**Large Group December 17**

**Bible Teaching: Joseph and the Angel**

**Bible Passage: Matthew 1:18-25**

# **Bible Teaching Summary**

Joseph was engaged to be married. He learned that Mary was pregnant and he was trying to figure out how to handle it. While he was sleeping, an angel appeared in a dream and told him that Mary was pregnant with the Son of God. They were to name Him Jesus because He would save everyone from their sins. Jesus means “God of salvation.” God was sending His Savior and one day there will be a time that everyone will bow at the sound of His name.

**brite\* Idea:** Jesus is the Savior.

**Memory Verse: Isaiah 7:14b**

*(She) shall bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel (God with us).*

**Focus Verses: Isaiah 53:5, Hebrews 10:12, Ephesians 2:8-9**

**He Question:** How is Jesus able to save us?

Because He is God, Jesus was able to be the perfect sinless sacrifice for our sins. Because He was human, He was able to take our place. His death on the cross took the punishment for our sin.

**We Question:** What must we do to be saved?

God saves us by His grace when we trust in Jesus and accept the free gift of His forgiveness. We trust in Jesus as the only one who can save us from our sins.

**Me Question:** What does God want me to know about Him and what does this mean for my life?

# **Leader Tips: Connect to God’s Big Story**

When we read through the pages of Scripture, the truth about who God is comes alive. We not only learn truths about God’s character, but we see God speak and act in ways that are consistent with who He is. As a leader, you have an opportunity to help kids understand how what they are learning about God is reflected in the bigger story of God’s activity in the world. It began at creation and continues today. Look for opportunities to tie truths to the bigger story of Scripture and share ways that God’s character is demonstrated through His ongoing activity. Encourage the kids to think of additional Bible stories that represent the truth they are learning each week and discuss these examples. Remind kids that we are a part of God’s bigger story, and what was true about God’s character in Scripture is consistent with who God is in our lives today.

# **Navigating a Broken World: What Happens When We Die?**

Nearly 20% of adults surveyed indicated that they don’t believe in any kind of afterlife when people die.\* In addition, the world offers many theories on what happens when people die. Some believe in reincarnation – that we come back as another person or object. Some believe we turn into angels. Some believe our spirits rejoin the energy of the universe. All of these ideas show up in various kid movies and media. There may be kids in your group who are unsure of what really happens when people die. In today’s lesson, kids will learn that we have the opportunity to live forever in heaven with God, but we need a Savior to forgive us of our sins. Jesus is that Savior! Jesus provides the true answer for what happens when we die and He provides the way to eternal life.

[**https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2021/11/23/views-on-the-afterlife/**](https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2021/11/23/views-on-the-afterlife/)

**Large Group Experiences Overview**

 **Welcome:**

*Supplies Needed: 4 inflated balloons, one-minute timer, video player*

**Find it in the Bible:**

*Supplies Needed: Bible, teaching slides*

**Bible Teaching:**

*Supplies Needed: Bible*

**Bible Teaching Review:**

*Supplies Needed: Bible, teaching slides, video player, 2 flashlights*

**Bible Teaching Wrap-Up:**

*Supplies Needed: Bible, teaching slides, video player*

**SPLASH FLOW**

Note: Advance slide at hi lighted lines

Theme Slide

**Kid’s Enter**

 Welcome and encourage to play games/interact with other kids and teachers

**Gather kids into their age groups**

 Do the “Belong” activity with the 2 groups

Play Countdown **when groups are winding down with their “Belong” activity and gather them into the main teaching area**

 **Quick Welcome, ask to stand up, then Play worship videos**

Video: “Joy To The World (Joyful, Joyful)”

Video: “Jesus, Savior”

Offering

Theme Slide

**REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK** (Intro video from 12/10 is before this week’s intro video – see next page)

**Bible Story Video from 12/10/2023**

**Ask all to sit, then do “Bible Teaching” section below**

**Welcome Activity**

**Supplies:** 4 inflated balloons, one-minute timer, video player

**Prep:** Choose a kid to volunteer to come to the front.

**Say:** Your challenge is to keep this balloon from touching the ground for one minute. As you go, though, I’m going to keep adding balloons and you have to keep them all from touching the ground.

