



**Shape hearts.
Change lives.**



**Teacher
Guide**
Winter 2017-2018

Pre-K & K
Ages 5-6



Pre-K & K Contents

Ages 5–6, with options for 4s

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Your opinions are important to us! We value your experience and listen carefully to your comments—guiding our curriculum development and improving HeartShaper. Go to **HeartShaper.com/Opinions** to take our short, 12 question survey and receive a free activity book download.

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How to Use HeartShaper®

Welcome to HeartShaper Children's Curriculum!

With HeartShaper Children's Curriculum, your students will be engaged in Bible stories through multisensory learning, Bible skill-building activities, and focused life application.

Here's how to start

- Pray for God's help to guide children as they learn about God, Jesus, and the church.
- Familiarize yourself with the teacher guide. Each lesson includes material for two complete hours of teaching.
- Use all the HeartShaper teaching tools.

How the lessons are organized

- 1** Getting Started: Children are introduced to the Bible story or lesson focus
- 2** Bible Discovery: Children sing and pray to God. They learn a Bible story and Bible verse.
- 3** Grow and Go: Children apply the Bible story lesson to their young lives.

2+ Hours of material: Extra Hour includes the same types of activities as the first hour—More! Getting Started, More! Bible Discovery, More! Grow and Go.

Want more of an overview?

Go to www.heartshaper.com/for-teachers. Look at the Overview by Age Level, and click on Pre-K & K. Whether you're new to HeartShaper curriculum, not sure how to use the different parts of the curriculum, have never taught, or haven't taught for a while, take a few minutes to go through this overview. You'll be glad you did!

Important things to know

- **Bible Memory** lists the passage children will learn in each unit.
- **Focus** is the main thought that children will learn and remember in each lesson.

Jesus Stops a Storm

Lesson 1

Scripture: Mark 4:35-41
Bible Memory: Psalm 147:5
"Our Lord is great and very powerful. There is no limit to what he knows" (ICB)
"Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding is infinite." (KJV)
Focus: ♥ Jesus has power to stop a storm.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion
Power can be a scary word to young children, who sometimes feel powerless in the life situations they experience or see on TV. Think about how God has used His power to help you. As you teach this unit of lessons, assure children that because God is good and He loves us, we can trust Him to use His power for our good in all situations.

Bible Background for the Teacher
After an extremely busy day, Jesus sought rest by going to a thinly settled district on the east side of the Sea of Galilee. The Sea of Galilee is low in altitude and surrounded by mountains. Violent storms can come up with great suddenness as winds sweep down the hillsides and across the sea. Jesus rebuked the winds and sea as though they were people, thus demonstrating His power over the forces of nature. (See also Matthew 8:23-27 and Luke 8:22-25.)

Lesson 1 at a Glance

	Quick Step	HeartShaper Materials	Other Materials
1 GETTING STARTED Use one or more of these learning centers to help children explore wind and waves.	• Moving Like Wind and Waves • Exploring Waves • Dynamic Drama (Unit centers)	• Resources CD • none	• CD player • dishpan, water, plastic spoons, whisks, toy boats, straws • Unit center supplies, blue and brown bedsheet, Bible-times costumes, spray bottle with water
2 BIBLE DISCOVERY Use all these activities to help children feel what happened when Jesus was in the boat.	• Sing and Pray • Bible Time • Bible Review • Bible Memory	• Resources CD, Resources sheet 2 flip picture Bible story scenes 1a-1c, Teaching Picture 1	• CD player (lib), 2 metal rings, Bible-times costumes
3 GROW AND GO Use one or more of these learning centers to help children praise Jesus for His power.	• Quick Step • Bible Memory in Motion • Praying Jesus Game • Shake Waves • Closing the Hour	• Resources CD Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions printable file • none • Make-a-Share for lesson 1 • Heart Tugs Issue 1	• none • blue bedsheet • washable markers, blunt-tip scissors, paper fasteners • none

- **Quick Step™** activities are easy to prepare and teach. All that's needed are the curriculum materials and normal classroom supplies.
- **Option** activities are provided for Getting Started and Grow and Go. Ideas for teaching 4-year-olds are also included. YOU choose what works best for you and the different kinds of learners in your class. Use all the activities in Bible Discovery.

Special Needs/Teaching Tools

Reach kids with special needs

HeartShaper gives the resources you need to train teachers and adapt lesson activities so you can include kids with special needs right in your Sunday school classes.



Look for this symbol throughout the teacher guide to identify activities that work well for all kids, including those with special needs.



