

E-MAIL

Unit 19, Session 1: From Adam to Jesus

Dear Parents,

The prophecies concerning Jesus' birth are numerous, and many of them refer to Jesus' lineage. Old Testament prophecies tell of the promised Messiah being born from the seed of a woman (Gen. 3:15); from the seed of Abraham (Gen. 22:18), Isaac (Gen. 21:12), and Jacob (Num. 24:17); from the tribe of Judah (Micah 5:2); from the line of Jesse (Isa. 11:1); and from the house of David (Jer. 23:5). The prophecies said He would be born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14) and would be the Son of God (1 Chron. 17:13-14; Ps. 2:7). Jesus fulfilled all of these prophecies.

In Bible times, Jews took great care to record family genealogies accurately. The family a person belonged to was directly linked to property rights. Matthew 1:1-17 and Luke 3:23-38 both chronicle the genealogy of Jesus. The account in Matthew presents Jesus as the king of the Jews—the legal heir to the throne of David. The account in Luke was written to Greek Christians and focuses on Jesus' descent from Adam.

Jesus was born as a baby in Bethlehem. He had earthly parents—Mary and Joseph—but His true Father is God. Jesus is fully God and fully man.

As fully God, “the entire fullness of God’s nature dwells bodily in Christ” (Col. 2:9). As fully man, Jesus has a human body, human mind, and human emotions. (See Luke 2:7,52; Matt. 26:38.) He is our sinless representative (2 Cor. 5:21), sympathetic high priest (Heb. 4:15), and substitute sacrifice (1 John 4:10).

Use this Bible story to review Jesus' ancestors and their stories in the Old Testament. Help your kids recognize that God had been working out His plan to send Jesus over hundreds of years—through Adam, Abraham, Isaac, Rahab, Ruth, David, and others. God sent His Son to earth to save people from their sins.

Jesus came to earth as a human. Jesus had earthly parents, Mary and Joseph, but His true Father is God. Through Jesus, God kept His promises to Abraham and David. Jesus saves people from their sins and adopts them into God’s family.

Check this session’s Activity Page and Big Picture Card as well as the Gospel Project for Kids Family App for ways to interact with the Bible content this week.

FAMILY STARTING POINTS

- **Babies and Toddlers**
 - Jesus rescues us and makes us part of God’s family.
 - There is no one like Jesus.
 - God promised to send Jesus to earth.
 - Jesus is God’s Son, and Jesus is a man.
 - God sent Jesus like He promised.
- **Preschool**

- Jesus had a family.
- Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is both fully God and fully human.
- **Kids**
 - Jesus' family line proved He is the Messiah.
 - Is Jesus God or a human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

- **John 1:1-2** (Preschool: John 1:1)

NEXT WEEK

- **"John Was Born"** (Luke 1)

Unit 19, Session 2: John Was Born

E-MAIL

Unit 19, Session 2: John Was Born

Dear Parents,

Some of the last words of the Lord recorded in the Old Testament are found in Malachi 4 —“Look, I am going to send you the prophet Elijah ... he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers” (vv. 5-6). The Book of Malachi was written more than 400 years before Jesus was born. For centuries, God's people did not hear from Him. They were back in their homeland but were subject to other ruling nations. Eventually, the Romans took over.

The Roman emperor installed Herod as a leader over Judea and surrounding regions such as Samaria and Galilee. To gain the people's favor, King Herod replaced Zerubbabel's temple in Jerusalem with a beautiful marble temple constructed by 10,000 workers. This was the temple in which Zechariah, a priest from the family of Abijah, served the Lord. This was the temple in which God, through the angel Gabriel, broke His silence after so many years.

Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, were both “righteous in God's sight” (Luke 1:6), living by faith in God's promise to send a Messiah. Like Abraham and Sarah in Genesis 18, they were getting along in years and did not have any children. Elizabeth's barrenness was a point of disgrace for her among the community (Luke 1:25) and God graciously answered this couple's prayers.

An angel appeared to Zechariah in the temple sanctuary and delivered good news: “Your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear a son.” Echoing Malachi's prophecy, the angel declared this son would “turn the hearts of fathers to their children” (Luke 1:17)

For his doubting, Zechariah was rendered mute until the promise came to pass. **When Zechariah believed God's word, he praised God. John was born to prepare the way for Jesus. John would point people to Jesus, and they would praise God for**

keeping His promise to send the Savior.

