



IN-CAR & IN-HOME

Biblical Lessons for the Family

"Repeat [the LORD's commands] again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up."

—DEUTERONOMY 6:7, NLT



PERSON TO PERSON MINISTERING THROUGH CIRCLES OF FAITH

VOLUME 1

— 10 LESSONS —

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MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to join with fellow Christians to mentor, teach, and share God's Word with families and to develop a strong, unbreakable bond of faith in God that will continue to be passed on from generation to generation.

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ABOUT THIS GUIDE AND HOW TO USE IT:

This ministry is first dedicated to the service of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and second to the parents who use the materials and resources to instruct their children about Jesus and the Word of God. We believe in the need for these lessons to be an intimate sharing of God's Word within the family through the bonding of you, your children, and God. The Bible tells us to instruct our children so that they may teach their children and generations to follow. It is impossible for us to know each child individually who may be reached through this ministry; therefore, we will leave it to individual parents how the lessons are presented. We have given you a guide to share the stories of the Bible. This may be used as it is written, or you may want to adapt the lessons to be more suitable for your children's level of understanding. You know them better than anyone else. This face-to-face interaction with your children, talking and learning about Jesus and the Bible, will enable them to see God through your eyes and your teachings. We ask you to be diligent in using these materials in a manner that enables the needs of your children to accomplish that objective. Thank you for your participation in the Bond of Faith Children's Ministries. You and your family will always be in our prayers.

ALL LESSONS FOLLOW THIS TEMPLATE:

1. **Biblical Title** for Lesson.
2. **Introduction** or Lead-In.
3. **Supporting Scripture.**
4. **Parent's Prayer.**
5. **Example retelling of this lesson for your Child:** This version will only be a guide. Over time parents will need to make this presentation their own personal conversation with their child. Please be aware that our suggestions are aimed at a general age group of 6-10. It is up to the parent to scale the presentation up or down to appeal to each child and be most understandable.
6. **Prayer** inspired by this lesson. Our prayer will only be another suggestion. The parents should give their own prayer for the child and eventually have their child do so on their own.
7. **Lessons to Stress:** These are key points in the lessons for your child to learn. Again, our suggestions are only meant as a guide. As you become more familiar with the lessons, you may want to add to this list or make your own.

- 8. Example Discussion:** a discussion of the lesson with your child using:
- A. Short questions and answers. These should be simple.
Example for “The Creation” Lesson: Who created all the universe with earth and all we see? God.
 - B. Using open-ended questions to draw your child into a discussion.
Example for “The Creation” Lesson: What did God do during The Creation that showed His love for us (you)? You will get many answers here. Made man and woman. Made plants and animals for food. Made the earth a good place to live and multiply. You will need to guide the discussion in the direction you want it to go. As you repeat the lessons, come with your own questions. Your growing familiarity with the lesson will generate plenty of questions you can see in your child’s mind.
- 9. Additional Prayers:** When you or your child are so moved, enter into a spur-of-the-moment prayer session.
- 10. Focus on Jesus:** Always end each lesson by focusing on Jesus.
- 11. Follow Up:** Before you leave each lesson, have your child(ren) retell the story in his/her own words. Enter into a discussion still again. Revisit the lesson from time to time. By the time your children are teenagers, they will have these lessons firmly planted in their minds and will be well on their way to a life in Christ.



THE CREATION

Volume One | Lesson One

INTRODUCTION:

The very foundation of Christianity is based on the Creation. The Creation was complete when God created humanity and He said his work was good. The message of the story is that God created everything for You and me. He performed the Creation because He loves us. In doing so he showed us how great and wonderful He is.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “night.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day. And God said, “Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.” So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. God called the vault “sky.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day. And God said, “Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.” And it was so. God called the dry ground “land,” and the gathered waters he called “seas.” And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.” And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the third day. And God said, “Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years, and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth.” And it was so. God made two great lights—the greater light to govern

the day and the lesser light to govern the night. He also made the stars. God set them in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth, to govern the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that it was good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the fourth day. And God said, “Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky.” So God created the great creatures of the sea and every living thing with which the water teems and that moves about in it, according to their kinds, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the fifth day. And God said, “Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind.” And it was so. God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.” And it was so. God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day. (Genesis 1:1-31, NIV)

Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array. By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done. (Genesis 2:1-3, NIV)

PARENT’S PRAYER:

Dear God, thank You for making me, and giving me children to care for. Help me to see Your greatness and goodness in Creation, and help me communicate that to them. Amen.

TIP: Review the scripture and prayer before each session. You will pick up additional details with each passing, and be able to convey the story more fully to your child(ren). The first time telling a Bible story, don’t worry about telling them every detail, but make sure you cover the main points. As the discussion times build upon one another and you review with your child(ren), bring more details into the story time.

EXAMPLE RETELLING OF THIS LESSON FOR YOUR CHILD:

Have you ever thought about how the world came to be? Well, the Bible tells us where everything we see came from.

In the beginning, God created heaven and earth. The earth had no shape, and darkness was everywhere. Close your eyes and you will see only darkness. That is what God saw. Then God simply said, “Let there be light,” and instantly there was light. God saw that the light was good. He separated the light from the darkness. He called the light “day” and the darkness “night.” That was the first day.

On the second day, God separated the waters and created the sky above and the water below. The sky was just as it is above you now, often with beautiful clouds. The water was just as it is in our streams, rivers, lakes, seas, and oceans today. How awesome God is!

On the third day, God pulled the water back and exposed dry ground. God called the dry ground “land” and the water “seas.” God saw they were good. Then God produced plants with their own seeds and fruit trees with their own seeds inside. He was preparing the earth for us.

On the fourth day, God placed lights in the sky to separate day from night. Two of these were great lights, the sun for day and the moon for night. With this God gave us the four seasons of spring, summer, fall, and winter. Again, God noted these were good.

On the fifth day, God filled the seas with every living thing that moved about in them. He created all kinds of birds to fly in the sky. Can you spot one of God’s birds? God gave all His creatures the ability to multiply. He saw these as good.

On the sixth day, God produced every kind of animal for the land: livestock, creatures that move along the ground, and wild animals. Lions and tigers roared in the jungles. Camels roamed the deserts, and snakes hid in their holes. He then made human beings in His own image. He made male and female humans and asked them to multiply and fill the earth. God showed His love for mankind by the many blessings He gave them. God was now very pleased with His creation.

On the seventh day, God rested from all the work He had done, all that He had created. He blessed the seventh day and made it holy.

TIP: This lesson is long. On the first day, consider giving a summary or introduction establishing what the Creation is all about. Presenting this story at some point day by day is a good idea. Repetition is the key to teaching your child(ren). We often need exposure to an idea or story three or more times to truly remember it well. Do not feel that you need to rush. Take your time on each story, especially the longer ones like this one. Make sure your child grasps the lessons before moving on.

PRAYER: Dear God, help us to see You in Your Creation. Give us the faith to draw near to the God who made us and loves us. In Jesus' Holy Name we pray. Amen.

