Prayer
Dear God, Thank you that everyone is important to you, even little children. Help me to remember this whenever I feel small and unimportant. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Memory Verse
Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news of great joy for everyone! The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born tonight in Bethlehem, the city of David!” Luke 2:10-11

NOW READ THESE VERSES AND THEN TAKE THE TEST ON PAGE 21

Luke 2:8-20 (NLT)
8 That night some shepherds were in the fields outside the village, guarding their flocks of sheep.
9 Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terribly frightened,
10 but the angel reassured them, “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news of great joy for everyone!
11 The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born tonight in Bethlehem, the city of David!
12 And this is how you will recognize him: You will find a baby lying in a manger, wrapped snugly in strips of cloth!”
13 Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others—the armies of heaven—praising God:
14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to all whom God favors.”
15 When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Come on, let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this wonderful thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”
16 They ran to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger.

Lesson 8

Jesus as a Young Boy

Joseph and Mary stayed in Bethlehem for a while after Jesus was born. They probably found a house to live in after the crowds went away.

Men From The East

One day some wise men from an eastern country came to visit the baby Jesus. They said that they had seen a special star in the sky and they followed it. It stopped above the house where Jesus lived. The wise men came in, gave Jesus gifts, and worshipped him.
Before the wise men found Jesus, they had to ask for directions to Jesus’ house. They asked, “Where is the child who has been born to be the king of the Jews?”

When Herod, the king of the country where Jesus lived, heard about this, he was very upset. He didn’t like it that Jesus was another king born in his country. Herod thought that when Jesus grew up he would try to take Herod’s kingdom away from him.

And so Herod did a very cruel thing. He ordered his soldiers to kill all the little baby boys in Bethlehem who were under two years old. What crying and sadness there was that day! The soldiers went into each house and killed all the little baby boys.

JESUS ESCAPES

But Jesus was not among those babies. An angel warned Joseph and Mary that the king was going to try to kill Jesus. He told them that they had to run for their lives.

Very bright, the angels began to sing!

No one living on earth has ever heard such beautiful music! Thousands and thousands of angels on every hill sang the beautiful music that they sing in heaven! They sang a special song, “Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace on earth to all those who please him.”

THE SHEPHERDS GO TO BETHLEHEM

God’s son is the most important person ever to be born. But the angels didn’t go to kings, rulers or other important people to tell the news. They went to common, ordinary shepherds. God did this because he wants us to understand that Jesus came for everyone. Everyone is important to Jesus. Shepherds are as important as kings. Children are as important as grownups.

When the shepherds heard this amazing news, they hurried to Bethlehem. They found the place where Jesus was. There they saw the baby Jesus. They knelt and prayed to God and thanked him for sending his son.

And then they left. They told everyone they met about the wonderful things that had happened to them that night!

THE SHEPHERDS LISTENED VERY CLOSELY TO WHAT THE ANGEL HAD TO SAY. THE ANGEL CONTINUED, “DO YOU REMEMBER THAT GOD PROMISED TO SEND HIS ONLY SON TO EARTH TO BE OUR SAVIOR? WELL, GOD DID THAT TONIGHT! TONIGHT, RIGHT HERE IN BETHLEHEM, GOD'S SON WAS BORN!”

THE ANGEL CHORUS
WE CANNOT BEGIN TO IMAGINE HOW THIS NEWS SHOCKED THOSE SHEPHERDS. GOD'S SON WAS BORN! THE SHEPHERDS KNEW THE PROMISES THAT GOD HAD GIVEN ABOUT HIS SON. THEY KNEW THAT GOD HAD PROMISED TO SEND HIM INTO THE WORLD.

THE ANGEL HAD MORE TO SAY TO THEM. “IF YOU WILL GO TO BETHLEHEM YOU WILL FIND THIS BABY WRAPPED UP IN A BLANKET AND LYING IN A BOX THAT HOLDS FEED FOR COWS.”

AND THEN SUDDENLY SOMETHING VERY, VERY WONDERFUL HAPPENED. ANGELS APPEARED ON ALL THE HILLS. THE SHEPHERDS Couldn'T BEGIN TO COUNT THEM BECAUSE THERE WERE SO MANY. THE LIGHT WAS VERY, JOSEPH, MARY, AND JESUS FLED TO EGYPT AND STAYED THERE FOR A WHILE. THEN THEY MOVED TO NAZARETH WHERE JOSEPH BEGAN HIS CARPENTRY WORK AGAIN. WHEN JESUS GOT OLD ENOUGH, HE PROBABLY HELPED HIS FATHER IN THE CARPENTER SHOP.

