



THE PROMISE OF CHRISTMAS

GENESIS 12:3; ISAIAH 7:14, 9:6-7, 53; JEREMIAH 31:15;
HOSEA 11:1; MICAH 5:2; MATTHEW 1:1, 1:21-23, 2:6, 2:13-18;
JOHN 7:42; COLOSSIANS 1:17

GOAL

- ▶ To teach children that God had planned and promised to send Jesus to save us from our sins. The prophets foretold Jesus' coming long before His birth.

WORDS TO KNOW

- ▶ **Descendant:** A person who is part of a family that has come from a particular individual.

MEMORY VERSES

- ▶ **Colossians 1:17:** And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

1 John 5:11: And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

OVERVIEW

- ▶ **Read Genesis 12:3; Isaiah 7:14 9:7 Isaiah 9:6-7, 53; Jeremiah 31:15; Hosea 11:1; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:1, 1:21-23, 2:6, 2:13-18; John 7:42; Colossians 1:17:** Long before Jesus was born, prophets had been telling people about the greatness and salvation He would bring. God's plan to save us from our sin stretches back all the way to the beginning. No matter how strange and seemingly impossible the prophecies may have seemed, Jesus' fulfilled them all. At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus—the greatest gift we will ever receive.



SUGGESTIONS

- **Jesus is the center of God's Story:** From Genesis to Revelation, the entire story of God is about Jesus. He was the focus of everything promised in the Old Testament.
- **Jesus fulfilled every promise of God:** When Jesus came, He fulfilled every promise God had ever made. From His birth to His death, Jesus fulfilled the Word of God in every way.
- **Jesus is the reason we celebrate Christmas:** Christmas is filled with reasons to celebrate, but THE reason is the coming of Jesus, who is the fulfillment of God's ultimate promise: that He would send us a Savior.

PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

Ages 5-7 **Christmas Bingo** | **Supplies:** bingo cards, Christmas candies

Create a Bingo card with Christmas-themed pictures instead of letters and numbers. Students use the candies to mark off the images you call out. The first one to get a row of marked images wins.

Ages 5-7 **He, Is, Born!**

This game is similar to the traditional "Duck, Duck, Goose" game. Sit the students in a circle. Select one child to walk around the circle, tapping each head, saying, "He is, He is..." until they choose a child to run after them, saying, "Born!" The selected runner chases the other until they get back to the open space.

Ages 5-10 **Shepherds and Sugar** | **Supplies:** candy canes

Divide the class into teams and have the students line up. Give each student a candy cane. In front of each line, place a pile of candy canes on a table. Students at the front of the line will put the straight end of their candy canes in their mouths. On go, they will use the hook end of the candy cane to hook candy canes in the pile without using their hands. After 30 seconds, count how many candy canes the students hooked. Each candy cane hooked counts as one point. Continue until each student has a chance to try hooking candy canes. The team with the most points at the end wins.



**MEMORY
VERSE
MEANING**

▶ **Colossians 1:17:** Jesus is God, meaning that He is our Creator. He was before all things, and He holds everything together.

1 John 5:11: God gave us His Son so that our sins would be forgiven, giving us eternal life in Heaven.

**POST-LESSON
ACTIVITY**

▶ **Ages 5-7** **The Good Shepherd Candy Cane** | **Supplies:** pipe cleaners and red and white beads

Give the students the beads and pipe cleaners, and instruct them to make a knot on one end of the pipe cleaner. Then have them thread one of the beads onto the pipe cleaner, alternating between white and red.

When Jesus was born, shepherds came to worship Him. The candy cane is meant to remind us of them. Also, Jesus is the good shepherd who looks after His flock—that's us! The red symbolizes the blood He shed in His sacrifice on the cross to save us from our sins, and the white symbolizes His purity.

Ages 5-10 **Birthday Cards** | **Supplies:** construction paper, pens, markers, crayons, and other decorating supplies

Instruct the students to use the available materials to make a birthday card for Jesus.

