

## 2. Joseph's Story (Matthew 1:18-24)

The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people." (Luke 2:10)



# PLAN

### Session Outline

#### 1. Gather

Greeting  
Nativity Dress Up:  
Mary and Joseph  
"Emmanuel" Angel Banner  
Transition to Explore

#### 2. Explore

Sacred Conversations  
Hear and See the Bible  
Story  
Interact with the Bible Story  
Say the Bible Verse  
Transition to Respond

#### 3. Respond

Loving God,  
Loving Neighbor  
Angel Ornament Gift  
The Bible Is a Library  
of Books  
Transition to Bless

#### 4. Bless

Inviting  
Praising  
Blessing  
At Home with God

### Supplies

**Basic Supplies:** Tape | Stickers |  
Markers | Crayons | Pencils | Glue | Paper |  
Scissors | Yarn

**Gather:** "Angels" basket from Session 1 |  
Another laundry basket or other large basket  
| Large t-shirts or robes in blue and tan |  
Thick yarn or rope | Scissors for cutting the  
yarn or rope | Pieces of fabric in white and  
brown | Pretend carpentry tools | Small  
blocks of wood | Small, pretend cleaning  
tools

**Explore:** No additional supplies needed

**Respond:** Battery-operated tea light  
candles | White coffee filters | Small, white  
paper doilies | Lollipops (two per child) |  
Silver chenille stems | Yellow and purple  
crayons or markers | CEB Deep Blue Kids  
Bible or other children's Bible

**Bless:** Heart-shaped ink stamp or stickers

### Before You Teach

Overall, the Bible mentions very little about Joseph. We are told he is a righteous man and this statement is supported by his actions. Upon learning of Mary's pregnancy before they were married, Joseph makes plans to divorce her quietly. In those days, once a couple was engaged, they were considered to be married. For Mary to have become pregnant before they had marital relations would have been considered adultery. Mosaic Law required capital punishment under such cases. Even before the angel appeared to him, Joseph had already decided not to follow that law. After the angel's visit, Joseph decided to take Mary as his wife. Doing so must have caused Joseph to be subject to more than a few questions. Joseph's willingness to trust God gives us a good idea of the character of this man who was Jesus' earthly father.

Some people are hesitant to call Joseph the father of Jesus, since Jesus is God's Son. However, legally, Jesus was Joseph's adopted son. The Bible refers to Jesus as the son of Joseph from Nazareth and as the carpenter's son. It is through Joseph that Jesus' lineage is traced back to King David.

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# GATHER

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## Greeting

*Before class: Display the Attendance Chart (Class Kit—pp. 16–17) at eye level. Put together the model of the school and the figures of Mr. Maxwell, Rachel, and Armen (Class Kit—p. 9).*

- Play, "Come to Us, Emmanuel" (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD) as you welcome each child.
  - Show the children where to place their offerings, and help each child mark the Attendance Chart with a sticker or permanent marker.
  - Place the Deep Blue Shores Map (Class Kit—p. 11) and the school and the Mr. Maxwell, Rachel, and Armen figures (Class Kit—p. 9) on a table or on the floor for the children to play with and explore. If available, add the Deep Blue Shores Maps, buildings, and figures from previous quarters.
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## A—Nativity Dress Up: Mary and Joseph (Dramatic Play)

*Before class: Gather large t-shirts or robes in blue and tan, 4-foot lengths of thick yarn or rope to use as belts, pieces of fabric in white and brown to use as head coverings, and other dress up materials for Mary and Joseph. Place these in a separate laundry basket or other large basket. Add pretend carpentry tools; small blocks of wood; and small, pretend cleaning tools to the basket. Label the basket, "Mary and Joseph."*

- Place the "Angels" basket and the "Mary and Joseph" basket in the center of the play space.
- Invite the children to explore and play with the costume items.
- Encourage the children to dress up and pretend to be angels, Mary, and Joseph.

**TIP:** *You will add to the Nativity Dress Up Center each week. Return the items to the correct baskets, and save your "Angels" and "Mary and Joseph" baskets for next week.*

OR

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## B—"Emmanuel" Angel Banner (Activity Sheets)

*Before class: Cut a 24-inch long piece of yarn for each child.*

- Give each child a copy of Activity Sheets—Session 2 and a strand of yarn.
- Invite the children to create "Emmanuel" Angel Banners according to the instructions.
- Read the word *Emmanuel* with the children. Share with them that they will hear this word in the Bible story.

**TIP:** *If you kept the "Rejoice" Angel Banners from last week, add them to the children's "Emmanuel" Angel Banners.*

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## Transition to Explore

- Have the children clean up. Then invite each child to find a partner and walk to the Bible story circle together.

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# EXPLORE

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### Sacred Conversations

**SAY:** This month we are hearing the stories about Jesus' family and his birth. I am excited to celebrate and learn with you.

**ASK:** I wonder:

- How many friends are here with us today? Who is missing?
  - How do you feel today?
  - What's one thing that happened in your community this week that you really liked?
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### Hear and See the Bible Story

**SAY:** Today our Bible story is about Joseph, Jesus' father. He was surprised to find out that Mary was going to have a baby. Let's find out what he decides to do.

- Tell the children the story, "Joseph's Story" (*Deep Blue Bible Storybook*—p. 216).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure for Session 2 (Adventure DVD) with the children.

**ASK:** How do you help your community at Christmas time?

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### Interact with the Bible Story

- Give each child a copy of "Joseph's Story" (Bible Story Sheets—Session 2).
- Read the story with the children, encouraging them to read the words in blue.

**TIP:** Printable "Word Cards" for the words in blue are available each quarter to download and print at [www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday](http://www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday).

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### Say the Bible Verse

*Before class: Post the Bible Verse Poster—Unit 1 (Class Kit—p. 3) on a wall or bulletin board.*

- Point to the Bible Verse Poster. Say the Bible verse for the children, and then repeat it together.
  - Teach the children signs from American Sign Language for some of the words in the Bible verse (Leader Guide—p. 91 and [www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday](http://www.deepbluekids.com/This-Sunday)).
  - Watch the Unit 1 Bible Verse video (Adventure DVD) with the children.
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### Transition to Respond

- Have the children clean up. Have each child find a partner and walk to the next activity together.

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# RESPOND

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## Loving God, Loving Neighbor

*Before class: Post "All Are Welcome" (Class Kit—p. 2) on a wall or bulletin board. Locate the "Advent Wreath" (Class Kit—p. 27) and two battery-operated tea light candles.*

- Play, "All Are Welcome" (Annual Music CD or Adventure DVD). Sing along and dance to the music.
- Place the "Advent Wreath" (Class Kit—p. 27) in the center of the circle or on a table.

**SAY:** Today is the second Sunday of the season of Advent. During Advent we prepare for Jesus to be born on Christmas. Each week we will add and light a new candle on our "Advent Wreath" and say a prayer. This week our prayer is about love. What is love? (*Give some time for the children to answer.*)

- Turn on two battery-operated tea light candles and place them on the purple candles (for Weeks 1 and 2). Then read the prayer for Week 2: Love.
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## A— Angel Ornament Gift (Art)

- Give each child two small lollipops, two white coffee filters, two silver chenille stems, and two small white paper doilies.
  - Have the child cover the top of one lollipop with a coffee filter. Then place the covered lollipop in the **center** of a silver chenille stem and twist the stem to secure the coffee filter, creating the angel's head and body.
  - Have the child carefully scrunch a white paper doily in the center to create wings. Then attach the doily to the angel's body by twisting the chenille stem around the doily. Provide help as needed.
  - Have the child make a loop with one of the arms of the chenille stem and twist to create a hanger; then make a loop and twist the other arm of the chenille stem to create a halo.
  - Invite each child to repeat the activity with the remaining lollipop to make an angel for a friend.
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OR

## B—The Bible Is a Library of Books (Bible Tools)

*Before class: Display "Books of the Bible" poster (Class Kit—p. 25) on a wall or bulletin board. Make a copy of "The Bible Is a Library of Books" (p. 18) for each child. Provide yellow and purple crayons/markers. Locate a Deep Blue Kids children's Bible or other children's Bible.*

- Show the children the inside of a children's Bible and the "Books of the Bible" (Class Kit—p. 25).
  - Give each child a copy of (p. 18). Read the instructions on the reproducible to the children. Help each child find and color *Matthew* and *Isaiah*, using the yellow and purple crayons or markers.
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## Transition to Bless

- Have the children clean up. Then invite each child to find a partner and walk to the Bible story circle together.

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# BLESS

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### Inviting

*Before class: Cut out the mural pieces from the bottom of the Unit 1—Bible Story Mural (Class Kit—p. 19) and place them in an envelope or zip-top bag. Post the Unit 1—Bible Story Mural.*

- Gather the children around the mural. Invite a child to tape the image of Joseph to the mural.

**ASK:** What do you remember about the Bible story we heard today? What do you think we can learn about community from this story?

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### Praising

*Before class: Display "Singing Together" (Class Kit—p. 31) on a wall or bulletin board.*

- Sing together, "Don't Be Afraid" (Class Kit—p. 31).

