

### LESSON 4

## JOSEPH AND JESUS

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

**WONDER TRUTH:** God Sent Jesus to Save Us

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 1

**GOD'S BIG STORY:** An angel visits Joseph, a descendant of David, telling him Mary will have a son and His name will be Jesus because He will save the people from their sins.

**WORD OF WONDER:** He will be called Immanuel. —Isaiah 7:14 (NirV)

### CURIOSITY

### BELIEF

### FAITH

- Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions
- Declaring God's Wonder
- Prayer of Invitation and Worship
- God's Big Story
- Connecting the Wonder Truth
- Prayer and Blessing





## LESSON 4 FOR LEADERS

### INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

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**WORD OF WONDER:** Isaiah 7:14

Growing up, I was always jealous of my sisters' names. They have fairly common names. Their names are not hard to pronounce, and every time we went on vacation, they found a personalized memento. As a six-year-old, this was heartbreaking!

One summer, my dad found me crying by myself after another trip to a souvenir store. I begged to know why he had chosen such an odd name! He told me that he and my mom had picked my name out of a list of other options because it meant something to them. Apparently, Callie means "beautiful!" Who knew?

Names have always held special meanings for their owners. But the most important naming is found in Matthew 1:21: "She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins" (NIV). How wonderful that Jesus' name has a special meaning not just for Him, but for us as well! Every aspect of Jesus proclaims that He has come to save us—right down to His name.

This Christmas season, remember Jesus' name and that He came to save us from our sins. But also remember that He has promised to come again! And one day, every knee will bow, and every tongue will say, "Jesus is Lord."

—Callie Bogle

Children's Ministry Associate

Contributor to Wonder Ink

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS**

**WHO?**

The gospel of Matthew does not name its own author, but early Christians ascribed it to one of the 12 disciples of Jesus named Matthew. He was a former tax collector.

**WHAT?**

Matthew 1 provides the genealogy of Jesus, the list of His ancestors back to Abraham. It also tells the story of how Jesus' adoptive father, Joseph, found out about Jesus' miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit.

**WHERE?**

The story takes place in Nazareth, which was the hometown of Joseph and Mary. Mary would have given birth there instead of Bethlehem had a Roman census not forced them to travel to Bethlehem, which fulfilled the prophecy of Jesus' birth in Micah 5:2.

**WHEN?**

The story takes place shortly before 6–4 BC. We know this because King Herod, who tried to have Jesus killed, died in 4 BC.

**CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY**

Long after God's promise to Abraham, He sent His Son, born as a baby to a young girl and her fiancé. Jesus, a descendant of Abraham, was the fulfilment of all God said He would do—finally, God sent Jesus to save the world.



Curiosity

Belief

Faith

Identity

## LESSON 4 **EARLY CHILDHOOD**

Spark curiosity, encourage exploration, and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

### LESSON AT A GLANCE

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### Slide: Series Welcome Loop

#### As kids arrive...

Walk around the room and welcome as many kids as possible by showing excitement that they have joined you. Give high-fives, fist bumps, encourage them to sit on the floor in their spots, and ask questions about their week.

### Video: 10 sec Countdown

## Puppet Intro and Curiosity Questions

Introduce the kids to Tac, the curious cat.

**Leader:** You may remember our friend Tac, the curious cat. He's always asking questions. He has a question for you. Are you ready?

**Tac the Cat:** Hi, kids! Do you remember me? I'm Tac. For anyone who can spell, that's "cat" spelled backward! I'm always curious about everything. I have something I've been curious about lately—do you want to guess what it is? Here's a hint: it's something that is sometimes wrapped.

**Leader:** Is it a burrito?

**Tac the Cat:** No! You can't eat the thing I'm thinking of.

**Leader:** Oh! Is it a birthday present?

**Tac the Cat:** You're close. It is a gift! This gift is from God though, and the gift wasn't wrapped in wrapping paper.

**Leader:** Hmmm ... Is it Jesus?

**Tac the Cat:** Yes! The gift is Jesus! I was looking at the Christmas presents that my grandma sent me, and they reminded me of how God sent Jesus to the world.

**Leader:** Well, that's true! God sent Jesus to earth to be born as a baby so all people can be saved! Isn't that a wonderful gift?

**Tac the Cat:** That's the best gift of all!

**Leader:** It is! We'll learn more in God's big story today about how God sent Jesus to save us!

**Tac the Cat:** Yes! The gift is Jesus! I was looking at the Christmas presents that my grandma sent me, and they reminded me of how God sent Jesus to the world.

**Leader:** Well, that's true! God sent Jesus to earth to be born as a baby so all people can be saved! Isn't that a wonderful gift?

**Tac the Cat:** That's the best gift of all!

**Leader:** It is! We'll learn more in God's big story today about how God sent Jesus to save us!

**Tac the Cat:** Wow, I can't wait to learn more. I have more exploring to do! I will see you next time kids! Bye!

**"Have you ever been curious about something? Let's take a moment and think: how can Jesus be a gift to the world?"** Allow the kids to respond. **"Did you ever stop to think about why God sent Jesus to earth as a baby?"**

**Jesus wasn't wrapped in paper with a bow, like we just wrapped our present. But He was sent as a gift to the world. We're going to learn about how Joseph, Jesus' father on earth, found out that Jesus is a gift to the world and was sent to save us!**

### SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD SENT JESUS TO SAVE US.**"

## Declaring God's Wonder

### SLIDE: DECLARATION

Encourage the kids to say the words and do the motions.

**"Let's say these words together."**

**Thank You, God, that You made me!** *(Kids repeat.)*

Make prayer hands, then point up to God and to yourself.

**And I am Your kid!** *(Kids repeat.)*

Put your hands on your hips.