Ages 8-10 **Gift Wrap Race** | **Supplies:** gift boxes, wrapping paper, tape

Provide each student with a box, wrapping paper, and tape. Tell them that the gift is for the world. They could choose things such as peace or an end to hunger. On "GO!", students should start wrapping their gifts. The first, second, and third students win. Winners tell the class what gift they would like to give to the world.



TAKE
HOME



- **Jesus should be the center of our lives:** The Bible is our instruction book for life. God made Jesus the center of His story, so Jesus should be the center of our lives.
- **God fulfills every promise He makes:** God is faithful. If He has made a promise, He will keep it. People had waited a very long time for the Savior to come, but when the time was right, God sent Him. The same is true of the promises He makes to us today; it may take longer to happen than we would like, but God will fulfill them.
- **Jesus is the reason we celebrate Christmas:** It is important at Christmas time to reflect on what we have been given. God gave us His Son, and through Him, we can receive salvation. We will never receive a more precious gift than that.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 1



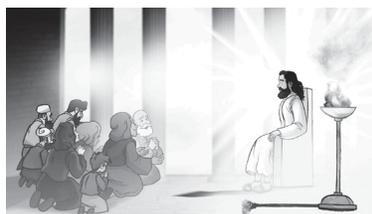
Q1a: The promise of Christmas began with what man?

A1: The promise of Christmas began with Abraham.

Q1b: If someone promised every day to buy you a pony, but never did, would you still believe you'll get a pony one day?

Teacher Notes: At first, we'd probably continue to believe it. What an exciting promise! After a couple of weeks, we'd probably start asking for specific information, such as when we might expect to see this promised pony. After months, this promise would just sound empty to us. No matter how much we want the pony, this person isn't coming through on their promise. The first mention of God sending a savior is thought to appear in Genesis during God's explanation of Adam and Eve's punishment for their disobedience and sin. Humanity had been waiting for the Messiah for nearly all of history, and yet those who believed and understood that God is faithful knew that God would send our Savior. No matter how long it takes, God is always faithful, and He will fulfill His promises when the time is right.

SLIDE 2



Q2a: Matthew said Jesus was a descendant of what king?

A2: Matthew said Jesus was a descendant of King David.

Q2b: From your parents, how far back can you trace your family?

Teacher Notes: From our parents we have aunts, uncles, cousins, grandmothers, grandfathers, and maybe even great grandmothers and great grandfathers. The oldest relative we can think of had great grandmothers and great grandfathers! Our families go back farther in time than anyone living can remember. We know who our ancestors are from records and family stories, which is how we know that Jesus was a descendant of both Abraham and King David.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: In what small town did the Prophet Micah say Jesus would be born?

A3: The Prophet Micah said Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.

Q3b: Does the president of the United States live in small garden shed?

Teacher Notes: No, the president of the United States lives in the White House, a huge palatial estate located in the country's capital, Washington D.C. To most of us, having the president live in a small garden shed would seem wrong and out of place. So, to hear that the Savior of the world would be born in a small, insignificant town would have seemed odd. Instead of being born in a palace in the capital city of Jerusalem, Jesus was born in a barn in Bethlehem. While Jesus' life did not reflect that of most royalty, He is no less of a king, and His situation did not diminish His power.

SLIDE 4



Q4a: Immanuel means what?

A4: Immanuel means "God with us."

Q4b: What do you think would be the best way to celebrate your birthday?

Teacher Notes: Let the students answer and get creative. Then tell them that the day that Jesus was born, a light from Heaven shone over the stable where He and His earthly parents were staying. Angels showed up and praised God and announced the birth of our Savior. People from all over came to Bethlehem to see the baby Jesus and worship Him. The day Jesus was born both Heaven and earth celebrated.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



Q5a: What prophet told the people about all the names the Savior would be called?

A5: The Prophet Isaiah told the people about all the names the Savior would be called.

Q5b: Do you have a nickname?

Teacher Notes: Many of us go by a shortened version of our name or some other moniker given to us by our loved ones. Jesus is known to us by many names, many of which describe Him and His power, such as Jesus, Immanuel, Savior, Messiah, Wonderful Counselor, and Prince of Peace.