*Begin the timer and throw one balloon in the air. Every 10 seconds, add another balloon. Stop when a balloon hits the ground.*

**Say:** You tried really hard, but it was impossible for you to do this by yourself. Why don’t you choose someone to come help you?

*Try again allowing two kids to hit the balloons.*

**Say:** It was impossible to accomplish this on your own, but when your friend came to your rescue, you did much better. Today, we are going to learn more about how we all need a Rescuer.

***Intro Video from 12/10/2023***

*Play the Intro video for 12/17/2023, then follow the script below****.***

**Say:** Did you see that accident coming with the camera? I did not see Mia’s sacrifice coming! She sacrificed the money she had been saving to pay the debt Carlos owed for breaking the camera.

**Discuss:** Has anyone ever sacrificed something for you to help you out?

**Say:** Today we are going to learn about the awesome sacrifice Jesus made for us so that God could rescue us from our trouble. Today’s brite idea is Jesus is the Savior.

**Today we will answer these two questions:**

How is Jesus able to save us?

What must we do to be saved?

**And at the end of our time today, the question you will be able to answer is:**

What does God want me to know about Him and what does this mean for me?

#  **Find It in the Bible**

**What is the Bible?**

The Bible is real and true. God gave us the Bible so that we could know Him. The Bible is filled with many books and stories, but it’s all a part of one BIG story—God’s Story.

**What is God’s Bigger Story?**

**Creation:** God is the Creator of all things, and He is very good.

**Fall:** Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God. Sin broke the world and people were separated from God. All people have sinned so the relationship with God is broken for each of us.

**Redemption:** People could not fix their sin problem on their own. God promised all throughout the Old Testament that He would send a Rescuer, a Messiah, to save the people from their sin. He sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life and died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins.

**Restoration:** When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, our relationship with God can be made right again. We don’t do anything to earn it and we don’t deserve it. God restores us through His grace. One day, Jesus will return and restore the whole broken world, making it new again.

**Play “These Are The Books Of The Bible” Song video**

**The video can be viewed at this link:**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OwDywQ5qaqM> **or on our Brite page.**

**Where is today’s Bible story?**

Today’s story comes from the book of Matthew in the New Testament, the second half of the Bible. The first part of the Bible, the Old Testament, tells us about how God created the world and the very first people sinned. After that, God’s people messed up again and again. Every time, God would rescue them. He also promised that one day He would send a Savior to rescue them from their sins. The New Testament tells us about what happened during and after Jesus’ life on Earth. Today’s story happens right before Jesus is born.

*Open a Bible and show the kids the title page for the book of Matthew. Then show them how to get to today’s Bible passage (Matthew 1:18-25).*

**Bible Teaching:**

**Bible Passage:** Matthew 1:18-25

**Supplies:** Bible

**Prep:** None

**Say:** Most of you have probably heard about Jesus’ birth. Many of you have heard it a lot of times. That’s why as we talk about one part of this amazing story, I’ve decided we’ll play charades to tell what happened. That means acting something out without using any words at all. Watch carefully because I’m going to act out different parts of the story until you can guess correctly. Ready?

*Pretend to be a pregnant woman and have another adult pretend to be Joseph. Walk up and mouth to him that you’re pregnant and Joseph will act surprised and confused. Continue acting until kids guess what’s happening. For the rest of the charades parts you can either act out the scene or kids who volunteer can. If you have kids do it, briefly whisper the main idea of what they’re showing rather than having them read from your script. Remind them they can’t use words or sounds.*

**Say:** A young girl named Mary was pregnant with a baby, even though she did not have a husband. She was committed to marry a man named Joseph. When Joseph found out that she was expecting a baby, he didn’t want to embarrass her but also didn’t feel like he could marry her. He didn’t understand yet what God was doing!