- When you see the symbol after a title, it means the activity will work well for all kids, including those with special needs.
- When you see the symbol in the narrow column, it may give you a helpful tip on how you can tweak the activity to make it better for kids with special needs.
- Or this symbol may indicate that there's an adaptation on the *Resources* CD that will make the activity work better for kids with special needs.

Additional helps for teaching kids with special needs can be found on the *Resources* CD and at www.heartshaper.com/special-needs.

Multisensory teaching tools are an integral part of HeartShaper!

Pre-K & K Make-n-Share

Children will love the full-color activity pages designed just for them—includes sticker and WATERPAINT™ pages!



Pre-K & K Resources

These multisensory teaching tools include visual, printed, and audio resources.



Preschool/Pre-K & K Teaching Pictures

These large colorful illustrations include the Bible story printed on the back in both English and Spanish.



On the 8 sheets you'll find:

- Interactive Bible story visuals (figures, story scenes and cards, puppets)
- Photo and picture cards, games, posters



Heart Tugs family resource

This weekly paper helps children take the lesson home. In the paper you'll find:

- Read-to-me Bible stories
- Activities for 4- to 6-year-olds
- Fun family activity ideas



On the CD you'll find:

- Audio tracks—reproducible songs and music activities
- Coloring and activity pages
- Bible Memory posters and motions
- Special needs helps and teacher helps
- Scout the dog puppet patterns



For simple lesson planning, get the **Pre-K & K Teacher's Convenience Kit**. It contains one *Pre-K & K Teacher Guide*, one *Pre-K & K Make-n-Share*, the complete *Pre-K & K Resources* pack, *Preschool/Pre-K & K Teaching Pictures*, and one set of *Heart Tugs* family resource.

Go online to HeartShaper.com and SundaySchool.com

Find loads of resources for teachers and families! Sign up to receive the HeartShaper biweekly e-newsletter. Discover all the ways you can purchase your HeartShaper curriculum.

Unit 1

Jesus Was Born

Bible Memory

Matthew 2:1, 2, *ICB*

"Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem. . . . 'We came to worship him.'"

Matthew 2:1, 2, *KJV*

"Jesus was born in Bethlehem. . . . We . . . come to worship him."

Pre-K & K Bible Skills

Activities in this unit of lessons will help the children

- Know the Bible is God's special book to tell us about God and Jesus.
- Begin to read simple Bible words.
- Retell basic facts about main Bible characters.
- Know a simple definition of *worship*.

Teacher Helps on *Resources CD*

See the Contents document on the CD for a complete menu of printable files for unit 1.

Especially for 4s!

Depending on the children's motor skills, activity suggestions geared for 4-year-olds can also be used by younger 5-year-olds.

Special Needs Helps

Look for this symbol to identify activities that work well for all children, including those with special needs. Additional helps for teaching children with special needs can be found on the *Resources CD* and at www.heartshaper.com.



Online Helps

See the introductory pages for information about downloads that are available.



Lesson

Scripture

Focus

Lesson 1

An Angel Announces Jesus' Birth

Matthew 1; Luke 1

♥ We can share good news about Jesus.

Lesson 2

Jesus Is Born

Luke 1, 2

♥ We are happy Jesus was born.

Lesson 3

Shepherds Visit Jesus

Luke 2

♥ We can tell others God sent Jesus to be born.

Lesson 4

Simeon and Anna See Jesus

Luke 2

♥ We are thankful Jesus was born.

Lesson 5

Wise Men Worship Jesus

Matthew 2

♥ We can worship Jesus.

HeartShaper Materials for Unit 1, Lessons 1-5

Pre-K & K Make-n-Share activity pages and stickers for lessons 1-5

Pre-K & K Resources CD

Audio Tracks

- "Happy Birthday, Jesus" (track 1)
- "We Came to Worship Him" Bible Memory song (track 4)
- "Jesus' Birth" Bible story music activity (track 7)
- Temple Sounds (track 10)

Printable Files

- Bible Memory posters and motions, family letters (in *ICB* and *KJV*)
- Snowflakes (unit 1)
- Coloring pages (lessons 1-5)
- Station S-T-A-R Name Tags (unit 1, lesson 1)
- Unit 1 Bible Memory Rebus (in *ICB* and *KJV*; lessons 2, 3)
- "Jesus' Birth" Bible story music activity (lessons 2, 3, and 5)
- Give-and-Tell Sheep, "Hurry, Hurry, Shepherd Boy" lyrics, Special Needs Helps (lesson 3)
- "Temple Rhyme Time" (lesson 4)

Visuals

- Story-in-a-bag scenes 1a, 2a, 2b, and 3a (sheet 1)
- Bible story figures (sheet 2)
- Story-in-a-bag scene 4a and Bible story figures 4c and 4d, microphone, Pick-and-Tell picture cards (sheet 3)
- Scout quarterly poster (sheet 8)

Preschool/Pre-K & K Teaching Pictures 1-5

Heart Tugs family resource, issues 1-5

Extra Moments, Extra Ideas for Unit 1

Give a copy of this page to each teacher or helper. Use the activities for early arrivers, during Transition Times, or whenever there is extra time.