TIP: Pray with your children and have them pray on their own.

LESSONS TO STRESS:

1. God's ability and power are limitless. He has the power to do anything and everything He wants.
2. God is real. We can see Him in ourselves, everyone, and everything around us.
3. God loves each one of us with no exceptions, and He wants us to love Him.
4. He knows everything about us, down to each hair on our heads. He knows everything we do and even what we are thinking.

TIP: You may want to add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

EXAMPLE DISCUSSION:

Q: How many days did God work on the Creation?

A: Six days.

Q: Once it was finished, what did He do?

A: He rested on the seventh day and made it holy.

Q: What do we call that day now, and what should we do on that day?

A: We call it Sunday and should worship God as He directs us to do in the Bible.

Q: How did God show His love for us?

A: He gave us all that we needed here on earth to live happy, healthy lives, including animals and plants for our food.

Q: God spoke, and our world was created. What does that tell us about His power?

A: That it is great and beyond our ability to understand.

TIP: You know your child(ren) best. Lead them into discussing the lesson using things of interest to them. Add to this list as you repeat the lesson. Take as many days as necessary to go through the individual days of Creation, especially for the younger children to truly grasp the story.

FOCUS ON JESUS: God made everything, including us, for Jesus.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.” (John 1:1-4, NIV)

FOLLOW UP: Have your child(ren) retell the story of the Creation in his/her own words. Enter into a discussion still again. Revisit this lesson from time to time. It is of vital importance in solidifying one’s faith in God. Revisit this lesson from time to time to be sure it’s remembered.



THE ANGEL VISITS MARY

Volume One | Lesson Two

INTRODUCTION:

Real devotion to God is about obedience and being faithful to Him, and we see this in the story of Mary. Mary, a simple and innocent maiden, was visited by the angel Gabriel to inform her of her role in the coming of Jesus to live as flesh and blood among His people.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her. (Luke 1:26-38, NIV)

PARENT'S PRAYER:

Dear Lord, thank You so much for Mary and for the blessings that we have received from this sacrifice on her part to deliver and mother our Jesus. Also let it remind us of the impressive duty performed by women every day. Amen.

EXAMPLE RETELLING OF THIS LESSON FOR YOUR CHILD:

All through the Bible, God had a plan to rescue His people from their sins. At the right moment, God sent His Son to come as a baby into this world. God sent an angel to a young woman named Mary. God sometimes used angels to deliver messages to His people. Because Mary believed deeply in the Lord, God chose her to be the mother of His Son, who was to live as a man here on earth. Mary was a simple, innocent maiden living in the town of Nazareth in Israel. She was engaged to be married to Joseph, a carpenter and devout God-fearing man. Gabriel, the angel, surprised her one day when he appeared out of nowhere. Gabriel told her she was going to have a baby, a son, and she was to name Him Jesus. Gabriel explained this was God's Son, and she and Joseph were to be His parents here on earth. Mary was frightened at first, but because of her deep faith in God, she accepted this news as a blessing from Heaven.

PRAYER: Lord, may our obedience and faith in You grow stronger day by day. Let it become a necessary part of our everyday lives. Amen.

LESSONS TO STRESS:

1. God has His plan for our lives. Sending Jesus to live among us was part of that plan. We must study the Bible to see what God wants for and from us.
2. Like Mary, God chooses us to be part of His Kingdom. We must keep our faith strong by honoring Him and being obedient to Him.
3. Mary exemplifies the huge role women play in our everyday lives, not only in the birth and raising of our young but adding to the core of our civilization and its progress.

TIP: Add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

EXAMPLE DISCUSSION:

Q: What was the name of the angel who visited Mary?

A: Gabriel.

Q: What was Mary supposed to name her son?

A: Jesus.

Q: How do you think Mary felt after hearing the news? Why do you think that?

A: Let your children answer as they want. Correct them only when they stray from what the story teaches.

Q: What was Mary's reaction to Gabriel?

A: At first, she was frightened, but since she believed in God, when Gabriel explained God had sent him, she calmed down.

Q: What would be your reaction if an angel suddenly visited you?

A: This will get your child talking, and you can enter in as you choose. Be sure to emphasize Mary's child will be Jesus, and He will be the heavenly Son of God and a true blessing for the whole world.

Q: Who sent the angel Gabriel to tell Mary she was to be the earthly mother for Jesus?

A: God Himself.

Q: What things about Mary do you think made God choose her as the earthly mother of His Son?

A: She showed the power of pure faith and obedience to Him.

Q: What does it mean for Jesus to be God's Son?

A: Jesus is God, and was with God the Father in the beginning (John 1:1).

TIP: You may want to add to these questions and discussions as you repeat this lesson until you feel that your child has sufficiently learned the lesson. Ask lots of questions with your child(ren), and invite participation through the whole time together. Mix basic descriptive questions to test their listening skills, with exploratory questions to invite them into the story and to share their thoughts and opinions.

SPECIAL NOTE: When it comes to the virgin birth, depending on the age of your children, they may ask questions. Listen carefully to what they are asking, and God will lead you in what information they are ready for.

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus is God's Son.

"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." (Luke 1:32-33, NIV)

FOLLOW UP: Let your child tell the story of Mary and the Angel in her/his own words. Follow with a discussion. Revisit this lesson from time to time to be sure it's remembered.



THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Volume One | Lesson Three

INTRODUCTION:

We celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. This story tells us about that birth. Children need to be taught about Jesus' birth and how important it is to our lives. Be sure your child is fully aware of the true meaning of Christmas and that you set aside time to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. (Luke 2:1-7, NIV)

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:8-12, NIV)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod

heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. (Matthew 2:1-12, NIV)

PARENT'S PRAYER:

Thank You so much, heavenly Father, for sending Your Son to live among us and die for our sins. Help us to see life through Your eyes, and understand Your love for us. Amen.

EXAMPLE RETELLING OF THIS LESSON FOR YOUR CHILD:

The ruler of all the Roman Empire, Caesar Augustus, sent out an order that all citizens must go to their family's hometown to register for the census, which was a count of all the people in the Empire.

Mary had been visited by the angel Gabriel several months earlier and learned she was to have a baby. This baby was to be named Jesus, and God was His Heavenly Father. Joseph was to marry Mary and become the earthly father of Jesus. Because Joseph was descended from David, he and Mary were required to travel to Bethlehem, the hometown of David, for the census.

On arriving in Bethlehem, Mary and Joseph found all the inns were full. Joseph found a place they could stay in a local stable. There among the sheep, donkeys, cattle, and other animals Joseph prepared a manger which was actually a feed trough for the animals. He lined it with hay, making a very cozy baby bed. When Jesus was born, He was wrapped in cloth and snugly placed in the manger.