**Jesus loves me so much;** *(Kids repeat.)*

Spread your arms out wide to your side one at a time, then pull them in for a hug around your chest.

**His love for me is big.** *(Kids repeat.)*

Hold your arms up high and wide above your head.

**The Holy Spirit leads me,** *(Kids repeat.)*

Bring your arms down from the sky, making a path in front of you.

**And I can follow You.** *(Kids repeat.)*

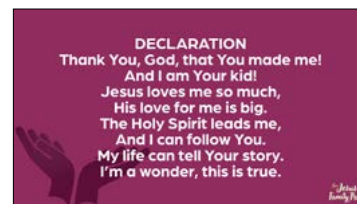
March like you're following the leader.

**My life can tell Your story.** *(Kids repeat.)*

Hold your hands in front of you like an open book.

**I'm a wonder; this is true.** *(Kids repeat.)*

Put your hands up, shaking your fingers, celebrating ("praise hands").



## Prayer of Invitation

Before entering into God's big story, lead kids in a prayer of invitation. Use the prayer here or your own words: **"God, thank You so much for this day. Thank You for the gift of Jesus. Holy Spirit, come and fill our hearts. Help us learn more about You. In Jesus' name, Amen."**

## Worship

**"Today, we'll learn about how God sent Jesus to save us! Let's sing about Jesus' birth together!"**

**WORSHIP VIDEOS: Silent Night (Born is the King), Jesus Savior of the World**

## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

Hold up a Bible and show the kids. Tell them today's story comes from the book of Matthew in the Bible. Open a Bible and show them where the story is found.

### Bible Time Rhyme

Say the Bible time rhyme (with motions) each week before the Bible story to remind kids that what they're about to hear is part of God's big story.

**I open my Bible and what do I see?** *(Hold your hands together, then open your palms, as if opening a book.)*

**God's big story, waiting for me!** *(Point to yourself.)*

**"Let's watch part of God's big story, which comes from the book of Matthew in the Bible!"**

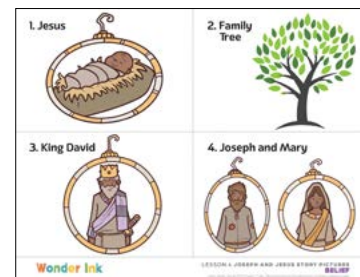
**VIDEO: GOD'S BIG STORY**

# GOD'S BIG STORY SCRIPT

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, scissors (prep only), tape (optional)

**RESOURCES:** [Joseph and Jesus Story Pictures](#)

Ahead of time, print and cut out the Joseph and Jesus Story Pictures. Hide them around the room before the kids come in. Make sure that the pictures are easy to find.



**"I have hidden pictures showing today's part of God's big story around the room. Can you help me find the ?** Allow the kids to find the pictures you have hidden and bring them back to you. Once they find all the pictures, have the kids gather around you in a circle to tell God's big story of Joseph and Jesus. You will use the pictures to make a timeline. The pictures are labeled and numbered. As you tell the story, put them in order in a place where the kids can see them. You can tape them to a whiteboard or attach them to a bulletin board or the wall. This will be your timeline.

**Leader Tip:** The kids can help find the pictures for each part of the story and help put them on the timeline. This will give them an active role in the story.

**The book of Matthew in the Bible tells the story of Jesus' life, death, and coming back to life, and it starts by telling us who Jesus is.** Show the picture of Jesus to the kids and put it on the timeline. **Jesus has a big family that goes way back to Abraham.** Show the kids a picture of the family tree and put it next to the picture of Jesus.

**The family tree includes Ruth—the Moabite woman whose faithfulness God celebrated—and her grandson Jesse, the father of King David.** Show the picture of King David and put the pictures next to the picture of the family tree. **Jesus—the Savior of the world—is the One everyone had been waiting for. Jesus is the One God sent to save us!**

**Hundreds of years after King David, a man named Joseph was born out of the same family line.** Show the kids the picture of Joseph and Mary and put their picture on the timeline. **Joseph was a part of David's family, and he was going to marry a woman named Mary. Mary was going to have a baby. Joseph did not understand that the baby was from God, so he thought about not marrying her.**

**But as Joseph slept, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream.** Show the picture of the angel and put it in the timeline. **The angel said, "Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 1:20, NIV). The angel told Joseph that Mary would have a baby boy and that Joseph should name Him Jesus because He would save His people from their sins.**

**When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel had told him to do.** Show the picture of the bride and groom and add it to the timeline. **Joseph and Mary got married. When the baby was born (show the picture of baby Jesus and add it to the timeline), Joseph named Him Jesus, which means, "God saves."**

**God sent Jesus to save us! God's plan was so big!** Show a picture of the cross and place it last in the timeline. **God would save His people from their sins through Jesus, and He used a special family to make it happen. Jesus grew up, died on a cross, and came back to life so that our sins can be forgiven, and we can live with God forever. God sent Jesus to save us!"**

## Connecting the Wonder Truth

Ask the following question to kids to help them connect the Wonder Truth to God's big story:

### SLIDE: WONDER TRUTH

"Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD SENT JESUS TO SAVE US**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth happen in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

We learned today that long after God's promise to Abraham, He sent His Son, born as a baby to Mary and Joseph. Jesus, part of Abraham's family, was the answer to all that God said He would do—finally, God sent Jesus to save the world!"

## Prayer and Blessing

After the kids finish the activity, pray with them, thanking God for sending Jesus to save us.

**"Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You sent Jesus to save us. Help us remember this Christmas that Jesus is the great gift You have given us. In Jesus' name, Amen."**

Encourage the kids to hold their hands out in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands were open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

**Blessing:** "May the light of Jesus shine through you this Christmas. May you always remember that Jesus came to save you! Because Jesus saves, may you celebrate Him this Christmas."