

Children's Resources – Fun Lessons and *activities* to engage your littlest church members!

Don't forget the children in your church family this Christmas!

Use this NEW discussion series throughout the month of December to help your littlest church members to follow Old Testament “clues” that point to Christmas... and the birth of Jesus! They'll discover that Jesus wasn't just a baby who happened to be born... but that He was the saviour God promised long ago.

LESSON 1: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son

Passages: Isaiah 7:14 & Matthew 1:18-23

Prop: Print out Isaiah 7:14 in big text and cut it into a puzzle. Hide the pieces around the room, or under children's chairs.

Read: Matthew 1:18-23 together

Ask: Can you remember a time when you had to solve a mystery? Or figure out a clue? Or put together a puzzle? Allow some examples.

Well God has given us some clues, even in the earliest books of the bible, that point to a very exciting event that was coming.

Ask: Do you know what exciting event is coming up soon? Christmas. Prompt children to also answer with the birth of Jesus. (e.g. “What do we celebrate at Christmas?”)

We're going to put together the pieces of the clues leading up to this exciting event in the next few weeks. We're going to start today by putting together a puzzle. If you look around the room/under your chair, you might even find a piece of this puzzle! Let them look around, find the pieces, and help them put together the puzzle. Read it together.

Ask: Where might you have heard this before? Allow them to recognise the Matthew passage.

God was preparing to send someone special to His people. This was one of the clues that God gave His people to prepare them. He promised that a Son would be born... and he was! The exact situation that God had planned and promised to His people happened... exactly as He said it would, exactly according to plan.

The virgin, Mary, gave birth to a baby boy, and they named Him Jesus. He was God with His people, just as God promised and planned. He was the answer to the mystery that God had given His people clues to. He was the one who came to save God's people. He was Jesus, God's own son.

LESSON 2: Of David's line

Passages: Jeremiah 33:15 & Luke 2:1-7

Ask: Does anyone here know their Dad's name? Allow some answers. What about their Grandpa's name? Allow some answers. What about their great-Grandpa's name? Great-great Grandpa? Your great-great-great-great-great Grandpa?

This is a story about a great-great-great-so-many-greats Grandpa, David, and his great-great-great-so-many-greats grandson, Joseph. Now David was a great king of God's people, thousands of years ago. And God's people were promised that an even greater king would come from David's family, one who would always love His people and do what was right.

Now flash-forward in time, to when Jesus was born.

Ask: Who can see a clue in this passage (Luke) that might tell us who Joseph, Jesus' father, is related to?

Joseph was part of David's family! Which means that his son, Jesus, was also part of David's family. Just as God promised and planned, something BIG was happening to David's great-great-great-so-many-greats grandson. Finally, the one who God gave clues about had arrived. Finally, the one who would always love His people and do what was right was here, just as God had promised and planned.

LESSON 3: Bethlehem

Passages: Micah 5:2 & Matthew 2:1-6

Prop: something not exciting wrapped up in a big present box, like a cotton bud or a toothpick

Explain that they will be able to open it and look inside, but first they will have to wait. Have them sit still and in silence for 30 seconds, waiting.

Ask: what do you think could be inside this box? What do you hope is inside this box?

Have them wait another 30 seconds, and then have someone open the box.

Ask: Is it what you were expecting? Do you feel disappointed at all? Allow some answers.

Long ago, God's people were promised that a great ruler from Bethlehem would come and look after them. They thought He would come as a strong and mighty warrior, but instead He arrived as just a baby, born in Bethlehem in a dirty stable. Just like you weren't expecting what was inside that box, God's people were not expecting their great ruler to be a baby, and they might have been a little disappointed.

But when we keep reading the story, we find out that the baby Jesus grew up to be the greatest king of all time, and that He loved His people so much and looked after them forever. He was the Great Ruler and Shepherd that was promised, born a king to be worshipped.

LESSON 4: We Three Kings...

Passages: Psalm 72:10-11 & Matthew 2:9-11

Ask: What's your favourite thing about Christmas? If no one answers, 'Presents!' ask who enjoys getting Christmas presents.

We all love getting presents sometimes, and on the very first Christmas, some special people brought some presents to Jesus.

Ask: Who can remember who these people were?

The three wise men were actually kings from across the lands, and when they heard that Jesus had been born, they were so excited that they just HAD to go and visit him... and take some presents with them.

Ask: Does anyone remember what these presents were?

They brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh with them! But what's even more important than the presents they brought, is the people who brought them. They were kings, the people who everybody bowed down to, and respected, and obeyed. Really powerful men who ruled whole kingdoms!

Ask: What do you think it means that powerful kings are bringing presents, and bowing down, to the baby Jesus?

It means that he is an even greater king than they are.

Ask: Do you ever think of Jesus as a King? What might Jesus be a king of?

Jesus is the king of everything, even of all other kings. He is the king of kings, the king of God's people, the king of you and me.

He is the most powerful king the world has ever seen, and that's why we get so excited at Christmas and celebrate His birth. Because He is so powerful that He came into the world to save us all and bring us into God's kingdom forever.

**More fun for
your children:**

**Download your
CHRISTMAS NATIVITY PLAY
for the kids to perform on
Christmas Day!**

FIND IT HERE:

[https://baptistworldaid.org.au/
resources/be-hope-childrens-
nativity-play/](https://baptistworldaid.org.au/resources/be-hope-childrens-nativity-play/)