*Pick two kids to pretend to be Joseph sleeping and the angel giving him the news. Allow kids to guess what is happening.*

**Say:** An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel told Joseph not to be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby was from God!

**Read Matthew 1:21 directly from the Bible,** “*She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”*

**Say:** The name “Jesus” literally means “God is salvation.” Even Jesus’ name would show what He was coming to do. The angel wasn’t just telling Joseph a random name, he was telling Joseph who Jesus would be. This was exactly what the Old Testament prophets had promised.

**Read Isaiah 7:14 directly from the Bible,** *(She) shall bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel (God with us). A baby was coming who would be the Savior for the whole world.*

*Select two kids to act out Joseph waking up and marrying Mary.*

**Say:** Joseph woke up from his dream and went to Mary. He took her as his wife and did everything the Lord had told him to do.

*If time allows, let kids act out other parts of Jesus’ birth for the rest of the group to guess.*

**POINT TO JESUS**

Isaiah 53:5 says, *“But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.”* This promised Jesus would die on the cross for our sin and rise from the dead, beating death and making a way for us to live forever with Him. When we call on His name, we can be saved. One day He will return to Earth and everyone will realize that He is the true King. He is our Savior.

**Bible Teaching: Review**

**Supplies:** Bible, teaching slides, video player, 2 flashlights

**Prep:** Designate one side of the room as “True” and one side of the room as “False.”

**Watch the Bible Review Video and then play the game below.**

**Bring two kids to the front for each question. Give each kid a flashlight. They will shine their spotlight on the correct answer. (As an alternative, give every kid a small flashlight and they can each show their answer.)**

1. While Joseph found out Mary was having a baby, he was mean and didn’t want to talk to her anymore. **(False)**

*He didn’t understand what was happening. He wanted to keep her from being embarrassed but couldn’t marry her.*

1. While Joseph was sleeping, an angel appeared to him in a dream. **(True)**

3. The angel told Joseph that he should absolutely not take Mary as his wife. **(False)** *The angel told Joseph not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife because the baby*

 *was from God.*

 4. The angel told Joseph to name the baby John. **(False)**

*He was to name the baby Jesus because He would save the people from their sins.*

 5. The name Jesus means God is salvation. **(True)**

6**.** Jesus’s death on the cross would make it possible for Him to be our Savior

 because He was the perfect sacrifice for our sin. (True)

*Because He is God, Jesus was able to be the perfect sinless sacrifice for our sins. Because He was a man, He was able to take our place. His death on the cross took the punishment for our sin.*

 7. For us to be saved from our sin, we must be really good all of the time. **(False)**

*God saves us by His grace when we trust in Jesus and accept the free gift of His forgiveness. We trust in Jesus as the only one who can save us from our sins.*

**Bible Teaching: Wrap-Up**

**Supplies:** Bible, teaching slides, video player

**Prep:** None

**The brite\* idea for the day is:** Jesus is the Savior.

**Memory Verse:**

Choose an older kid to look up the verse and read it aloud to the group. Have the whole group repeat it together.

*(She) shall bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel (God with us). Isaiah 7:14b*

**Teaching Wrap-Up**

**He Question: How is Jesus able to save us?**

Because He is God, Jesus was able to be the perfect sinless sacrifice for our sins. Because He was human, He was able to take our place. His death on the cross took the punishment for our sin.

**We Question: What must we do to be saved?**

God saves us by His grace when we trust in Jesus and accept the free gift of His forgiveness. We trust in Jesus as the only one who can save us from our sins.

**As time permits…**

**Gather kids into their 2 age groups**

Do the “Believing” activity with the 2 groups

 AND/OR

***Do the “Becoming” activity with the 2 groups DEPENDING UPON TIME AVAILABLE***

**Prayer**

God, we praise You that You offer salvation. You love us so much that You sent Jesus to be the perfect sacrifice for our sin so that we have the opportunity to live forever with You. If any in our group have not trusted You as Savior, we pray that You will help them make that choice today. Amen.