



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.

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BELONG

Small Group (10 MINUTES)

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

TELL THE GOOD NEWS

SUPPLIES: Ball

2

BIBLE TEACHING

Large Group (15 MINUTES)

JOSEPH AND THE ANGEL (MATTHEW 1:18-25)

SUPPLIES: Bible, Bible story cards

3

BELIEVE

Small Group (10 MINUTES)

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

FIND THE LETTERS

SUPPLIES: Bin, shredded paper, foam letters

4

BECOME

Small Group (10 MINUTES)

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

I CAN FOLLOW JESUS

SUPPLIES: Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable page, washable ink pads (1 per 4 kids), baby wipes



TELL THE GOOD NEWS

SUPPLIES:

Ball

PREP:

None

ACTIVITY INTRO:

Welcome everyone! My name is _____. *Greet each kid by name as you welcome them to your group.*

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Gather kids to sit in a circle.*
2. **Say:** Today we will learn about the good news of Jesus, who was the promised Savior. Can you say, "Savior?" *Repeat with the kids.*
3. **Say:** We will roll this ball back and forth in our circle as we say all together, "Jesus is our Savior!"
4. *Roll the ball to the first kid.*
5. *Lead them to roll it back and forth to one another as you lead them in telling the good news.*
6. *Repeat and encourage kids to cheer and clap as they say, "Jesus is our Savior."*
7. **Ask:** Who can you tell about Jesus?

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

Jesus is God's Son. Jesus is our Savior. Today we will learn more about this and how we can believe in Jesus!

JOSEPH AND THE ANGEL (MATTHEW 1:18–25)

Use the Bible story cards to teach the Bible story or read the script to the kids.



Say: Today's true story from the Bible comes from the book of Matthew. Let's open up the Bible to Matthew chapter 1. *Have a kid help you open the Bible and then hold it up for everyone else to see.*

Say: Mary was going to have a baby! She was going to marry a man named Joseph, but he wasn't so sure it was the right thing to do. He didn't yet know what God was doing. Can you shrug your shoulders and say, "He didn't know!"

Say: Joseph was sleeping. Can you give me three big snores? An angel of the Lord came to Joseph in a dream. The angel said, "Don't be afraid to marry Mary! The baby is from God. She will have a Son. You will name Him Jesus!"

Say: This was really good news! Joseph learned that God sent Jesus to the world. Jesus came to love people and forgive people of the things we do wrong. Because of Jesus we can be close to God! Everyone shout, "Good news!"

Say: When Joseph woke up from this amazing dream he went to Mary. They got married and Joseph did everything the angel of the Lord said to do. Let's give each other high fives and say, "Yay Joseph!"



POINT TO JESUS

Say: Mary had the baby and He was named Jesus! That baby grew up and died on the cross for us. Jesus saves everyone who believes in Him.

PRESCHOOL GLOSSARY:

Salvation: rescue from sin and separation from God

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

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WRAP-UP:

? 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!



Jesus is the
Savior.



We can believe
in Jesus.



I can believe in
Jesus.



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)



FIND THE LETTERS

SUPPLIES:

Bin, shredded paper, foam letters

PREP:

Put the foam letters at the bottom of the bin. Then fill the bin with the shredded paper.

LEADER TIP: If you have a large group of kids, divide kids into smaller groups of four to six kids per group and make a bin per group. Make sure you have the letters that spell out Jesus along with other letters in the bin.

ACTIVITY INTRO:

The Bible teaches us true stories about God. Today we learned Jesus is the Savior. Jesus is God's Son, sent by God to save everyone from their sins.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. *Set out the prepared letter bin and gather kids around it.*
2. **Say:** There are all kinds of letters in this bin. Let's work together to find the letters that spell out, Jesus!
3. *Lead kids to take turns searching for the letters. Help kids find the letters J, E, S, U, S.*
4. *Once all the letters are found, help them spell out Jesus.*
5. **Ask:** Who is Jesus?

**ACTIVITY WRAP-UP:**

Jesus is the Savior. Our memory verse says, *Unto you is born this day a Savior. (Luke 2:11)* This means that Jesus was sent by God to save everyone from their sins. Jesus makes a way for us to be forgiven and live with God forever.



I CAN FOLLOW JESUS

SUPPLIES:

Take-Home page, coloring supplies, printable page, washable ink pads (1 per 4 kids), baby wipes

PREP:

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

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. **Say:** We learned that Jesus is the Savior. You and I can each choose to follow and believe in Jesus. Let's make a craft and decorate it with our fingerprints to remember that we can each believe in Him!
2. *Pass out a printable page and coloring supplies to each kid.*
3. *Lay out the washable ink pads and show kids how to press their finger into it and then press their finger onto the printable page to make a fingerprint.*
4. *Lead kids to color in and decorate their picture with their fingerprints.*
5. **Say:** Jesus is God's Son. God sent Jesus to save us from our sins. Jesus can be your Savior.
6. **Say:** Believing in Jesus is one of the greatest things you can do. I'm so thankful God sent Jesus to make a way for us to believe and live with Him forever.
7. *Once kids are done, use the baby wipes to wipe their fingers clean.*
8. *Write each kid's name on their paper/craft and set aside for parent pickup.*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why did the angel say not to be afraid?
- What name did the angel tell Joseph to give the baby?
- Who is Jesus?
- Did Jesus come to save us?

**PRAY TOGETHER:**

Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus. Help us to follow You and tell others about Jesus. 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.

- **Coloring Center:** Provide paper, coloring supplies and happy-face stickers. Encourage kids to draw a picture of someone they want to tell about Jesus.
- **Rock the Baby Center:** Provide baby dolls, bottles and little blankets. Lead kids to rock and take care of the babies. Share that Jesus was born as a baby, sent by God to save everyone.
- **Musical Center:** Provide musical instruments and scarves for kids to use to praise God and celebrate Jesus, the promised Savior.

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 set to be married. But he learned that Mary was going to have a baby. He did not know what to do. An angel came to him in a dream and said the baby was the Son of God. They were to name the baby Jesus because He would save everyone from their sins. Jesus means "God of Salvation." This baby was God's promised Savior! Jesus was born to save us.



BIG QUESTION

Why was Jesus born?
To save us!