



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:
britecurriculum.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

Large Group ROADMAP

1**WELCOME****(8 MINUTES)****SUPPLIES:** Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides**2****FIND IT IN
THE BIBLE****(2 MINUTES)****SUPPLIES:** Bibles, teaching slides**3****BIBLE
TEACHING****(10 MINUTES)****JOSEPH AND THE ANGEL
(MATTHEW 1:18–25)****SUPPLIES:** Bible, teaching slides, printable pages,
3 boxes, wrapping paper, tape, permanent marker**4****REVIEW****(8 MINUTES)****SUPPLIES:** Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching
slides, wrapping paper tube, table**5****LARGE GROUP
WRAP-UP****(5 MINUTES)****SUPPLIES:** Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching
slides

Welcome



Say: Welcome everyone! I'm so glad you're here.

Divide kids into groups of four or five and have them huddle together.

Say: Let's work together as a group. I will call out an item, and your group will choose one person to bring it to me. The first group to bring the correct item wins the round.

Call for the following items one at a time, allowing groups to reset between rounds:

- One shoe
- Something green
- Pocket lint
- A Bible
- Something bigger than your head

Say: You brought some random items really fast! Joseph learns in our Bible story today that God was using Mary to bring His greatest gift to the world—Jesus!

SUPPLIES:

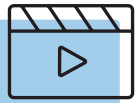
Video player, Intro Video, teaching slides

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP:

Stand an equal distance from each group to keep the game fair.



INTRO VIDEO

Play Intro Video then transition into discussion.

Say: Not even a flat tire could slow down the Christmas Light Bus! It's a good thing Wes' uncle was just around the corner to come to their rescue.

Discuss: Has someone ever helped you by doing something you couldn't do yourself?

Say: Jesus stepped into the world as a baby to give us the exact help we need! Today's Brite Idea is: Jesus brings salvation.

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea

Show teaching slide: He/We/Me Questions

TODAY WE WILL ANSWER THESE TWO QUESTIONS:



How can Jesus save people?



What must we do to be saved?

AT THE END OF OUR TIME TODAY, THE QUESTION YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ANSWER IS:



How is God inviting me to respond?

FIND IT
IN THE



Bible

WHAT IS GOD'S BIGGER STORY?

Show teaching slide: God's Big Story

Say: The Bible is real and true. God gave us the Bible so we could know Him. The Bible is filled with many books and stories, but they are all a part of one BIG story — God's story.

Creation: God is the one true God and He has always existed. He is the Creator of all things, including you and me. He is good, He loves us, and we are made in His image.

Fall: Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God. Sin broke the world, and people were separated from God. People could not fix their sin problem on their own.

Redemption: God sent His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross, to take the punishment for our sins, and to rise from the dead to conquer death. When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, our relationship with God is made right again through His grace, and He gives us new life.

Restoration: When we walk with Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit and learn God's Word, He renews us. One day, Jesus will return to renew all things.

WHERE IS TODAY'S BIBLE STORY?

Show teaching image: Family Line

Say: Last week we learned about the genealogy of Jesus and how Jesus brings hope.

Show teaching slide: Books of the Bible

Say: This week's story comes from the book of Matthew. Matthew is the first book of the Bible and found in the New Testament.

Show teaching slide: Find It in the Bible Timeline

Say: This story falls in the "Arrival of Jesus" period of the Bible. Today's true story tells us what happened during the events leading up to Jesus' birth!

Show teaching slide: Biblical Theme

Say: This month we are focusing on the truth that Jesus is our Savior.

Say: This week we are looking at a miraculous moment between Joseph and an angel. We will learn how God used that moment in His great plan to bring salvation to the world!

LET'S FIND IT IN OUR BIBLES!

Open your Bible and show the kids the title page for the book of Matthew. Help kids turn in their Bibles to today's Bible passage (Matthew 1:18–25).

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.

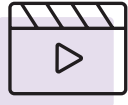
Say: Joseph woke up from his dream and went to Mary. He took her as his wife and did everything the Lord had told him to do.

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.



BIBLE REVIEW VIDEO

Play Bible Review Video. Play the game below using teaching slides: Review Game

SUPPLIES:

Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides, wrapping paper tube, table

PREP:

Place the wrapping paper tube in the middle of the table at the front of your space.

INSTRUCTIONS: Bring two kids to the front of your space. The first to grab the wrapping paper tube and answer correctly keeps playing. Bring up another kid to compete on the next question.

1. Who appeared to Joseph in a dream?

(An angel of the Lord)

2. What did the angel tell Joseph he shouldn't be afraid to do because the baby was from God?

(Marry Mary)

3. The name "Jesus" means the Lord what?

(Saves)

4. What did Joseph do when he woke from the dream?

(He went to Mary and made her his wife)

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.

5. How can Jesus save people?

(He takes the punishment for our sin and makes a way for us to be right with God)

Because He saves us from sin, we can have eternal life.

6. What must we do to be saved?

(Trust in Jesus)

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



Wrap – Up

Show teaching slide: Brite Idea



SUPPLIES:

Video player, Memory Verse Video, teaching slides

PREP:

None

Show teaching slide: He Question and Answer

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.

Show teaching slide: We Question and Answer

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.



MONTHLY Memory Verse

Choose an older kid to look up the verse and read it aloud to the group. Have the whole group repeat it together.

Show teaching slide: Memory Verse

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

(LUKE 2:11)



VERSE VIDEO

Play Memory Verse Video
after the verse is read.



PRAY: You are the reason we can be saved from sin, Jesus. Your gift of forgiveness is the best gift! Help us to celebrate You and respond to Your great gift by saying yes to Your plan, just like Joseph. Amen.