

Adventures with GOD!

BORN OF A VIRGIN (C.1.WINTER.7)

Biblical Reference	Isaiah 7:14, Matthew 1:18, Luke 1:26-38
Key Verse	1 Peter 1:3
Key Concept	Just as Jesus' birth was a miracle, so is the new birth in my own life.
Educational Objectives	At the end of the class today, the children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain how the name "Immanuel" tells us of God's infinite love 2. Tell the miraculous elements of Jesus' birth and the miraculous elements of new birth in Jesus 3. Act out the story of Jesus' birth

Life Application

Sometimes when Christmas gets closer, we tell the story of Jesus' birth without really thinking about the many miracles that happened that night. We can help the children to feel the mystery and wonder of the arrival of the Creator, who left everything to be a part of creation. God came and lived among us as our intimate friend. The fact that Jesus was born of a virgin who became pregnant through the Holy Spirit, is something difficult for us to comprehend. During this session the children will remember why when we celebrate Christmas we celebrate "God with us."

Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Craft	Poster board, glue, markers	10 minutes
Activity	Paper or white board, markers	5 minutes
Bible Story	Illustrations, Bible	15 minutes
Hidden Picture		5 minutes
Craft or Game	box, crayons/markers, fabric, colored paper, straws, glue	20 minutes
Bible Verse		5 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute

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INSTRUCTIONS

My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review: As children enter take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials on the Covchurch.org website in the same place as the Adventures with God sessions.

Opening Prayer: Gather children around a candle. Light the 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.

Prayer Example: Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

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

Bible Reading: Explain that as we read the Bible we do that first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read the Bible passage for the day two times and ask children to respond.

Question examples: What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the passage?

Craft: Read Isaiah 7:14, together explain that hundreds of years before Jesus was born God let us know through the prophet Isaiah that he was coming. What does it say he will be called? In the following pages you will find the instructions and illustrations to make a card out of poster board. The outside will say "Immanuel" and the inside will give the significance of this name. It will be something the children can take home that will remind them that God came to live among us, to be our friend and to show us how to walk in the ways of God.

Activity: In order to introduce the Bible story for today it would be interesting to let the children write about the aspects of Jesus' birth that were miraculous. Use the white board or a big piece of paper to make a list of their ideas and comments. (Ex. The prophecy of his birth hundreds of years earlier, a woman who had never had sexual relations with a man becomes

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pregnant through the Holy Spirit, God takes them to Bethlehem because of the decree of the emperor, wise men who lived far away had the prophecies and could understand the significance of the new star and traveled to visit Jesus, angels appeared to announce the good news. But the most amazing miracle is that God the creator of everything came and lived among us.)

Bible story: Read Luke 1:26-38 and have children draw elements, symbols or feelings about the story. Then share them with the class. Ask the children to share anything they know about their own birth. Then ask them what they think “NEW” birth in Christ means?

New birth comes when we acknowledge Jesus as our Lord and Savior when we love Jesus with our whole heart just as Jesus loves us. When we do this he breathes the new life of his spirit into us. Ask if any of the children have done this. Assure those who have, that they have new birth in Christ. For those that don't let them know that you, their parents or the pastor are always ready to talk with them about this and pray with them to receive Jesus.

Hidden picture: Spend time reviewing the verses they've learned this trimester. Then, find the verses for today. Take them off and put them on the corresponding sides of the picture.

Craft or Game: There are several options for the children today. One is for them to make a model stable out of a shoe box. Another option is a game called the “Magi of Christmas”, which you will find the instructions for in the following pages.

Bible verse: If there is time at the end of the class continue to play the Water Jug Game from last week. Continue to encourage them to learn the Bible verses by memory.

Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G: God's Word: What is the story? (give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R: Relationships: Is there anything in today's bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories of the bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others and give them a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

O: Outward Action: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

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W: Worship: Is there anything in the bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? How would you like to respond to God? What would you like to say to God?

Closing Prayer: Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, it reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

Prayer Example: Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

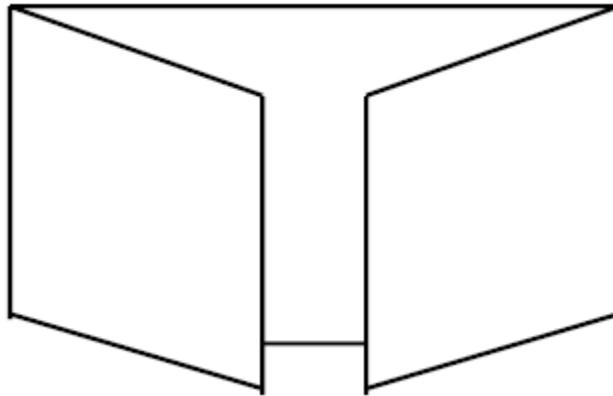
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CRAFT

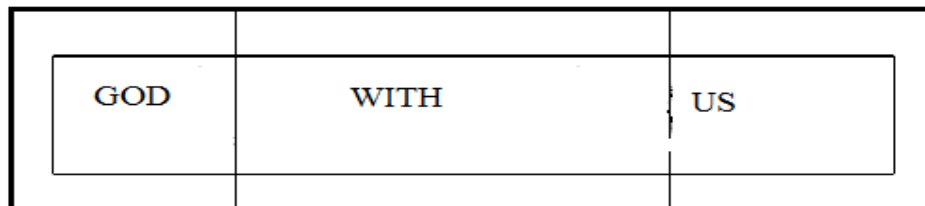
Materials – Strips of poster board (35 x 10 cm), crayons or markers, pencils, glue, lentils, small pastas, glitter, etc.

