

Adventures with GOD!

AN ANGEL TALKS WITH JOSEPH (A.1.WINTER.2)

Biblical Reference	Matthew 1:18-21
Key Verse	Matthew 1:20
Key Concept	I can love and obey God like Joseph, Jesus' adoptive father.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: 1. Explain what God told Joseph through the angel 2. Name Jesus' real father (God) and his adoptive father (Joseph) 3. Tell what Joseph did after the angel visited him

Life Application

As we are emphasizing the reactions of the different people who were told about Jesus' arrival, we can help children to "experience" what Joseph experienced. First he felt surprised and shocked to hear that Mary was expecting a baby. Then there was great joy in knowing that the baby was God's son and that he was a gift of God for all people. After which he saw the responsibility that was involved in being a good father to this special child. The children will see that Joseph was willing to do what God asked of him. The children can also be ready to serve God in anyway that God asks of them. Joseph loved Jesus very much. The children can respond to Jesus in love too.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Drama	Two helpers, costumes	5 minutes
Bible Story	Illustrations, Bible, faces, image of Joseph	10 minutes
Song, prayer	Music and instruments	5 minutes
Craft or game	Picture and crayons	15 minutes
Bible Verse	Illustration	10 minutes
Gift	Cookie dough or premade sugar cookies, cookie cutters, frosting, sprinkles	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)

Drama: Invite two men (or youth) from the church to come to the class and act out the encounter (dream) of Joseph and the angel. Someone can read the story while the two helpers act it out.

Bible Story: (Matthew 18:21) Using the illustrations in this lesson, or a book of pictures and Bible stories, tell how Joseph and Mary were engaged to be married. Then help them think about what Joseph felt as he heard that Mary was expecting a baby (surprise, shock, fear, confusion). Help them remember that God sent an angel to Joseph while he was sleeping. The children can refer to the drama that was acted out, for example, how did the angel tell Joseph? How did Joseph respond? Then tell them the story of when Joseph had to take Mary to a faraway place (from Nazareth to Bethlehem) because there was a census (counting all the people to see how many lived in that place). Explain that it wasn't easy for Joseph and Mary to travel during that time. Mary was almost ready to have the baby. Ask them how they think that Mary and Joseph traveled. As you finish the story you can tell them how Joseph's face changed from surprise to happy.

Song and prayer: Again, give thanks to God for the people that were present for Jesus' arrival. The children can sing the Christmas carol/song that they are learning.

Craft or game: You can give the children the picture found in this lesson and let them color it. Or there is another activity called "travel to Bethlehem." a child could be a donkey, another Joseph, and another Mary. The game consists in looking for a place to stay in Bethlehem. They have to find a star or an illustration of a stable that is hidden in the classroom (hide it before the children arrive). All of the children can look for it and when it's found they need to tell Mary, Joseph and the donkey where to go.

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Bible Verse: The visual clue for this verse can be a picture of a donkey or a star.

Gift: In this lesson you will find instructions for two different types of activities with cookies.

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.



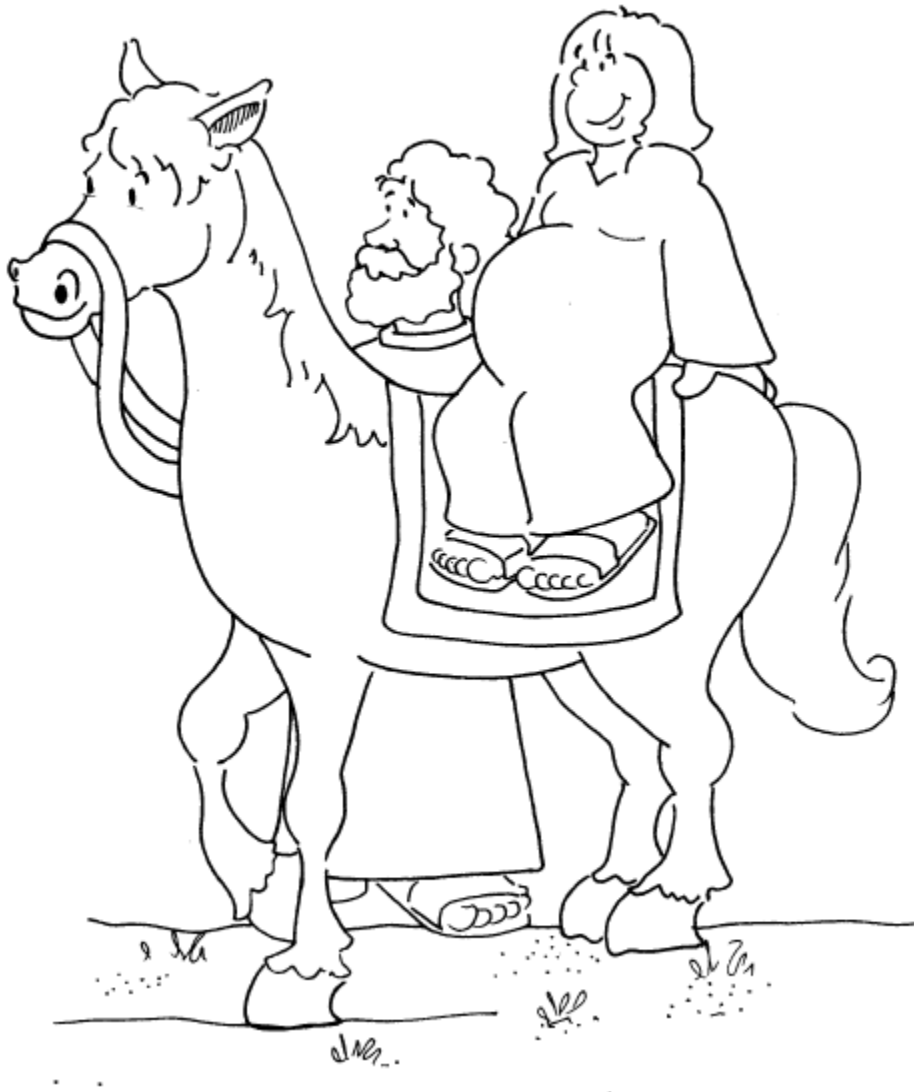
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ILLUSTRATION