When Your Class Begins

With the commercialism attached to the Christmas season, be prepared to immediately focus your children's attention on the birth of Jesus. Greet them at the door with something intriguing: a bag of hay or some carpenter's tools. Display a child-size shepherd's staff and leather pouch. Show an unusual gift box like one the wise men might have carried. If you capture the children's curiosity, you will be able to direct their minds toward Jesus—the best present ever given to our world.

Unit 1 Bible Memory Activities

From the *Resources* CD printable files, display the unit 1 Bible Memory poster in several places around the room, making it accessible to all teachers. Make extra copies of the poster for children to color and decorate with stickers. Sing the unit 1 Bible Memory song, "We Came to Worship Him." Teach the children the Bible Memory motions also found on the CD.

Make copies of the *Resources* CD rebus printable file. Use the rebus to help nonreaders learn the Bible Memory.

Send home the family letter found on the CD. Ask parents to reinforce the Bible Memory words each day throughout the week.

The music on the CD is reproducible. Send a CD home with each child so parents can sing the songs with their children all week long!

Seasonal Unit Project—Please God Snowflakes

Make several copies of the snowflake from the *Resources* CD for children to cut out and glue onto 5" squares of colored paper. Hang snowflakes from the ceiling, and tell the children that when you see them doing things that please God, you will hang more snowflakes. Encourage them to work to fill the ceiling with snowflakes during the unit.

Unit 1 Learning Center—Station S-T-A-R

Create a unit center called Station S-T-A-R (pronounce each letter), complete with a news desk, chairs, a sign naming Station S-T-A-R, a digital voice recorder, pencils, and paper. Prepare the microphone included on the *Resources* sheet 3. Decorate the desk with several big stars. Use the 3-D star pattern on the CD to make stars from yellow construction paper or card stock and hang from the ceiling. The children will visit this center each week to tell or hear good news about Jesus.

Service Project Ideas for Pre-K & K Children

With parents' permission, have your children be door greeters for adult worship. Or have them stand at the classroom door and greet their classmates as they enter.

Ask church members to donate old Christmas cards that picture Jesus' birth. Providing paper, glue sticks, blunt-tip scissors, and washable markers, let children glue pictures to paper to create their own cards.

Purchase photo albums with clear pockets. Cut pictures and messages from recycled cards to fit inside the album pockets. Let children fill their albums with pictures and messages about Jesus' birth. The albums and cards will make wonderful gifts for shut-ins or people who live in nursing-care facilities.

Allergy Notice

Before class, print and fill out the Allergy Notice from the *Resources* CD for each snack that is served. Post it visibly for parents to take note. And always check your own children's information.

Mark name tags so volunteers can easily identify dietary needs.

Teaching Tip

The *Resources* CD printable files include both the *International Children's Bible* and the *King James Version* for Bible Memory posters, Bible Memory motions, and family letters.



Something More!

See Holiday Helps under For Teachers at www.heartshaper.com for some winter craft projects.



Read Seasonal Helps in the Special Needs folder on the *Resources* CD for tips during this holiday season if you have children in your classroom who have special needs.

An Angel Announces Jesus' Birth

Lesson 1



Scripture: Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 1:26-38, 46, 47

Bible Memory: Matthew 2:1, 2

“Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem. . . . ‘We came to worship him.’” (*ICB*)

“Jesus was born in Bethlehem. . . . We . . . come to worship him.” (*KJV*)

Focus: ♥ We can share good news about Jesus.











Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

Sometimes surprises—even happy ones—can be frightening. Mary and Joseph were both surprised and frightened by Gabriel’s visit and his announcement. Yet as startling as Gabriel’s announcement was, Mary and Joseph both yielded to God’s plan as delivered by the heavenly messenger. May we, like that young couple, accept God’s plan as well, a plan announced in His Word and one that we now announce to the children.

Bible Background for the Teacher

Nazareth was an insignificant village in Galilee, but God sent a messenger to two residents of that village. Mary and Joseph were engaged to be married. At that time, an engagement was such a sacred commitment that only a bill of divorcement could break it. The appearance of the angel to Joseph confirmed that the child who was being carried by Mary was of divine origin. The angel told both Mary and Joseph that the expected child should be named Jesus.

