

Adventures with GOD!

A JOURNEY TO EGYPT (A.1.WINTER.7)

Biblical Reference	Matthew 2:13-18
Key Verse	Psalm 41:2
Key Concept	God took care of his son Jesus and God takes care of me.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: 1. Name the enemy that wanted to hurt Jesus and the country that Joseph took Mary and Jesus to 2. Tell how Jesus' family traveled to Egypt 3. Say the Bible verse

Life Application

When the wise men arrived in Bethlehem they told Joseph how upset Herod was when he heard about the birth of Jesus. Then, in a dream, an angel of God spoke to Joseph and told him to take his family to Egypt. It was not an easy journey, but Joseph was a creative and intelligent man. He worked in Egypt to provide for his family. They stayed in Egypt several years. God took care of them when they were far from their home. Children need to know that God takes care of them, no matter where they are.

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Activity	Suitcase, rope, road	15 minutes
Bible Story	Illustrations, Bible, another face	10 minutes
Activity	Illustration	5 minutes
Gift	Paper plates, old Christmas cards, ribbon for presents, crayons, string, glue	20 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)

Activity: Before class, fill two suitcases with adult clothes. On the floor draw a road either using chalk or masking tape. Or you can use some stones to outline a road. This is an activity that could also be done outside of the classroom. The idea of the game is to divide the class in two groups of equal numbers. Each group needs to form a line behind one of the suitcases. When you say go, the first child in each team has to open the suitcase, put on the clothes, close the suitcase and run down the road and back. When the child gets back to the suitcase, the child needs to take off the adult clothes, put it in the suitcase, close the suitcase and give it to the second person on the team. The second person follows the same routine, as do all of the children on each team. For smaller children just have one or two articles of clothing, like shoes and a tie. It would be good to have a helper for each group that can help the children put on the clothes.

Bible Story: (Matthew 2:13-18) Using the activity at the beginning as an introduction, talk about the things we do to get ready for a trip. The children can talk about what their parents do to get ready to take a trip. Talk about the things they have to pack. Tell the story of how Joseph had to take his family far away from Bethlehem because the King Herod wanted to kill all of the children under two years old there. He was so jealous that a new child would become the new king of Israel. Put an angry face on the wall with the other faces. But, God took care of Jesus. Emphasize that God took care of them as they traveled far away. Talk about what the journey must have been like. Do you think they traveled on a donkey? How long did it take? What did they see? Also, talk about what Mary, Joseph and Jesus did in a foreign country. They didn't speak the language; they had to find where to live, where to work, etc. Ask the children if they have ever been on a trip to a faraway place. Have them explain what it was like. The emphasis of the story today is that God took care of Jesus and his parents even when they were far away from Israel. God also takes care of us, no matter where we go.

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Activity: The labyrinth is found in the following pages. Make a copy for each child and help the younger ones.

Gift: The instructions are found in the following pages. Each child can make one

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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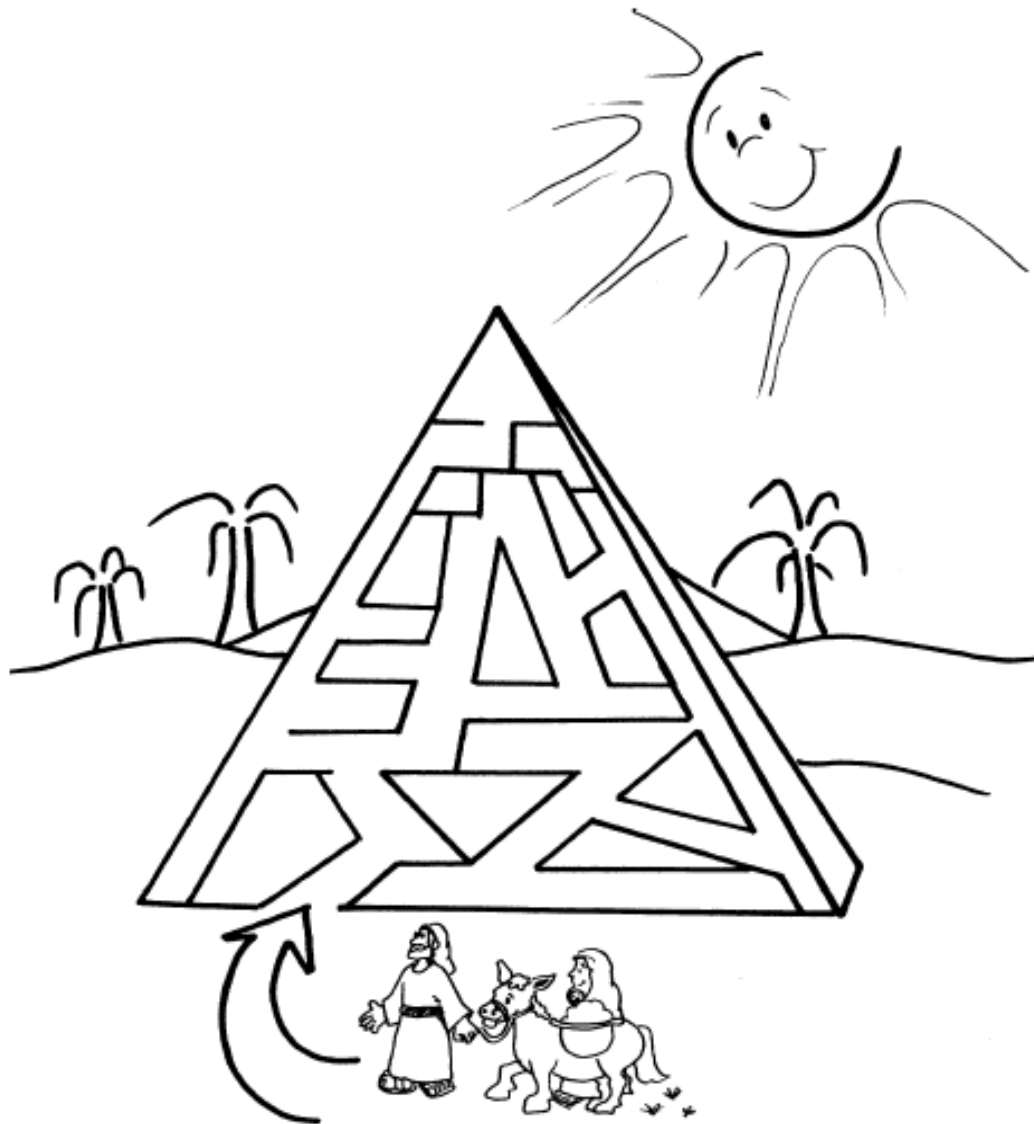
ILLUSTRATION



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LABYRINTH

God sent an angel who appeared to Joseph in a dream. The angel told him that the evil king, Herod, wanted to hurt Jesus and Joseph had to take him and the whole family to Egypt. Joseph obeyed. They left that night. Joseph felt his family was finally safe when they arrived in Egypt.



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GIFT

This gift will help the members of your family remember the gift God sent, when Jesus was born.

Materials - 3 paper plates (per child), Christmas cards or illustrations, glue, yarn, ribbon

Instructions-

1. Each child should have 3 paper plates (they can be of different sizes) - best if they are white or another solid color.
2. Give each child three Christmas cards with different scenes of the Christmas story.
3. Help them to cut out the pictures that they want to put on their plates.
4. They can glue them, one on each plate.
5. Then help them to glue a long piece of ribbon to the back of the three plates. Leave a space between each of the plates.
6. You can make a nice bow to put on the top of the plate display and then glue some yarn to it in the form of a loop so they can hang this plate display in their homes.

