

12



GOD'S PROMISED ONE IS BORN

Announcement & Birth of Jesus / Angels and Shepherds

Year 1 – THE KINGDOM STORY

1 | Teacher's Notes

Scripture Luke 1 and 2

Objectives To explain that

- Our lessons are all a part of a bigger story which is the story of the Forever Kingdom. This big story is found in the Bible.
- It had been 400 years since God spoke to his people, and now the people of Israel were ruled by a foreign king in their own land.
- The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to announce that she would be the one to give birth to the promised Forever King that had been foretold in the Garden of Eden, and promised to Abraham and King David. God's people (Israelites) had been waiting for this promise to be fulfilled all throughout their history.
- The Davidic covenant: that the Forever King would come from the family line of King David.
- Jesus, the Forever King would fulfill all God's promises for his people, and bring God's blessing to all the peoples of the earth.

Memory Verse "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord."
(Luke 2:11 - NIRV)

ACNA

**Catechism
Connection**

The following Catechism questions are linked to today's story:

Q 29 What is in the New Testament? ...Jesus' birth, life, ministry, death, resurrection, ascension, early Church, Apostles' teaching, revelation of Christ's eternal Kingdom...

Q 30 How are the Old and New Testaments related to each other? ...the New is in the Old concealed and the Old is in the New revealed. (This lesson refers to several OT prophecies and their fulfillment in Christ)

Q 213 What are angels? ...spiritual, holy beings acting as messengers ...

Q 179 How does God's Kingdom come? God's Kingdom, which was foreshadowed in the OT, was founded in Christ's incarnation...

**Suggested
Materials,
Props, and
Costumes**

Big story props:

- Crown - or picture of a crown
- Large Bible.

(These props relate to the bigger story of the Forever Kingdom, and will be used for every lesson. The crown will be referred to as the Kingdom Crown.)

Lesson props:

- Stable with animals
- Manger with Baby Jesus
- Sign saying "Bethlehem"
- Star

Costumes:

- Mary and Joseph
- Innkeeper
- Shepherds
- The Angel Gabriel

Cue cards for the 5 children reading parts of the story

Posters: Lesson 2 – The Fall, Lesson 4 – Abraham, Lesson 9 – King David and King Solomon

Memory Verse: "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11 - NIRV)

(Found on the last page of this lesson plan.) Printed out and placed inside the large Bible.

2 | Lesson Outline

Welcome	As the children arrive ensure each one is personally welcomed and everyone knows each other's name.
Greeting & Collect for Purity	Light the candles Say the Greeting and Collect for Purity (see Resource Section)
Prayer of Confession	Say the Prayer of Confession (see Resource Section) Extinguish the candles
Music	Books of the Bible - New Testament Also choose another song from the Resource Section
Review of foundations	Choose from the following as appropriate: The Lord's Prayer, The Apostles Creed, The Ten Commandments or The Greatest Commandment <i>For more information on how to teach these, see Resource Section</i>
Reading	Memory verse (Printed out and placed in large Bible – invite older child to read)
Poster Discussion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss this week's poster.• Ask "I wonder questions" – these will be answered during the story. <i>Poster discussion is found in Section 3 and on the back of the poster</i>
Props/Costumes	Take a few moments to arrange the narrator and actors. (Props should already be set up prior to the start of the class.) Big story props: Kingdom Crown, Large Bible
Bible Story	<i>Proceed with story and life application found in Section 4.</i>
Related activities	<i>After the story, proceed with related activities found in Section 5.</i>
Preparation for Communion & leaving class	Gather the children together for the Preparation for Communion prayer before exiting the classroom. <i>See Resource Section.</i>

3 | Poster Discussion

Poster

(During the poster discussion, explain any difficult words in the story.)

What do you see in this picture? (A manger, a baby, a starry sky, a big star etc.)

Is there anything you wonder about?

I wonder who this baby is.

I wonder why he is lying in a manger.

I wonder why there is a big star in the sky.

I wonder if I have seen this starry sky before.

Let's hear more in our story....



4 | Story and Life Application

CROWN: *Point to the crown and say: 'Today we are continuing our big story of God's Forever Kingdom.'*

BIBLE: *Hold up the Bible and say: 'Our story today is from the Gospel of Luke, in the New Testament. We know that it is a true story because it comes from the Bible and the Bible is God's Word.'*

LESSON SUMMARY: *The teacher reads the lesson summary from back of poster:*

*It was 400 years since God spoke to his people through the prophets. Today you will hear about a proud king named **Caesar** who counted all the people of Israel. You will hear about an angel named **Gabriel** who was God's messenger, and a young peasant girl named **Mary** who was engaged to a man named **Joseph**. You will also hear about angels and shepherds and a special star in the sky. But most importantly, you will hear about a little baby named **Jesus** who was born in a stable. God the Son became that tiny baby. Jesus was the promised Forever King. In him, all of God's wonderful promises are fulfilled!*

STORY:

ACTION: *One child to dress as Mary, and one child as an angel. As the script is being read, Mary and Angel can act out the part, when appropriate.*

TEACHER: Our story takes place during the time when the Romans ruled over God's people, the Israelites, in the Promised Land. The Roman King was Caesar Augustus. He felt that he was very, very important. In fact, Caesar Augustus wondered – "How will everyone know how GREAT I am?" Then he thought about a plan. "I will count all the people. I will show all the people that I am a very important person." Then Caesar Augustus made everyone go to their own hometown to be counted. This counting was called a census.

