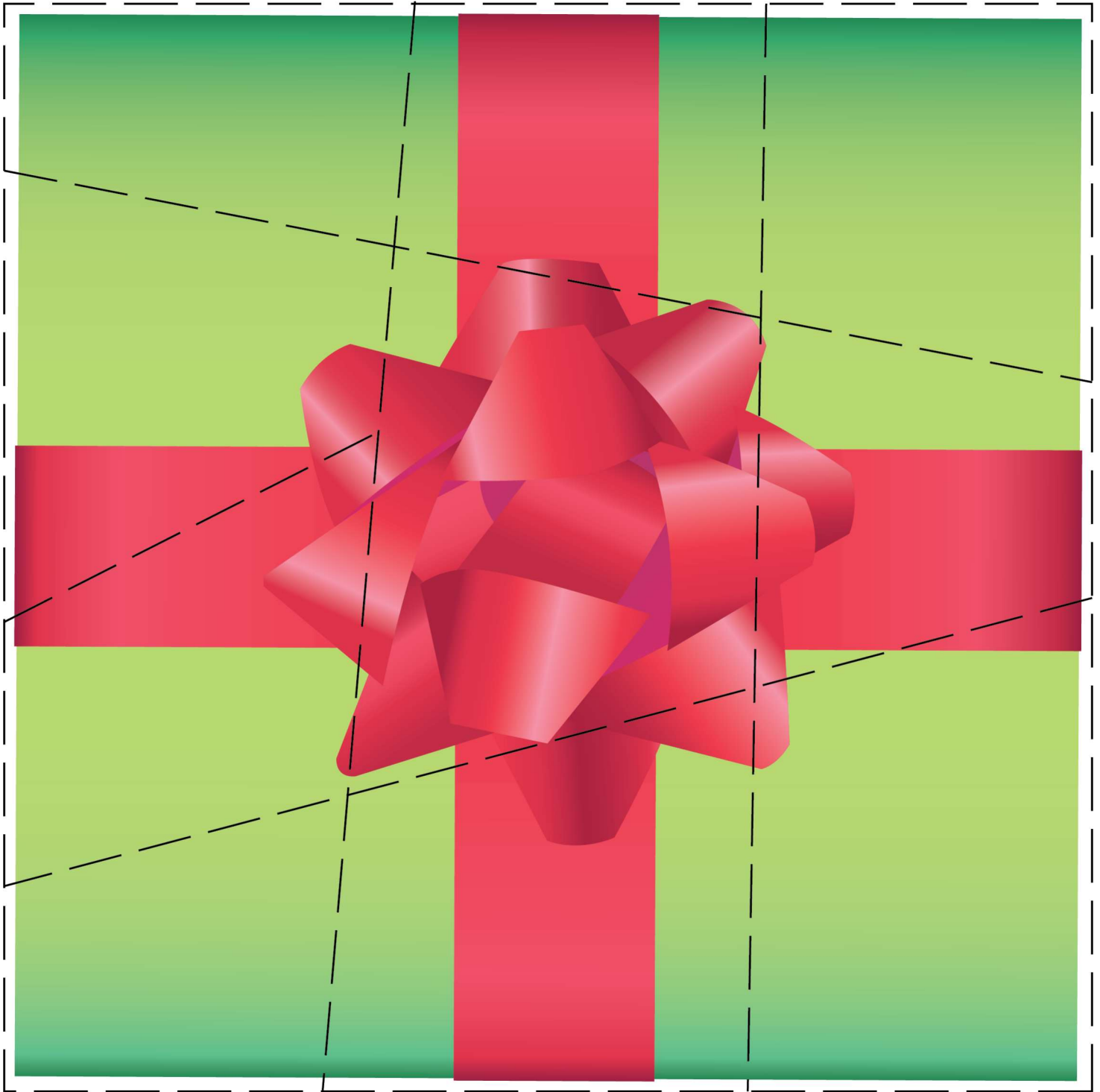


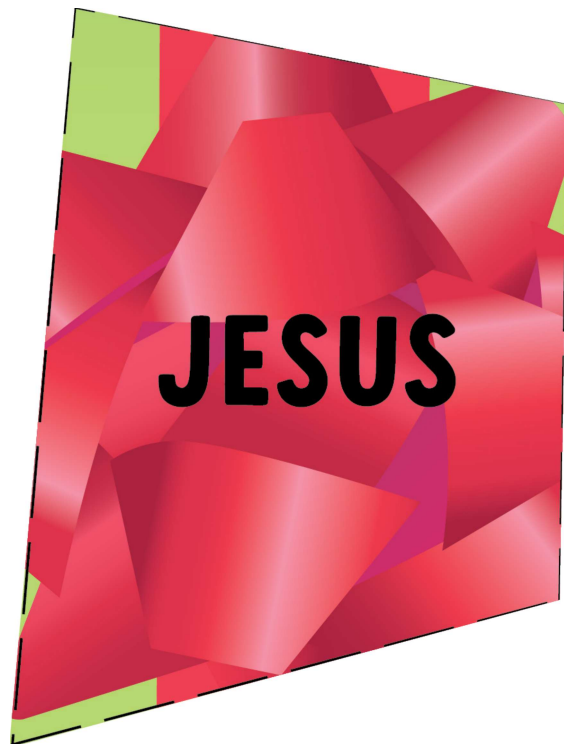
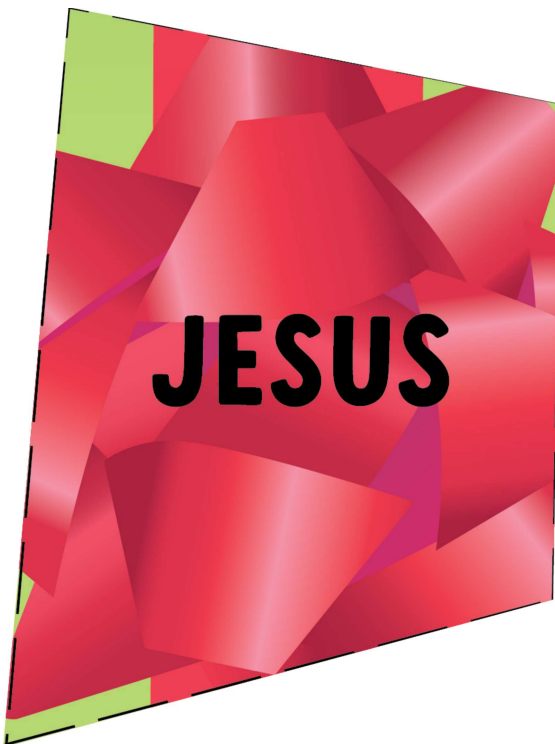
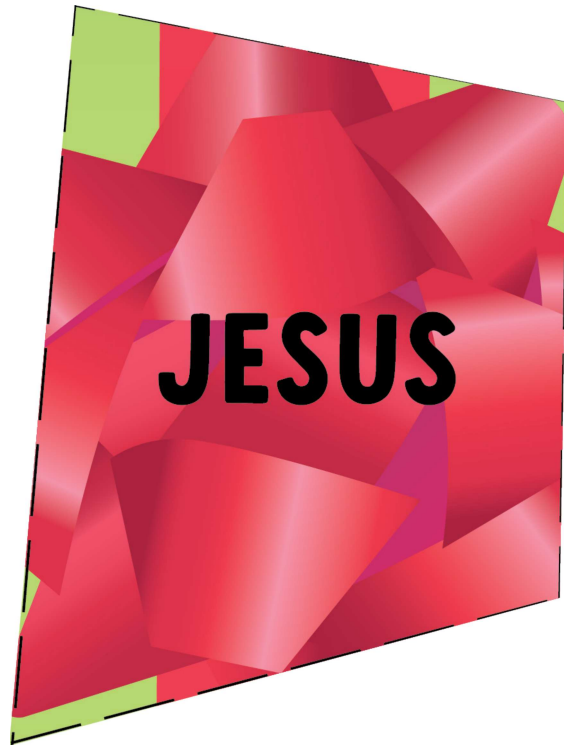
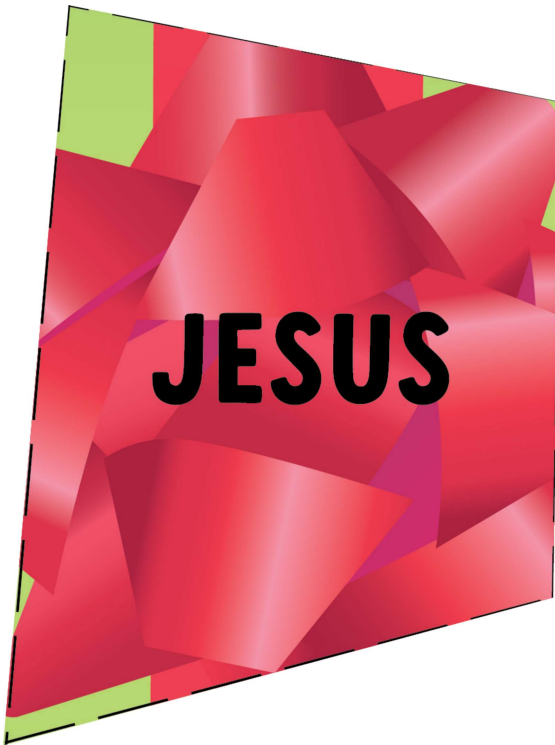
GOD'S PLAN

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
JOSEPH AND THE ANGEL

PAGE 1 OF 2

PREP: Print the printable pages and cut out (1 puzzle per 4 kids).







THE GIFT OF JESUS

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
JOSEPH AND THE ANGEL

PAGE 1 OF 4

PREP: Print the printable pages.



Thank Jesus for His grace.



Say sorry for the things we have done.