Lesson 1 at a Glance

<p>1 GETTING STARTED</p> <p>Use one or more of these learning centers to help children <i>explore good news</i>.</p>	 Quick Step Tell-a-Friend Megaphone  Station S-T-A-R (unit center)  Bible-Times Home	<p>HeartShaper Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Make-n-Share</i> and stickers for lesson 1 • <i>Resources</i> sheet 3 microphone, <i>Resources</i> CD Station S-T-A-R Name Tags printable file • <i>Resources</i> sheet 1 house scene 1a 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • blunt-tip scissors, washable markers, tape • yarn, blunt-tip scissors, star stickers, washable markers, clear adhesive covering, hole punch • large shoe box, blocks, material, blunt-tip scissors
<p>2 BIBLE DISCOVERY</p> <p>Use all these activities to help children <i>tell about a time when Mary and Joseph heard good news</i>.</p>	 Sing and Pray  Bible Time An Angel Announces Jesus’ Birth  Bible Review  Bible Memory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> CD; <i>Resources</i> sheet 3 microphone, sheet 1 house scene 1a, sheet 2 Bible story figures 1b-1d; <i>Resources</i> CD Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions printable file 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CD player, Bible, 3 jumbo craft sticks, tape, 9" x 12" gift bag
<p>3 GROW AND GO</p> <p>Use one or more of these learning centers to help children <i>share good news they know about baby Jesus</i>.</p>	 Quick Step Bible Beanbag Toss  Pick-and-Tell Game  Sing Out! Closing the Hour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none • <i>Resources</i> sheet 3 Pick-and-Tell picture cards 1e-1h • <i>Resources</i> CD, <i>Make-n-Share</i> megaphones • <i>Heart Tugs</i> issue 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • beanbag • paper lunch bag • CD player • none

Getting Started (10-15 minutes)

- 1** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children explore good news.

Welcome

- Use your Scout puppet to greet the children.
- Place a name tag on each child and gather necessary information from the adult bringing the child; then guide the child to a learning center.
- Provide a container in which children can place their offering money.

Quick Step Tell-a-Friend Megaphone

SAY: Today we are going to learn about an angel who told some good news about Jesus. When we have good news, we like to share it with our friends. Let's make megaphones. Explain what a megaphone is used for. Then ♥ we can share good news about Jesus. That's the best news to share!

Announce through your megaphone something good that has happened. Let children take turns announcing their good news. Applaud each announcement.

ASK: How did you feel when you shared your good news?
Who else might like to hear your good news?

Station S-T-A-R (unit center)

Before class, print out name tags and cut yarn into 18" lengths.

SAY: The Bible tells us about a time when an angel gave good news to a woman and a man. Sometimes your parents watch TV to hear news. Let's visit our news station, Station S-T-A-R, where the news is always good. At Station S-T-A-R, ♥ we can share good news about Jesus.

Lead children to Station S-T-A-R, where they will make name tags to be used throughout the unit. Let them add stickers and write their names. Cover tags with adhesive covering. Punch holes and thread yarn to tie as lanyards. Help children explore what happens in a newsroom—people talk into microphones, people write news articles, and so forth. Using the microphone, interview the children.

ASK: Have you ever visited a radio or TV station?
What good news would you tell a news reporter to say?

Bible-Times Home



SAY: Today we will learn about a young woman named Mary. Maybe Mary was at home dusting furniture when she got some good news. When we are at home, ♥ we can share good news about Jesus with others. Let's build a house like the one Mary might have lived in.

Show the house scene. Then use the shoe box to create the inside of a house. Help the children put blocks inside for tables or chairs or beds and use scissors to cut bits of material for blankets or tablecloths or dustcloths. As they play, talk about good news they hear at home.

ASK: What good news does your mother say in the kitchen?
What good news can you say about Jesus?

Especially for 4s!

Instead of a shoe box, provide a toy playhouse and people figures.

Focus

♥ We can share good news about Jesus.

Save all visuals for reuse throughout the quarter.

Materials

Make-n-Share and stickers for lesson 1, blunt-tip scissors, washable markers (or crayons), tape (or glue sticks)



Teaching Tip

Megaphones will be used in Grow and Go.

Materials

Resources CD Station S-T-A-R Name Tags printable file, yarn, blunt-tip scissors, washable markers, star stickers, clear adhesive covering, hole punch, Resources sheet 3 microphone



Teaching Tip

Make extra name tags for the extra-hour children.

