

2.8 GOD SENT HIS SON

Topic: Meeting Jesus, the Son of God

Subtopic: The Birth of Jesus

1B. Jesus Christ: God the Son

Class: Standard II (2nd Grade)

Objectives:

Knowledge: When asked who Jesus is, students will say He is the Son of God who came to save us from our sins.

Attitude: Students will develop a loving relationship with Jesus as they understand why He came to earth.

Materials Needed:

Memory Verse Exercise Book

Exercise Book

Props for acting out story (optional)

Scripture:

References: Luke 2:1-20; Matthew 1:18-2:12; Teacher's Notes

Memory Verse: "For God loved the world so much that He gave His only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life." John 3:16 GNT

TEACHER ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

1. When you hear the word Christmas, what do you think of? What is the reason we celebrate Christmas?

Bible Story:

2. Tell the story of Jesus' birth from Lk 2:1-20 and Matthew 1:18-1:1-12

Suggested Discussion Questions

3. Why did God send Jesus, His Son, to earth?
4. Who did the people think the Messiah would be?
5. Why was this baby born in Bethlehem?
6. What name was Joseph told to give this baby?
7. Who were the first to be told that Jesus was born?
8. What did God provide to guide the wise men to the Christchild?

Application:

9. Does it make any difference to you and me that Jesus came to earth? If so, why is it important to you and me?

Evaluation:

10. What do we have to do to experience eternal life?

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

1. Students describe their understanding of Christmas. Expect them to say we celebrate the birth of God's Son, Jesus.

Bible Story:

2. Students will listen to the Christmas story. This is a good story to act out as it is narrated.

Possible Answers to Questions:

3. God had promised to send the Messiah. He was sad that people made bad life choices and He wanted to show them a better way.
4. They thought he would be a political figure to rule the government
5. His parents had to go to Bethlehem to be counted, like a census, but everyone had to go to his home area.
6. Jesus—because he will save his people from their sins.
7. Angels announced Jesus' birth to lowly shepherds who went to find the child in a manger in the stable.
8. God provided a star to guide them.

Application:

9. Jesus came to save us from our sins. He shows us the way to salvation.

Evaluation:

10. Believe in Jesus John 3:16

Extension Activities

1. Memory Verse: Have the children write their new verse in their Memory Verse Exercise book: “For God loved the world so much that He gave His only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not die but have eternal life.” John 3:16 GNT
2. In their exercise book, have the children write at the top: God, the Son: Jesus Christ. Underneath write: The Birth of Jesus. Then have them draw a picture of some aspect of Christ’s birth. e.g. star, manger, shepherds
3. Create a decorative tree that tells the story of Christ’s birth. **Materials needed: branch of a tree (dead or alive) planted in a pot of dirt, small pieces of paper (4”x4”) for each child, pens/crayons, paper punch (to make holes in paper for hanging the pictures), string to use for tying pictures on tree, scissors for cutting string.** Provide each student with a small paper. On that paper have the child draw a picture of some aspect of the Christmas story (manger, baby wrapped in clothes, sheep, angel, Mary, Joseph, shepherd, wise man, stable, gold, frankincense and myrrh). As the pictures are completed, make a hole at the top of each picture and slip string through it. Then hang them on a branch of the tree. Let the tree stand in the classroom for the three weeks you will be learning about Jesus the Son of God. Encourage the children to tell the story of Christ’s birth as they look at the pictures. If no tree is available, create a tree on the wall with the pictures the children have made by pinning or taping the pictures on the wall.
4. Act out this story. You will need to provide props as necessary. If it is possible, you might want to plan to present a program acting out this story for the children’s parents.

NOTES FOR TEACHERS

Highlights for the Bible Story

Background. As you tell this story, remind the children that God saw that the people He had created made choices that led them away from God. For many years, He promised people that He was going to send the Messiah to come to earth to provide the way for us to be saved from their sins.

1. Everyone had been called to go to the home of their origin to be counted (registered) so Joseph and Mary had to go to Bethlehem. It was a long slow journey from Nazareth because there were no cars or planes so they probably walked most of the way.
2. When they arrived in Bethlehem, it was very crowded and there was no place to stay. They ended up staying in a stable. A stable is a shelter where animals are kept and protected from rain. There is usually a place in the stable where animals are given their food which is called the manger.
3. Jesus was born in the stable and placed in the manger. Joseph had been told in a dream to name the child Jesus—because he will save his people from their sins.
4. Jesus was no ordinary child. Once the baby was born, the heavens broke forth to announce the arrival of His birth. They went first to shepherds who were very afraid.
5. The angel told them not to be afraid because he had good news for them. “I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day in

David's town your Savior was born—Christ the Lord!” (Luke 2:10-11 GNT) He told them to go find the child. He told them the child would be lying in a manger wrapped in soft cloths.

6. The shepherds found the child just as they had been told. They were so excited that they had to tell everybody what had happened.
7. In another part of the world, wise men had been following an unusual star. They assumed that people in authority would know where the king the star was leading them to would be born so they stopped in Jerusalem. The king didn't know but the chief priests found that He was to be born in Bethlehem.
8. The king was jealous and didn't want there to be another king. He told the wise men to return and let him know where this baby was born.
9. The star came back and guided the wise men to Bethlehem. They fell down and worshiped the child and presented Him with gifts—gold, frankincense and myrrh. God warned them in a dream not to return to the king because he had evil intents. The wise men went back to their country another way.
10. God loved us so much, He sent His son so that He might lead the way for us to be saved from our sins and experience eternal life.

Key Point

God gave the greatest gift ever to be given when He sent Jesus to earth. The birth of Jesus is a fulfillment of God to send the Messiah who would save us from our sins and open the way for us to spend eternity with Him.

Maybe this story can help explain why Jesus came to earth. One Christmas eve, the church was presenting a Christmas program. A mother and her children wanted to attend the service but the father chose to stay home. While they were gone, a big storm came up. The father noticed a large flock of birds flying around perhaps trying to find protection from the storm. He ran outside and opened the door to his stable thinking they might fly in there at least until the storm was over but he couldn't seem to make them understand. His efforts to shoo them into the stable only made them fly about more wildly. Finally he said, “If only I were a bird and able to tell them what they could do, maybe they would accept the protection.” As he said that, suddenly he thought, “Yes, that's exactly why God sent Jesus. He sent His Son to earth so He could tell us about God and His ways and show us the way to salvation and eternal life.”

Teacher Evaluation

Have I been able to present the real meaning of Christmas to the students? Have I conveyed to the students how much God loves us that He sent His Son, Jesus, to live among us and show us the way to please God? Is His birth important to me?