JESUS GROWS UP
WHEN JESUS WAS ABOUT TWELVE YEARS OLD, JOSEPH AND MARY DECIDED TO TAKE A TRIP TO JERUSALEM FOR THE PASSOVER HOLIDAY. MANY PEOPLE TRAVELED THERE EVERY YEAR. IT WAS A LONG TRIP, ESPECIALLY SINCE THEY HAD TO WALK ALL THE WAY. BUT THEY DIDN'T MIND IT. IT WAS FUN. MOST OF THE CHILDREN WENT ALONG, AND JESUS WENT WITH THEM.

AFTER THE CELEBRATION WAS OVER, THE LARGE GROUP OF PEOPLE FROM NAZARETH STARTED TO TRAVEL HOME. THEY WALKED FOR A WHOLE DAY. JOSEPH AND MARY WONDERED WHERE JESUS WAS. THEY DIDN'T SEE HIM ALL DAY, BUT THEY WERE NOT WORRIED. THEY THOUGHT THAT HE WAS PLAYING WITH THE OTHER CHILDREN IN THE CROWD.

BUT THAT NIGHT THEY BEGAN TO WORRY. THEY LOOKED THROUGH THE WHOLE CROWD, BUT COULDN'T FIND HIM ANYWHERE. THEY DECIDED THAT THE ONLY THING THEY COULD DO WAS GO BACK TO JERUSALEM AND LOOK FOR HIM THERE.

AND SO THE NEXT MORNING THEY HEADED BACK TO LOOK
for Jesus. They looked in the stores and in the shops. They looked in the homes of some friends. They looked everywhere. But they couldn’t find Jesus!

Finally they went to the temple, which is the Jewish church. Much to their surprise they saw Jesus talking to all the very important religious teachers. The boy was Jesus! The religious leaders were asking Jesus questions and they were amazed at the answers that he gave them.

Joseph and Mary were upset. “Son!” his mother said. “Why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been so worried. We have been searching for you everywhere!”

Jesus answered, “But why did you need to search? You should have known that I would be in my Father’s house?”

By this answer Jesus showed them that he was very different than other boys his age. Then Jesus went back to Nazareth with his parents and lived there until he was thirty years old.

ON THE SAME NIGHT THAT JESUS WAS BORN THERE WERE SHEPHERDS OUT IN THE HILLS AROUND BETHLEHEM. MOST OF THE SHEPHERDS BROUGHT THEIR SHEEP INTO BARNs AT NIGHT. BUT THESE SHEPHERDS WERE DIFFERENT. THEY STAYED OUTSIDE ALL THE TIME. THEY NEVER BROUGHT THEIR SHEEP INTO ANY BARN!

AN ANGEL APPEARS

It was late at night and very dark. The shepherds were huddled around a few small fires. Suddenly there was a very bright light. An angel from heaven stood in front of them and shone very brightly!
He wants you to love him and be the kind of person who makes him happy. He wants to forgive you for all the things that you have ever done wrong. Will you ask him to come into your heart and live there forever?

**Prayer**

Dear Jesus, please come into my heart and help me to love you. May I always have room for you in my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Memory Verse**

Mary wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the village inn. Luke 2:7

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**Prayer**

Dear God, Thank you that Jesus was a child just like me. Please help me to grow in wisdom. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**Memory Verse**

So Jesus grew both in height and in wisdom, and he was loved by God and by all who knew him. Luke 2:52

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**Now Read These Verses and Then Take the Test on Page 22**

**Luke 2:1-7 (NLT)**

1 At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire.
2 (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.)
3 All returned to their own towns to register for this census.
4 And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee.
5 He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was obviously pregnant by this time.
6 And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born.
7 She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the village inn.

MATTHEW 2:1-15 (NLT)

1 Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking,
2 "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We have seen his star as it arose, and we have come to worship him."
3 Herod was deeply disturbed by their question, as was all of Jerusalem.
4 He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law. "Where did the prophets say the Messiah would be born?" he asked them.
5 "In Bethlehem," they said, "for this is what the prophet wrote:
6 'O Bethlehem of Judah, you are not just a lowly village in Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.'"
7 Then Herod sent a private message to the wise men, asking them to come see him. At this meeting he learned the exact time when they first saw the star.
8 Then he told them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!"
9 After this interview the wise men went their way. Once again the star appeared to them, guiding them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was.
10 When they saw the star, they were filled with joy!
11 They entered the house where the child and his mother, Mary, were, and they fell down before him and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
12 But when it was time to leave, they went home another way, because God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.
13 After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up and flee to Egypt with the child and his mother,” the angel said. “Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to try to kill the child.”
14 That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother,
15 and they stayed there until Herod’s death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet: “I called my Son out of Egypt.”