Materials

Resources sheet 1 house scene 1a, large shoe box, blocks, bits of material, blunt-tip scissors (optional: toy playhouse and people)



Cleanup

Sing "Cleanup Song," found on the Resources CD Teacher Helps, as you encourage children to join you in cleaning the room.



Focus

♥ We can share good news about Jesus.

Bible Discovery (20–25 minutes)

2

Use all these activities to help children **tell about a time when Mary and Joseph heard good news.**

Materials

Resources CD tracks 1 and 4, CD player, Resources sheet 3 microphone



Sing and Pray

Sing “Happy Birthday, Jesus” and “We Came to Worship Him.”

PRAY: **Dear God, help us hear some of the best news ever told. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

ASK: **Do you have good news to share? Talk into this microphone, please.** Interview each child.

SAY: **Listen and you will hear very good news from God that an angel shared with Mary and Joseph.**

Materials

Bible, Resources sheet 1 house scene 1a and sheet 2 Bible story figures 1b–1d, 3 jumbo craft sticks, tape (or glue), 9" x 12" gift bag



Bible Time

Have children show happy or surprised faces when indicated. SAY: **In the Bible book of Matthew, chapter 1 (show Matthew 1), we read that Mary (show Mary) made God happy because she loved Him and always tried to obey Him. Show happy faces. Mary was making plans to marry a man named Joseph. Show Joseph. Joseph loved and obeyed God too.**

Remove Joseph; show angel with Mary. **One day, God sent an angel named Gabriel to Mary. Gabriel said, “Greetings! The Lord is with you.” Mary was surprised! Show looks of surprise. Mary did not understand why Gabriel had come.**

Gabriel said, “Don’t be afraid. God is pleased with you. He is going to give you a baby boy. You are to name the baby Jesus.”

The angel told Mary that this baby would be a special child. Mary was happy. Show happy faces. Mary told the angel she would do whatever God wanted her to do. Remove Mary and angel.

Lay Joseph in front of house. **Joseph was sleeping.** Have children close their eyes. **In a dream, an angel told Joseph to marry Mary and to name the baby Jesus. The angel said this baby would save people from their sins. When Joseph awoke (stand Joseph next to angel; have children open their eyes), Joseph did what the angel said to do.**

Show Mary and Joseph together. **Mary and Joseph were happy to hear the good news that Jesus was to be born. Show happy faces.**

Before Class

Tape house scene to bag. Tape craft stick onto the back of each figure 1b–1d as illustrated. Put figures inside bag. As you name each person, pull that figure from the bag.



Materials

Resources sheet 2 Bible story figures 1b–1d



Bible Review

Hold up story figures. Ask questions and have children point to the figure that gives the correct answers.

ASK: **Who brought the announcements from God?**

Who was going to have a baby?

Who heard the angel in a dream?

Who did what the angel said to do?

Materials

Bible, Resources CD Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions printable file



Bible Memory Matthew 2:1, 2

Before class, print and display the motions from the CD.

SAY: ♥ **We can share good news about Jesus when we say our Bible Memory.** Help a child point to each word in Matthew 2:1, 2 in your Bible as you say it. Begin teaching the motions as you say the verse in short, rhythmic phrases, allowing children to repeat each phrase after you.

Grow and Go (15–20 minutes)

- 3** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **share good news they know about baby Jesus**.

Focus

♥ We can share good news about Jesus.

Quick Step Bible Beanbag Toss

SAY: **Just like the angel Gabriel, ♥ we can share good news about Jesus. Let's share some good-news words from today's Bible lesson.**

Have the children sit (or stand) in a circle. Gently toss the beanbag to one child and say, "Gabriel." Have that child toss the beanbag to another person and say another word from the Bible story. (Words that might be said: *Mary, Joseph, angel, Jesus, baby, afraid, surprised, happy, special.*)

ASK: **What good news about Jesus can you tell a friend this week?**

What are some ways you can share good news about Jesus?

Prompt children to name ways, such as drawing and sharing pictures, talking about Jesus, singing about Jesus.

Materials

beanbag



Pick-and-Tell Game

Before class, put the four picture cards in the bag.

SAY: **Let's play a game with some Bible story picture cards. ♥ We can share good news about Jesus.**

Have children take turns pulling picture cards from the bag, using the cards to tell some good news about Jesus. (Examples: "This card shows Mary. She was happy to be the mother of Jesus." "Good news! This is Joseph. An angel told him to name the baby Jesus.") If a child pulls the card that says *Jesus!*, the child can tell any good news about Jesus.

ASK: **What made Jesus such a special baby?** (He is God's Son. He came to save people.)

What good news can you tell about baby Jesus?

Who are you going to tell the good news about Jesus to?

