

Sunday Teacher's Lesson for children



Life of Christ

Joseph has a Dream

Matthew 1:18-24

Younger Verse

We tell you the good news: what God promised our fathers. Acts 13:32

Older Verse

We tell you the good news: what God promised our fathers. Acts 13:32

Advent

What candles did we light the last two weeks? (Promise and Bethlehem candles) God promised us that He would send Jesus. Today we are lighting the Shepherd's candle.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last week we discovered that Mary was going to have God's Son. An angel from God came and told her the good news.

Mary quickly told her fiancée, Joseph, the news. Joseph didn't know what to think. He decided to divorce her quietly so that she would not be embarrassed.

But after he had thought about it, something happened!

An angel appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus because he will save his people from their sins."

All of this happened just like God told His people many years ago. God kept His promise—He sent His son. Another name for Jesus was Immanuel because it means "God is with us."

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. Joseph obeyed God and so did Mary. They didn't worry about what people thought. Instead, they did what God said—and a beautiful miracle happened—it

Lesson Goals

**See that God had a special plan
Understand how much God loved us--He sent his Son
See how important it is to obey God even in hard times**

changed the world!

God did a miracle. He sent His Son to live with us! Jesus understands all the things we deal with. See how much He loves us! Lots of people may do nice things for us—but Jesus died for us—nobody else would do that! We have a choice to believe in Jesus and trust Him with our lives. It's your decision. God gave us the best gift of all at Christmas—Jesus. What gift will you give Him?

Learning Activities

There are lots of craft ideas and fun activities for the children. Choose one or two that will interest the kids. Make a checklist to be sure that you have all the supplies.

Memory Verse Activities

Talk about what it means to obey someone like a mom or dad. Now talk about how important it is to obey God and do what He says.

Prayer Time

Pray and ask God to help us remember the importance of giving-not just receiving this Christmas season.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Enjoy cookies or snacks with your kids. Let them help clean up; it really teaches them the importance of responsibility and leadership.

**Do you realize that next week
is the Sunday before
Christmas? Be sure to plan
something special for next
week.**

Planning for December 21st
Jesus is born!
Luke 2:1-20

Preschool Lesson
For
Joseph Has a Dream

Tell today's story from the viewpoint of a little candle.

Hi! I'm a little candle. I stay in Joseph's room to help him see at night. My little light shines bright so that he is not afraid of the dark.

One night, something amazing happened. When my light was shining, I saw Joseph tossing and turning in his bed. He was having a dream. He was not upset. In fact, he looked very calm.

Suddenly, he sat up in bed. An angel had talked to him in his sleep. The angel told him news about his fiancé, Mary. Mary had told Joseph that she was going to have a baby. It would be God's Son. Joseph did not know what to think.

The angel told him in his dream that what Mary said was true. She was going to have a baby and his name would be Jesus. Another name of Jesus would be "Immanuel." It means that God is with us.

Joseph obeyed God and took Mary to be his wife. He loved God and wanted to do anything that God asked.

God helped Joseph and Mary and knew that they would take good care of His Son, Jesus.

God loves us. That's why He sent His Son, Jesus, to be with us. Let's thank God for Jesus!

Sing "Come on Ring those Bells." Use motions to help them remember the song.

Hands-On Activities
For
Joseph Has a Dream

Joseph and Mary obeyed God. They did what He asked. Do you obey God? Do you do what He wants or what you want? This week, let's make a promise to obey God and do the things He wants us to do.

Have you ever had an unexpected visitor? Has someone knocked on your door and surprised you? Can you imagine what Joseph must have thought when the angel appeared in his dream? If appropriate, ask each person to go knock on a friend's door and invite them to church. The kids may look at you funny since Bible study may be almost over. Explain that we will have an unexpected visitor, sharing with them some good news. When everyone returns with more people, take time to share the story again and thank those who came with friends.

Create a "candle" out of several food items. Bring pineapple rings, bananas, and cherries. Place a pineapple ring on each plate for the candleholder. Now slice the banana in half both lengthwise and widthwise. Place a slice of banana as the candle. Now add a cherry for the flame.

Make spicy stars and celebrate Jesus' birth.

Make an angel to help remember the lesson.

Make something fun for Christmas. There are lots of ideas in the Christmas packet.

Bring your camera and take pictures of everyone. Then, develop them and let the kids make an ornament out of it for next week, just in time for Christmas. Be sure to write the year on the ornament so they can remember when the picture was taken.