THE GIFT OF JESUS

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
JOSEPH AND THE ANGEL

PAGE 3 OF 4

PREP: Print the printable pages.



Ask Him what we or others need.



THE GIFT OF JESUS

YOUNGER ELEMENTARY SMALL GROUP
JOSEPH AND THE ANGEL

PAGE 4 OF 4

PREP: Print the printable pages.



Trust in Him and His ways.



TAKE-HOME

JOSEPH AND THE ANGEL

JOSEPH AND THE ANGEL (MATTHEW 1:18-25) Joseph was engaged to Mary when he learned she was pregnant and wasn't sure how to handle it. An angel told him in a dream that the baby was the Son of God. They were to name Him Jesus because He would save people from their sins—the promised Savior.

POINT TO JESUS: Jesus, the promised Messiah, died for our sin, rose again, and made a way for us to live forever. When we believe in Him, we are saved. One day He will return, and everyone will know that Jesus—the very name revealed to Joseph by the angel—is the true Savior of the world.

BRITE Idea
Jesus brings salvation



MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
(LUKE 2:11)

FAMILIES, ASK THESE THREE QUESTIONS!

?

WHAT IS THE BEST PART ABOUT CELEBRATING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY?

HE

HOW CAN JESUS SAVE PEOPLE?
Jesus came to take the punishment for our sin and make a way for us to be right with God. Because He saves us from sin, we can have eternal life.

WE

WHAT MUST WE DO TO BE SAVED?
God saves us by His grace when we trust in Jesus, accepting His free gift of forgiveness.

HOW IS GOD INVITING **ME** TO RESPOND?

CHOOSE ONE:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| ☐ I can talk to God about ... | ☐ I wonder ... |
| ☐ I can remember ... | ☐ I can ... |



DRAW OR WRITE YOUR RESPONSE

YOUR FAMILY'S WIN THIS WEEK ...

Look up the meaning of everyone's first and middle names online. Parents, explain to your kids why you chose their names.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD

What happens when someone dies can be a tough topic for kids. We can help kids view this topic through the lens of Scripture. Learn more about this and how to have a conversation at home here.

[Britecurriculum.com/tough-topics](https://www.britecurriculum.com/tough-topics)

**WANT MORE
AT-HOME
DISCIPLESHIP
DISCUSSION?
SCAN ME!**



GOING DEEPER

Read God's Word this week!

Read each passage with a grown-up and answer the three questions together.



DAY 1

Read: Matthew 1:18-21

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?



DAY 2

Read: Matthew 1:22-24

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?



DAY 3

Read: Philippians 2:12-13

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?



DAY 4

Read: Titus 2:11-14

HE: What do these verses tell us about God?

WE: What do these verses tell us about people?

ME: How is God inviting me to respond?

?



TAKE-HOME ACTIVITIES

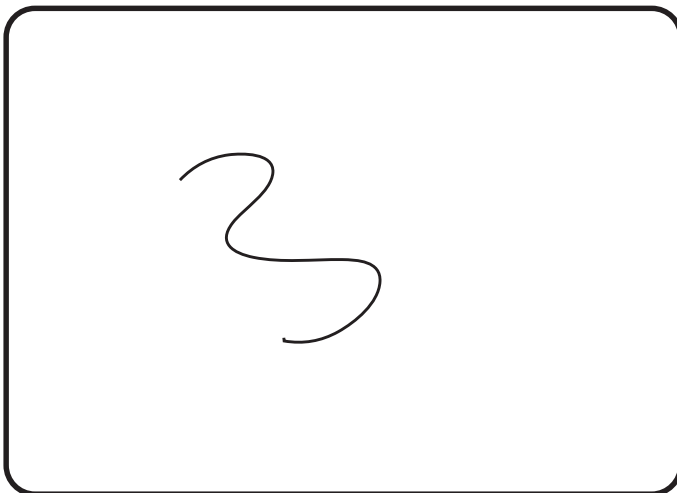
JOSEPH AND THE ANGEL



COLOR THE ILLUSTRATION

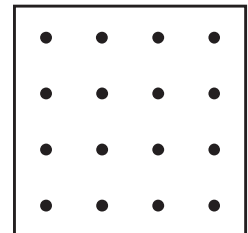
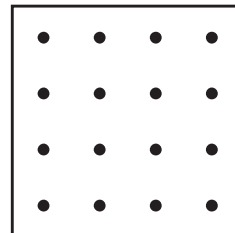
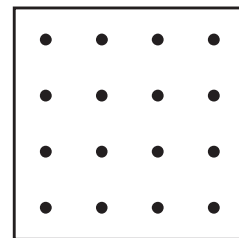
FINISH THIS DRAWING

Finish this picture! Turn this shape into something creative.



DOTS & BOXES

- Find a partner.
- Take turns connecting two dots, either side-to-side or up-and-down.
- When someone makes a box, write their initial.
- The player with the most boxes at the end wins!



MATTHEW 1:18-25

JOSEPH AND THE ANGEL