The word of the coming Messiah, who was to be the Savior of all people, had been broadcast throughout the Holy Land. However, many still were not aware of His coming. A very bright star appeared over the stable where Jesus lay. Since some were frightened by what they were seeing, God sent out angels to inform people of the coming of the Messiah. The angels appeared to the shepherds in the fields and told them not to be afraid. Hearing the news, they and many others flocked to Bethlehem to see this miracle.

PRAYER: Thank You, Father, for sending Jesus as the ultimate Christmas gift for us. Help us to accept and treasure Him above all Your other good gifts. Amen.

LESSONS TO STRESS:

1. The birth of Jesus fulfilled a promise from God made many times in the Bible.
2. The celebration of the birth of Jesus is the single most important holiday in a Christian's life.
3. The birth of Jesus is another of the many miracles performed by God.
4. The miracle of Jesus' birth shows us once again how much God loves us.

TIP: Add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

EXAMPLE DISCUSSION:

Q: Why did Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem at this time?

A: To register for the census, which was a count and record of all people in the area.

Q: What was Mary's condition at the time?

A: She was pregnant and soon to have a baby.

Q: Who was this baby?

A: It was Jesus.

Q: What did they find out about a place to stay when they arrived in Bethlehem?

A: All the inns were full.

Q: What did they do?

A: Joseph found a stable where they could stay with all the animals.

Q: How would you feel if you had to travel far from home and couldn't find a place to stay?

Q: How do you think Mary and Joseph felt?

Q: So did they just lay Baby Jesus on the ground when he was born?

A: No. Joseph took a food trough for animals known as a manger and lined it with hay. Baby Jesus was then wrapped in swaddling clothes (strips of cloth) and laid in His baby bed.

Q: Can you tell me what was happening out in the countryside about the time Jesus was born?

A: God sent angels to tell everyone about the coming of our savior. The bright light scared everyone including the shepherds. The angels explained they had been sent by God with the good news of Jesus' birth, and that calmed the shepherds. Also a very bright star appeared over the stable where Jesus was born, guiding people to His location.

Q: Why is Jesus being born as a baby good news for all people?

A: The Savior (Messiah), is not just for the Jew, but for the Gentile (Rom 1:16). He came to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29) and to show us how we can be saved from our sins (Matthew 1:21).

TIP: Add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

SPECIAL NOTE: When it comes to the virgin birth, depending on the age of your children, they may ask questions. Listen carefully to what they are asking, and God will lead you in what information they are ready for.

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus being born as a baby is good news for all people.

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.’” (Luke 2:10-11, NIV)

FOLLOW UP: Have your child retell the story in her/his own words. Follow up with a discussion. Revisit this lesson from time to time to be sure it's remembered.



MARY AND JOSEPH FLEE TO EGYPT

Volume One | Lesson Four

INTRODUCTION:

This is the story about Mary and Joseph, with Baby Jesus, leaving Bethlehem and fleeing to Egypt. King Herod feared the power Jesus might have over the people and was determined to have Him eliminated. An angel had appeared to Joseph in a dream telling him of the danger and to flee to Egypt to be out of the reach of the evil King. In Egypt, Herod had no political power and would not be able to harm Baby Jesus.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: “ ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a

dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route. When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.” When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.” (Matthew 2:1-18, NIV)

PARENT’S PRAYER:

Dear Lord, we are so thankful for the protection You offer us as You did Mary and Joseph. Our faith in You blesses us every moment. Amen.

EXAMPLE RETELLING OF THIS LESSON FOR YOUR CHILD:

After the birth of Jesus, and word had spread that the Messiah had been born, many wanted to come to see Him to worship. When king Herod heard that Jesus had been born, he was angry because he wanted to be the only king. Having heard that the three Wise Men were on their way to see Jesus, Herod befriended them, hoping to find where Jesus was located. He asked the Wise Men to tell him where Jesus was so he could worship Him, but he secretly wanted to kill Jesus. The three Wise Men were warned in a dream not to cooperate with Herod and to return home by another route to avoid him. They slipped away back to their countries without providing any information on Jesus to Herod. Even though they didn’t understand why God was warning them, they simply obeyed. When Herod couldn’t find Jesus, out of fear and rage, he decided to kill every little boy in the Bethlehem area under the age of two. An angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him to escape Bethlehem and flee to Egypt to keep Jesus safe. So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night, and left for Egypt, where they stayed until after the death of Herod. And so God protected Jesus. Once Herod was dead, Mary and Joseph returned to live in Nazareth, where Jesus grew into a young man.

There are many reasons why things happen that we don’t know about, but we do know that King Herod will be punished for every death he ordered. Sometimes bad things happen that we don’t understand, but God gave us the freedom to choose. Some people make good choices, and some people make bad choices, but God has a plan even if we don’t understand it. Through Jesus, He made a way for us to be with Him forever, and by trusting in Him, we can make the ultimate good choice.

PRAYER: Thank You, Lord, for protecting Jesus as You do us. Help us to obey and trust even when we don't understand. Open our hearts and eyes to listen to Your guidance and help us make good choices. Amen.

LESSONS TO STRESS:

1. God has a good plan for each of us, and He is so much bigger and stronger than we can imagine. Be sure to study His word and pray to find out what He has for you.
2. God is our protector. He will always take care of us if we trust in Him even if at times we don't understand.

TIP: Add to this list as you repeat this lesson and understand it better.

EXAMPLE DISCUSSION:

Q: Who was the mean king who wanted to harm baby Jesus?

A: Herod.

Q: Why was Herod so afraid of a little baby like Jesus?

A: He knew that Jesus was the Son of God and was so much more powerful than he. He loved power and being king. He suspected Jesus could win the people's favor over time and he would lose his throne.

Q: How did God protect baby Jesus from King Herod?

A: He sent an angel to warn Joseph in a dream to take his family to Egypt out of the reach of King Herod.

Q: How do you think Mary felt during the escape to Egypt? What about Joseph?

TIP: Add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus is our good King.

“You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, ‘You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.’” (John 18:37, NIV)

FOLLOW UP: Have your child retell the story in her/his own words. Follow up with a discussion. Revisit this lesson from time to time to be sure it's remembered.



THE BOY JESUS AT THE TEMPLE

Volume One | Lesson Five

INTRODUCTION:

This story gives us a very rare and brief look at the boy Jesus. At this time he was 12 years old, and this allowed Him to go to the temple and take part in the Passover Feast like the other Jewish men. This is the only story written about Jesus as a developing child in the Bible. It tells us that Jesus was fully human but knew He was the Son of God, yet He obeyed and respected His earthly parents while growing physically and spiritually.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you." "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them. Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. (Luke 2:41-52, NIV)

PARENT'S PRAYER:

Thank You, Lord, for Jesus and all that He teaches us. Help us to follow His lead. Amen.

EXAMPLE VERSION FOR YOUR CHILD:

Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem to the Festival of the Passover every year. When Jesus was twelve years old, He went with them. When the celebration was over, they headed home. Since they were traveling with other families in a group, they thought Jesus was with others in the group. But when Jesus did not come forward that night, they began to look for Him.

