

Adventures with GOD!

LIFE IN NAZARETH (A.1.WINTER.10)

Biblical Reference	Luke 2:39-40
Key Verse	Luke 2:40
Key Concept	Even though Jesus' life in Nazareth was different than mine, I can find some similarities.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: 1. Compare the town Jesus lived in to the place where they live 2. Name two important places in the town of Nazareth 3. Say the Bible Verse

Life Application

In class today the children will learn more things about Jesus' life, which will help them to recognize that he was a person like them. Jesus lived in a town called Nazareth. Even though the customs and ways of life were different from ours, we can still find some things that are similar. The children know stories of make believe characters (from fairy tales, cartoons, etc.) so it could get confusing and easy for them to think of Jesus like this. It's important to help them understand that Jesus existed and that he lived in a way similar to them.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Decoration		5 minutes
Activity	A big cardboard box, things typical in a house in Nazareth	10 minutes
Bible Story	Illustrations, Bible	10 minutes
Craft	Illustrations, a long cord, clothes pins	15 minutes
Prayer, Song and Bible Verse	Music, instruments, illustration	10 minutes
Drama	"House", typical household items, oil, corn, rocks	15 minutes
Gift	Illustration	15 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

Opening Prayer

Gather children around a candle and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them palms up as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today. Light the candle

Prayer: God we light this candle remembering: you made light, you made us, and you are with us now. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer)

Decoration/preparation: In preparation, make a “road” between the “house” and the center of the room, where you can put a town well (you can make it out of cardboard and paint it so that it looks like a well). Then draw another “road” from that well to the well at the synagogue (in the other corner). If you can find another big box to make a “synagogue” that would be great too. We want to help kids imagine what it must have been like. Put the well in the synagogue. If possible find clay jugs to put in the synagogue, as well as rolls of paper to look like scrolls. Bring in plants or cut out pictures of plants to decorate the room. The idea is to make it feel like a town.

When the children arrive they can go for a walk around Nazareth, seeing the different places. At the well, there can also be some clay jugs.

Activity: The children can continue to make things for the “house” - jars, pots, mats to sleep on. Another activity would be to find two types of illustrations or pictures - one of things that would be typical of the house or town that Jesus grew up in, and others that are typical of the homes and towns/cities that the children live in. Show them the illustrations and have them determine which they represent - Jesus’ time or our time.

Bible Story: (Luke 2:39-40) Talk about similarities and differences between the life of Jesus as a child and their lives. Talk with the children about the fact that when Jesus was alive they didn’t have running water in their homes. They had to go to a well and use jars to bring water back to their houses. Ask them if they’ve ever had to use a well to get water. Ask them what it would be like to go to the well every day for water. Talk about the houses, with dirt floors and ask how they think they cleaned them.

Talk about the lamps that used oil for fuel and compare them to the lamps we use today. Talk about the clothes that children used (robes, tunics).

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Craft: There are several ideas of different crafts that you can use. They are found in the lesson in the following pages. Remember that these are just ideas. You can use what works and adapt it for your context. Use your imagination!

Prayer, Song and Bible verse: Find songs that help children identify with the times that Jesus lived in. For example, sing a Psalm. Teach a prayer (a blessing) that was used in Jesus' time. You can find several blessings in the book of Deuteronomy. One is found in Deuteronomy 28:2.

Drama: You can put together an interesting drama, converting the different areas of the classroom into different parts of a town. You could act like a mother or father and ask the children to help you with different daily activities, similar to those during the times of Jesus. Or a child could act out the part of Mary, another part of Joseph, and another the part of Jesus. You could have others act out the part of his brothers, James and Jacob. One of the girls could play the part of a sister or cousin of Jesus. The mother could ask for help with sweeping the floor. "Please sweep the floor while I make the bread." "Thank you for your help, you did a great job." The children can pretend to grind wheat or corn, for the bread. If it's possible, use play-doh to make the form of bread. Then say, "Ok, now it's time to go to the well for water, please." This is a time of role playing; a time for the children to use their imaginations. Remember that in this time the women did the house work, while the men studied and did things outside of the home (working in a carpentry shop, for example.)

Gift: In order to make the gift for this week that the children can take home, make a copy of that particular page in the lesson for each child. Have them color the drawing of Jesus in the manger. Then give them a piece of card stock paper and wrapping paper. Have them cover the card stock with wrapping paper. Then they should glue the picture of Jesus in the center and then with your help, glue ribbon along the edges so it looks like a gift. Help them punch a hole at the top of the paper, so they can put a string through it and hang it up.