SLIDE 6



Q6a: To what country did the Prophet Hosea say Jesus' family would flee?

A6: The Prophet Hosea said Jesus' family would flee to Egypt.

Q6b: Have you ever met someone who didn't like you?

Teacher Notes: Students don't have to answer if they don't want to. Not everyone we meet is going to like us and want to be friends, and that's okay. It doesn't mean that we are bad people, just that we don't get along with everyone. Many people didn't like Jesus without even meeting Him. Often, people disliked Jesus because of what He represented: change. He threatened their way of life and their power in the world the way it existed before He was born. While the problems we encounter with people will likely be for different reasons, we should handle such situations the same way Jesus did: carry on with the mission and be who God created us to be.



SLIDE 7

QUESTION & ANSWER



Q7a: Jesus' birth and life fulfilled how many of the prophecies about the Messiah?

A7: Jesus' birth and life fulfilled all the prophecies about the Messiah.

Q7b: How did you meet your best friend?

Teacher Notes: Ask the students if one thing had happened differently that day, would they still have met their friends? Just as there were many events that led up to the moment that we met our friends, many events led up to the birth of Jesus. Many of these events were predicted thousands of years before Jesus was born. Jesus' birth fulfilled all these prophecies.



QUESTION & ANSWER

MEMORY VERSES

▶ **Colossians 1:17:** And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

1 John 5:11: And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

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BIG IDEA

▶ God's fulfilled promise of sending us a Savior is the greatest Christmas gift of all time!

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CLOSING PRAYER

▶ Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the gift of Your precious Son. Thank You for the gift of salvation we have received through Him. Please help us to make Him and the sacrifice He made for us the center of our lives. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



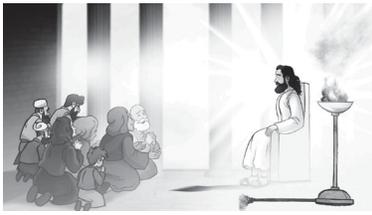
LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 1



Christmas is when we celebrate God's fulfillment of a promise to send us a savior. This gift wasn't a surprise, but something people had been waiting many years to receive. The promise of Christmas began with a man named Abraham. God promised Abraham that He would have a descendant and that this descendant would be a blessing to all the nations. When the Apostle Matthew wrote the story of Jesus' life, he said that Jesus was the son of Abraham.

SLIDE 2



Not only did Matthew say Jesus was a descendant of Abraham, he also said that He was a descendant of King David. Many years before Jesus' birth, the Prophet Isaiah promised that Jesus would reign on David's throne; however, unlike any king or other political leader, Jesus would rule with justice and righteousness forever!

SLIDE 3



The Prophet Micah foretold that Jesus would be born in the small town of Bethlehem. Micah said that, even though Bethlehem was small, the child born there would rule over all of Israel. This ruler, though not yet born, would come from ancient origins.

SLIDE 4



The Prophet Isaiah had a lot to say about Jesus' birth. God told him that the promised Messiah would be born in the most miraculous way—He would be born to a virgin through the power of the Holy Spirit. Isaiah said that Jesus would be called Immanuel, which means "God with us."



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 5



Isaiah went on to tell us more about this Immanuel and the greatness that was to come. The Savior would be called Wonderful Counselor, the source of all wisdom; Mighty God, the creator of all things; Everlasting Father, the source of all life; and Prince of Peace, the one who will make all things right.

SLIDE 6



Unfortunately, not all the prophets had good news about how the Savior's life would play out—some people would reject Him. The Prophet Jeremiah said that Jesus' life would be in danger when He was born, and the Prophet Hosea said that Jesus and His family would have to flee to Egypt for a time to escape the murderous plots against Him.

SLIDE 7



Jesus' birth and life fulfilled all of these prophecies as well as the most incredible one of all: the Prophet Isaiah said that Jesus would be a servant who would suffer for the sins of the world. He would give His life so that anyone who believes in Him could be saved from sin. At Christmas, we celebrate the promised gift of salvation given to us by God through the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ.