

# **BIBLE STORY** THE CHRISTMAS STORY [MATTHEW 1-2, LUKE 1-2]

## **Visuals**

- Bible Story Visuals\*, Lip Sync Signs\*

## **Supplies**

- Bible, Bible Insert for Large Group\*, posterboard, markers

## **Captivate #1 – Lip Sync!**

- Print the signs for the Bible Story and cut out the mouth section of each. Choose children to be each of the main characters. Have them dramatically repeat parts of the story as you tell it.

## **Captivate #2 – Picture It!**

- Choose a child or leader to draw elements of the Bible Story as you tell it. The volunteer does not necessarily have to draw well. Even stick figures can be fun. Focus on adding facial expressions or specific actions for parts of the story.

## **Introduction**

- God created the whole universe and everything in it. He created Adam and Eve so He could have a relationship with them. But because of Adam and Eve's sin, they and everyone after them would be separated from God. However, God's love for us was so great that He was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice so we could receive forgiveness for our sin. God put His plan into motion.
- God the Father would send Jesus, His only Son, to come to earth. He would come as a baby but grow into a man who would die to take the punishment for all sins.

## **Bible Story**

- In preparation for Jesus' coming to earth, God sent a messenger angel to a young woman named Mary. The angel told Mary she was going to have a special baby – not just any baby, but God the Son. He was the Messiah and was coming to pay the price for sin. But Mary was confused because she was not yet married to Joseph and had never been with a man. The angel told her, "Nothing is impossible with God." So even though Mary didn't understand, she said she would do whatever God wanted her to do.
- Joseph did not understand either how Mary could be having a baby without them being married yet. He thought she had been with another man, so he decided to break up with Mary. But he wanted to do it quietly so it wouldn't cause trouble for Mary. But then God sent an angel to Joseph to tell him He wanted Joseph to take Mary as his wife and that the baby was to be named Jesus. God told Joseph that the baby would be the Savior Who would take the punishment for sin for the world.
- So Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem. When they arrived, Mary was ready to have the baby, but they were told there was no room for them in the inn. So they found a place to stay with the animals instead. Jesus, the King of Kings, left beautiful, perfect Heaven and was born in a manger that held hay for the animals to eat!
- When Jesus was born, an angel appeared to some shepherds who were watching over their sheep that night in the fields and told them about Jesus. At first the shepherds were afraid of the angel, but then they hurried to Bethlehem to see Jesus for themselves and worship Him. They followed the star to the stable and found Mary and Joseph holding a newborn baby. The angel was right – before them was the Messiah, the promised Savior! They bowed and worshiped Him.
- After a time, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple where they met a man named Simeon. God had told him he would see the Messiah before he died. When Simeon saw Jesus, he knew God had kept His promise.

## **BIBLE STORY** THE CHRISTMAS STORY [CONTINUED]

### **Bible Story (continued)**

- Later, when Jesus was about two years old, wise men from far away came to see Jesus. They followed the star to where Jesus was. They brought Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These were valuable gifts but small in comparison to the incredible gift of forgiveness Jesus would bring. They bowed before Jesus and worshiped Him because they knew He was the Son of God.
- Mary kept the words she heard and the things she saw as treasured memories. She believed God and waited to see what He would do through Jesus.

### **Conclusion**

- God knew that only someone who was perfect could pay the punishment for sin. But no one on earth was perfect. So God sent His Son Jesus, Who had never sinned, to pay the price for our sin. Jesus came to earth as a baby, to live a perfect life, die on the cross for our sin, and rise from the dead to offer us the greatest gift we could ever receive – salvation! This is why we celebrate Christmas – to remember all that Jesus came to do for us!