Unable to find Him, they returned to Jerusalem. Three days later they found Him in the Temple listening to the teachers and asking them questions. Everyone that heard Jesus was amazed at how much He understood and the answers He gave.

Mary said, "Son, why have You treated us like this? We have been so worried about You. We were searching everywhere."

Jesus answered, "Why did you need to search for me? You should have known that I would be at the Temple, in My Father's house." They, however, did not understand what Jesus was saying to them.

Then Jesus returned to Nazareth with them and obeyed them. Mary held all these things close to her heart and was amazed at how her Son grew in wisdom and understanding. God and man loved Him.

PRAYER: Father, help me to grow strong and healthy. Help me to listen to Your word and to ask questions so that I may learn more about Jesus. Amen.

LESSONS TO STRESS:

1. Even a child needs to understand and ask questions about God.
2. A child should honor and obey his parents.
3. Jesus showed He was God's Son through his actions at an early age.

TIP: Add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

EXAMPLE DISCUSSION:

Q: Why did Mary and Joseph leave their son, Jesus, in Jerusalem?

A: Since they were traveling with a big group, they did not miss Him until they had traveled a good way out of town.

Q: Why do you think Jesus wasn't aware of his parents leaving and did not go with them?

A: He got so involved in teaching and talking about God, He lost track of time. He felt at home in the temple.

Q: What do you think Mary and Joseph said to Jesus after they found Him? What would you have said?

A: Let your child(ren) respond in their own words. Broaden the conversation as you see fit.

TIP: Add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus is the obedient Son of God.

“And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!” (Philippians 2:8, NIV)

FOLLOW UP: Let your child(ren) tell the story of The Boy Jesus at the Temple in her/his own words. Follow with a discussion. Revisit this lesson from time to time.



THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

Volume One | Lesson Six

INTRODUCTION:

Jesus showed His humility and obedience to His Father by being baptized. He set an example for us. His baptism marked the beginning of His ministry and declared His identity as the Son of God. While baptism is not essential to being saved, it is a way of showing others that you have repented of your sins and been saved by Jesus Christ.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” Jesus replied, “Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.” Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” (Matthew 3:13-17, NIV).

PARENT’S PRAYER:

Dear Lord, we are so thankful for the blessing of being permitted to show our faith through baptism. Jesus set such a wonderful example. Amen.

EXAMPLE RETELLING OF THIS LESSON FOR YOUR CHILD

Jesus had a cousin named John. John was a preacher that God had called to tell people about the coming of Jesus, the Messiah. John also served God by baptizing those who had come to repent of their sins and be baptized. John told them that baptism was not enough to save them, but that Jesus, who was coming after him, would be able to save them. John said to look to the Savior for salvation.

One day, when John was preaching to a group of people, he waded into the water inviting those who wanted to be baptized to join him. The crowd separated as Jesus approached John and asked to be baptized. John was surprised that Jesus, the Son of God, who had committed no sins, had asked to be baptized. John told Jesus that he felt unworthy to baptize Him. Jesus replied by telling John this was the right thing to do to “fulfill all righteousness.” John consented and baptized Jesus.

After Jesus was baptized and was coming out of the water, Heaven opened. John saw the Spirit of God descending on Jesus like a dove, and heard a voice that said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased.”

PRAYER: Lord, thank You for sending Jesus as an example of how we should live. Thank You for His Sacrifice. Show us how to be an example to others and help lead them towards You.

LESSONS TO STRESS:

1. The importance of baptism and how it doesn't save you, but only shows you are saved.
2. Jesus took our place; we do not deserve that. God loves us, and there is nothing we can do to earn that love or lose it.
3. Once we receive God's gift of salvation through Jesus' sacrifice, God sees us as He sees Jesus—His child in whom He is well pleased.

TIP: Add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

EXAMPLE DISCUSSION:

Q: Who was John the Baptist?

A: He was Jesus' cousin. He lived in the wilderness and ministered to all that came to hear him. He baptized many, including Jesus.

Q: Why did Jesus want to be baptized?

A: He wanted to be baptized to show His obedience and faithfulness to God.

Q: What was the purpose of the voice from Heaven?

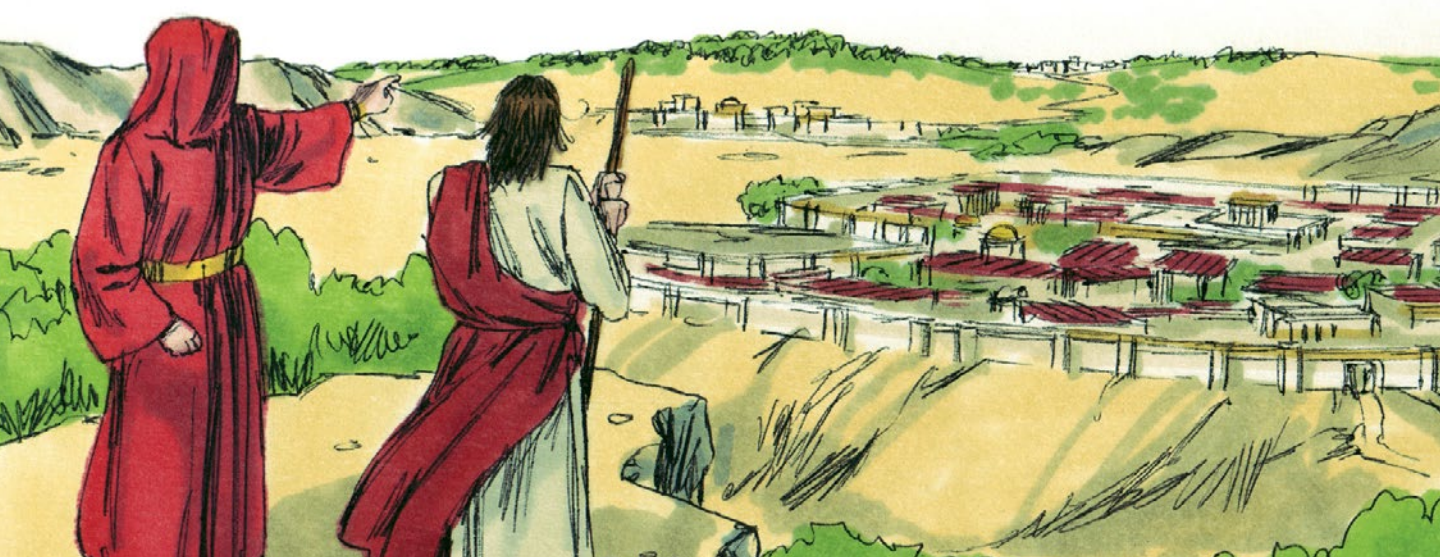
A: God announced that Jesus was the Son of God, and He was well pleased with Him.

TIP: Add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

Focus On Jesus: Jesus' obedience was pleasing to His Father.