Closing Prayer

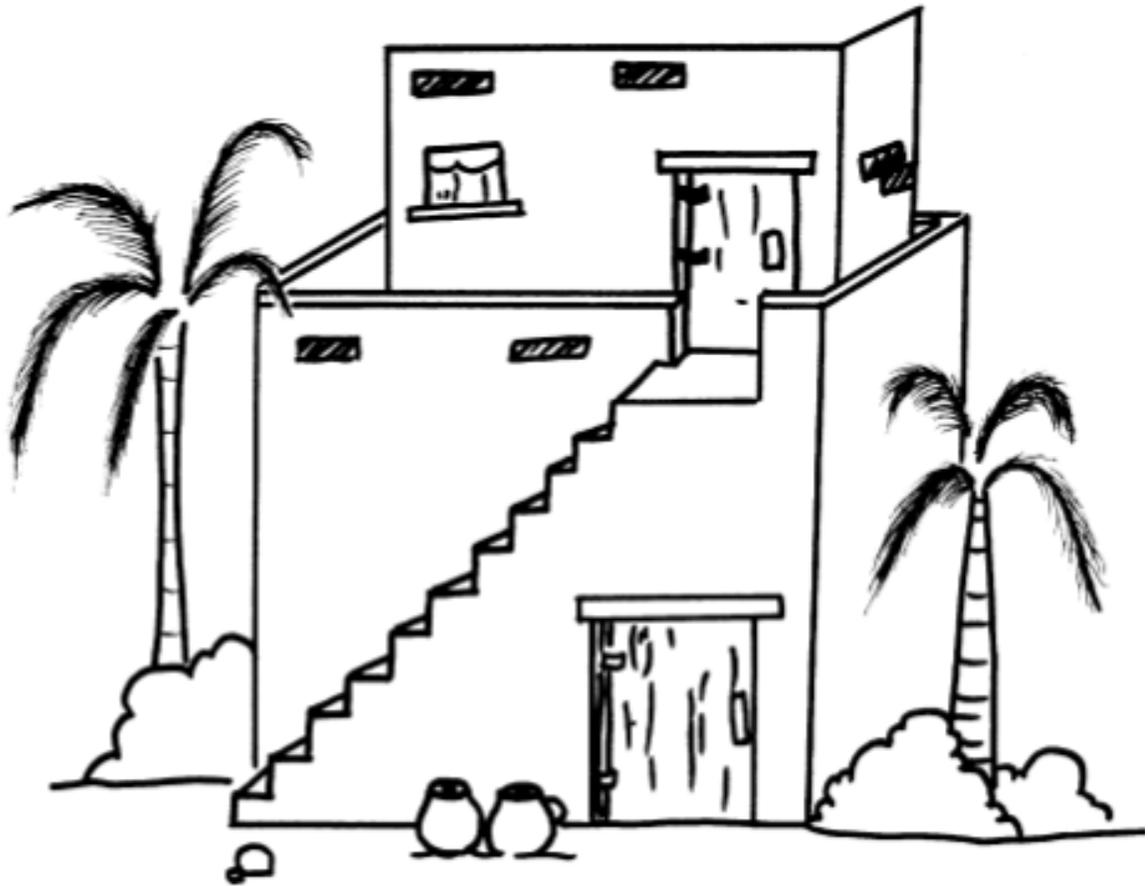
Gather children around the candle again. Light the candle

Prayer: Thank you God for loving us, Thank you God for sending your son Jesus into the world.

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ILLUSTRATION

A house during Jesus' time



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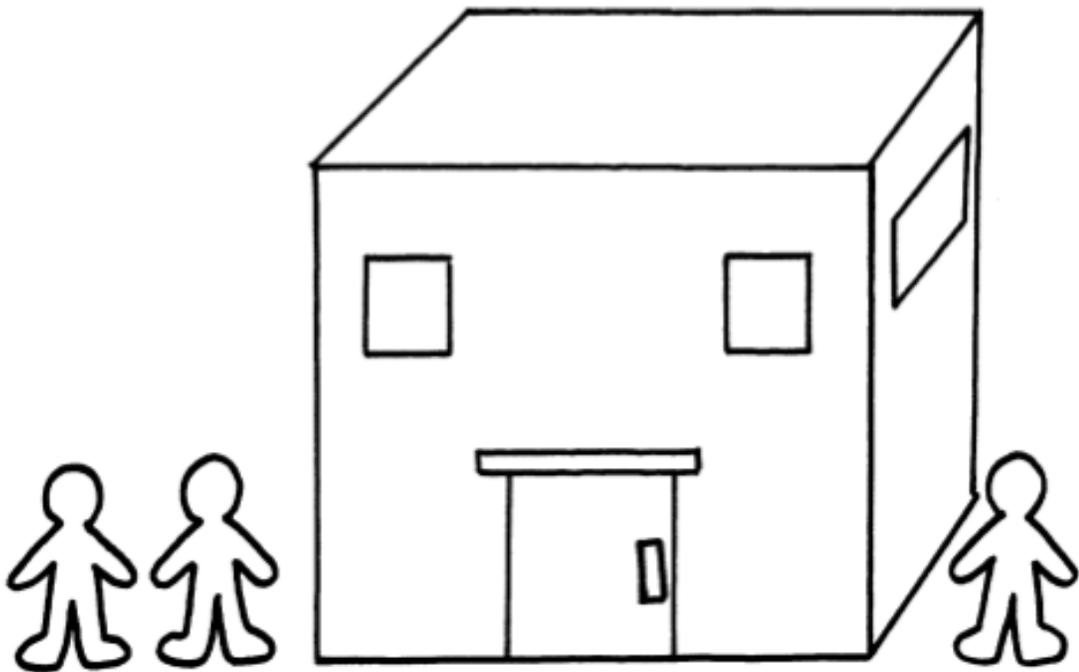
CRAFT

A model home

Materials - a box, markers, scissors, card stock paper, crayons,

Instructions -

1. Use this model or any other model you find that could be representative of what houses were like when Jesus was growing up.
2. If you use a cardboard box, help them to cut out windows, doors, and to color it.
3. You can give them people made out of card stock that they can put inside.



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CRAFT

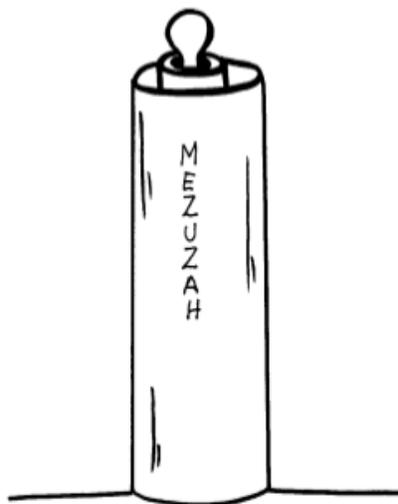
MEZUZAH

A mezuzah is something important that was found in houses during the time that Jesus was growing up. Each house had a box, which contained the Holy Scriptures (the Bible) of the Jews. Each time someone came in or left a Jewish home, they had to touch the mezuzah. You can make one to hang in their homes, or one for the “house” in the classroom.

Materials - a cardboard cylinder or one made out of heavy paper/card stock, white paper, markers, Bibles

Instructions -

1. The best thing would be to find a small cardboard box that’s in the shape of a cylinder.
2. If you can’t find one, make one out of card stock, by rolling paper and either gluing it or stapling it together. Cut out a small circle to use as the bottom of the cylinder and tape it to the cylinder.
3. Write out the words to Deuteronomy 6:5 on a small piece of paper, then roll it up and put it in the cylinder.
4. You can write the name “Mezuzah” on the outside of the cylinder.



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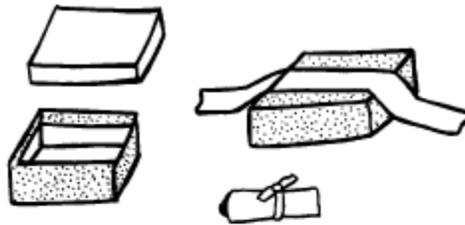
CRAFT

In Jesus' time, the Jewish people used something called a "phylactery" for their times of prayer. They were small boxes made of leather, and inside the boxes were portions of Scripture. They would attach these small boxes to their arms or their foreheads.

Materials - Small boxes (like ones used for toothpicks), white paper, glue, markers or crayons, black paper, scissors, string/yarn, pencils

Instructions -

1. Choose a box and put a verse inside. Have the verses prewritten out for the children.
2. Cover or wrap the box with black colored paper. Leave one side unwrapped so they can take out the verse.
3. Glue a strip of card stock to the back side of the box, making sure it's a little longer than the box. Make a hole on each of the sides of the card stock. Cut a long piece of yarn/string (the length depends on if you're going to tie it on the children's heads or arms). Put it through each of the holes and use it to tie around the children's arms or heads (see illustration).



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GIFT

Color, cut out and follow the instructions that were found earlier in the instructions section of this lesson.