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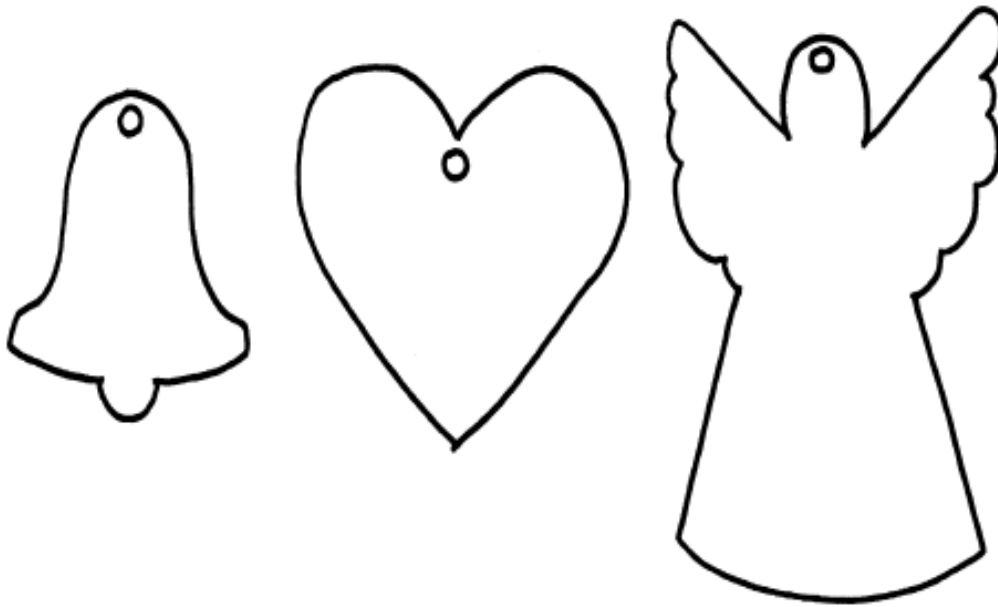
ILLUSTRATION



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GIFT

You can make these gifts in different ways. Below you will find a recipe for cookie dough that the children can eat (without cooking it). Another possibility is to make sugar cookies ahead of time and the children can help decorate them.



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Edible cookie dough (make ahead of time)

Ingredients - 1 cup of peanut butter, 1 cup of honey, 1 1/2 cups of powdered milk.

Instructions:

Mix all of the ingredients together and keep the dough in the refrigerator.

During the class, take out the dough and using different cookie cutters, the children can cut out the cookies. Then they can enjoy eating them.

OR

Sugar cookies

Bring cookies that have already been baked (in the shapes of angels, hearts, bells, etc) and bring frosting and sprinkles so the children can decorate them.

Note: make sure the children wash their hands before they cut out the dough or decorate the cookies.

Sugar cookie recipe

Ingredients - 3/4 cup of butter or margarine, 1 cup of sugar, 2 eggs, 1 teaspoon of vanilla, 2 1/2 cups of flour, 1 teaspoon of baking powder, 1 teaspoon of salt.

Instructions -

1. Mix together the butter, sugar, eggs and vanilla. In another bowl mix the flour, baking powder and salt. When the first ingredients are well mixed, add the dry ingredients. Put it in the refrigerator to chill for an hour.
2. Heat the oven to 350. Roll out the dough (make sure there is enough flour on the surface before you roll it out so it doesn't stick) until it is about 1/4 inch thick. Use the cookie cutters to cut out shapes. Put them on a cookie sheet and bake them for 8-10 minutes or until they are golden. (this mix makes 4 dozen cookies).