**TIP:** If time permits, invite the children to choose more songs to sing.

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### Blessing

- Invite the children to sit in a circle with you. Hold the heart-shaped ink stamp or some heart stickers in your hand.
  - Turn to the child on your left and place a heart ink stamp or sticker on his or her hand.
  - Say to the child, "Don't be afraid! God is with you!"
  - Give the heart ink stamp or stickers to the child, and invite him or her to repeat the blessing to the next child in the circle.
  - Continue around the circle in this way until the last child receives a blessing and gives one to you.
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### At Home with God

*Before class: Locate the children's "Angel Banner" crafts from last week and today's "Angel Banner" crafts.*

**ASK:** What's one thing about our time today that you can tell your family?

- Give each child a copy of Bible Story Sheets—Session 2. Look at "Family Faith Activities" together.

**ASK:** Which of these activities are you most excited to try this week?

- Send home the Bible Story Sheets—Session 2 with each child along with the "Angel Banners" if you did not send the banners home last week.

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### The Bible Is a Library of Books



Our Bible story today is in the book of **Matthew**. Find **Matthew** and color it **YELLOW**.

The prophet Isaiah said, "Look! A virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will call him, Emmanuel." Isaiah's prophecy is in the book of **Isaiah**. Find **Isaiah** and color it **PURPLE**.

Color the rest of the books of the Bible any color you would like.

OLD TESTAMENT					NEW TESTAMENT																			
BOOKS OF LAW <b>Genesis</b>	BOOKS OF LAW <b>Exodus</b>	BOOKS OF LAW <b>Leviticus</b>	BOOKS OF LAW <b>Numbers</b>	BOOKS OF LAW <b>Deuteronomy</b>	GOSPELS <b>Matthew</b>	GOSPELS <b>Mark</b>	GOSPELS <b>Luke</b>	GOSPELS <b>John</b>	HISTORY <b>Acts</b>															
LAW					GOSPELS				HISTORY															
HISTORY <b>Joshua</b>	HISTORY <b>Judges</b>	HISTORY <b>Ruth</b>	HISTORY <b>1 Samuel</b>	HISTORY <b>2 Samuel</b>	HISTORY <b>1 Kings</b>	HISTORY <b>2 Kings</b>	HISTORY <b>1 Chronicles</b>	HISTORY <b>2 Chronicles</b>	HISTORY <b>Ezra</b>	HISTORY <b>Nehemiah</b>	HISTORY <b>Esther</b>	PAUL'S LETTERS <b>Romans</b>	PAUL'S LETTERS <b>1 Corinthians</b>	PAUL'S LETTERS <b>2 Corinthians</b>	PAUL'S LETTERS <b>Galatians</b>	PAUL'S LETTERS <b>Ephesians</b>	PAUL'S LETTERS <b>Philippians</b>	PAUL'S LETTERS <b>Colossians</b>	PAUL'S LETTERS <b>1 Thessalonians</b>	PAUL'S LETTERS <b>2 Thessalonians</b>	PAUL'S LETTERS <b>1 Timothy</b>	PAUL'S LETTERS <b>2 Timothy</b>	PAUL'S LETTERS <b>Titus</b>	PAUL'S LETTERS <b>Philemon</b>
HISTORY												PAUL'S LETTERS												
BOOKS OF POETRY <b>Job</b>	BOOKS OF POETRY <b>Psalms</b>	BOOKS OF POETRY <b>Proverbs</b>	BOOKS OF POETRY <b>Ecclesiastes</b>	BOOKS OF POETRY <b>Song of Songs</b>	MAJOR PROPHETS <b>Isaiah</b>	MAJOR PROPHETS <b>Jeremiah</b>	MAJOR PROPHETS <b>Lamentations</b>	MAJOR PROPHETS <b>Ezekiel</b>	MAJOR PROPHETS <b>Daniel</b>	GENERAL LETTERS <b>Hebrews</b>	GENERAL LETTERS <b>James</b>	GENERAL LETTERS <b>1 Peter</b>	GENERAL LETTERS <b>2 Peter</b>	GENERAL LETTERS <b>1 John</b>	GENERAL LETTERS <b>2 John</b>	GENERAL LETTERS <b>3 John</b>	GENERAL LETTERS <b>Jude</b>							
POETRY					MAJOR PROPHETS					GENERAL LETTERS														
MINOR PROPHETS <b>Hosea</b>	MINOR PROPHETS <b>Joel</b>	MINOR PROPHETS <b>Amos</b>	MINOR PROPHETS <b>Obadiah</b>	MINOR PROPHETS <b>Jonah</b>	MINOR PROPHETS <b>Micah</b>	MINOR PROPHETS <b>Nahum</b>	MINOR PROPHETS <b>Habakkuk</b>	MINOR PROPHETS <b>Zephaniah</b>	MINOR PROPHETS <b>Haggai</b>	MINOR PROPHETS <b>Zechariah</b>	MINOR PROPHETS <b>Malachi</b>	PROPHECY <b>Revelation</b>												
MINOR PROPHETS												PROPHECY												