



JOSEPH AND THE ANGEL

BIBLE PASSAGE *MATTHEW 1:18-25*

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 “the Lord saves.” This baby was God’s promised Savior.

Today’s Brite Idea is: Jesus brings salvation.



MONTHLY *Memory Verse*

*Unto you is born
this day a Savior.*

(LUKE 2:11)



BIG QUESTION

Why was Jesus born? To save us!



Jesus is the
Savior.



We can believe
in Jesus.



I can believe in
Jesus.

LEADER TRAINING: SHOW UP

Partnering with parents goes beyond Sunday morning. When you intentionally make time to show up at events that matter to kids like tee-ball games, ballet recitals or school programs, it communicates that their experiences and their lives are valued. Attending these moments strengthens relationships, builds trust with families and shows kids that what matters to them matters to you and ultimately matters to Jesus!

- **Be present, not performative.** A quick cheer, wave or word of encouragement goes a long way in showing real care.
- **Notice effort over outcome.** Celebrate kids for trying their best, learning a new skill or practicing faithfully, reflecting God's delight in their perseverance.
- **Encourage parents through your presence.** Being there demonstrates support for their parenting and opens doors for natural conversations about faith.
- **Connect moments to God's story.** Use opportunities to affirm God's joy in their gifts, talents and growing hearts, showing that His love follows them everywhere.

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. Some preschoolers may be unsure of what really happens when people die. In today's lesson, kids will learn about the opportunity to live forever in heaven with God, but we need a Savior to forgive us of our sins. Jesus is that Savior! Help a preschooler understand the Gospel and how Jesus came to save them from their sins. Jesus provides the true answers for what happens when we die and He makes the way to eternal life.

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Salvation: rescue from sin and separation from God

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

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources.

1

BELONG

Small Group (15 MINUTES)

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

GOOD NEWS ECHO

SUPPLIES: None

OR

SING-ALONG: "JESUS SAVES"

SUPPLIES: None

2

BIBLE TEACHING

Large Group (20 MINUTES)

JOSEPH AND THE ANGEL

(MATTHEW 1:18-25)

SUPPLIES: Bible, teaching slides, teaching pictures (printed/shown from teaching slides), video player, music player, printable page, craft sticks (2 per kid), glue dots (2 per kid)

3

BELIEVE

Small Group (10 MINUTES)

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

MEMORY VERSE FREEZE DANCE

SUPPLIES: Music player, Memory Verse Song

OR

REVEAL THE MESSAGE

SUPPLIES: Butcher paper, scissors (prep), marker, 16 sticky notes

4

BECOME

Small Group (15 MINUTES)

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

I CAN BELIEVE

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable page, paper (1 per kid), washable ink pad (1 per 4 kids), baby wipes, glue sticks, scissors (prep)

OR

THE GOOD NEWS

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies



GOOD NEWS ECHO

SUPPLIES:

None

PREP:

None

LEADER TIP: Keep your voice calm and playful. If the phrase gets mixed up, celebrate the effort and try again! The goal is connection, not perfection.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For kids with hearing and vision needs, place them close to you to participate in an alternate way (e.g., directing turns for kids).

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can you each tell us your name? *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** In today's Bible story, an angel shares important news from God. In this game, we'll practice sharing an important message together.
2. *Gather kids to sit in a circle.*
3. *Whisper to a kid, "Jesus saves!" Lead that kid to whisper it to the next kid and continue to share the good news all around the circle.*
4. *When the message reaches the last kid, invite them to say the message out loud.*
5. **Say:** What a special message! Jesus saves! Let's try it again!
6. *Repeat the game with different messages such as "Jesus loves you," "Jesus is great," "Jesus is the Savior."*



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

God's good news is meant to be shared with others. Today, we will learn more about how Jesus came to save us!



SING-ALONG: "JESUS SAVES"

SUPPLIES:

None

PREP:

Practice the song ahead of time to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me."