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FAMILY STARTING POINTS

- **Babies and Toddlers**
 - We can praise God for sending Jesus.
 - There is no one like Jesus..
 - An angel told Zechariah that Elizabeth would have a baby.
 - John was born to get people ready for Jesus.
 - Zechariah praised God for His plan to rescue people.
- **Preschool**
 - John was born to get people ready for Jesus.
 - Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is both fully God and fully human.
- **Kids**
 - John was born to prepare the way for Jesus.
 - Is Jesus God or a human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

- **John 1:1-2** (Preschool: John 1:1)

NEXT WEEK

- **“Jesus Was Born”** (Luke 2)

Unit 19, Session 3: Jesus Was Born

E-MAIL

Unit 19, Session 3: Jesus Was Born

Dear Parents,

After the angel Gabriel appeared to Zechariah and predicted the birth of John—the forerunner of the Messiah—he appeared to Mary and predicted that she too would have a baby. This baby would be named Jesus, and He would be God’s Son. “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High ... His kingdom will have no end,” Gabriel said. (See Luke 1:32-33.) Mary visited Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, who was pregnant with John. Inside the womb, John leaped for joy in the presence of Mary’s unborn baby.

Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth. When Caesar Augustus called for a census, they traveled to Bethlehem—the very place the Messiah was prophesied to be born. (Micah 5:2) There, in a stable, God the Son entered the world as a baby.

Imagine the shepherds’ surprise when an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared. The Bible says that they were terrified! But the angel brought them good news: “Today in the

city of David a Savior was born for you, who is the Messiah, the Lord” (Luke 2:11). This Savior—the long-awaited deliverer and redeemer—had come.

Not only did Jesus come into the world as the Savior, He came as our King. Some time after Jesus’ birth, wise men came to worship Jesus. They brought Him gifts suitable for a king—gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Jesus is the King who will rule forever, just as God promised King David. (See 2 Sam. 7.)

When you share this story with your kids, remind them that Jesus came because we needed Him. The purpose of Jesus’ birth was twofold: to bring glory to God and to make peace between God and those who trust in Jesus’ death and resurrection. Celebrating the birth of Jesus is about rejoicing over the greatest gift we could ever receive. God’s own Son came to earth to be our Savior and our King.

The birth of Jesus was good news! Jesus was not an ordinary baby. He is God’s Son, sent to earth from heaven. Jesus, the promised Savior, came into the world to deliver us from sin and death.

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FAMILY STARTING POINTS

- **Babies and Toddlers**
 - Jesus came into the world to rescue us from sin.
 - There is no one like Jesus.
 - Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
 - Jesus is the Son of God.
 - God sent Jesus to earth to be our Savior.
- **Preschool**
 - Jesus was born to rescue people from sin.
 - Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is both fully God and fully human.
- **Kids**
 - Jesus was born to be God’s promised Savior.
 - Is Jesus God or a human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

- **John 1:1-2** (Preschool: John 1:1)

NEXT WEEK

- **“Jesus Was Dedicated”** (Luke 2)

Unit 19, Session 4: Jesus Was Dedicated

E-MAIL

Unit 19, Session 4: Jesus Was Dedicated

Dear Parents,

God had chosen Mary and Joseph to be Jesus’ earthly parents. Mary and Joseph

named their baby Jesus, obeying God in faith that salvation had indeed come into the world. (See Matt. 1:21.) When the time came for Jesus to be dedicated and Mary to be purified, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem.

According to the law given to Moses, after a woman gave birth, she was “unclean” and would observe a period of purification. Then she would bring an offering to the priest. (See Lev. 12:1-6.) Jesus was about five weeks old when Mary and Joseph dedicated Him to the Lord and offered the required sacrifice.

Simeon was also at the temple that day, not by mere coincidence but by the Holy Spirit’s leading. (Luke 2:27) Simeon spent His life serving the Lord and looked forward to the day when God would keep His promise to comfort Israel. (See Isa. 57:18.) God promised that Simeon would live long enough to see the Messiah. That day had finally come. Imagine his joy. At last, the Savior was here!

