



**God will
save His
people and give
them a new heart.**









Jesus the Savior is Born

MAIN IDEAS

- **God loves His people and desires to save them from their sin.**
- **God was faithful to send Jesus as the promised Savior.**
- **God reveals His greatness to humble people.**

MEMORY VERSE

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.
—Matthew 1:21

SCRIPTURE

- 1) Luke 1:26-38
- 2) Luke 2:1-20
- 3) (Luke 10:21b)



TEACHER INTRODUCTION

Children love to hear the Christmas story over and over again because the story is filled with so many miraculous events and images. However, the main attraction is always the tiny baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. Children relate well to that vision of God. Baby Jesus is small, touchable, and knowable. But, as comforting as this image is, it is not the end of God's revelation of His Son. Baby Jesus will grow up into a Man, the perfect Son of God, and His obedience will lead Him to a most painful, undeserved death on the cross.

As you prepare to teach the story this week, pray for a heart and mind to see and embrace the wisdom and ways of God in His way of salvation. Praise Him for the incarnation of Jesus, God with us. Pray that God would give the children eyes to see Jesus as God's promised Savior for them. Pray that they will have humble hearts to embrace the greatness of God in baby Jesus.

CURRICULUM RESOURCES

- **God's Promise Card (12G, save for future lessons)**
- **Mary (13A)**
- **Mary and Joseph (13B)**
- **Inn (13C)**
- **Shepherds (13D)**
- Growing in Faith Together for Lesson 13 (one per child)

OTHER SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Large rock, brick, or other heavy object
- Small toy truck
- Tiny piece of sponge or rag
- Small (snack-sized) plastic bag
- Small wrapped gift box or bag (from Lesson 12; save for future lessons)
- Visuals or props for telling the Christmas story
- For Application (for each child):
 - › Markers or crayons

MATERIALS FOR OPTIONAL ACTIVITY

1. Memory Verse

You will need the following supplies for each child:

- › Matthew 1:21 Handout (OA-13A, Curriculum Resources)
- › 6" x 9" piece of construction paper
- › Markers
- › Ribbon
- › Glitter glue

2. Birth Announcements

You will need the following supplies for each child:

- › Baby Announcement Handout (OA-13B, Curriculum Resources)
- › Markers

Large Group Lesson

Illustration.....

LARGE ROCK,
TOY TRUCK

(Place the **large rock** on the table, and then display the **toy truck**.)

❓ If I were to ask you to move this large rock out of our room, would you use this little toy truck to do it? Could this little truck move that big, heavy stone?

(Demonstrate by trying to lift the large rock with the toy truck.)

It won't work. You would need something bigger and stronger.

SMALL SNACK BAG

(Display the **small snack bag**.)

What if your mom asked you to empty all the wastepaper baskets in the house. Would she give you a tiny bag like this? Could it hold a great big pile of trash? No, you would need to use a big garbage bag.

TINY PIECE
OF SPONGE

(Display the **tiny piece of sponge**.)

If your car was all muddy and dirty, would your dad wash it with this tiny piece of sponge? No, he would need to use a big sponge for such a big job.

Big jobs need big tools. If something was up high, out of reach, a person would need a big ladder to reach it. Or, if a child has a hard problem to solve, he needs a big person—an adult—to help him solve it. All of us, at some time, have big jobs to do, and all of us need help solving big problems.

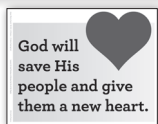
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❓ Does anyone remember what the biggest problem in the world is? What was Adam and Eve's biggest problem? What was Noah's biggest problem? And David's biggest problem?

What is my biggest problem? Your biggest problem? Yes, our sinful hearts are our biggest problem of all, because God hates sin. And God is right to punish sin with death and hell. But God also made a great promise to His sinful people.

GIFT BOX

(Display the **gift box**, and review **God's Promise** card to save His sinful people and give them a new heart.)



- God wants to save His people from the badness of sin, so He promised to give His sinful people a new heart. That is a wonderful promise.

Think of all of the people God is making that promise to (Psalm 86:9). Remember the plate of sand from our lesson about God's promise to Abraham?

God has promised to save more people than we can even count.

What a huge job for God to do! God must have had a big plan to do such a big job.

Where do you think we will find out how God planned to do such a big job? Yes, in the Bible. The Bible has a very special, true story that tells us how God planned to solve the biggest problem of all.

Story

The Birth of Jesus (Luke 1:26-37; 2:1-20)



(This is a wonderful opportunity to involve the children in the story presentation. Depending on your situation, you could have them dress in simple costumes and act out the parts as you tell the story. Or, you may choose to use a colorful picture book or the visuals: **Mary**, **Mary and Joseph**, **Inn**, and **Shepherds**. Emphasize the following points.)



