

Book of EPHESIANS

DATE: December 22, 2019

<p>Preparation: <i>(What I need to do and items to gather before I begin to teach.)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bibles to use in class • “We 3 Kings” music to play in class • White board or poster paper
<p>Lesson Title:</p>	<p>The Birth of Jesus: Christmas!</p>
<p>Scripture Reference(s):</p>	<p>Luke 2:14 <i>Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.</i></p>
<p>Emphasis or Theme:</p>	<p>The Birth of Jesus</p>
<p>Introducing the Story: <i>(What you might say or do before the story to help create an interest or curiosity.)</i></p>	<p>SAY: Let’s begin by making a list of all the people we know who are brave, strong, and are known for saving people when they need help or are in danger. <i>(List students’ responses on board – firefighters, police, doctor, lifeguard, etc.)</i></p> <p>Next, play a game of “SNOWMAN:” <i>(Played like “hangman” but instead, draw parts of a snowman for any wrong guesses.)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>S</u> <u>A</u> <u>V</u> <u>I</u> <u>O</u> <u>R</u></p> <p>ASK: What do you think of when you hear the word “savior?”</p> <p>SAY: We might consider these people on our list to be saviors <u>(with a lowercase s)</u> because they help people in need and often save people from harm or even death!</p> <p>SAY: But we have a Savior <u>(with an uppercase S)</u> who saves us not from physical harm but saves us spiritually. That Savior is, of course, Jesus!</p> <p>SAY: Jesus was born on Christmas Day. Today, our lesson is about Jesus’ birth.</p>
<p>LESSON: <i>Telling the Story Through the Bible. (Outline the story here. Then describe the method you will use to tell the story. Examples might include showing pictures, props, visuals, drawing as you tell, using puppets, costumed characters, dramatic storytelling or any number of other methods.)</i></p>	<p>Tell the Story: We learned during assembly that our story begins with the ruler of the land, Caesar Augustus, deciding that he wanted to count all the people who lived in his kingdom. Everyone had to travel back to his hometown to register. Our story continues!</p> <p>(You may either teach from lesson below, or have students take turns reading the story from Bible - Luke 2:6-20 and Matthew 2:1-11.)</p> <p>SAY: By the time Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, the city was so crowded with travelers that there was no place for them to stay. When they arrived, the time came for the baby Jesus to be born. The only place they could find was a stable. So Jesus was born in a stable surrounded by animals. There wasn’t a clean bed with nice sheets and pillows for him. It wasn’t a nice, clean hospital with smart doctors and nurses to take care of a baby. But Mary wrapped her baby in cloths and placed Him in a manger. <i>(A manger is a trough where animals eat their food.)</i></p> <p>SAY: At this exact time, in the hills and fields outside Bethlehem, shepherds looked after their sheep. Suddenly an angel appeared before them and the glory of God shone around them. The shepherds were very, very scared, but the angel said, ‘Don’t be afraid. I have good news for you and everyone. Today in Bethlehem a Savior has been born for you. You will find the baby lying in a manger.’. Then many more angels appeared, lighting up the sky. The shepherds heard them praising God singing, “Glory to God in the highest, and peace to everyone on earth.” When the angels had gone, the shepherds went to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph. The baby Jesus was lying in a manger as they had been told.</p> <p>SAY: Now, the shepherds were the first to visit the baby, but others also came to see baby Jesus several days later. When Jesus was born a bright star appeared in the sky. The star seemed to stop and shine directly down upon the place were Jesus was. And sometime after Jesus was born, more special visitors came to see Him.</p>

ASK: Who followed the star to find the Baby? (*Wise Men/Kings/Magi*)

SAY: We know them by a few different names.

1. 3 Wise Men
2. 3 Kings
3. 3 Magi - Magi are Men of Arabia and Persia who studied the stars. People thought they had the power to tell the meaning of dreams. They were wise men from the east.

These were wise men from faraway countries who saw the star and followed it to Bethlehem where it was said that a king would be born.

ASK: Do you know the Christmas carol, "We three Kings?"

SAY: Let's review the lyrics – they tell the story beautifully!

LYRICS: (*play music*)

We three kings of orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain
Moor and mountain
Following yonder star
O star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light
Born a King on Bethlehem's plain
Gold I bring to crown Him again
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign
O star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light
Frankincense to offer have I
Incense owns a Deity nigh
Prayer and praising
All men raising
Worship Him, God most high
O star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light

Without a doubt the Magi, or Kings, were wise, because they were searching for Jesus in order to worship Him and give Him gifts.

ASK: What were the gifts? (List on board)

1. Gold – a precious metal
2. Frankincense – dried sap from trees burned as incense and thought to have several medicinal properties
3. Myrrh ("mur") - A plant used for spice, medicine or cosmetic purposes.

The Wise Men presented gifts, bowed down, and worshipped the baby Jesus.

SAY: Everyone who heard about Jesus knew that His birth was good news. God had promised His people a Messiah, or one who would save them from their sins. Jesus was the long-awaited Messiah! He would live a perfect, sinless life in order to be a sacrifice for our sins when he died upon the cross. And now, whenever someone puts their trust in Jesus, they are forgiven for all their sins and can have a relationship with God! Jesus is our Savior!

SAY: Everything that is in the Bible is there for a reason. God wanted Matthew and Luke to write down the story of Jesus' birth for us so we could know how much God loves us.

<p>LEARNING ACTIVITIES: <i>(Games, crafts artwork, songs, memory verses, or other activities that bring fuller meaning to the scripture or make application to the lives of the students.)</i></p>	<p>ACTIVITY:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 3 Magi Matchboxes 2. Class Armenian Christmas Advent Calendar – requires access to photocopier 3. My Armenian Christmas Advent Calendar 4. Magi and Me Comic Strip - optional: show “The Christmas Story Comic” to students
<p>REVIEW: <i>(Solidify learning by repeating facts, themes, or even the story itself through games, crafts, activities, or visual aides.)</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why did Joseph and Mary go from their home in Nazareth and walk all the way to Bethlehem? (Because Caesar Augustus issued a law for everyone to go to their hometown for a census.) 2. Why was Jesus born in a stable? (<i>Because there was no room at any of the Inns.</i>) 3. Baby Jesus was placed in a manger when He was born. What is a manger? (<i>A feeding trough for animals.</i>) 4. What did the shepherds do after they saw Jesus for themselves? (<i>They spread the word about Jesus and glorified God.</i>) 5. Who followed a star to visit Baby Jesus? (<i>The 3 Wise Men/Kings/Magi</i>)
<p>CLOSING: <i>(Prayer, last song, . . .)</i></p>	<p>Sing: <i>We 3 Kings of Orient Are</i></p>