Simeon saw the baby Jesus, took Him in his arms, and praised God. Simeon expressed prophetic praise, trusting by faith that God would keep His promise through this child: “My eyes have seen your salvation” (Luke 2:30). Through Jesus, everyone would be able to see God’s plan. Jesus would be a light for all the nations. He would bring honor to Israel.

Anna, a prophetess, also praised too. At well over a hundred years old, Anna began to speak about Jesus to everyone who was looking forward to God’s bringing salvation to His people.

Throughout the Old Testament, God promised the arrival of a king who would redeem people. When Jesus arrived, Simeon and Anna knew He was the promised Messiah. Today, we have faith that Jesus is God’s Son. We can trust Jesus for our salvation, and like Simeon and Anna, we should share the good news.

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FAMILY STARTING POINTS

- **Babies and Toddlers**
 - We can tell others the good news about Jesus.
 - There is no one like Jesus.
 - Mary and Joseph took Baby Jesus to the temple.
 - Simeon and Anna praised God for Jesus.
 - God sent Jesus to earth to be our King.
- **Preschool**
 - Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus.
 - Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is both fully God and fully human.
- **Kids**
 - Simeon and Anna worshiped Jesus as the Messiah.
 - Is Jesus God or a human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

- **John 1:1-2** (Preschool: John 1:1)

NEXT WEEK

- **“Jesus as a Child”** (Matthew 2; Luke 2)

Unit 19, Session 5: Jesus as a Child

E-MAIL

Unit 19, Session 5: Jesus as a Child

Dear Parents,

The Gospel of Luke records just two narratives about Jesus’ childhood: His dedication (Luke 2:21-40) and His visit to the temple when He was 12 years old (Luke 2:41-52). The Gospel of Matthew includes another story: a visit from some wise men. These stories of Jesus as a child set the stage for Jesus’ ministry as an adult.

After Jesus was born, God put a star in the sky as a sign. Wise men from the east followed the star to Jerusalem, looking for a new king. They found Jesus, who was probably 1 or 2 years old, in Bethlehem and they worshiped Him as King. Later, Jesus and His family settled in Nazareth, where Jesus grew up.

In Bible times, a Jewish boy became a man at 13. His father would train him to take on all the responsibilities of adulthood—social and spiritual. Joseph was a carpenter, and he likely trained Jesus in his trade. When Mary and Joseph went to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover, Joseph might have taken Jesus, who was about 12, around the city to teach Him the significance of the temple and to explain the purpose of the Passover feast.

Jesus’ parents headed home after the feast. They assumed Jesus was among their traveling companions, but He wasn’t. Jesus had stayed behind at the temple. A full day passed before Mary and Joseph noticed Jesus was missing. They hurried back to Jerusalem and finally found Him at the temple. Jesus asked His mother, “Didn’t you know that I had to be in My Father’s house?” Mary and Joseph did not understand. But Jesus is God’s Son, and it was necessary that He honor His true Father. In all this, Jesus did not sin.

The Bible does not give many details about Jesus’ childhood, but we know that as Jesus got older, He grew “in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and with people” (Luke 2:52). Jesus carried out God’s plan to reconcile the world to Himself. (2 Cor. 5:19)

God sent Jesus to earth with a purpose. Even as a child, Jesus wanted to honor God. God blessed Jesus as He got ready to follow His Father’s plan: to die on the cross and rescue people from sin.

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FAMILY STARTING POINTS

- **Babies and Toddlers**
 - Jesus came to earth to do God's plan.
 - There is no one like Jesus.
 - Jesus went to the temple to worship God.
 - Jesus knew all about God's Word.
 - Jesus grew, and God was with Him.
- **Preschool**
 - Jesus came to earth to do His Father's plan.
 - Is Jesus God or a human? Jesus is both fully God and fully human.
- **Kids**
 - Even as a child, Jesus wanted to do His Father's plan.
 - Is Jesus God or a human? As the Son of God, Jesus is both fully God and fully human.

UNIT KEY PASSAGE

- **John 1:1-2** (Preschool: John 1:1)

NEXT WEEK

- **"Jesus' Baptism"** (Matthew 3; Mark 1; Luke 3; John 1)