



VOLUME 7 SUGGESTED THEMES

Unit 19: Jesus Came to Earth

Who is Jesus? Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, who came to earth to save us.

Theme Idea: Road Trip: From the moment He was born, Jesus was on the move. This unit takes kids on a road trip retracing Jesus' earliest journeys throughout Israel. Decorate for this theme by creating a large wall map with stops like Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

- Session 1: One leader plays a traveler arriving in Bethlehem looking for a place to stay. The other acts as a tour guide, explaining the town is full—but something amazing has just happened nearby: Jesus, the promised Messiah, was born, fulfilling God's promises.
- Session 2: The tour guide and traveler arrive in Jerusalem. They meet Simeon and Anna, who joyfully recognize the baby as the promised Savior. The guide explains that Jesus was dedicated to God, set apart for a special purpose from the start.
- Session 3: The tour guide and traveler witness wise men arriving in Jerusalem to visit the Messiah.
- Session 4: During a festival in Jerusalem, the tour guide and traveler find Jesus in the temple. The guide points out that even at the age of 12, Jesus knew He was doing His Father's work.
- Easter Bonus Session 1: The tour guide and traveler arrive in Jerusalem just as Jesus enters on a donkey. The guide explains that the people welcomed Jesus as King, though many didn't understand God's full plan.
- Easter Bonus Session 2: At the final stop, the tour guide and traveler reflect on Jesus' death and resurrection. The guide explains that because Jesus rose again, we can have hope and new life through Him—our journey ends in celebration and victory.



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Unit 20: Jesus' Ministry Began

Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is fully God and fully human.

Theme Idea: Fishing on the riverbank: Jesus began His ministry by coming to the riverside to be baptized by John. Decorate with blue streamers or fabric to mimic flowing water, and add boats and fishing nets. Use greenery to create a natural riverbank feel. A small dock or wooden pallet can be used for skits. Two leaders play fishermen working by the river who witness the stories unfold.

- Session 1: Two leaders playing fishermen are at the riverbank, busily preparing their nets and boats for the day ahead. As they work, they pause to listen to distant preaching, showing curiosity and wonder about the man named John who is calling people to get ready for someone very important.
- Session 2: The fishermen are at the riverbank, watching people come forward to be baptized by John. They are curious about what this means. Suddenly, Jesus comes forward, and the fishermen watch with wonder, wondering what He will do next. Their anticipation helps set the scene for the important moment of Jesus' baptism.
- Session 3: The fishermen are sitting by the river, talking about the challenges they face—how it's not always easy to do what's right, especially when tempted to take the easy way out. They wonder how someone could stay strong in those moments. Their conversation sets the stage for hearing how Jesus faced temptation and chose to trust God no matter what.
- Session 4: The fishermen are finishing their work by the river when they talk about some of the other fishermen they know who have started following Jesus. They watch thoughtfully as people respond to Jesus' call, leaving their nets behind to follow Him. Their conversation invites kids to think about what it means to follow Jesus today.



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Unit 21: Jesus' Ministry Continues

Did Jesus ever sin? No, Jesus never sinned.

Theme Idea: Campfire: Use a campfire setting with two friends sharing stories to create a warm, inviting atmosphere that draws kids into each lesson. To bring the theme to life, decorate your space with cozy campfire elements like a circle of chairs or logs around a “fire” made from orange and red tissue paper, lanterns hanging nearby, and rustic touches like wooden crates or blankets.

- Session 1: As they prepare their campfire, one friend reaches for the last cup of hot cocoa—only to find it’s almost empty. Setting the mood for a story about unexpected surprises, they start thinking about how even little changes can bring joy to a whole celebration.
- Session 2: While tidying their campfire area, they notice the scattered leaves and sticks mixed up with the firewood. They talk about how important it is to keep their fire clean and ready. They agree that when a place is cared for, it feels welcoming and ready for something important.
- Session 3: One friend looks up at the dark sky, noticing how stars sometimes hide behind clouds. They talk about how some things are hard to see or understand at first, but waiting patiently can bring light and clarity.
- Session 4: They find an old map with several paths marked, wondering which way to take next on their journey. This sparks a conversation about how sometimes it helps to have a guide who points the way. They realize that having someone who knows the path can make all the difference.
- Session 5: The friends discover their water jug is almost empty. They discuss how refreshing a good drink can be after a long day. They begin to think about what it means to find a kind of refreshment that never runs dry.