Materials

Resources sheet 3

Pick-and-Tell picture

cards 1e-1h, paper lunch bag



Especially for 4s!



Have children take turns selecting cards. When a card is shown, ask the children to name who or what is on the card. Then use that card to verbalize for the children some good news about Jesus.

Sing Out!

SAY: ♥ **We can share good news about Jesus. Let's learn a song to help us do that.**

Listen to the Bible Memory song, "We Came to Worship Him." Review the words with the children. Then give them their Tell-a-Friend megaphones. Encourage them to sing loudly so that others will hear the words.

ASK: **Do you feel happy when you sing about Jesus?**

Who can you sing this song to and tell about baby Jesus?

Materials

Resources CD track 4, CD

player, *Make-n-Share*

megaphones made in *Getting Started*



Teaching Tip

If children did not make Tell-a-Friend megaphones earlier, guide them in making them before singing the song.

Closing the Hour

• Be sure children who are leaving now have their activity projects and a copy of today's *Heart Tugs*. Mention to the parents the "Angel Tells Good News" maze they can do with their child. Keep name tags to use throughout the unit. Note: A *Family Together Time* page is available online for families to download. See www.heartshaper.com.

An Angel Announces Jesus' Birth

Lesson 1 Extra Hour



Scripture: Matthew 1:18-24; Luke 1:26-38, 46, 47

Bible Memory: Matthew 2:1, 2

“Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem. . . . ‘We came to worship him.’” (*ICB*)

“Jesus was born in Bethlehem. . . . We . . . come to worship him.” (*KJV*)

Focus: ♥ We can share good news about Jesus.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

Sometimes surprises—even happy ones—can be frightening. Mary and Joseph were both surprised and frightened by Gabriel’s visit and his announcement. Yet as startling as Gabriel’s announcement was, Mary and Joseph both yielded to God’s plan as delivered by the heavenly messenger. May we, like that young couple, accept God’s plan as well, a plan announced in His Word and one that we now announce to the children.

Bible Background for the Teacher

Nazareth was an insignificant village in Galilee, but God sent a messenger to two residents of that village. Mary and Joseph were engaged to be married. At that time, an engagement was such a sacred commitment that only a bill of divorcement could break it. The appearance of the angel to Joseph confirmed that the child who was being carried by Mary was of divine origin. The angel told both Mary and Joseph that the expected child should be named Jesus.

Lesson 1 at a Glance—Extra Hour

1 MORE! GETTING STARTED

Use one or more of these activities to help children *explore good news*.



Game

Quick Step
Good News Jump



Wonder

Good News Show-and-Tell



Puzzles

Station S-T-A-R
(unit center)

HeartShaper Materials

- none
- none
- *Resources* sheet 3 microphone, *Heart Tugs* issue 1

Other Materials

- none
- baby doll, baby items (see activity), newspaper, paper grocery bag
- crayons

2 MORE! BIBLE DISCOVERY

Use all these activities to help children *tell about a time when Mary and Joseph heard good news*.



Sing & Pray

More! Sing and Pray



Bible Time

Bible Time—Another Way!
An Angel Announces Jesus’ Birth



Bible Review

More! Bible Review



Bible Memory

More! Bible Memory

- *Resources* CD, *Teaching Picture* 1, *Resources* CD Unit 1 Bible Memory Motions printable file

- CD player, Bible, tinsel, broom, pillow

3 MORE! GROW AND GO

Use one or more of these activities to help children *share good news they know about baby Jesus*.



Scout

Quick Step
Scout Puppet Story



Art

An Angel Visits

Saying Good-bye

- none
- *Resources* CD Lesson 1 Coloring Page printable file
- *Heart Tugs* issue 1

- Scout puppet, ribbon (pastel blue and pink)
- washable markers, glue sticks, gold glitter
- none

More! Getting Started (10–15 minutes)

- 1** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children explore good news.

Transition Time

- Greet new arrivers, giving each a premade Station S-T-A-R name tag.
- Show a torn-up newspaper. SAY: **Scout is sad because he chewed up a paper that had good news written inside. Let's cheer up Scout by telling good news about Jesus.** Let children take turns doing so.
- Serve a snack. Follow your church's policy for restroom breaks.

Quick Step Good News Jump

SAY: **In today's Bible story, we are learning about a family who had good news to share. Let's play a game to see if we can tell good news.**

Have the children sit in a circle. Say a statement. If the statement is good news, the children can jump up. If the statement is not good news, they can remain seated. (Possible statements: We are going to a party. We have to go to the grocery store. My mommy just had a baby. It is time for bed. We are learning about baby Jesus today.)

ASK: **Do you have good news you want to share?** Allow children to tell good news. Other children can jump up after the news is told.

♥ **We can share good news about Jesus. That is the best news of all!**

Good News Show-and-Tell

Before class, place the items in the bag.

SAY: **I have some things in this bag that will tell us some good news. Let's see if you can guess what the things are.**

Let each child reach into the bag, feel one item, and try to identify it. Pull out the items to show whether the children's guesses were right. After all guesses, let the children guess what the good news is.

ASK: **What good news might people read in a newspaper?** (birth, wedding, or event announcements)

What good news can you tell with a baby blanket and baby doll? (A baby has been born.)

♥ **We can share good news about Jesus. News about Jesus is the best news to tell!**

Station S-T-A-R (unit center)

SAY: **In today's Bible story, we will hear how an angel gave good news to Mary and Joseph. Let's visit Station S-T-A-R, where the news is always good. We'll do a maze and take the angel to find Mary.**

Lead the children to Station S-T-A-R. Speak into the microphone to give instructions for the *Heart Tugs* activity.

ASK: **What good news do you think the angel was coming to tell Mary?**
What good news can you tell someone? Let children tell good news using the microphone.

♥ **We can share good news about Jesus. That's the best news of all!**

Especially for 4s!

Draw a broken line along the right path and let 4s trace over it.

Focus

♥ We can share good news about Jesus.

Save all visuals for reuse throughout the quarter.

Materials

none



Teaching Tip

Some children may think a statement is good news, while others may not. Remind children that it is OK to have different opinions.



Whisper prompts to children who may struggle to name an object.

Materials

baby doll, baby rattle, baby blanket, baby spoon, pacifier, newspaper, paper grocery bag



Teaching Tip

Some children may never have seen a newspaper. Show birth and engagement announcements, celebrations, etc., in the newspaper.

Materials

Heart Tugs issue 1, crayons (or colored pencils), *Resources* sheet 3 microphone



Focus

♥ We can share good news about Jesus.

More! Bible Discovery (20–25 minutes)

2

Use all these activities to help children **tell about a time when Mary and Joseph heard good news.**

Materials

Resources CD track 1,
CD player, Bible



More! Sing and Pray

Sing “Happy Birthday, Jesus.”

PRAY: **Dear God, help us to hear the good news that Mary and Joseph heard. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Whisper and SAY: **Did you ever have a friend tiptoe up behind you and then (louder and faster) say hello all of a sudden? The Bible tells us in the book of Matthew, chapter 1 (show Matthew 1), that the angel Gabriel surprised Mary and Joseph with some good news. But he didn’t sneak up behind them! Let’s find out what happened.**

Materials

Teaching Picture 1



Bible Time—Another Way!

Display the teaching picture, and say the Bible-story action rhyme below with a natural speaking voice or with a military cadence. Have the children repeat each line after you as they copy the motions. Once you begin a motion, maintain it while the line is repeated.

Down from Heav’n an angel came. Point up to Heaven.

Gabriel, Gabriel was his name. Point both thumbs to your chest.

“Mary, Mary,” Gabriel cried. Clap hands in approval.

“A girl like you is hard to find. Put hand over eyebrows and look around.

God will send a baby boy. Fold arms to rock a pretend baby.

Mary, you will have much joy. Point to smiling mouth.

Call Him Jesus, God’s own Son. Point up.

You’re His mother! You’re the one!” Hug self.

In a dream the angel spoke. Lay head on hands as though sleeping.

Joseph heard and then awoke. Stretch as though waking up.

He took Mary as his wife. Hook arms with person beside you.

Cared for her through all his life. Turn around with arms linked.

Mary and Joseph God did choose. Point to each child.

Gabriel gave them good, good news! Applaud loudly.



Materials

tinsel, broom,
pillow



More! Bible Review

Repeat the rhyme and have children act it out. Each time the rhyme is repeated, different children can play the parts of Gabriel, Mary, and Joseph. Use props to indicate who they are: a halo made of tinsel for the angel, a broom for Mary, a pillow for Joseph.

ASK: **What was the angel’s name?** (Gabriel)

What good news did the angel tell Mary and Joseph? (Jesus would be born.)

Materials

Bible, Resources CD
track 4, CD player,
Resources CD Unit 1 Bible
Memory Motions printable file



More! Bible Memory Matthew 2:1, 2

Before class, print and display the motions from the CD.

Have children sit in a circle. Read the Bible Memory from the Bible and review the motions. Sing “We Came to Worship Him” as the opened Bible is passed around the circle.

