

The Promise of a Savior King (The Journey to Bethlehem)

Teacher Pep Talk: Imagine the excitement all those years ago! Everyone was waiting for the promised Savior and King. They knew that one day soon He would be born in Bethlehem. Despite this, most of them missed His coming. No one seemed to notice a humble carpenter and his betrothed wife traveling to Bethlehem to be counted in the census. But God's Son was about to be born, just as it had been foretold in the scriptures... and just like the angel had told Mary and Joseph!

Help the children see that we need to look back and notice the things that happened around the time of Jesus' birth. We need to realize that God was keeping His promise to send us a Savior King!

You will need: Cotton balls, glue, and crayons for the suggested craft.

Major Points: God had promised that the Savior was to be born in Bethlehem.
An angel talked to Mary and Joseph.
Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem.
The Savior, God's Son (Jesus) would be born soon!
God was keeping His promises!

Scripture Ref. Micah 5:2 "Bethlehem ...out of you will come... one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

Memory Verse: Matthew 2:1 ...Jesus was born in Bethlehem...

Lesson: **Christmas is getting closer!!**

- Christmas will be here soon! We celebrate Christmas every year! Why do we celebrate Christmas? (*Wait for answers.*)
- That's right! Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus' birthday!
- Today we're going to talk about WHY Jesus was born.

God made a promise to send a Savior King.

- A long time ago God made a promise to send us a Savior.
- The word Savior means "someone who saves or rescues."
- That person was Jesus, God's One and Only Son!

People were waiting for the promise to be kept.

- When someone makes me a promise, I want them to keep it! Don't you? (*Wait for answers.*) I wait for them to keep their promise. I expect them to do it!
- The people waited for God to keep His promise. They knew that the Savior was to be born in a place called Bethlehem. They waited and they watched. But God had them wait for a long, long time. And some of them forgot to keep watching!

An Angel talks to Mary and to Joseph.

- Mary was a wonderful young woman who lived back then.
- One day an angel from God visited Mary.
- The angel told Mary she was going to have a special baby.
- The baby was going to be the Son of God. (The Savior)
- Later, the angel told Joseph too. (Joseph was the man who was going to be Mary's husband.)
- The angel told them they were to name the baby Jesus.

Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem

- Mary and Joseph both lived in a place called Nazareth.
- One day, the ruler of the land (Caesar) ordered everyone to return to their hometown, so that they could be counted.
- So Mary traveled with Joseph a long way to Bethlehem, which was his family's original hometown.

God keeps His promises.

- Jesus was born in the little town called Bethlehem, just like God had promised all those years before!
- Whenever God makes a promise, He always keeps it!
- God promised to send a Savior, and He did! Jesus, God's One and Only Son, is the promised Savior!
- God always keeps His promises, no matter how big or small.

Prayer: Let's pray and thank God for keeping His promise to send a Savior.

Dear God,
Thank you for keeping your promises.
Thank you for sending your Son, Jesus, to be our Savior.
Thank you for Christmas.
We love you. Amen.

Suggested Activities: (Pick and choose the activities that work best for you!)

Cotton Ball Angel Wings

For this craft, make one copy of the Angel Wings page for each child. Remind the children that the angel came and visited Mary and then Joseph to tell them about baby Jesus! Provide crayons, glue, and cotton balls. First, ask the children to color the angel's face, hair, hands and robe. **(Do NOT color the angel's wings... or the glue might not stick well!)** Next, allow the children to dip the tip of the cotton balls in glue and place them on the angel's wings. *(HINT: Squeeze out a little glue into a small plastic lid. That works fairly well for dipping the cotton balls!)* Allow the angel pages to dry and then let the children take them home.

NOTE: If you keep these an extra day or so, you can make some GREAT Christmas tree decorations! Glue the finished angel page to a sheet of construction paper and allow it to dry. Cut out around the angel. Glue a loop of yarn to the back as a hanger.)

Sing Christmas Carols

Silent Night

Silent night, Holy night,
All is calm, All is bright,
Round yon virgin, mother and child,
Holy infant, so tender and mild.
Sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

O, Little Town of Bethlehem

O, little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie.
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep,
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth,
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years,
Are met in thee tonight.

We Wish You a Merry Christmas

We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
We wish you a Merry Christmas,
And a Happy New Year!

Happy Birthday to You

Happy Birthday to You,
Happy Birthday to You,
Happy Birthday dear Jesus!
Happy Birthday to You!

Learn the Memory Verse

The memory verse for the day is Matthew 2:1 ...Jesus was born in Bethlehem...

Use this method:

Say "Jesus was born in Bethlehem"
(Have children repeat... just like you.)

Say "Jesus was born in _____"
(Have the children fill in the blank.)

(Now try repeating either phrase using different tones of voice or while doing different things. Have the children repeat them just like you.)

Repeat louder, softer, standing, sitting, turning around, and standing on one foot.

Repeat and jump up on the word "Bethlehem"

Does everyone know it now? I bet they do. I bet even the people in the class next to you know it by now! Congratulations!!

“God Keeps His Promises!”



Jesus' Birth was Foretold – *Luke 1:26-38*