

Jesus is . . .

Knowing Him this Christmas



Jesus is . . . Messiah

Scriptures:

2 Samuel 7

Matthew 1:1-17

Luke 1:32-33; 2:1-5; 3:23-38

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7, 11:1

Genesis 22:15-18

Galatians 3:16

Lesson Goals:

Know Jesus as Messiah.

Know that God keeps His promises.

Know that God has a plan for our lives.

Memory Verse:

When the LORD makes a promise, he does what he has promised.

Joshua 23:15 (CEV)

Do you remember last week when we talked about reading the Christmas story and finding different names for Jesus? Which name did we learn about last week? (God.) And if we can learn new things about Jesus by the names He was given, what do we learn about Jesus by knowing that He is God? He has been around forever, since the beginning. In Mary's song, we learned that He is kind and mighty and doesn't always give us what we deserve, which is a good thing! We also learned that He keeps His promises.

Read 2 Samuel 7:8-9, 11b-12, 16, 18a, 27-28

Thousands of years ago, God made a special promise to King David. He promised to make a forever king from King David's family. That special forever king is also called Messiah.

Do you know what Messiah means? Another word for Messiah is "Christ," the Special One from God promised long ago. It means that Jesus was set apart by God for something special - to deliver and lead His people. God had been promising the Messiah since the beginning. Does it make God a liar if His promises don't come when we expect them to? No, it doesn't! King David trusted God even though he never saw the promise fulfilled. King David knew that God's words can be trusted.

So, when the angel Gabriel came to Mary, he reminded her of this promise.

Read Luke 1:30-33 and Matthew 1:1

At the beginning of his good news about Jesus, the Messiah, Matthew explained how God had accomplished His promise. Matthew even called Jesus "the son of David." How had that happened? Wasn't He being born to Joseph and Mary? Well, let's see.

The Bible explains that King David came from the very first man, Adam. He came by way of some other names you will remember: Noah (and his son Shem), Abraham (and his son Isaac), Isaac's son Jacob, a man named Salmon (and his wife Rahab). Rahab's

son Boaz (and his wife Ruth). Ruth's grandson was Jesse, King David's father. Many kings followed David until a man named Jacob had a son whom he named Joseph. Joseph was the husband of Mary, the mother of the Messiah!

God had given promises all along the way. The people believed and waited. One of those promises, though, was that the Messiah would be born in King David's town, Bethlehem. It was a small town. But Joseph and Mary lived far away in the area of Galilee, in the town of Nazareth. People back then didn't travel around the way we do today, and they didn't travel very much. When they did, they walked and sometimes rode donkeys. And Mary, who was very pregnant, didn't have any travel plans.

But God had promised it and He had a plan. God used a leader named Caesar Augustus. Caesar Augustus thought he was very important and wanted to count all the people in his empire. Little did he know that God gave him that idea to get Joseph and Mary exactly where they needed to be for His promise to come true!

Caesar Augustus made a law. It required that everyone in the entire Roman Empire go to the town of their ancestors to be registered. Who were Joseph's ancestors? Who was he descended from? King David! And Bethlehem was King David's town. So Joseph obeyed the law and went. He left Nazareth and went to the area of Judea. Bethlehem was in Judea. Joseph went there with his wife, Mary.

If God had a plan to get Joseph and Mary to a certain town for His Son's birth, don't you think He has a plan for you, too? He does! And just as God made a king want to count his people, God can and will do anything to make His plan for you come true. The beginning of that plan, though, is to believe His promise. God sent His One and Only Son from heaven to earth for you. Will you accept God's gift of His Son this Christmas? You'll never receive a better one!

Next Week
Jesus is . . . Immanuel
Luke 2:1-20

Preschool

Sing “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Read Luke 1:26-28

Teach Last week, we talked about a special visitor for Mary and Joseph. Who visited them? An angel, that’s right! What did the angel tell them? That they would be having a baby! Their baby would be special because He was from God.

The Bible calls Jesus “the son of David.” How could that be? Wasn’t He being born to Joseph and Mary? Well, let’s see.

The Bible tells us that God made a promise to King David. God promised him that one of his great, great, great, great, great children would be king forever. That was a promise from God that He would send Jesus. In the Bible, we read that King David came from the very first man, Adam. He came by way of some other names you will remember: Noah (and his son Shem), Abraham (and his son Isaac), Isaac’s son Jacob, a man named Salmon (and his wife Rahab). Rahab’s son Boaz (and his wife Ruth). Ruth’s grandson was Jesse, King David’s father. Many kings followed David until a man name Jacob had a son whom he named Joseph. Joseph was the husband of Mary, the mother of the Messiah!

Not only was Jesus King David’s forever king, but God promised that Jesus would be born in King David’s town, Bethlehem. But there was a small problem. Joseph and Mary lived far away in the town of Nazareth. People back then didn’t travel around the way we do today and they didn’t travel very much. When they did, they walked and sometimes rode donkeys. And Mary, who was very pregnant, didn’t have any travel plans.