STUDENT #1: Even though Caesar Augustus was trying to show everyone how important he was – God, the true King and Ruler, was getting ready to show everyone HIS great love.

God was going to do something very special. He was going to keep his promise to send the Forever King.

STUDENT #2: However, God was not going to do it the same way as Caesar, who was counting all his people. Instead, God was going to BECOME one of his people. In God's special way the Forever King would come into the world, as a baby.

STUDENT #3: God sent an angel named Gabriel to a young girl who lived in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. She was engaged to marry Joseph. Her name was Mary.

ACTION: *The angel Gabriel approaches Mary. At first, Mary looks frightened, but then she calms down.*

STUDENT #4: Gabriel said to Mary, "The Lord has blessed you and is with you. Do not be afraid, Mary, because God is pleased with you. You will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and people will call him the Son of the Most High."

STUDENT #5: The angel continued to tell Mary that "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will cover you. The baby will be holy. He will be called the Son of God."

TEACHER: The angel was announcing to Mary that she would give birth to the Forever King, Jesus, that has been foretold since the beginning of time, when God said that he would send someone who would crush Satan, way back in the Garden of Eden.

ACTION: *Point to the poster from lesson 2, The Fall.*

TEACHER: Wow....what God had said many years ago in the Garden of Eden was now happening!

ACTION: *Mary & Joseph walk onto the stage.*

TEACHER: Because Caesar Augustus made everyone get counted in their hometown, Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem. Bethlehem was the town where King David was born. Joseph was a descendent of the family of King David. As God promised, and as the prophets said, the Forever King would be born of David's family.

Mary and Joseph were excited as they were expecting a baby very soon. They knew that this baby would be very special because he was from God.

This baby was the Promised One, the Forever King.

By the time that Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, it was very crowded. There was no home to go to, no clean hotel, in fact there was no place at all to stay for the night. What were Mary and Joseph going to do?

ACTION: *Inn keeper walks in. Joseph asks the inn keeper for a room. The inn keeper shakes his head "no", and points to the barn. Mary and Joseph walk to the barn. They sit beside the manger.*

TEACHER: I am sure that Mary and Joseph were surprised when they found out that the only place that was available that evening was a stable. Yes, a barn where the animals stayed at night.

However, outside, high in the sky – there was a bright, new star that appeared announcing, "The Forever King is being born" in Bethlehem.

ACTION: *Star appears in the sky.*

TEACHER: God's Forever King was born!

ACTION: *Teacher places baby in the manger.*

TEACHER: Who would have thought that the King of the whole universe would come to earth for us, and be born in a stable?

The forever King was now born, and his name was Jesus.

But, there is more. Look over there (point to the shepherds)...

ACTION: *Shepherds sitting around a fire keeping warm. An angel appears.*

TEACHER: That night, there were shepherds in the field nearby watching their sheep. An angel of the Lord came and stood before them. The shepherds were terrified.

The angel said, "Don't be afraid, because I'm bringing you great news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today, your Saviour is born in Bethlehem, the town of David. This is how you will know him, you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger".

Can you imagine the excitement of the shepherds? Years and years of waiting for the Promised King to arrive – and then, God sent a host of angels to tell these humble shepherds, "Jesus the Forever King has arrived....Go and see him!"

Let's look at our poster picture again. (*Show the poster from Lesson 4, Abraham.*) Remember where we have seen these stars before? These stars remind us of

God's promise to Abraham thousands of years ago, that Abraham's descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky.

(Show the poster from lesson 9, King David and King Solomon.) These stars also remind us of God's promise to King David: that the Forever King would be born from his family line.

(Point to the current lesson poster.) And now, surrounded by the stars, is the creator of the stars and the universe – the Forever King, born as a baby. His name is Jesus. He is God the Son.

Let's sing "Away in a Manger"

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

SUGGESTED QUESTIONS:

- **What does this story tell us about God?** (He keeps his promises even though it can take a long time. He is loving and generous. He is humble, he left heaven to become a tiny baby)
- **Can anyone remember in which stories God gave the promises of the Forever King?** (lesson 2 – The Fall, lesson 4 – Abraham, lesson 9 – King David and King Solomon)
- **What were the promises?** (1. God said that he would send someone who would crush Satan. 2. God promised Abraham many descendants, a land to live in, and that through him would come a blessing for the whole world (the Forever King). 3. God promised King David that the Forever King would come from his family line.)
- **Why do we call Jesus the Forever King?** (He was promised right from the beginning and will be our King forever.)
- **What is your favourite part of the Christmas story?**

Life Application (this discussion can also take place during craft/activity time):

Discuss with the children the various ways in which they keep Christmas in their families. Jesus is the greatest gift to all people for all time. How can we share this Good News of the Forever King?

5 | Response Activities

Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement

- Have the children complete the activities in the Kingdom News handout and colouring supplement.

Optional activities

- Set up a nativity set (minus the three wise men)



The Angel Gabriel

"Today in the town
of David a Savior
has been born to
you. He is Christ the
Lord."

(Luke 2:11)