

**Book of EPHESIANS**

*DATE: December 22, 2019*

<p><b>Preparation:</b> <i>(What I need to do and items to gather before I begin to teach.)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bibles to use in class</li> <li>• Print the Nativity Storytelling Pieces <i>(to follow)</i></li> </ul>
<p><b>Lesson Title:</b></p>	<p>The Birth of Jesus: Christmas!</p>
<p><b>Scripture Reference(s):</b></p>	<p>Luke 2:1-20 Matthew 1:18-24 Matthew 2:1-14</p>
<p><b>Emphasis or Theme:</b></p>	<p><b>The Birth of Jesus</b></p>
<p><b>Introducing the Story:</b> <i>(What you might say or do before the story to help create an interest or curiosity.)</i></p>	<p><b>SAY:</b> 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><b>Next, play a game of "SNOWMAN:"</b> <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><b>ASK:</b> What do you think of when you hear the word "savior?"</p> <p><b>SAY:</b> 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><b>SAY:</b> 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><b>SAY:</b> Jesus was born on Christmas Day. Today, our lesson is about Jesus' birth.</p>
<p><b>LESSON:</b> Telling the Story Through the Bible: <i>(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><b>ACTIVE LEARNING:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Distribute the different storytelling pieces (to follow) to the students. Allow them to color their piece.</b></li> <li><b>2. DRAW a large "Stable" on your front board or poster paper.</b></li> <li><b>3. Explain that as you tell the story, they will bring their storytelling piece to the front board/poster paper to create a picture of the nativity.</b></li> </ol> <p><b>Tell the Story:</b> We learned during assembly that the 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.</p> <p><b>ASK:</b> How many of you are from here? Is anyone here from somewhere else? Imagine having to return to your hometown, but you had to walk there! That's what Mary and Joseph had to do. Joseph <i>(Student with "Joseph" will place/tape to your board under the Stable)</i> was from the town of Bethlehem, and he and Mary <i>(Student with "Mary" will place/tape to your board under the Stable by Joseph)</i> had to walk many miles (about 70 miles!) in order to be in Bethlehem for the census. And to make things even more difficult, Mary was going to have a baby very soon!</p> <p><b>SAY:</b> 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. Where were they to go? The only place they could find was a stable.</p> <p><b>ASK:</b> What is a stable? <i>(A place where animals slept and ate.)</i></p> <p><b>SAY:</b> 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</p>

and nurses to take care of a baby. But Mary wrapped her baby in cloths and placed Him in a manger. *(A manger is a trough where animals eat their food.)*

**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.

When Jesus was born, a bright star appeared in the sky. Some Wise Men in faraway countries saw the star and followed it to Bethlehem where it was said that a king would be born. The star seemed to stop and shine directly down upon the place where Jesus was. The Wise Men bowed down and worshipped the baby Jesus. They presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

**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.

**LEARNING ACTIVITIES:**

(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.)

**ACTIVITY:**

1. [Away in a Folding Manger craft](#)
2. [Baby Jesus Paper Bag Manger craft](#)
3. [Class Armenian Christmas Advent Calendar](#) – requires access to photocopier
4. [My Armenian Christmas Advent Calendar](#)
5. [3 Magi Matchbox Gifts](#)

**REVIEW:**

(Solidify learning by repeating facts, themes, or even the story itself through games, crafts, activities, or visual aides.)

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? (*Because there was no room at any of the Inns.*)
3. Baby Jesus was placed in a manger when He was born. What is a manger? (*A feeding trough for animals.*)
4. What did the shepherds do after they saw Jesus for themselves? (*They spread the word about Jesus and glorified God.*)
5. Who followed a star to visit Baby Jesus? (*The 3 Wise Men/Kings/Magi*)

**CLOSING:**

(Prayer, last song, . . .)

**Sing:** *Away in a Manger*

# Nativity Storytelling Pieces

