



THE STORY OF ADVENT

LESSON PLANS

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These lesson plans are to be used in conjunction with the Speed Sketch Bible Stories series—*The Story of Advent* (Indianapolis: WPH, 2014).

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INTRODUCTION



Wesleyan Publishing House is happy to provide Speed Sketch Bible Stories customers with these free lesson plans and resources, which offer options and ideas for how to build a children's lesson around a Speed Sketch Bible Stories video. The "Review and Memory Time" options provided at the bottom of each lesson page refers to the additional Review Options PDF resource also available at the same location where you can find these lesson plans as well as correlating coloring pages. Some of the options provided in the Review Options resource suggest the use of an additional product available for purchase: BibleStoryCards, which are available for purchase at www.wphresources.com/biblestorycards.

Blessings to you in your ministry,
The WPH Staff

ISAIAH'S VISION



Story Reference: Isaiah 1:1–2; 7:13–14; 9:1–3, 6–7; 53

Memory Verse: Isaiah 9:6—"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given. . . . And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

STORYTELLING TIME

To the Storyteller

The selections from Isaiah in this week's lesson allow children to see the big picture of the gospel story as God revealed, long before the first Christmas happened. God so loves the world that he has always planned on giving his only begotten Son to be born into its darkness, so that all who believe might be brought into his light. It is especially important that children understand, no matter how dark and scary things can get, God will always be in control and bring light. For we who believe, Jesus is our unquenchable hope.



Storytelling Methods

Show Speed Sketch Bible Stories video

Memory Object: A light in a dark room

Giveaway: A small flashlight or battery-powered candle

Story/Object Association: Jesus is our only hope of light in sin's darkness.

Review Questions

1. How many hundreds of years before Jesus did Isaiah write about the Messiah's birth? **(seven hundred years)**
2. What does *Messiah* mean? **(One chosen by God to free people)** And what does *Immanuel* mean? **(God is with us.)**
3. When Isaiah described people celebrating because "unto us a child is born," what were several other names he said they would call him? **(Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace)**
4. What is the reason that Isaiah said the Messiah must grow up to suffer? **(To suffer and die with us because of our sin; he died on the cross so that people might be saved.)**
5. Even though Jesus suffered and died in our darkness and sin, what did Isaiah promise would happen in the end? **(Jesus the Messiah, the light of the world, shines; and we'll all win.)**

Life Application Question: What is the greatest Christmas gift God gave to the world? **(He gave himself—his Son, Jesus—to bring light and hope to our dark world.)**

Prayer Focus

Thankfulness to God for his gift of hope in the Messiah—Jesus, God the Son.

REVIEW AND MEMORY TIME

Review Options

Give Me a Clue #2
Bible Basketball #6
Newspaper Search #17
Story Card Match #25

Memory Verse Options

Memory Verse Pocket #6
Memory Verse Sticks #20
Memory Verse Mobile #22

Memory Object Options

Musical Objects #6
Object Poster #7

THE MAGI



Story Reference: Matthew 2:1–12

Memory Verse: Matthew 2:11 — "Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh."

STORYTELLING TIME

To the Storyteller

For children, the most important thing about Christmas is "gift getting," not "gift giving." Help your children to see that giving ourselves and our possessions to God is the best way to worship him. Just like the magi who worshiped the Messiah by the giving of their gifts, our willingness to give shows our devotion to our Lord and to his service.



Storytelling Methods

Show Speed Sketch Bible Stories video

Memory Object: A star Christmas tree topper

Giveaway: A star shaped cookie

Story/Object Association: The star in the east that the wise men followed

Review Questions

1. What was another name for the wise men? (**Magi**)
2. What were the wise men following? (**The star in the eastern sky**)
3. Who was the king that wanted to kill Jesus? (**King Herod**)
4. What three gifts did the wise men give to Jesus? (**Gold, incense, and myrrh**)
5. Why didn't the wise men go back to Jerusalem? (**They didn't want to tell King Herod where Jesus was.**)

Life Application Question: What can you give to Jesus? (**Your life, time, and money—allow for a variety of reasonable answers.**)

Prayer Focus

Being sensitive to others' needs

REVIEW AND MEMORY TIME

Review Options

Bible Basketball #6
What Am I? #10
Bible Charades #14
Bible Wheel of Fortune #29

Memory Verse Options

Clothespin Review #5
Round Table Memory #14
Memory Verse Mobile #22

THE ANNUNCIATION



Story Reference: Luke 1:26–38

Memory Verse: Luke 1:37 — "For nothing is impossible with God."

STORYTELLING TIME

To the Storyteller

The appearance of the angel to Mary was an unusual event. In the Old Testament, God used angels occasionally to convey a particular message to his people. The angel Gabriel brought Mary a remarkable message, probably the most important message that an angel could deliver. Children need to recognize that this was one of the three most important events in the New Testament. The other two include the birth of Christ and his death and resurrection.



Storytelling Methods

Show Speed Sketch Bible Stories video

Memory Object: Cornhusk angel

Giveaway: A small cornhusk angel

Story/Object Association: The angel that spoke to Mary

Review Questions

1. Who was the man Mary was engaged to marry? (**Joseph**)
2. Whom did God send to talk with Mary? (**Gabriel**)
3. How did Mary feel when she saw the angel? (**Frightened**)
4. What did the angel tell Mary? (**That she would have a baby**)
5. What was special about this baby? (**He was the Son of God.**)

Life Application Question: What should we say when God speaks? (**We should tell God that we are listening and that we will obey what he says.**)

Prayer Focus

Patience to wait on God's message for us

REVIEW AND MEMORY TIME

Review Options

- Overhead Game #3
- Name Scramble #7
- Balloon Pop Review #13
- Shaving Cream Review #18

Memory Verse Options

- Memory Verse Book #1
- Memory Ladder #16
- Memory Verse Puppet #19

JESUS' BIRTH



Story Reference: Luke 2:1–20

Memory Verse: Luke 2:11 — "Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

STORYTELLING TIME

To the Storyteller

We are a society that loves to celebrate. And a new baby entering the world gives us reason to rejoice. When a baby is born, everyone coos over the new little person. Birth is a miracle that children can readily see and get excited about. Jesus' birth was a miracle that merited the attention of many. Those who came to see him not only celebrated a new birth, but also worshiped him. This is a great story for helping children to understand and appreciate the importance of Christian celebration and worship.



Storytelling Methods

Show Speed Sketch Bible Stories video

Memory Object: Baby blanket or bag of straw

Giveaway: A piece of *strawberry* candy

Story/Object Association: The cloth with which Mary wrapped baby Jesus

Review Questions

1. Where was the baby born? Why? (**In a stable because there was no room in the inn**)
2. What did Mary wrap the baby in? (**Pieces of cloth**)
3. Where did Mary put the baby so he could sleep? (**In a manger**)
4. What did the angel tell the shepherds? (**That a Savior had been born and that they would find him lying in a manger**)
5. Where did the shepherds go to see the baby? (**To Bethlehem**)

Life Application Question: How do we worship Jesus? (**Through prayer, song, and deeds — allow for a variety of answers.**)

Prayer Focus

Patience to wait on God's message for us

REVIEW AND MEMORY TIME

Review Options

Beach Ball Review #15
Newspaper Search #17
Story Diorama #22
Change the Bible Story #28

Memory Verse Options

Memory Verse Mix #2
Memory Verse Pocket #6
Chalkboard Verse #10