

### 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.

**ACTIVITY: Who Is That?**

**ACTIVITY: Nativity Play**

**WORSHIP**

**God's Big Story**

**Prayer and Blessing**

**ACTIVITY: Praise Cards**

## Wonder@Home™

Designed for families to engage in the wonder of God together at home. This resource includes a video, worship playlists, activities, and more!

## Activity: Who Is That?

**SUPPLIES:** cardstock, scissors (prep only), gift bag

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Joseph and Jesus Story Pictures

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church.

Print a set of the Story Pictures on cardstock and cut the images apart. The images will be of Joseph and Mary, baby Jesus, and the angel. Put the images in a gift bag. Invite the kids to choose one picture from the bag.

**Welcome! I'm so glad you are here! Can you pick a card from the bag to see who is in God's big story today?**



- **Joseph and Mary**—This is Jesus' dad, Joseph, and Jesus' mom, Mary. We'll learn in God's big story today about when Joseph got a message from an angel!
- **Baby Jesus**—This is Jesus. We celebrate His birthday on Christmas.
- **Angel**—This is an angel. The angel came to give Joseph a message from God.

Set the Story Pictures aside to use for the God's Big Story Script.

## Activity: Nativity Play

**SUPPLIES:** toy nativity set

**God sent Jesus to earth to save us. In God's big story today, we'll learn about Jesus' parents on earth, Mary and Joseph. Let's play with this nativity set and get curious about our story today!**

Set out the toy nativity set and let the kids play with it. You can also hide the pieces around the room and encourage the kids to find them.

**We'll learn today about how God sent Jesus to earth as a baby, a baby who was born in a stable with animals but then grew up to save the whole world! We'll learn that God sent Jesus to save us. Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD SENT JESUS TO SAVE US.****

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

- **GOD SENT**—Point up, then down to the floor.
- **JESUS**—Touch your right palm with your left pointer finger, then your left palm with your right pointer finger (this is American Sign Language for Jesus).
- **TO SAVE US.**—Hug yourself.

## Worship

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** songs from [The Jesus Family Tree Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#)

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

Play songs from [The Jesus Family Tree Early Childhood Spotify playlist](#) and encourage the kids to sing and dance with you.

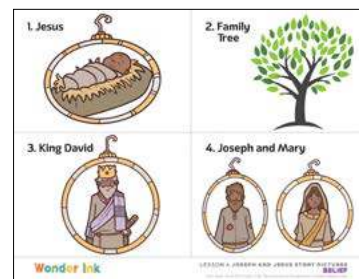
## God's Big Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible

**Wonder Ink RESOURCES:** Joseph and Jesus Story Pictures, [God's Big Story Video](#)

**Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a person named Joseph.** Encourage the kids to say "Joseph." **Let's find out from the Bible what happened to Joseph!**

Show the kids the [God's Big Story Video](#) or read the story from the Bible or use the Script provided. Use the pictures that were cut out from the Who Is That? Activity to help tell the story.



**The book of Matthew in the Bible tells the story of Jesus' life, and it starts by telling us who Jesus is. Jesus is the One God sent to save His people!**

**Joseph** (show the Joseph and Mary image) **was Jesus' dad on earth, and he was going to marry a woman named Mary, who was going to have a baby. Joseph did not understand that the baby was from God, so he thought about not marrying Mary.**

**But one night when Joseph was asleep, an angel appeared.** Show the angel image. **The angel said, "Joseph, don't be scared to marry Mary. 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 people from their sins.**

**They got married and when Mary had the baby** (show the baby Jesus image), **Joseph named Him Jesus, which means "God saves." Jesus was born in a stable with lots of animals around.**

**God sent Jesus to save us! We celebrate His birthday on Christmas!**

## Prayer and Blessing

**Let's talk to God. When I say, "Jesus," pretend you are rocking a baby.**

**Dear God, thank You for loving us so much and sending Jesus** (pretend to rock a baby) **to save us. Help us remember this Christmas that You sent Jesus** (pretend to rock a baby) **as a special gift to us. In Jesus' (pretend to rock a baby) 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.

## Activity: Angel Says

You will play a game similar to Simon Says but using the phrase “Angel says.”

**Do you remember who came to Joseph in a dream?** Allow the kids to answer. **Yes, an angel came to Joseph! The angel gave Joseph some instructions. He was told that he should marry Mary and name the baby Jesus. We’re going to play game where we will follow directions, like Joseph. I’m going to give you a command, and if I say, “Angel says,” you should do it. If I don’t say, “Angel says” before my command, don’t do it!**

**Let’s practice! Angel says ... hop up and down. Good job! You hopped when I said, “Angel says.” Let’s try again.** Pause. **Are you ready? OK! Now ... turn around in a circle. Oh no, I didn’t say, “Angel says.” Now are you ready to play?**

Call out various silly things for the kids to do, saying “Angel says” before you give some of the commands.

You can use the following commands (or make up your own), varying when you say “Angel says” before giving the commands:

- Sit down.
- Spin in a circle.
- Touch your nose.
- Clap your hands.
- Stomp your feet.
- Jump up and down.
- Run in place.
- Do a dance.
- Touch your toes.
- Put your hands on your hips.
- Lie down on the floor.
- Wave your arms in the air.