But God made a promise and He had a plan. God used a leader named Caesar Augustus. Caesar Augustus thought he was very important and wanted to count all the people in his empire. Little did he know that God gave him that idea to get Joseph and Mary exactly where they needed to be for His promise to come true!

Caesar Augustus made a law. Everyone in the entire Roman Empire must go to the town of their ancestors to be registered. That meant Joseph had to go to Bethlehem. So Joseph obeyed the law and went. He left Nazareth and went to the area of Judea. Bethlehem was in Judea. Joseph went there with his wife, Mary. Baby Jesus would be born in the little town of Bethlehem.

Pray Thank you, God, for keeping your promises.

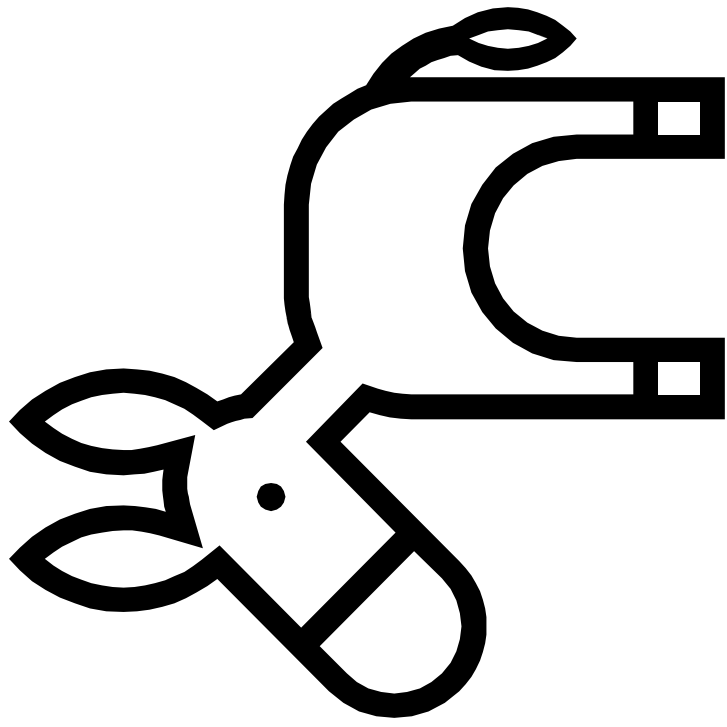
A C T I V I T E S

- Memory Verse Activity - Encourage your students to create a chant of the memory verse, being sure to incorporate the reference.
- Make a “Jesse Tree.” The name comes from Isaiah 11:1 and speaks of Jesus coming from the family line of David. A “Jesse Tree” is simply any type of tree decorated with reminders of Old Testament stories that point to Jesus. Your tree can be constructed on a bulletin board. It might also be a simple tree of twigs or you can use a traditional Christmas tree. Enjoy making the ornaments and be sure to talk about the significance of each one.
- Make individual donkey piñatas out of craft bags (or paper lunch sacks).
- Introduce your students to the carol “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus.”
- Sing “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” “Bethlehem’s Treasure,” “Tell the Good News,”
- Dig Deeper: Look up the following scripture passages to see what promises God made that pointed to the Messiah.

Adam - Genesis 3:6-15

Abraham - Genesis 15:5-6, Genesis 22 (Galatians 3:16)

Noah - Genesis 6:5-8, Matthew 24:37-38



**When the LORD makes a promise,
he does what he has promised.**

Joshua 23:15

Jesus is Messiah

Word Search

J B O C A J A O M T H L
A C E O H B P R O M A J
K I N T B E R T H I I K
N O R A J T H A C K S I
G P N O A H C J H J S D
A R G D C L K P R A E A
N O A B O E P O I P M N
E M N J A H G S S E Y Q
P R O C O E E H T G I V
R R Y I K M E S H I A M
P R O M I S E H I J A L
K I D I V A D G N I K I

MESSIAH

CHRIST

PROMISE

KING DAVID

BETHLEHEM

ABRAHAM

NOAH

JACOB

ADAM

Jesus is Messiah

Word Search-Answers

J	B	O	C	A	J	A	O	M	T	H	L
A	C	E	O	H	B	P	R	O	M	A	J
K	I	N	T	B	E	R	T	H	I	I	K
N	O	R	A	J	T	H	A	C	K	S	I
G	P	N	O	A	H	C	J	H	J	S	D
A	R	G	D	C	L	K	P	R	A	E	A
N	O	A	B	O	E	P	O	I	P	M	N
E	M	N	J	A	H	G	S	S	E	Y	Q
P	R	O	C	O	E	E	H	T	G	I	V
R	R	Y	I	K	M	E	S	H	I	A	M
P	R	O	M	I	S	E	H	I	J	A	L
K	I	D	I	V	A	D	G	N	I	K	I

MESSIAH

CHRIST

PROMISE

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BETHLEHEM

ABRAHAM

NOAH

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