LUKE 2:41-52 (NLT)
41 Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover festival.
42 When Jesus was twelve years old, they attended the festival as usual.
43 After the celebration was over, they started home to Nazareth, but Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn’t miss him as first, because they assumed he was with friends among the other travelers. But when he didn’t show up that evening, they started to look for him among their relatives and friends.
45 When they couldn’t find him, they went back to Jerusalem to search for him there.
46 Three days later they finally discovered him. He was in the Temple, sitting among the religious teachers, discussing deep questions with them.
47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.
48 His parents didn’t know what to think. “Son!” his mother said to him. “Why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere.”
49 ”But why did you need to search?” he asked. “You should have known that I would be in my Father’s house.”
50 But they didn’t understand what he meant.
51 Then he returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them; and his mother stored all these things in her heart.
52 So Jesus grew both in height and in wisdom, and he was loved by God and by all who knew him.

MANGER, THE BOX THAT HELD FOOD FOR THE BARN ANIMALS.
CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT THE SON OF GOD WAS BORN IN A BARN? JESUS LEFT ALL THE WONDER OF HEAVEN TO COME TO EARTH FOR US. IT IS VERY BEAUTIFUL IN HEAVEN. EVERYTHING IS PERFECT THERE. JESUS LEFT ALL THAT TO BE BORN AS A BABY IN A BARN. THAT’S HOW MUCH JESUS LOVES US!

THERE WAS NO ROOM FOR JESUS IN ANY INN IN BETHLEHEM THAT NIGHT. IS THERE ROOM IN YOUR HEART FOR JESUS TODAY? HE WANTS TO COME INTO YOUR LIFE.
NO ROOM IN BETHLEHEM

When they arrived in Bethlehem they were very tired. Joseph’s feet hurt. He had walked a long way! Mary probably rode on the back of a donkey because she was very tired too! It was close to the time for Mary’s baby to be born.

Bethlehem was very, very busy. Many people had come to Bethlehem to be counted, and all the rooms and inns were full of visitors. Joseph went up and down the streets trying to find a place to stay for the night. Every time he stopped at an inn they told him that there was no room.

Joseph and Mary were getting very worried. They knew that Mary’s baby would be born soon and they had to find a place to stay. One man who owned an inn told them that they could stay in his barn. That was all the room he had. But it was better than nothing at all. So Mary and Joseph went back to the barn to stay for the night.

JESUS IS BORN

Late that night, in that barn in Bethlehem, the baby Jesus was born. Mary took some cloths and wrapped up the baby Jesus. She laid him in a

TEST - LESSON FIVE

Based on the lesson and Bible verses you just read, answer these questions. You may look back at the lesson and the Bible verses for the answers. The numbers at the end of each question show where to find the answer in the Bible verses.

What was the name of the angel whom God sent to Mary? (Luke 1:26) __________________________

What did the angel tell Mary? (Luke 1:31) __________________________

Was Mary happy to see the angel? (Luke 1:29) __________________________

Why was Mary worried at first? (Luke 1:34) __________________________

The angel told Mary that the baby would be the Son of (Luke 1:35) __________________________

Who appeared to Joseph? (Matthew 1:20) __________________________

What did the angel tell Joseph to do? (Matthew 1:20) __________________________

What did the angel tell Joseph and Mary to name the baby? (Matthew 1:21, Luke 1:31) __________________________
Based on the lesson and Bible verses you just read, answer these questions. You may look back at the lesson and the Bible verses for the answers. The numbers at the end of each question show where to find the answer in the Bible verses.

**What did Caesar Augustus want taken throughout the country?** _______________________________ (1)

**Where did everyone have to go to have this census taken?** _______________________________ (3)

**Where did Joseph have to go?** _______________________________ (4)

**Who went along with him?** _______________________________ (5)

**What did the people say to Joseph when he tried to find a place to stay?** _______________________________ (7)

32 He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David.
33 And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!
34 Mary asked the angel, “But how can I have a baby? I am a virgin.”
35 The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby born to you will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God.
36 What’s more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she’s already in her sixth month.
37 For nothing is impossible with God.”
38 Mary responded, “I am the Lord’s servant, and I am willing to accept whatever he wants. May everything you have said come true.” And then the angel left.

**Lesson 6**

**God’s Son is Born**

**The Governor’s Decree** Before Jesus was born, the governor, Caesar Augustus, told everyone that they must go back to the city where their ancestors were born. This way he could count all the people in his country and tax them. Joseph had to go to the little town of Bethlehem. This was seventy-five miles away from Nazareth. And so Joseph and Mary made this very long trip to Bethlehem so that they could be counted and taxed.
**MEMORY VERSE**

**You are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sin.**

Matthew 1:21

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**NOW READ THESE VERSES AND THEN TAKE THE TEST ON PAGE 19**

**MATTHEW 1:18-25 (NLT)**

18 Now this is how Jesus the Messiah was born. His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But while she was still a virgin, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit.

19 Joseph, her fiancé, being a just man, decided to break the engagement quietly, so as not to disgrace her publicly.

20 As he considered this, he fell asleep, and an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. “Joseph, son of David,” the angel said, “do not be afraid to go ahead with your marriage to Mary. For the child within her has been conceived by the Holy Spirit.