"And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.'" (Matthew 3:17, NIV)

FOLLOW UP: Let your child(ren) tell the story of The Baptism of Jesus in her/his own words. Follow with a discussion. Revisit this lesson from time to time.



THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

Volume One | Lesson Seven

INTRODUCTION:

This story is about Satan trying to tempt Jesus to use His powers in a way that was unfaithful to God. As we see how Jesus dealt with and resisted the temptations, we are given an example of how we should resist Satan's temptations to us. How we choose to deal with temptation will determine whether we find meaning and peace in our lives or misery and turmoil.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. (Matthew 4:1-11, NIV)

PARENT'S PRAYER:

Thank You, Lord, for Your Word and all that it teaches us. Here Jesus shows us how to deal with Satan and the many temptations he presents.

EXAMPLE RETELLING OF THIS LESSON FOR YOUR CHILD:

Jesus was born to Mary and lived among people as a simple person just like you and me. He went into the wilderness to be tested by the devil to show us how to resist sin. In the wilderness Jesus did not eat for forty days and forty nights. He became very hungry. The devil came to Him and insisted Jesus turn stones into bread to show He was the Son of God. Jesus resisted by quoting scripture stating man does not live on bread alone but by what is learned from God's Word. We must read and obey what God tells us in the Bible.

The devil was still determined to break Jesus' faith in God. He took Him to the holy city and had Him stand on the highest point in the temple. The devil then challenged Jesus to prove He was the Son of God by jumping. The devil even twisted God's Word by saying it was written, "He will command His angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone." To this Jesus replied, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

The devil was persistent. Next, he took Jesus up on a very high mountain. From this mountain Jesus could see the whole world with all its beauty and magnificence God had created. The devil promised Jesus that He could have everything if He would bow down and worship him. Jesus' reply was very blunt and clear. He said to the devil, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.'"

The devil then went away, and the angels came to take care of Jesus.

PRAYER: Dear Lord, give me the strength to resist temptations that will separate me from You. Help me to recognize and deal with the evil in my life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

LESSONS TO STRESS:

1. We are all tempted by sinful things. We must be prepared to face these times.
2. Jesus shows us how and helps us to confront sin.
3. When we fight off sin, we show our complete faith in Christ.

TIP: Add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

EXAMPLE DISCUSSION:

Q: Why do you think Jesus was led into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil?

A: Simply to show each of us how to overcome sin and be saved.

Q: How long did Jesus stay in the wilderness?

A: Forty days and forty nights.

Q: How many times did the devil tempt Jesus?

A: Three.

Q: Describe the three temptations

A: 1. Turning stones into food. 2. Jump from the highest point in the temple. 3. Own God's creation if Jesus bows down to worship the devil.

Q: Would you have been able to resist the temptations presented by the devil?

A: A good discussion.

TIP: Add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

Focus on Jesus: Jesus overcame all temptation.

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but [Jesus] has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.” (Hebrews 4:15, NIV)

FOLLOW UP: Let your child(ren) tell the story of The Temptation of Jesus in her/his own words. Follow with a discussion. Revisit this lesson from time to time.



THE GOLDEN RULE

Volume One | Lesson Eight

INTRODUCTION:

Christianity demands that we live our lives by a set of rules put forth by God. The Golden Rule is one of those rules. Jesus taught this in His Sermon on the Mount. Following the Golden Rule allows us to live a pleasing and happy life.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. (Matthew 7:12, NIV)

PARENT'S PRAYER:

Lord, let us always treat our fellow man with You in mind. Amen.

EXAMPLE RETELLING OF THIS LESSON FOR YOUR CHILD:

“Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you.” This is the Golden Rule, and you will hear it in your life many times. It first came to us from Jesus when He was giving His Sermon on the Mount. It tells us that God cares about how we treat others.

When others are rude to us, we should ask ourselves how Jesus would answer. His response would always be grounded in love for our fellow person.

PRAYER: Lord, please lift us up to always be kind to everyone. We understand kindness will always be repaid by You. Amen.

LESSONS TO STRESS:

1. Being a Christian means obeying the Golden Rule.
2. If we show our love for one another, as Jesus did, we will always obey the Golden Rule.
3. Being kind to everyone makes you a special person.

TIP: Add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

EXAMPLE DISCUSSION:

Q: Can you say the Golden Rule?

A: Yes. Do for others what you would want them to do for you.

Q: Would you explain what that means to you?

A: (Each child will have his/her own opinion. Make sure it follows what Jesus would expect.)

TIP: Add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

Focus on Jesus: Jesus models how we need to treat others.

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 7:12, NIV)

FOLLOW UP: Let your child(ren) explain the meaning of The Golden Rule in her/his own words. Follow with a discussion. Revisit this lesson from time to time.



JESUS PERFORMS MANY MIRACLES

Volume One | Lesson Nine

INTRODUCTION:

During Jesus' short time on earth, He performed many miracles. The four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, place emphasis on these miracles as they tell of the life of Jesus. These miracles were signs God sent to let those watching know the power and true identity of the Son of God. The 37 miracles recorded in the scripture show us that Jesus had the power to heal the sick, raise the dead, feed the hungry, as well as other wondrous things. Through these miracles, we see that God is still at work in our lives today.

While the Bible only records 37 miracles in detail performed by Jesus during His time on earth, we know He performed many more as evidenced by such scripture as follows:

When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases." (Matthew 8:16-17, NIV).

The 37 Miracles of Jesus in Chronological Order

- 1 Jesus Turns Water into Wine at the Wedding in Cana: *John 2:1-11*
- 2 Jesus Heals an Official's Son at Capernaum in Galilee: *John 4:43-54*
- 3 Jesus Drives Out an Evil Spirit From a Man in Capernaum: *Mark 1:21-27, Luke 4:31-36*
- 4 Jesus Heals Peter's Mother-in-Law Sick With Fever: *Matthew 8:14-15, Mark 1:29-31, Luke 4:38-39.*
- 5 Jesus Heals Many Sick and Oppressed at Evening: *Matthew 8:16-17, Mark 1:32-34, Luke 4:40-41*
- 6 First Miraculous Catch of Fish on the Lake of Gennesaret: *Luke 5:1-11*