Instructions:

1. The best option is to have at least two tables where the children can work.



2. Table 1 – fold the strip of poster board in three (see illustration)
 - a. Write with marker on the front – “Emmanuel”
 - b. Inside, write the words – “God with us”
3. Table 2 – Trace the words “God with us” in glue
 - a. Put the strip of poster board in a box or on a piece of newspaper and while the glue is wet, sprinkle glitter, lentils, etc.



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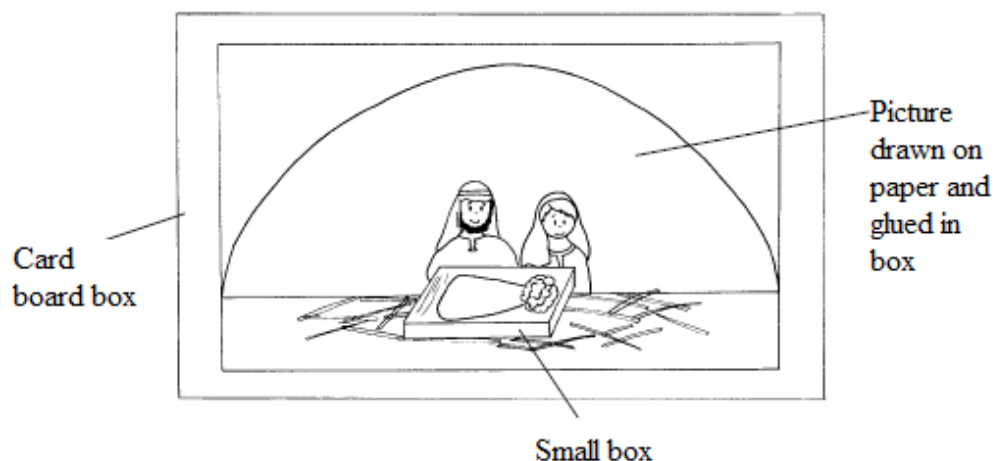
CRAFT

The manger

Materials – a small card board box (shoe box or milk carton), brown colored paper or brown paint, white paper, a small box (like a match box), a piece of fabric, glue, Kleenex, straw, stapler, scissors, crayons

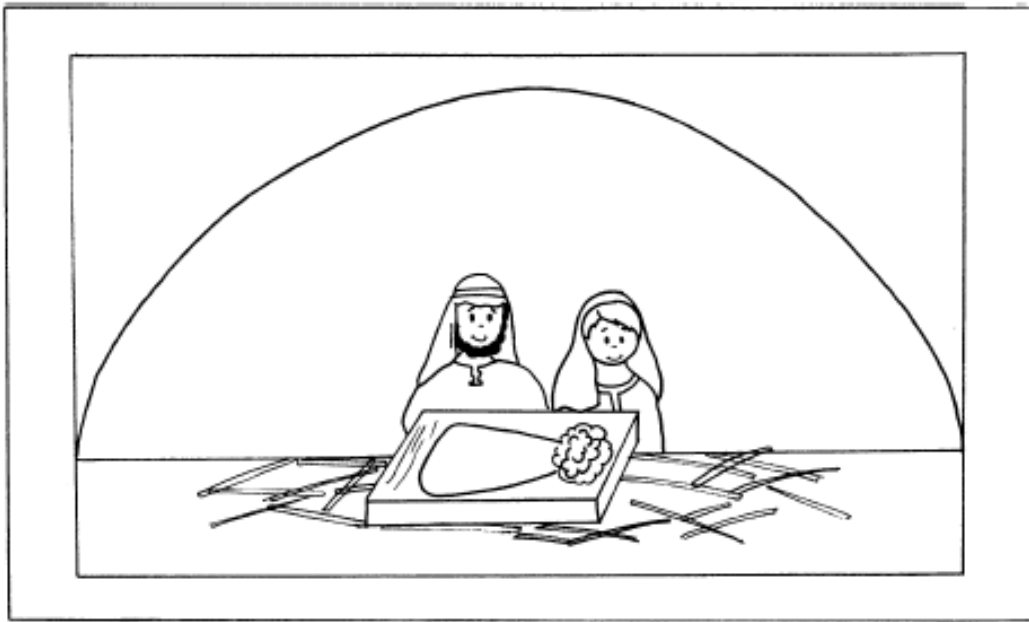
Instructions –

1. If you are using a shoe box, take off the lid. If you are going to use milk cartons, or anything that has 4 sides, cut out one of the sides so there is an opening.
2. Cover the sides of the box with brown paper, or use brown paint.
3. Glue brown paper to the inside “floor”.
4. On a blank piece of paper, draw a picture of Mary and Joseph and glue it to the inside back wall of the box.
5. Glue some of the straw on the floor of the box.
6. Glue more straw in a small box (the size of a match box).
7. Make a ball out of the Kleenex (for baby Jesus’ head) and glue it inside the small box (manger)
8. Cut out a small piece of fabric and glue it in the small box; this will be the blanket that baby Jesus is wrapped in.
9. Glue the small manger inside the “stable” in front of Mary and Joseph.



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PATTERN

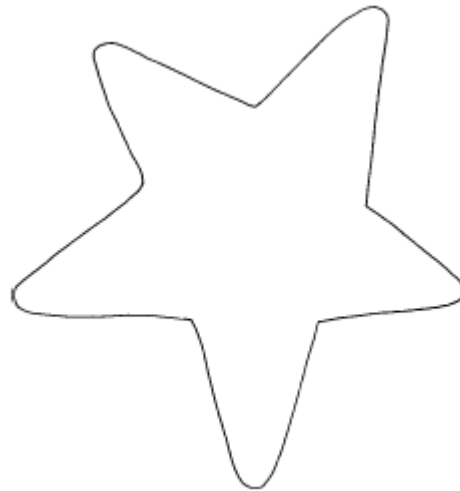


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GAME

The Magi of Christmas

Note: There is so much tradition that surrounds the day when Christians celebrate Jesus' birth. This activity will help the children distinguish between what is biblically true and what are human traditions. This game can also be used to review any other lesson in this trimester.



Instructions for the teacher – make 10 stars. Write a phrase on one side (see phrases below) and then if it's Biblical or Traditional on the other side.

Instructions – Many of the things we've heard about Christmas aren't written in the Bible. Many things have been added by humans through the years. You have to match the biblical details with the "magi" (following pages) that says "Bible". Match the other details that are simply traditional and not biblical with the "magi" that says "Humans".

You can look at the story in the Bible in Matthew 2:1-12 and Luke 2:1-20. The answer is on the back of each of the stars so you can look and see if you have guessed correctly.

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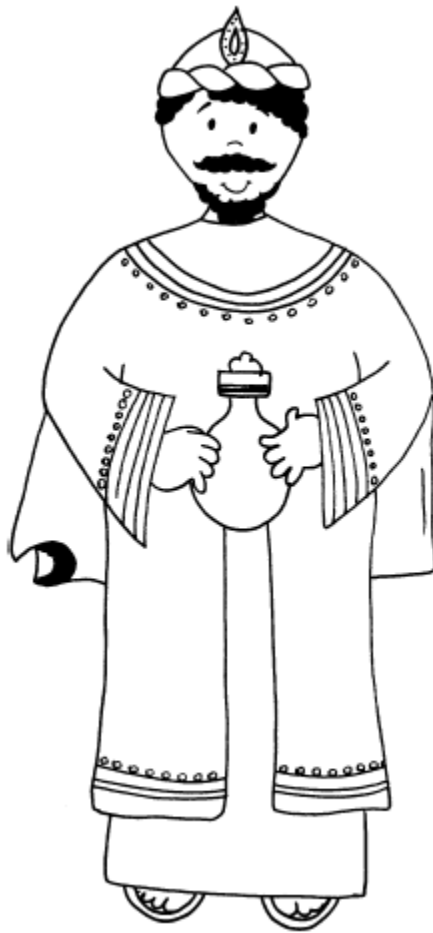
Phrases for the stars:

1. An angel appeared to the shepherds (Bible)
2. The magi brought gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus (Bible)
3. The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary to tell her God's plan (Bible)
4. Herod was the king at the time Jesus was born (Bible)
5. Jesus was born the night that Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem (Humans)
6. The Magi were following a star from Jerusalem to where Jesus was (Bible)
7. There were three magi (Human)
8. Mary put the baby Jesus in a manger (Bible)
9. Jesus was born December 25 (Humans)
10. Mary arrived in Bethlehem riding on a donkey (Human)

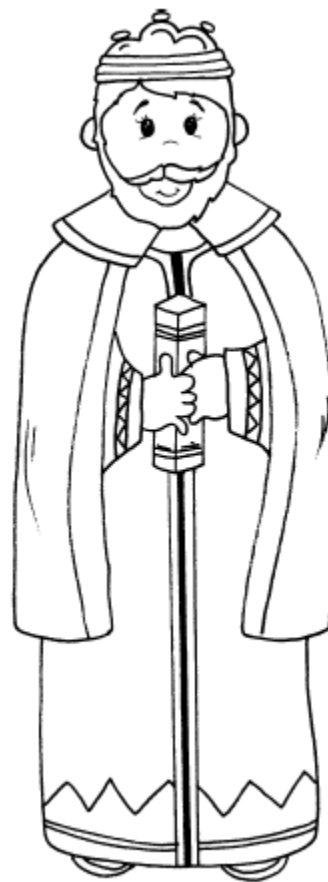
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ILLUSTRATIONS

Glue each of the magi to a piece of card stock or poster board and write the name below the magi. The children should match the stars to the corresponding Magi.



BIBLE



HUMAN TRADITION