LEADER TIP: Check out [britecurriculum.com/resources](https://www.britecurriculum.com/resources) for a provided track for this activity.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome, everyone! My name is _____. Can you each tell us your name? *Welcome each kid by name and welcome any new kids to the group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Let's sing a song together about how Jesus came to save us. Our Big Question asks, "Why was Jesus born? To save us!"
2. *Gather kids to sit in a circle.*
3. **Sing to the tune of: "Jesus Loves Me."**
 Jesus came to save us all,
 From our sin, both big and small.
 God sent Jesus, that is true,
 Jesus came for me and you.
4. **Say:** What a beautiful song about Jesus! Let's sing it again. Sing along with me!
5. *Repeat the song, singing slowly so kids can sing along with you.*
6. **Ask:** What words did you hear about why Jesus came?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Jesus came to save, and that's something we can celebrate together. Let's learn more about how Jesus is the Savior together!

INTRO:

Play the Countdown Video and guide kids to sit together for large group teaching time.

WELCOME:

Say: Hi everyone! It is so, so, so good to see you today. We will hear about a really amazing dream in the Bible. I hope you're ready!

RECAP FROM *Last Week*

Say: Last week we learned about Jesus' family and about how He brings hope.

Show teaching image: Family Line.

Say: Today, we will learn a true story from the Bible about the time an angel visited Jesus' dad Joseph in a dream.

SUPPLIES:

Bible, teaching slides, teaching pictures (printed/shown from teaching slides), video player, music player, printable page, craft sticks (2 per kid), glue dots (2 per kid)

PREP:

Print the printable page and cut out (1 per kid, plus 1). Secure the Mary and Joseph faces to the craft sticks with glue dots (1 set of each per kid, plus 1).

LEADER TIP:

Collect all craft sticks after the story to prevent disruptions.



BIG QUESTION

Say: Let's take a look at this month's Big Question. Can you help me do a drumroll? Ready? 1, 2, 3 ... drumroll!

Show the Big Question Teaching Image.



PLAY FIND IT IN THE *Bible Song*

Say: Why was Jesus born? We will find out more in today's Bible story!

Play the "Find It in the Bible" song.

Hold up a Bible.

Say: Who can tell me the name of this book? *Allow kids to respond.*

Say: Yes! This book is called the Bible. The Bible is the most important book of all. The Bible is full of true stories about how God takes care of His people and loves them. Today we will hear a story from the New Testament in the book of Matthew. The New Testament is filled with lots of stories about Jesus and how He came to Earth to save us!

JOSEPH AND THE ANGEL

(MATTHEW 1:18–25)

Say: Today's Bible story is true and from the book of Matthew, chapter 1. Let's open up the Bible together! Have a kid help you open up the Bible to Matthew chapter 1 and show everyone.

Pass out Mary and Joseph craft sticks to everyone. Keep one of each for yourself.

Say: We have some fun puppets to use for today's Bible story. This is Mary. Can everyone wiggle their Mary puppet? And this one is Joseph. Let me see you wiggle your Joseph puppet. Follow along with the puppets and help me tell this Bible story.

Say: Mary was going to have a baby! Hold up your stick with Mary's face and say, "Yay Mary!" Lead kids to hold up their stick.

Say: She was going to marry a man named Joseph, but he didn't think he could marry her. He had doubts that it was the right thing to do. He didn't understand yet what God was doing!

Hold up your stick with Joseph's face. Use a finger on your other hand to scratch Joseph's head and say, "Hmm." Let me see you scratch Joseph's head.

Say: Joseph was sleeping. Can you give me three funny snores and lay Joseph down like he's sleeping? An angel of the Lord came to him in a dream.

Show teaching image: Angel Appears to Joseph.

Say: The angel said, "Joseph, don't be afraid to make Mary your wife (*wiggle Mary's face*). This baby is from God! She will have a Son. You will name him Jesus, because He will save the people from their sins."

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Salvation: rescue from sin and separation from God

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

 (CONTINUED)



Say: Sin is anything we think, say or do that disobeys God. You (*point to the kids*), me (*point to yourself*), everyone (*spread your arms wide with hands up*) has sinned, so the angel's words are really good news! Jesus came so we can be forgiven for the wrong things we all do.

Say, "Hooray!"

Say: When Joseph (*wiggle Joseph's face*) woke up from this amazing dream he went to Mary (*wiggle Mary's face*).

Show teaching image: Joseph Goes to Mary.

Say: They got married and Joseph (*wiggle Joseph's face*) did everything the angel of the Lord said to do.

Show teaching slide: Point to Jesus.



POINT TO JESUS

Say: Mary (*wiggle Mary's face*) had the baby and He was named Jesus! That baby grew up and died on the cross for our sin. Jesus saves everyone who believes in Him from being punished for our sins!

Say: Let's close in prayer as we wrap up our Bible story time together. Reach your hands up really high.

Reach hands up high.

Say: Now clap them together like this.

Clap hands together.

Say: Let's pray.

Pray: Jesus, You save everyone who believes in You from our sins. That is really, really good news. Thank You! Amen.



BIG QUESTION

Say: Now it's time to answer our Big Question. Can you all help me do a drumroll?
1, 2, 3... drumroll!

Show the Big Question and Answer Teaching Image.

Say: Why was Jesus born? To save us!

Say: That's right! The Bible teaches that our hope comes from Jesus. He is the One who loves us and forgives all our sin.



VERSE VIDEO

*Play Memory Verse
Motion Video after
the verse is read.*

MEMORY VERSE MOTIONS:

Help kids recite and retain the memory verse by teaching it with motions. Before you teach the verse, be sure to explain what it means.

- Unto you (point out)
- is born (rock a baby)
- this day a (point downwards)
- Savior. (jump up)
- Luke 2:11 (open hands like a book)



MONTHLY Memory Verse

*Unto you is born this
day a Savior.*

(LUKE 2:11)



REVIEW:

Say: It's been so great being with you today, friends! Before we end our teaching time, let's review what we have learned. Let's all point up really high and say, "Jesus is the Savior."

Have the kids point up and say, "Jesus is the Savior."

Say: Now let's reach our hands out to the side and say, "We can believe in Jesus."

Have the kids reach out and say, "We can believe in Jesus."

Say: Now let's point to ourselves and say, "I can believe in Jesus."

Have the kids point to themselves and say, "I can believe in Jesus."



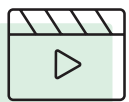
Jesus is the Savior.



We can believe in Jesus.



I can believe in Jesus.



**Consider showing the Bible Review Video as kids eat snack, are waiting for pick-up, or another time that fits your church's schedule.*



MEMORY VERSE FREEZE DANCE

SUPPLIES:

Music player, Memory Verse Song

PREP:

None

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For kids who are hard of hearing, give a visual cue for starting and stopping (e.g., open hand when starting and closed hand when stopping).

ACTIVITY INTRO:

The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned that Jesus is the Savior. God promised to send.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Our memory verse says, *Unto you is born this day a Savior* (Luke 2:11).
2. **Say:** We will dance to the Memory Verse Song. When the music stops, freeze! When you're frozen, we'll say the memory verse together.
3. *Play the Memory Verse Song, pausing it every 10–20 seconds for kids to freeze and say the verse aloud.*
4. **Ask:** Who is the Savior our verse is talking about?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

You did an amazing job moving, listening and saying God's Word together. This Bible verse reminds us that God kept His promise by sending Jesus to save us. That's a truth we can remember and believe in.



REVEAL THE MESSAGE

SUPPLIES:

Butcher paper, scissors (prep), marker, 16 sticky notes

PREP:

Cut a large piece of the butcher paper. Use a sticky note and outline it to create boxes for the letters "Jesus is the Savior." Now, on individual sticky notes, write one letter per note, reading "Jesus is the Savior," and hide the notes around your space.

LEADER TIP: If you have a large group, hide blank sticky notes as an added challenge for kids to find the sticky notes with the letters on them.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For active or anxious kids, provide them with a letter or specific size and color of sticky note, giving them a specific task to complete so they are not wandering aimlessly.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned that Jesus is the Savior. God promised to send and that He brings hope to everyone.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Lay out the prepared butcher paper.*
2. **Say:** I need your help to reveal a special message about Jesus! Do you see all the blank boxes on the paper? We have to find all of the missing letters to go into the boxes to find out what it says.
3. **Say:** There are sticky notes hidden all around our space. Let's work together to find them! Once you do, stick it onto the butcher paper. Then we will work together to reveal the hidden message.
4. *Lead kids to search for the sticky notes and put them on the butcher paper.*
5. *Once they are all found, help kids put each sticky note into the correct box to spell out "Jesus is the Savior."*
6. **Say:** Our message says, "Jesus is the Savior!" That is such a special message.
7. **Ask:** What is a Savior?



ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

A Savior is someone who saves us. Jesus came to save us from our sins. We can share this special message with everyone we know. Jesus is the Savior and loves us.



I CAN BELIEVE

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable page, paper (1 per kid), washable ink pad (1 per 4 kids), baby wipes, glue sticks, scissors (prep)

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid). Print the printable page and cut out (1 baby Jesus per kid).

LEADER TIP: Make sure your ink pad is large enough for a kid to press their hand onto it.

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: For kids who prefer not to get their hands messy, provide alternate materials (e.g., dry-erase board/markers, paper/coloring supplies).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** Let's make a special craft to remember that we can believe in Jesus!
2. **Say:** Jesus is the Savior. We can choose to believe in Jesus. Believing in Jesus means knowing who Jesus is, believing that He is God's Son and trusting in Him!
3. *Pass out paper and ink pads. Help kids press their hands onto the ink pad and then onto the paper. Their handprint will act as the manger.*
4. *Use the baby wipes to clean kids' hands.*
5. *Then pass out coloring supplies and the baby Jesus printable.*
6. **Say:** Now you can color your paper and make it special.
7. *Once kids are done coloring, help them glue baby Jesus onto their handprint.*
8. *Write each kid's name on their paper and set it aside for parent pickup.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Who did Joseph learn was going to have a baby?
- Why was Jesus so special?
- What does it mean that Jesus is called the Savior?
- Who can you tell about Jesus?

PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear Jesus, thank You for coming to be our Savior. Thank You for loving us and being with us. Help us to believe in You and share the good news. Amen.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.



THE GOOD NEWS

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies

PREP:

Print the Take-Home page (1 per kid).

ADAPTATION FOR DIFFERENT LEARNERS: Help modify movements for kids with mobility needs (e.g., raising arms up and down instead of jumping, demonstrating movement or allowing them to assist in demonstration with your support).

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Divide kids into pairs. If you have an odd number, make groups of three kids.*
2. **Say:** In our Bible story, Joseph heard a special message from an angel about Jesus. We will practice sharing the good news of Jesus!
3. **Say:** Can everyone give your partner a high five? Repeat after me and do the hand motions as we share the Gospel with one another.
4. **Good News:**
 - God made the world and all of creation. *(Make a circle above your head)*
 - People sinned. *(Make an X with your arms)*
 - God promised to send Jesus. *(Point up to the sky)*
 - Jesus came to Earth. *(Pretend to rock a baby)*
 - Jesus died on the cross and rose again. *(Reach both arms out to the side)*
 - I can believe in Jesus! *(Jump with joy)*
5. **Say:** Great job, everyone! Can you give your partner another high-five?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Who did Joseph learn was going to have a baby?
- Why was Jesus so special?
- What does it mean that Jesus is called the Savior?
- Who can you tell about Jesus?

PRAY TOGETHER:

Dear Jesus, thank You for coming to be our Savior. Thank You for loving us. Help us to hope in You. Amen.

ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:

Give each kid a Take-Home page. With remaining time, kids can play in centers or color the Take-Home page.

CENTERS:

Set up 3-4 centers around the room for kids to explore and learn as they play. While kids explore the centers, leaders can work with individuals or small groups to make the craft. Set up each center in a separate part of the room, making sure all kids are visible at all times. Show the whole group what is in each center and give simple instructions of what kids should do in each center.

- **Molding Center:** Provide modeling dough for kids to mold and create Joseph, Mary and baby Jesus.
- **Celebration Center:** Provide large bells and other musical instruments to make sounds. Share how kids can celebrate the good news that Jesus was born.
- **Good News Center:** Provide coloring supplies and envelopes for kids to make messages with. Share how they can tell others the good news of Jesus!

BONUS SCRIPT:

Preschoolers learn best through repetition. Use the script below to review the story at any opportunity. You could review the story while kids play in centers, while they work on their craft, during snack time, or while waiting for parents.

Say: Joseph was going to marry Mary, but one day he found out she was going to have a baby. He didn't understand how it could happen, so he wasn't sure what to do. Then, God sent an angel to Joseph in a dream! The angel told him not to be afraid because Mary's baby was God's Son. The angel said they should name Him Jesus, which means "God saves." He would save people from their sins. This baby was God's promised Savior, and He came to live in a real family to show God's love to the world.



BIG QUESTION

Why was Jesus born?
To save us!