More! Grow and Go (15–20 minutes)

- 3** Use one or more of these learning centers to help children **share good news they know about baby Jesus.**

Focus

♥ We can share good news about Jesus.

Quick Step Scout's Good News

Scout comes out, carrying the ribbons. He is very excited. SAY: **Scout, why are you so excited? What do you have there?** Scout shows the ribbons. Then he whispers to you. **Oh, this is good news! Let's tell the children.**

When Scout was out for his morning run (Scout pretends to run), **he heard lots of laughing and happy talk. Scout stopped to see what was happening.** Scout stops. **He walked into his friend's backyard, and guess what he saw?** Let children guess. **Puppies! Seven puppies! How many boy puppies were there, Scout?** Scout hands you the blue ribbons one at a time as the children count them. **How many girls?** Count the pink ribbons.

The children in the family were so happy, they were giving pieces of ribbon to announce the good news. When the children saw Scout, they said, "Scout, you're a good friend. You can have some ribbons too!"

Scout gets excited again. **Scout, you brought the ribbons for us to see. Now you have shared the news with us. Thanks for sharing the news.** Pat Scout on the head.

ASK: **Who shared good news with Scout?**

We can share good news too. ♥ We can share good news about Jesus. What good news about Jesus will you share this week?

Materials

Scout puppet, 7 short lengths of ribbon
(4 pastel blue, 3 pink)



Children with special needs may identify with Scout as the recurring character each week. Use him when a transition time seems particularly difficult.

Materials

Resources CD Lesson 1
Coloring Page printable
file, washable markers (or
crayons), glue sticks, gold (or
silver) glitter



Teaching Tip

Use colored sugar sprinkles in place of glitter.

Cleanup

As you see children picking up toys, give award stickers.



An Angel Visits

Before class, print copies of the coloring page.

SAY: **The angel Gabriel shared good news with Mary and Joseph. Let's color a picture that shows Gabriel telling good news. We can give our pictures to other people, and then ♥ we can share good news about Jesus.**

As children color their pages, talk about the Bible story. Let children spread glue on the angel's hair or clothing, and then sprinkle glitter on it. Have children show their pictures and share something about baby Jesus.

ASK: **What good news did Gabriel tell Mary and Joseph?**

Who will you give your picture to? What good news about Jesus will you tell?

Especially for 4s!

Help the children put on the glue. Allow them to put the glitter wherever they desire—not just on the hair or clothing.

Saying Good-bye

- As children wait for parents, repeat the Bible Time—Another Way! action rhyme.
- Be sure children have projects made in class, but keep their name tags to use throughout the unit. Give parents this week's *Heart Tugs*. Encourage them to ask their children to share with them some good news about Jesus. Note: A *Family Together Time* page is available online for families to download. See www.heartshaper.com.

Just for You

Ten Commandments for Teachers

One

Understand that teaching children is a holy calling of eternal value; pray for each child and ask for loving wisdom as you prepare. (Being prepared says you care.)

Two

Get down at a child's eye level; show love and welcome by your touch, words, and smile. Teach respect by showing respect. (Your actions will teach far more than your words.)

Three

Make suggestions more often than you give commands; phrase directions positively. (A child must know what he or she *can* do in place of what he or she *cannot* do.)

Four

Be a teacher of great vision. See the most active, the most difficult, or the most withdrawn child not as a problem, but as a person to be loved into God's family. (Remember and repeat often that God loves and has good plans for each one.)

Five

Give acceptable choices and set reasonable limits; stick to them and keep your word when you make a promise. (Limits foster a child's sense of security.)

Six

Realize that your interaction is always needed, even when children are absorbed in an activity. (Stay nearby to guide conversation; listen, show love, and ask open-ended questions to help children understand and apply Bible truths.)

Seven

Be quick to see, describe, and thank a child for right actions. (Describing a child's actions helps the child put meaning to concepts like fairness and kindness.)

Eight

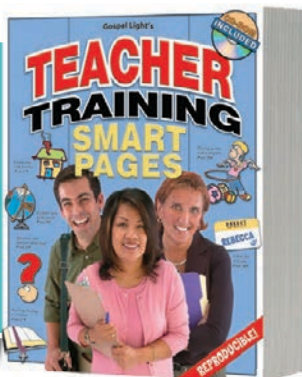
Remember that children learn by doing, so provide active ways for children to learn. (Have several activities ready when the first child arrives, so children may choose.)

Nine

Know what is typical behavior for children and guide children toward desirable behavior. (Children are not always able to see how their actions affect others.)

Ten

Remember how easily children absorb our attitudes and how watchful they are of our actions and reactions. (Our attitudes and actions will either affirm or deny the truth of our words!)



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