

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 3 • Unit 5 • Week 1

CHRIST'S BIRTH

OBJECTIVE:

The student will learn about the birth of Jesus Christ, as compared to the Christmas story, and the importance of His birth to all of mankind.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Do: Show an illustration of a typical nativity scene.

Ask: Who can tell the class what we see?

Say: Yes, this is referred to as a nativity scene. To many in the world it is what they believe to be the scene at Jesus Christ's birth. Today we are going to read what the Bible has to say about Jesus Christ's birth and see if this scene is true.

Say: For those of you who have your Bible, we are going to begin reading in Luke 2. You can turn there in your Bible now and follow along. Pay careful attention to what we read. You will need to tell the class if you notice something in this nativity scene that is true or untrue according to the Bible. You may raise your hand any time you discover something that is either true or untrue.

BIBLE LESSON:

Say: We will begin reading in Luke 2:1.

Do: Read Luke 2:1-5.

Say: Joseph and Mary needed to go to Joseph's "hometown," where he was born, to be counted in the census. A census is when everyone is counted to see how many people there are.

Every man needed to return to his place of birth. Joseph's family would be counted in the census with him. This would have been a long journey for Joseph and Mary. Remember Mary was pregnant with Jesus Christ.

Now let's continue reading Luke 2:6-7.

Do: Read Luke 2:6-7 (or have a student read these two verses).

Say: While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to Jesus Christ. Now the end of verse 7 says there was no room for them in the inn. An inn in this scripture is not referring to a hotel or motel like we might stay in today, but a guest room in the home of relatives. This verse means that there was no room for them in Joseph's family home.

Joseph's brothers, uncles and other family members would have all been in Bethlehem for the census. This would have quickly filled up any empty space that his family may have had in their home. Joseph and Mary had to stay in the portion of the home that was often used to keep animals sheltered. This would be a very humble place.

Since Mary was about to have a baby, Joseph made sure that the room was clean and private for Mary to deliver Jesus Christ. Joseph probably worked very diligently and carefully to make a nice comfortable place for Mary.

Ask: I notice some animals in this nativity scene. Do you think Joseph would have animals right there in the stable with Mary? Can animals sometimes be dirty?

Do: Allow the students to give their responses.

Say: Joseph probably wouldn't have wanted animals right there with them at such a special time. He wouldn't want the mess and odor to be right there where Mary is delivering the very Son of God. Joseph probably would have taken the animals to another location.

Do: Have a student come up to the flannel board and remove the animals.

Ask: Now who can read verse 8 of Luke 2 for the class?

Do: Read Luke 2:8.

Say: We learn in verse 8 that the shepherds were in the field taking care of their flocks at night-time.

Ask: Christmas is celebrated in the winter when it's very cold outside. In Palestine it didn't snow in the winter, but it did—and still does—get very cold. Do you think that the shepherds would have their flocks outside at night in the cold weather? Or would they be inside a stable? Would you want to stay outside all night long in the winter to watch the sheep?

Do: Allow the students to respond. Have a student remove the tree with snow from the flannel board.

Say: We can already see that this nativity scene isn't completely true. Let's start reading in verse 8 again and see if what is remaining on the flannel board is accurate or not.

Do: Read Luke 2:8-15.

Ask: How did the shepherds in the field know that Jesus Christ was born?

Say: Right, an angel appeared to them and announced that Jesus Christ was born. There was no bright shining star in the sky that announced to everyone that Jesus Christ was born. God sent His angel to tell the shepherds of Christ's birth.

Do: Allow a student to remove the star from the flannel board.

Ask: What sign did the angel say would let the shepherds know that they had found Jesus Christ?

Do: Display verse 12, and allow the students to answer.

Say: Correct. The angel said in verse 12, "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."

Say: Now let's finish reading in Luke 2:16-18.

Do: Read Luke 2:16-18.

Ask: Did the shepherds find Jesus Christ, just as the angel had said? What did the shepherds do after they saw Jesus Christ?

Do: Allow students to answer.

Say: Yes, the shepherds did find Joseph, Mary and Jesus Christ just as the angel had said. Then they told everyone about the angel appearing before them announcing the birth of Jesus Christ. We also read that the shepherds praised and glorified God for revealing Christ's birth to them.

Most people at this time, especially the Jews, were aware that a Savior was to be born. They knew this from scriptures written earlier in the Old Testament prophesying Christ's birth. "Prophesying" means telling what will happen in the future.

Say: Now there are some men in this nativity scene that definitely don't look like shepherds. Let's turn to the book of Matthew and see if we can figure out who they might be.

- Ask: We're going to begin reading in Matthew 2:1. Who can read Matthew 2:1 for the class?
- Do: Read Matthew 2:1.
- Say: In this scripture we read about wise men from the East coming to Bethlehem to see Jesus Christ.
- Ask: How many wise men does the Bible say come to see Jesus Christ?
- Say: You're right. The Bible makes no mention at all as to how many wise men there were. We have no idea. There could have been two, or there could have been 12. We simply don't know.
- Say: Now let's read Matthew 2:2-10.
- Do: Read Matthew 2:2-10. Then display verse 2.
- Say: In verse 2 it reads, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." Remember, everyone was expecting and anticipating the birth of Jesus Christ, even King Herod.
- Ask: Why do you think the king was troubled, as it mentioned in verse 3?
- Say: King Herod was troubled because he probably already had heard rumors that Christ was born, but did not know exactly when. Christ's position and authority as king was extremely threatening to Herod and that's why he asked the wise men when the star appeared. King Herod wanted to kill Jesus Christ. He didn't want to come and worship Him like he told the wise men.
- Say: Now let's read in verse 11 and find out what the wise men found when they went into the home where Jesus was.
- Do: Have a student read verse 11. Display verse 11 for the class.
- Say: We read, "And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary...."
- In Luke 2:16 we read that the shepherds saw the baby in a manger. Here in Matthew 2:11 the wise men see the child in a house. Joseph, Mary and Jesus were no longer in a stable—some time had passed between when the shepherds first saw Christ and when the wise men arrived.
- Ask: Should these wise men be in the scene of Christ's birth?

Do: Have a student come to the flannel board and remove the “wise men.”

Ask: Do you think that there was a shining halo around Christ, Mary or anyone?

Do: Allow the students to give their responses.

Say: There wasn't a halo or any other bright light shining from Christ or Mary as many nativity scenes show.

Say: At this point, we have Joseph, Mary and Christ in the stable. The shepherds would have come shortly after Jesus' birth. This is the best representation of who would have been there from what we can see in the Bible.

It's important to know about Christ's birth and the circumstances surrounding it. But it is much more important to know why Christ was born.

It is not important to know about Christ's birth so we could give gifts to one another. It was not important so we could look at nativity scenes. God didn't send Christ to this earth for everyone to remember Him as a baby.

Christ came to this earth to be a living sacrifice for our sins. Christ is the One through whom we all will receive eternal life. Christ lived a perfect life, free of sin. Christ died a very painful, humiliating death for you, me and everyone who has lived or will live.

If Jesus Christ were not born on this earth we would have no hope at all. We would live this physical life and die. We would not have the opportunity for eternal life with God and Christ.

We can honor Christ, His birth, life and death, by striving to follow His example and commands.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Say: Christ now sits at the very right hand of God our Father. He sits in a position of honor and power. Because Christ willingly came to this earth to be our Savior, He has many names honoring and glorifying Him, as we see from our memory scripture.

Today we are going to do a word search. We will try to find some of the many names that Christ has. When you go home you and your family can take the time to find even more names for Christ simply by looking in your Bible.

Do: Hand each student a copy of the attached word search puzzle. Remind the students that the words can be found forwards, backwards, diagonally, up and down.

Music:

Sing verse 2 of "God Our Father, Christ Our Brother," page 39 of the United Church of God hymnal.

MEMORY VERSE:

Isaiah 9:6 "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Say: Christ came to this earth to redeem us from certain death that we earn through our sins. In this scripture we learn that Christ was born to fulfill the position of a TRUE leader on this earth during His millennial rule.

W	O	N	D	O	G	F	O	B	M	A	L	U	G	I	V	E	R	H	R
L	I	R	F	E	E	V	H	A	D	U	J	F	O	N	O	I	L	S	E
B	E	T	H	M	R	S	E	S	K	E	O	G	R	K	P	S	A	O	D
P	C	V	D	C	H	R	I	R	T	M	R	R	O	O	E	V	C	N	E
P	D	O	E	F	U	L	J	U	L	A	D	Z	L	D	I	G	H	O	Y
R	G	T	H	R	J	T	S	L	A	L	M	M	E	I	J	G	H	F	T
I	W	E	F	I	L	A	M	E	V	E	I	R	S	O	E	S	C	G	E
N	W	R	T	N	A	A	A	R	L	G	X	T	N	R	S	O	N	O	M
C	O	S	R	K	G	F	S	T	H	S	L	P	U	T	U	H	B	D	E
E	N	G	O	D	I	A	H	T	I	O	U	S	O	N	Q	K	H	F	R
F	D	N	U	R	E	N	Y	V	I	R	H	E	C	R	C	X	H	K	W
F	E	I	T	L	T	G	G	A	S	N	I	L	P	U	H	F	J	F	O
P	R	K	D	O	O	G	F	D	B	A	G	D	S	W	R	G	D	M	N
E	F	F	H	D	R	R	S	O	O	R	H	F	J	Y	C	W	T	V	D
E	U	O	T	U	M	I	D	E	B	M	P	S	A	V	I	O	R	T	E
R	L	G	H	O	L	A	S	T	O	M	E	M	S	T	D	N	I	E	R
K	D	N	H	M	E	S	G	S	J	E	S	U	S	C	H	R	I	S	T
P	R	I	N	C	E	O	F	P	E	A	C	E	W	U	C	E	H	N	A
G	O	K	P	E	H	A	I	P	R	I	F	C	Z	H	S	I	R	C	M
E	C	A	E	F	C	O	M	E	S	S	I	A	H	N	E	E	J	S	E

Counselor
Everlasting Father
Jesus Christ
King of kings
Lamb of God
Lion of Judah

Messiah
Mighty God
Prince of Peace
Savior
Son of God
Wonderful

family activity

THE POINT:

Christ was born on this earth for the salvation of all mankind.

ASK ME...

About the events surrounding Jesus Christ's birth.

Why Christ was born on this earth.

Why it is important to know why Christ was born.

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

How many names for Jesus Christ can you find in the Bible? Take some time to discuss why God has given Jesus Christ those names. Would Jesus Christ have these names if He were never born on this earth?

MEMORY VERSE:

Isaiah 9:6 "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."