- 7 Jesus Cleanses a Man With Leprosy: *Matthew 8:1-4, Mark 1:40-45, Luke 5:12-14*
- 8 Jesus Heals a Centurion's Paralyzed Servant in Capernaum: *Matthew 8:5-13, Luke 7:1-10*
- 9 Jesus Heals a Paralytic Who Was Let Down From the Roof: *Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-26*
- 10 Jesus Heals a Man's Withered Hand on the Sabbath: *Matthew 12:9-14, Mark 3:1-6, Luke 6:6-11*
- 11 Jesus Raises a Widow's Son From the Dead in Nain: *Luke 7:11-17*
- 12 Jesus Calms a Storm on the Sea: *Matthew 8:23-27, Mark 4:35-41, Luke 8:22-25*
- 13 Jesus Casts Demons into a Herd of Pigs: *Matthew 8:28-33, Mark 5:1-20, Luke 8:26-39*
- 14 Jesus Heals a Woman in the Crowd With an Issue of Blood: *Matthew 9:20-22, Mark 5:25-34, Luke 8:42-48*
- 15 Jesus Raises Jairus' Daughter Back to Life: *Matthew 9:18, 23-26, Mark 5:21-24, 35-43, Luke 8:40-42, 49-56*
- 16 Jesus Heals Two Blind Men: *Matthew 9:27-31*
- 17 Jesus Heals a Man Who Was Unable to Speak: *Matthew 9:32-34*
- 18 Jesus Heals an Invalid at Bethesda: *John 5:1-15*
- 19 Jesus Feeds 5,000 Plus Women and Children: *Matthew 14:13-21, Mark 6:30-44, Luke 9:10-17, John 6:1-15*
- 20 Jesus Walks on Water: *Matthew 14:22-33, Mark 6:45-52, John 6:16-21*
- 21 Jesus Heals Many Sick in Gennesaret as They Touch His Garment: *Matthew 14:34-36, Mark 6:53-56*
- 22 Jesus Heals a Gentile Woman's Demon-Possessed Daughter: *Matthew 15:21-28, Mark 7:24-30*
- 23 Jesus Heals a Deaf and Dumb Man: *Mark 7:31-37*
- 24 Jesus Feeds 4,000 Plus Women and Children: *Matthew 15:32-39, Mark 8:1-13*
- 25 Jesus Heals a Blind Man at Bethsaida: *Mark 8:22-26*
- 26 Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind by Spitting in His Eyes: *John 9:1-12*
- 27 Jesus Heals a Boy With an Unclean Spirit: *Matthew 17:14-20, Mark 9:14-29, Luke 9:37-43*
- 28 Miraculous Temple Tax in a Fish's Mouth: *Matthew 17:24-27*
- 29 Jesus Heals a Blind, Mute Demoniac: *Matthew 12:22-23, Luke 11:14-23*
- 30 Jesus Heals a Woman Who Had Been Crippled for 18 Years: *Luke 13:10-17*
- 31 Jesus Heals a Man With Dropsy on the Sabbath: *Luke 14:1-6*
- 32 Jesus Cleanses Ten Lepers on the Way to Jerusalem: *Luke 17:11-19*
- 33 Jesus Raises Lazarus from the Dead in Bethany: *John 11:1-45*
- 34 Jesus Restores Sight to Bartimaeus in Jericho: *Matthew 20:29-34, Mark 10:46-52, Luke 18:35-43*
- 35 Jesus Withers the Fig Tree on the Road From Bethany: *Matthew 21:18-22, Mark 11:12-14*
- 36 Jesus Heals a Servant's Severed Ear While He Is Being Arrested: *Luke 22:50-51*
- 37 The Second Miraculous Catch of Fish at the Sea of Tiberias: *John 21:4-11*

All of Jesus' miracles show his love, compassion for mankind, and demonstrate His awesome power. For the purpose of this lesson, we will use one miracle as an example:

The Miraculous Catch of Fish

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water's edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, "Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!" For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." So they pulled their boats up on shore, left everything and followed him. (Luke 5:1-11, NIV).

PARENT'S PRAYER:

Christ Jesus, we marvel at the many miracles You performed in the Bible. We still see You doing so in our everyday lives. Thank You for showing Your Love for us. Amen.

EXAMPLE RETELLING OF THIS LESSON FOR YOUR CHILD:

A miracle is an act or event that can only be performed by God. This story is about a miracle that Jesus, the Son of God, performed. Simon Peter, who was a disciple of Jesus, and his crew had fished hard all night and had caught nothing. They were discouraged. On returning to shore, Jesus came aboard to teach a group of His followers from the boat. Once that was completed, Jesus asked Simon Peter to go out into deep water and let down his nets. Simon Peter did as Jesus requested but reminded Him, they had caught nothing all night. Once the nets were down, they were filled to overflowing with fish. Another boat joined them, and their nets were also filled to the point of almost breaking. The catches were so large that both boats were on the brink of sinking. Seeing this miracle, Simon Peter was ashamed that he had failed to have faith in Jesus and was afraid. Then Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." So the fishermen followed Jesus to be His disciples, understanding that from now on they would be fishing for people to bring to Jesus for their salvation.

PRAYER: Lord, help us to see You and hear You calling to us. Make us fishers of people, followers who tell everyone about how great and good You are.

LESSONS TO STRESS:

1. Never doubt Jesus. He is the truth and will never mislead you.
2. Follow Jesus in your daily life. He is the path to heaven, peace, and happiness.
3. Jesus wants us to join Him. He wants us to become fishers of men like Simon Peter and his friends.
4. Never let anyone or anything come between you and Jesus.

TIP: Add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

Over time we suggest you pull some of the other miracles from the Bible and review them with your child. Your child will see the love and tremendous power of God in these miracles, and the learning potential is endless.

EXAMPLE DISCUSSION:

Jesus performed many miracles. What is a miracle? What is your favorite miracle that Jesus performed?

Do you think Jesus performs miracles now? Can you name or describe one?

TIP: Add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus' miracles prove He was sent from God.

“Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.” (John 14:11, NIV)

FOLLOW UP: Let your child(ren) give her/his impressions about Jesus' Miracles in her/his own words. Follow with a discussion. Revisit this lesson from time to time.



JESUS FEEDS THE CROWD

Volume One | Lesson Ten

INTRODUCTION:

Jesus spent countless hours healing and teaching those who came seeking His help and words. Often the crowds would number in the thousands. Jesus more than once showed His compassion and love for the many people by not only tending to their health and spiritual needs but also providing food.

SUPPORTING SCRIPTURE:

(This scripture comes as Jesus realizes His dear friend John the Baptist has been killed.)

When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.” Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.” “We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered. “Bring them here to me,” he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children. (Matthew 14:13-21, NIV)

PARENT’S PRAYER:

Jesus, we worship You for Your compassion and love. Even after hearing of the loss of John the Baptist, You still put the needs of others first. Amen.

EXAMPLE RETELLING OF THIS LESSON FOR YOUR CHILD:

Jesus had just given His Sermon on the Mount when He found out that His good friend and trusted servant, John the Baptist, had been killed. He was very sad. He and His disciples got on a boat to go to a quiet place. Hearing the news, a large crowd followed them on foot. When Jesus and His disciples arrived at the place they were going, Jesus saw the large crowd of about 5,000 waiting for Him. Although He was tired and sad, Jesus had much compassion for the people and began healing their sick. Later in the evening, the disciples told Jesus they needed to send the crowd away to the villages so they could buy themselves some food. Jesus said they did not need to go away; they needed to be fed because they were very hungry. However, the disciples were concerned since they only had five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass. He then took the two fish and the loaves of bread, looked up toward heaven and blessed the food. He gave the food to the disciples, and the disciples gave the food to the crowd. Not only did they have enough to feed the entire crowd, but they filled twelve baskets with what was left over.