- God made a promise to David and to the people of Israel that He would save them from their sin and give them a new heart.
- King David grew old and died.
- Many, many years went by, and God's people waited and waited for God to keep His promise. Some people gave up waiting. They didn't believe that God would really do what He had promised.
- There was a young woman named Mary. She was waiting for God to keep His promise.
- God chose Mary to give birth to a baby named Jesus. Mary's husband was Joseph.
- Jesus would save God's people from their sin and give them a new heart.
- God's promised Savior came as a tiny baby.
- God is the Father of Jesus. Jesus was a very special baby—the most special baby of all.
- Mary was a sinner like everyone else. God did not choose Mary because she was great or important. God chose her because He is great and He loved her.
- Mary trusted God. She believed that nothing was too hard for God to do and that He would keep all of His promises.
- God's good news filled His people with joy and happiness.
- God decided that Jesus would be born in a stable, not in a fancy house or palace with lots of important people around.
- God chose to announce the coming of the Savior to simple shepherds, who responded in joy, glorifying God.

- The coming of Jesus is good news sent to all people.
- God is faithful to all His promises.
- God's promise was to save His people and give them a new heart.
- That's a huge job, because our hearts are so sinful. But God is a great God.
- He had a special plan to do that big job. God sent His own Son, a tiny little baby, to save His people.

How can such a tiny little baby do such a big job? Was God sure He was doing the right thing? Shouldn't He have sent a big, rich, important-looking person instead? No. God is always right in everything He does. The story of baby Jesus doesn't end in the manger. The story isn't over yet!

BIBLE (Open your **Bible** to Luke 2. Show the children that there are many more pages in the Bible.)

The Bible will tell us the rest of the story—how a tiny little baby came to do the biggest job of all—to save God's people from their sin.

Small Group Application

Choose one or more of these application ideas, as time allows.

Workbook

Have the children turn to Lesson 13 in the workbook and begin to color the picture.

God Shares His Good News

If available, show the children one or more birth announcements.

Why do you think parents would want to send the news of the birth of a new baby? Parents send out cards because they want their friends to share in the joy of the arrival of their baby.

Jesus was God's baby. God wanted His people to share the joy of His Son being born. Who did God send His announcements to? Did He tell all of the richest and most important people first? Did He tell the strongest and smartest people first? No. What did the shepherds do when they heard the news? (Luke 2:15-20)

Jesus is the Promised Savior

Have you ever looked forward to a very special gift for Christmas, but when you opened the present, it wasn't what you had expected it to be? Were you disappointed? Did you complain or grumble? Some people had expected that God would send a big, strong king to save His people. They didn't believe that baby Jesus could be the Savior that God had promised. How were they not trusting God? What other kinds of "impossible" things had God done? [Part the sea, send a flood, make the walls of Jericho fall down, etc.]

God Wants Us to Treasure Jesus

Read or carefully paraphrase **Luke 10:21b**—...*you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.*

God is happy to show, even little children, His special promise for those who trust in Him. God wants you to understand, love, and treasure His special gift: Jesus.

God is Trustworthy

Do you think Jesus will be able to solve your sin problem? Why or why not? Do you trust God that He knows exactly what to do to save His people? Do you believe He is going to keep His promise?

Pray that God would give you hearts to trust His promises.

Praising God

What should we do when we see God keeping His promise to save His people? Should we ignore God? Should we praise God for how good and great He is? How can we praise God for how good and great He is?

Share the Good News

Should we keep the news about Jesus a secret? Should we tell it only to people we really like, or to people who are really smart? Who did God tell this news to? Who needs to hear this good news? Who should we tell this news to this week? Pray and ask God to help you tell others about His good news.

Optional Activities

If time allows, choose one of the following optional activities:

1. *Memory Verse*

Give each child a **Matthew 1:21 Handout**. Have them trace the letters to complete the missing words and color the picture. Then help the children glue the handout to the 6" x 9" piece of construction paper. Use ribbon or glitter glue to decorate the border.

2. *Birth Announcements*

Give each child a birth announcement from the **Baby Announcement Handout**. Have the children decorate the announcements that proclaim the birth of Jesus. Have the children address their announcement to a friend, sibling, parent, or grandparent (the children may need help writing in appropriate name on the back).

Send Home

- Growing in Faith Together for Lesson 13 (one per child)