21 And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

22 All of this happened to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet:

23 “Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and he will be called Immanuel (meaning, God is with us).”

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord commanded. He brought Mary home to be his wife, but she remained a virgin until her son was born. And Joseph named him Jesus.

**LUKE 1:26-35 (NLT)**

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, 27 to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David.

28 Gabriel appeared to her and said, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!”

29 Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean.

30 “Don’t be frightened, Mary,” the angel told her, “for God has decided to bless you!

31 You will become pregnant and have a son, and you are to name him Jesus.

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**MEMORY VERSE**

Write your memory verse here

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**TEST LESSON SEVEN**

**WHERE DID THEY FINALLY STAY?**

______________________________ (7)

**WHO WAS BORN THAT NIGHT?**

______________________________ (7)

**WHAT KIND OF BED DID JESUS HAVE?**

______________________________ (7)

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**WHERE WERE THE SHEPHERDS THAT NIGHT?**

________________________________ (8)

**WHO AppeARED TO THEM?**

______________________________ (9)

**WERE THE SHEPHERDS FRIGHTENED?**

______________________________ (9)

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What did the angels say to them? ______________ (10,11)

What song did they sing? ___________________________________________ (14)

Where did the angel tell the shepherds to find Jesus? __________________________ (12)

What did the shepherds do when the angels left? ________________________________ (15,16)

Why did God send his angels to shepherds that night, instead of to kings? _____________________

MEMORY VERSE
Write your memory verse here

__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________

TEST LESSON EIGHT

Based on the lesson and Bible verses you just read, answer these questions. You may look back at the lesson and the Bible verses for the answers.

PLANS FOR THE WEDDING. The baby Mary was going to have would be a special gift from God. No other baby would ever be born like this one! The angel also told Joseph what name to give the baby. They were to call him Jesus. The name Jesus means “the Lord saves” because Jesus would save his people from their sins.

And so Joseph obeyed God, and did as the angel told him to do. He and Mary became husband and wife. Now God’s Son would have an earthly father to take care of him.

After they were married, Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth. Joseph was a carpenter there. But Jesus was born in a little town called Bethlehem. Turn to the next lesson to find out more.

Prayer
Father, thank you for remembering your promise and sending Jesus to live in our world to be my Savior. Amen.
Mary was confused and upset when she heard the angel’s news. She was also worried. “How can I have a baby,” she asked, “when I am not yet married?”

“Don’t worry,” said the angel, “this baby is very special. God will work a miracle in you!”

This answer helped Mary understand, and to be willing to obey. She was so happy that she began to sing a beautiful song. You will find the words of this song in the Bible book of Luke, chapter one, verses 45-55.

**AN ANGEL APPEARS TO JOSEPH**

Joseph, Mary’s fiancé, found out that Mary was going to have a baby. He wasn’t very happy. He decided that he would not marry her. But then an angel appeared to him in a dream and told him to go ahead with his

**WHO CAME TO WORSHIP THE BABY?**
(MATTHEW 2:1) ________________

**WHAT DID THEY FOLLOW TO FIND JESUS?**
(MATTHEW 2:2,9) __________________________

**WHAT DID THE WICKED KING DO?**
(MATTHEW 2:13) __________________________

**HOW DID JESUS ESCAPE?**
(MATTHEW 2:13) __________________________

**WHERE DID JESUS GO WHEN HE WAS TWELVE?**
(LUKE 2:41,42) __________________________

**DID JESUS GO HOME WITH HIS PARENTS?**
(LUKE 2:43) __________________________

**DID HIS PARENTS MISS HIM THE FIRST DAY?**
(LUKE 2:43) __________________________

**HOW MANY DAYS DID IT TAKE TO FIND JESUS?**
(LUKE 2:46) __________________________

**WHAT DID MARY SAY WHEN JESUS WAS FOUND?**
(LUKE 2:48) __________________________

**WHAT DID JESUS SAY TO HIS PARENTS?**
(LUKE 2:49) __________________________

**DID HIS PARENTS UNDERSTAND HIM?**
(LUKE 2:50) __________________________
Lesson 5

God announces the birth of his son

About two thousand years ago a young girl named Mary lived in a city called Nazareth. She wasn't married. However, she was engaged to a man named Joseph. Something very unusual happened to this girl. An angel appeared to her one day and told her that she was going to have a baby. This was going to be a very special baby. This baby was going to be the Son of God!

God’s Promise

Do you remember the last lesson? God promised Adam and Eve that he would send his Son into the world to save us from our sins. In order for God’s Son to live in this world he would need a body like ours. He would need hands, and feet, and arms. And so God sent him into this world as a little baby. And Mary was to be his mother.