PRAYER: Jesus, help us to always show compassion toward others as You did. Amen.

LESSONS TO STRESS:

1. Jesus has no limit to what He can do.
2. Jesus loves everyone, and so should you.
3. Jesus constantly shows us the right way to live our lives even under stress.

TIP: Add to this list as you repeat the lesson.

Always enter into a discussion of the lesson with your child at some point. Previous lessons provided sample questions you might propose to lead this discussion. Now and going forward we suggest you come with your own questions. Make a list below.

FOCUS ON JESUS: The real bread that Jesus gives us for life is Himself.

“For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” (John 6:33, NIV)

FOLLOW UP: Let your child(ren) tell the story of Jesus Feeds the Crowd in her/his own words. Follow with a discussion. Revisit this lesson from time to time.

CHILDREN'S PAGES: The pages that follow are simple summaries of the previous biblical lessons. They are intended for children. You can present them at any time. We do, however, believe they will best be understood once you have completed your teaching of each lesson. They are perforated for easy removal. We suggest your child collect and preserve them for future reference.



THE CREATION

Volume One | Lesson One

PRAYER: Dear God, help us to see you in Your Creation. Give us the faith to draw near to the God who made us and loves us. In Jesus' Holy Name we pray. Amen.

LET'S REMEMBER THESE THINGS AND MORE FROM THIS LESSON.

1. God's ability and power are limitless. He has the power to do anything and everything He wants.
2. God is real. We can see Him in ourselves, everyone, and everything around us.
3. God loves each one of us with no exceptions, and He wants us to love Him.
4. He knows everything about us, down to each hair on our heads. He knows everything we do and even what we are thinking.

FOCUS ON JESUS: God made everything, including us, for Jesus.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind." (John 1:1-4, NIV)



THE CREATION

Volume One | Lesson One

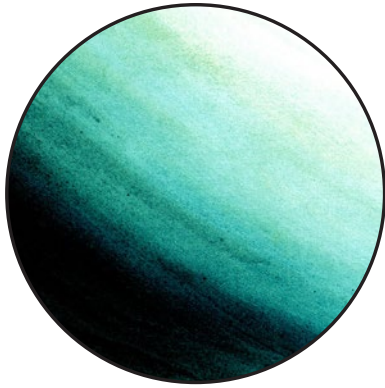
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DAY 1

In the beginning, God created heaven and earth.



DAY 2

God separated the waters and created the sky above and the water below.



DAY 3

God pulled the water back and exposed dry ground. He then created the plants.



DAY 4

God placed lights in the sky to rule over the day and night.



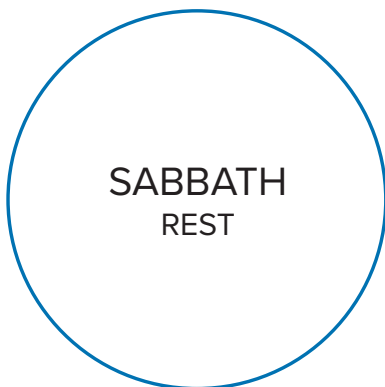
DAY 5

God filled the seas and sky with every living thing that moved about in them.



DAY 6

God produced every kind of animal for the land. He then made human beings in His own image.



SABBATH
REST

DAY 7

God rested from all the work He had done, all that He had created.

God called His creation "Good."



BOND OF FAITH
Children's Ministries



THE ANGEL VISITS MARY

Volume One | Lesson Two

PRAYER: Lord, may our obedience and faith in You grow stronger day by day. Let it become a necessary part of our everyday lives. Amen.

LET'S REMEMBER THESE THINGS AND MORE FROM THIS LESSON.

1. God has His plan for our lives. Sending Jesus to live among us was part of that plan. We must study the Bible to see what God wants for and from us.
2. Like Mary, God chooses us to be part of His Kingdom. We must keep our faith strong by honoring Him and being obedient to Him.
3. Mary exemplifies the huge role women play in our everyday live, not only in the birth and raising of our young but adding to the core of our civilization and its progress.

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus is God's Son.

“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.” (Luke 1:32-33, NIV)



The angel Gabriel was sent to the town of Nazareth to appear to a woman named Mary.



The angel said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."



Mary was troubled. "Do not be afraid," the angel said.



"You will give birth to a son, and you will call Him Jesus. He will be the Son of the Most High."



Mary was confused. "How can this be? I'm a virgin."



The angel told her, "The Holy Spirit will overshadow you, and you will carry the Son of God."



Mary humbled herself. "I am the Lord's servant."



Next time Mary went to see her cousin, the baby inside Elizabeth jumped for joy when he heard Mary's voice, the mother of the Savior.





THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Volume One | Lesson Three

PRAYER: Thank You, Father, for sending Jesus as the ultimate Christmas gift for us. Help us to accept and treasure Him above all Your other good gifts. Amen.

LET'S REMEMBER THESE THINGS AND MORE FROM THIS LESSON.

1. The birth of Jesus fulfilled a promise from God made many times in the Bible.
2. The celebration of the birth of Jesus is the single most important holiday in a Christian's life.
3. The birth of Jesus is another of the many miracles performed by God.
4. The miracle of Jesus' birth shows us once again how much God loves us.

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus being born as a baby is good news for all people.

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.’” (Luke 2:10-11 NIV)



Caesar Augustus ordered that a census be taken. Joseph of Judea had to go to Bethlehem to register.



Joseph went with Mary, whom he was pledged to marry.



But when they arrived, no rooms could be found.



When it became time for Mary to give birth to Jesus, they stayed in a stable.



Shepherds were keeping watch over their sheep in the fields. They were terrified when an angel appeared.



The angel said, "Do not be afraid. I come with good news. A Savior has been born. He is the Lord."



The angel told the shepherds where to find the newborn king. They found Jesus and worshiped Him.



The shepherds were filled with joy and told everyone about it.





MARY AND JOSEPH FLEE TO EGYPT

Volume One | Lesson Four

PRAYER: Thank You, Lord, for protecting Jesus as You do us. Help us to obey and trust even when we don't understand. Open our hearts and eyes to listen to Your guidance and help us make good choices. Amen

LET'S REMEMBER THESE THINGS AND MORE FROM THIS LESSON.

1. God has a good plan for each of us, and He is so much bigger and stronger than we can imagine. Be sure to study His word and pray to find out what He has for you.
2. God is our protector. He will always take care of us if we trust in Him even if at times we don't understand.

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus is our good King.

“You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”
(John 18:37, NIV)



Magi came to Jerusalem from the east in search of “the king of the Jews.”



Herod was disturbed to hear of this. The chief priest told Herod the Messiah would be born “in Bethlehem.”



Herod tries to trick the Magi by telling them to find the child and report back to him so that he can “worship him.”



The Magi followed the star and found the child with His mother Mary.