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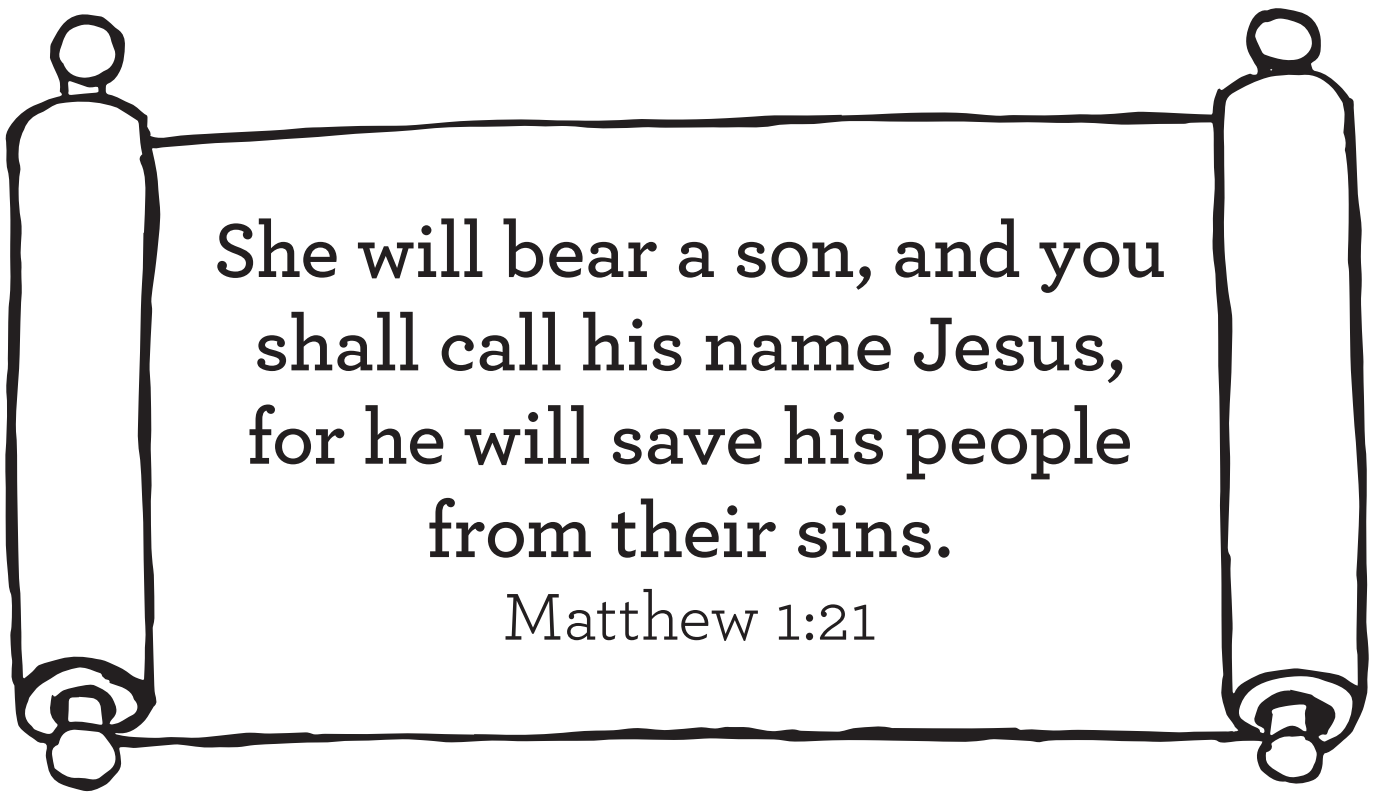
SCRIPTURE

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MEMORY VERSE



She will bear a son, and you
shall call his name Jesus,
for he will save his people
from their sins.

Matthew 1:21

ACTIVITY

God promised to give new hearts to sinful people who trust in Him. Jesus is God's own Son who was sent into the world to save sinners.

Instructions: Color the picture of Mary and baby Jesus.





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LESSON SUMMARY

Children love to hear the Christmas story over and over again because the story is filled with so many miraculous events and images. However, the main attraction is always the tiny baby, wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. Children relate well to that vision of God. Baby Jesus is small, touchable, and knowable. But, as comforting as this image is, it is not the end of God's revelation of His Son. Baby Jesus will grow up into a Man, the perfect Son of God, and His obedience will lead Him to a most painful, undeserved death on the cross.

In this lesson we reviewed the events of Jesus' birth with special emphasis on the faithfulness of God in keeping His promise and the wonder that God would send a little baby to do the hardest job of all—saving helpless sinners.

PRAYER POINTS

As you review this lesson with your child, pray...



- *for a heart and mind to see and embrace the wisdom and ways of God in His way of salvation.*
- *praise Him for the incarnation of Jesus, God with us.*
- *pray that God would give your child eyes to see Jesus as God's promised Savior.*
- *pray that you will have humble hearts to embrace the greatness of God in baby Jesus.*

AS YOU WALK BY THE WAY

- If available, show your child a sample of a birth announcement.

Why do you think parents would want to send the news of the birth of a new baby?

- Jesus was God's baby. God wanted His people to share the joy of His Son being born.

Who God send His announcements to?
What did the shepherds do when they heard the news? See Luke 2:15-20.
How do you respond to this good news?

- Have you ever look forward to a very special gift for Christmas, but when you opened the present, it wasn't what you had expected it to be? Jesus was God's gift for sinners. Why might people have been surprised by the birth of a tiny little baby? What might they have been expecting from God? What huge job needed to be done for sinners?
- Should we keep the news about Jesus a secret? Should we tell it only to people we really like? Who needs to hear this good news? Who should we tell this news to this week?

ACTION STEP

Make a Christmas card to give to a neighbor or grandparent. Have your parents help you to write or include the memory verse from Matthew 1:21 on the card.

She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for He will save his people from their sins. *Matthew 1:21*

