

# Lesson 2

## Good News of Great Joy

**Bible Lesson:** Luke 2:1-20

**Memory Verse:** “For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” *Luke 2:11*

### TEACHER PREPARATION

#### Prepare to Teach

- ◆ that Jesus is the Savior
- ◆ that Jesus came to earth as a baby
- ◆ that angels proclaimed Jesus’ birth to lowly shepherds

#### Prepare Materials

- ◆ birthday party invitations (to be mailed to students prior to class)
- ◆ birthday party items
- ◆ birthday cake for Jesus
- ◆ 1 large birthday candle
- ◆ small gift for each child
- ◆ peep box materials (see lesson for details)
- ◆ figures on tree for storytelling (optional)
- ◆ illustrated books of the Christmas Story (optional)
- ◆ large box in Christmas wrapping with a bow and memory verse printed on one side
- ◆ 7”x8” frames cut from heavy paper or lightweight cardboard with a 2”x3” frame opening,” 1 per child
- ◆ 2” yellow felt stars, 1 per child
- ◆ large tongue depressors, 2 per child
- ◆ straw, jute, mini rocks, or rope for frame decor
- ◆ craft paint and paintbrushes
- ◆ craft glue
- ◆ nativity stickers or small nativity pictures
- ◆ wide tape such as packing tape
- ◆ folding angel paper doll (pattern in Teacher Manual)
- ◆ at least 3 yellow or white sheets of paper, folded to make a folding angel

### BIBLE BACKGROUND

*To be added*

### BEGINNING YOUR CLASS HOUR

#### Welcome with Love

Dress in a special Christmas outfit. You are having a birthday party today! As the children enter the room, welcome them to the birthday party. They will probably ask about whose birthday it is. Tell them they will soon find out. Visit with the children as you wait for everyone to arrive. Talk about Christmas preparations and programs with which they may be involved. This may also be a good time to review any pieces the children are learning for a Sunday school Christmas

program.

#### Use a Learning Center

##### REVIEW CENTER

**REVIEW** lesson(s) and Bible verse(s) from Quarter 1. **ASK** some of the following questions from last week:

- ◆ Where did the young women named Mary live? (Nazareth)
- ◆ Who brought Mary a message from God? (Gabriel)

- ◆ What happened to Mary when she saw the angel? (She became frightened.)
- ◆ What was the message Gabriel told Mary? (She would have a baby.)
- ◆ What was special about this baby? (He would be God's own Son.)
- ◆ Who was told in a dream by an angel to take Mary as his wife? (Joseph)

### ***PARTY CENTER - HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS***

Have a birthday party for Jesus.

Make a cake and include the words, "Happy Birthday, Jesus." If possible, have special napkins, plates, party hats, streamers, and a candle. Have a small gift wrapped for each child. Try to find a small gift that would remind the children of Jesus, the best gift of all, such as a bookmark with a Bible verse or a small Christmas ornament.

Light the candle and sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus. (Use one larger candle.)

**SING** "Joy to the World" as the cake is being passed out. While the children eat their cake, ask the children why we are having a birthday party for Jesus. Let the children answer. Talk about why Jesus came to Earth and what He did for us. Tell the children that Jesus is God but came to Earth as a baby to save us.

When the children are almost done with their cake, ask them if there is anything missing from today's party. The answer is a gift or present. Give the children the presents you have prepared and ask why they would receive a present when it is not their birthday. Tell the children that Jesus is a gift to us from God. Jesus came to give us the gift of salvation. All who believe in Him have eternal life.

**READ** Romans 6:23. Tell the children that God gives us the gift of eternal life through Jesus, and one day Jesus will come back to Earth to take His people home to heaven.

Let the children open their gifts. Tell them this gift is to remind them that Jesus is the greatest gift ever given to us because He is our Savior.

**SING** another Christmas song.

## **TEACHING TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON**

### **Sing the Message**

Sing some of the following Christmas carols:

"Joy to the World" p.66 Songs of God and Me.

"Angels We Have Heard on High" p.22

Ambassador Hymnal.

"In a Little Stable" p.333 Ambassador

Hymnal.

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" p.44

Ambassador Hymnal.

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" p.20

Ambassador Hymnal (stanza 1).

"Silent Night" p.64 Songs of God and Me.

**SING** any other Christmas song desired.

### **Pray the Message**

- ◆ Thank and praise God for the Christmas season.
- ◆ Thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, to this Earth to save us from our sins.
- ◆ Thank God for church and Sunday school

and that each child could be there.

- ◆ Pray for open minds and hearts to hear God's Word.
- ◆ Thank God for bringing each student to Sunday school and pray for them by name.

### **Learn the New Words**

You can either introduce these words before reading the Bible lesson and/or highlight them as the lesson is read. Ask and explain the meanings as you come to the words in the lesson.

**stable** a barn

**Bethlehem** a town in Israel

**shepherd** a person who watches over and takes care of sheep for a living

**manger** a trough or box that holds food for animals

**multitude** a very large number (too many to count!)

## Introduce the Message

**OPEN** your Bible to the lesson text. It is important that the children know the lessons are true and that they come from the Bible. The lessons are not just stories.

Have the children move over around the Christmas tree. **ASK** the children why we celebrate Christmas. Make it clear that we do not celebrate because of Santa Claus and presents. We celebrated because Jesus the Savior is born!

**SHOW** the children the peep box. Suggested materials: stars on a dark blue background; sticks for stable walls, figures of Mary, the angel, Joseph, Baby Jesus, shepherds, sheep, or other animals.

If using figures found on the Christmas tree or Nativity scene figures, have them ready.

There are many good books illustrating the Christmas story. The pictures from these books can be used to show to the children as the story is being told.

## Read/Tell the Message

### GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY

*See student leaflet.*

## Reinforce the Message

**ASK** the following questions:

- ◆ To what town did Mary and Joseph travel to be counted? (Bethlehem)
- ◆ Where did Mary and Joseph stay while in Bethlehem? (in a stable)
- ◆ Why did they stay in a stable? (The city was so crowded that there was no room for them to stay at the inn.)
- ◆ After Jesus was born, where did Mary place Him? (in the manger)
- ◆ Who frightened the shepherds who were watching their sheep outside of Bethlehem? (an angel)
- ◆ What did the angel tell the shepherds? (Jesus the Savior is born. Go to Bethlehem and see the Baby Jesus.)
- ◆ Who praised God and said, “Glory to God in the highest”? (a multitude of angels)
- ◆ What did the shepherds do when they saw Jesus? (They worshiped him and told others about Jesus’ birth.)

**SING** “Away in a Manger.”

## APPLYING THE BIBLE LESSON

### Review the Bible Verse

**WRAP** a large box with nice Christmas paper and put a big bow on it. Write the memory verse on a piece of paper. Make it large enough so it is easy to see. Tape the Bible verse to the wrapped box. Place it under the tree before class. Ask one of the children to pick up the box under the tree and bring it to you.

**POINT** to the verse and ask the children if they remember the Bible verse they learned last week. Remind them it tells of Jesus’ birth and that some of the words were even in today’s lesson. Say the Bible verse with the children and point to the words as you say it. They may not be able to read, but it is a helpful learning visual.

**REPEAT** the verse. Let the children say it themselves. Help them when it is needed.

Ask the questions, “Who said these words in the verse, and to whom were these words directed?” and “Who is the Savior?” Repeat verse.

### Do the Activities Together

#### ACTIVITY 1 - LEAFLET – *The Nativity*

Guide the children in connecting the dots to complete the manger in the picture. As the children color the picture, let them take turns telling the Christmas story. Also recite the memory verse together several times.

#### ACTIVITY 2 - ART ACTIVITY - *Bethlehem Stable*

Using heavy paper or lightweight cardboard, cut out a frame for each student. The frame should measure approximately 7”x8” with a picture opening of 2”x3”. Keep the cutout

center for later in the activity. Cut from yellow felt one 2" star for each child.

Give each student a frame, two tongue depressors, a paint brush, and a felt star. Let them paint the frame with the color of choice. Tell them they are making a stable frame to remind them of Jesus' birth. If they want, let them paint the tongue depressors as well. Allow a few minutes to dry. Glue the tongue depressors together at one corner, angling them out to create a roof. Hold for a few moments to dry, and then glue the roof to the top of the frame, letting the bottom ends of the depressors hang over the edge of the frame. The result should resemble a stable structure. Glue the felt star at the intersection of the tongue depressors. Continue decorating the frame by adding straw, jute, mini-rocks, or twine to frame the doorway or add any other material to make the stable look more authentic. Glue a piece of twine at the top of the frame to make a hanger.

On the cutout center piece, have the children put a sticker or glue a picture of a Nativity scene. Using wide tape, such as packaging tape, secure the cutout piece to the back of the frame, filling in the open area.

Allow time to set. As the children work, ask them to tell you what their favorite part of the Christmas story is and why.

### ***ACTIVITY 3 - ART ACTIVITY - "Glory to God in the Highest"***

The children will be making an angel paper chain to hang on their Christmas tree. (Have a sample on your classroom tree, as you would garland.)

Using the angel paper doll pattern in the Teacher Manual, draw the outline on a piece of folded white or yellow paper (at least three for each child).

Give each child the folded papers with the angel outline. Have the children cut out the angels, reminding them not to cut along the dotted line where the pattern will unfold. Help as needed. Then let the children unfold the papers to see the angels.

Across the angel chain, write the memory verse or "Glory to God in the Highest," creating a banner effect.

Ask the children to whom the angels said these words and how did these people respond. Let the children take their angel garland home and put it on the Christmas tree. The angel garland will remind them of the story of Baby Jesus.

## CLOSING YOUR CLASS HOUR

### **Teach and Sing**

**REVIEW** the first stanza of the theme hymn. Have the children say the words together first and then sing the song. **ASK** the children who they are trusting according to this hymn and what does Jesus give us.

**REVIEW** other songs sung during this lesson.

### **Memory Verse Review**

**RECITE** the memory verse again before closing prayer. The children should know the verse fairly well, so have them say it by themselves. You may have to help them with the reference, which should always be included.

**ASK:** Who spoke these words? (an angel of the Lord) To whom did they give this wonderful message? (to the shepherds) Who is the Savior? (Jesus)

### **Pray Together**

**ASK** the children to sit quietly and fold their hands. Have the children close their eyes and bow their heads.

**PRAY.** Thank God for the children. Thank God for sending His Son, Jesus. Thank God for providing salvation for sinful man through Jesus. Thank God for His gift of eternal life. Thank God that Jesus is coming again to take us home to heaven.

**PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK****Gather and Prepare Materials**

- ◆ wrapped Lesson items - see Lesson for details
- ◆ Christmas audio tape or CD
- ◆ special ornament or Christmas decoration - see Lesson for details
- ◆ glow in the dark stars
- ◆ covering for windows \*optional
- ◆ telescope(s)
- ◆ peep box materials - see Lesson for details
- ◆ Bible verse gift
- ◆ 3 inch stars made from self - hardening clay - one for each child
- ◆ craft paint and brushes
- ◆ glitter
- ◆ glitter chenille or gold ribbon
- ◆ small box with lid separately wrapped
- ◆ small bows
- ◆ Opt - small bells
- ◆ master of pictures of Baby Jesus, cross and heaven found in the Teacher's Manual

**Prepare Lesson 3**

*Begin your study and preparation with prayer. Study the Bible background to aid in your preparation.*

*Pray for each student by name. Pray for the church and Sunday School.*

*Read the Bible text* (Matthew 2:1-12) and the student lesson.

*Review the Bible verse:*

“For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”  
*Luke 2:11*

*Read the Teacher Manual.*

Highlight, underline, and add your own notes for teaching the class session.

	