The Magi bowed down and worshiped Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.



The Magi are warned in a dream to return to their country by another route.



Joseph has a dream where he is told to take the child and Mary and escape Herod by going to Egypt.



Herod orders all the young children in Jerusalem killed.





THE BOY JESUS AT THE TEMPLE

Volume One | Lesson Five

PRAYER: Father, help me to grow strong and healthy. Help me to listen to Your word and to ask questions so that I may learn more about Jesus. Amen.

LET'S REMEMBER THESE THINGS AND MORE FROM THIS LESSON.

1. Even a child needs to understand and ask questions about God.
2. A child should honor and obey his parents.
3. Jesus showed He was God's Son through His actions at an early age.

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus is the obedient Son of God.

“And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!” (Philippians 2:8, NIV)



When Jesus was twelve, He went with his parents to Jerusalem to the Festival of the Passover.



When the celebration was over, they headed home with their group and thought Jesus was with them.



Jesus did not show up that night so His parents began to look for Him.



Unable to find Him, they returned to Jerusalem to look for Him there.



After three days they found Jesus in the temple listening to the teachers and asking questions.



Everyone that heard Jesus was amazed at how much He understood and the answers He gave.



Mary said, "We have been so worried about You. We were searching everywhere."



Jesus said, "You should have known that I would be in My Father's house." Jesus went obediently home with His parents.





THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

Volume One | Lesson Six

PRAYER: Lord, thank You for sending Jesus as an example of how we should live. Thank You for His Sacrifice. Show us how to be an example to others and help lead them towards You.

LET'S REMEMBER THESE THINGS AND MORE FROM THIS LESSON.

1. The importance of baptism and how it doesn't save you, but only shows you are saved.
2. Jesus took our place; we do not deserve that. God loves us, and there is nothing we can do to earn that love or lose it.
3. Once we receive God's gift of salvation through Jesus' sacrifice, God sees us as He sees Jesus—His child in whom He is well pleased.

Focus On Jesus: Jesus' obedience was pleasing to His Father.

“And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.’” (Matthew 3:17, NIV)



John the Baptist was Jesus' cousin. He was preaching that the kingdom of God was near.



John invited people to repent and be baptized.



John said "There is a more powerful man coming who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire."



Jesus came to the Jordan River to be baptized. John said, "You should baptize me."



Jesus said, "God wants it done this way."



So John baptized Jesus.



As Jesus came up out of the water, the sky opened up and the Spirit of God came down like a dove and rested on Him.



And a voice from heaven said, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."





THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

Volume One | Lesson Seven

PRAYER: Dear Lord, give me the strength to resist temptations that will separate me from You. Help me to recognize and deal with the evil in my life. In Jesus' name. Amen.

LET'S REMEMBER THESE THINGS AND MORE FROM THIS LESSON.

1. We are all tempted by sinful things. We must be prepared to face these times.
2. Jesus shows us how and helps us to confront sin.
3. When we fight off sin, we show our complete faith in Christ.

Focus on Jesus: Jesus overcame all temptation.

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but [Jesus] has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.” (Hebrews 4:15, NIV)



After He was baptized, the Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness where He did not eat or drink for forty days.



The devil came to Him and tempted Him. "If You really are the Son of God, turn these stones into bread."



Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, people need more than bread to live. They need every word of God."



The devil took Him to the top of the temple. "Prove You are the Son of God. Jump off. God will save You."



Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'"



Next the devil showed Him all the kingdoms of the world. "I will give it all to You," he said. "Just bow down and worship me."



"Get out of here, Satan," Jesus told him. "The Scriptures tell us to worship and serve God alone."



Then the devil went away, and angels came and took care of Jesus.





THE GOLDEN RULE

Volume One | Lesson Eight

PRAYER: Lord, please lift us up to always be kind to everyone. We understand kindness will always be repaid by You. Amen.

LET'S REMEMBER THESE THINGS AND MORE FROM THIS LESSON.

1. Being a Christian means obeying the Golden Rule.
2. If we show our love for one another, as Jesus did, we will always obey the Golden Rule.
3. Being kind to everyone makes you a special person.

Focus on Jesus: Jesus models how we need to treat others.

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.” (Matthew 7:12, NIV)



Jesus taught many things on the Sermon on the Mount.



He taught that we should treat people like we want to be treated.



He modeled for us how we are to treat others.



For example: if someone is in need, we should give generously.



When we meet a stranger, we should be kind and welcome him.



If we find someone who is thirsty, we should give him something to drink.



If someone falls down, we should help him back up.



If someone we know is sick, we should visit him and pray for him.





JESUS PERFORMS MANY MIRACLES

One of Jesus' Miracles: The Miraculous Catch of Fish

Volume One | Lesson Nine

PRAYER: Lord, help us to see You and hear You calling to us. Make us fishers of people, followers who tell everyone about how great and good You are.

LET'S REMEMBER THESE THINGS AND MORE FROM THIS LESSON.

1. Never doubt Jesus. He is the truth and will never mislead you.
2. Follow Jesus in Your daily life. He is the path to heaven, peace, and happiness.
3. Jesus wants us to join Him. He wants us to become fishers of men like Simon Peter and his friends.
4. Never let anyone or anything come between you and Jesus.

FOCUS ON JESUS: Jesus' miracles prove He was sent from God.

“Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.” (John 14:11, NIV)



One day, as Jesus was teaching a crowd, He saw two boats by the lake and the fishermen cleaning their nets.



He got into the boat belonging to Simon and asked him to row away from shore.



Then He sat down and taught the people from the boat.



When He finished, He told Simon, "Row out further, and let down your nets for a catch."



Simon said, "Master, we've worked all night and haven't caught anything. But because You said so, I will let down the nets."



They obeyed, and caught so many fish that their nets began to break. They called for help, and filled both boats with fish.



Simon fell to his knees. "Lord, I am a sinful man!"



Jesus said, "Don't be afraid. I will make you fishers of people." So they rowed to shore, left everything, and followed Jesus.





JESUS FEEDS THE CROWD

Volume One | Lesson Ten

PRAYER: Jesus, help us to always show compassion toward others as You did. Amen.

LET'S REMEMBER THESE THINGS AND MORE FROM THIS LESSON.

1. Jesus has no limit to what He can do.
2. Jesus loves everyone, and so should you.
3. Jesus constantly shows us the right way to live our lives even under stress.

FOCUS ON JESUS: The real bread that Jesus gives us for life is Himself.

“For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” (John 6:33, NIV)



A large crowd followed Jesus. He had compassion on them and healed their sick until evening.



The disciples said to Jesus, "It's late. We need to send the crowds away, so they can go and buy food for themselves."



Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."



"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.



"Bring them here to Me," he said. Everyone was directed to sit down on the grass.



Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, Jesus gave thanks and broke the loaves.



Jesus gave the pieces to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people.



More than 5,000 people were fed and were satisfied. The disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of leftover pieces.



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