



**Mustard Seed Children's Summary for September 14, 2008**  
**Released on Wednesday, September 10, 2008**

**"A Humble Start"**

**Lesson: Matthew 1:18–25; 2:13–15.**

**Devotional Reading: Hosea 11:1–4.**

**Background Scripture: Matthew 1:18–2:23.**

**Read: Matthew 1:18–2:23.**

**Places: Nazareth; Bethlehem**

**Time: 6 or 5 B.C.; 4 or 3 B.C.**

**GOLDEN TEXT: "She shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins"**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT:**

**Matthew 1:18–2:23**

18Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

19Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

20But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the LORD appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

21And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

22Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

23Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

24Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

25And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

**Matthew 2:13-15**

13And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

14When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

15And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

### **TEACHER'S NOTES ON THE LESSON**

This lesson reviews how our Saviour came into the world. God's angel appeared in a dream to Joseph and announced that Mary would have a son. Her baby would be a special child, not Joseph's son, but God's. He was to be named "Jesus," meaning "the Lord saves," because saving people from their sins was what He was coming into the world to do.

Sound familiar? Yes, but it is not merely a story to be enjoyed every Christmas. Notice the life-changing truths about God the Father and His Son that can be taught from this passage of Scripture. These are basic truths that need to be implanted in the minds of the boys and girls we teach each Sunday morning. Recognize this description of the advent of Christ for what it is, a remarkable teaching opportunity.

The lesson text teaches that since the Father of Mary's baby would be God, not Joseph, her son was both God and man. Can the children fully understand this? No. Neither can adults. But we can believe what God says and know that when Jesus walked on earth, God was here in bodily form.

Matthew reminded his readers this was all in fulfillment of the prophecy in Isaiah 7:14 of Messiah's coming. In that verse Jesus is called by another name, "Immanuel," meaning "God with us." That was indeed who Jesus was. Make sure the children know.

The passage also teaches that God's Son became a man for a specific purpose. The angel was sent to announce that purpose to Joseph. It was to save His people from their sins.

And for that reason He was to be called Jesus, said the angel, because Jesus would save His people from their sins. Help your class understand that each of them needs Jesus as his Saviour, for everyone needs to be saved from sin.

Teach that when God's Son came here, He left behind all the glory and power that He had in heaven. He had little when here on earth. As a newborn baby, He did not even have a crib to sleep in. When an adult, He had no place to lay His head. But He came anyway. He was willing to do this because He loves us and wants to help us. He was willing to become poor so that we might be enriched with God's gifts.

Obviously this information sets the stage for a discussion of our need for and God's way of salvation. It is important not to press children for a "decision" but, rather, do what a skilled teacher from another congregation advised: Since the Bible says salvation comes through believing, give them something to believe. Let us focus on the facts this Bible passage teaches: who Jesus is and why He came. Let us unlock this well-known account so that our primaries will understand what it is actually saying to us.

### **THE OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Teach that god's Son humbled Himself and came into the world in order to be our Saviour from sin.

### **TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

1. Jesus is God's Son from heaven.
2. When Jesus was here, God was with us as the God-Man.
3. Jesus set aside all His glory and power in heaven so that He could come to earth and become our Saviour.

**PLANNING VISUAL AIDS:**

For Telling the Lesson, find pictures of an angel, a manger scene, King Herod, and the family's departure for Egypt. Print three signs: "Jesus," "Saviour," and "God with Us."

For Helping to Remember, on red construction paper draw a cross 7 inches high and 1 ½ inches "thick" for each child. Do the same on blue paper. Each child will need crayons and scissors (blunt tip for safety). Also, take a stapler.

**BEGINNING THE LESSON:**

How many of you boys and girls have a name? Everybody! We all do. Did you ever wonder why some people have the names they do?

Well, sometimes parents name their baby for an uncle or an aunt or a grandfather or a friend. Other parents give their baby a certain name just because the name sounds pretty or strong. And then there are babies who get their names because those names mean something special.

That last reason is why Jesus was named "Jesus." (Show "Jesus.") And that is something we will talk about today.

**TELLING THE LESSON:**

I was nighttime, and Joseph was asleep. He had been thinking a lot about Mary, and all at once he had a dream. In his dream, Joseph saw an angel. (Show angel.)

God Himself had sent the angel. There was something God wanted Joseph to know, and the angel had come to tell him what that was.

Now, Joseph already knew Mary was going to have a baby, but the angel was bringing special news about that baby. Mary's baby would be God's baby. God Himself would be the baby's Father. Mary's baby would be a boy.

"You shall call Him 'Jesus,'" the angel said, and right away he told Joseph why. "Call Him Jesus because He will save His people from their sins." You see, the word "Jesus" means "God saves." (Show "Jesus.")

"He will save His people from their sins," the angel told Joseph. But why would people need saving from their sins? Are sins dangerous? Yes, they are. Sins are the wrong things we all do, and those wrong things keep us away from God and heaven. We do need to be saved from them. More than anything else, we need a Saviour. (Show "Saviour.") And who came to be our Saviour? God's Son did.

So when Mary's baby was born, they did name Him "Jesus." (Hold up "Jesus.") What a good name!

Long before His Son came, God gave promises that He would be born. In one of those promises, which we have in the Bible, God calls His Son by another name.

That name is Immanuel. This means something too. It means "God with us."  
(Show "God with Us.") What a good name!

Can you think why "God with us" would be a good name for Jesus? (Let the children respond. Observe whether they understand that Baby Jesus was God or God's Son.)

Jesus' home is heaven, and the Bible tells us a little about how beautiful it is there. Jesus left many good things behind when He came down to earth to be our Saviour.

You know what happened when He got here. He was born in a kind of barn. (Show manger scene.) You know He had no crib. Mary put Him to bed in the animals' feeding box. No, Jesus did not have much when He was a baby. He did not have much when he grew up, either. He had much, much, much more in heaven, but He gave up all of it to come down here to save us from our sins. (Show "Saviour.")

As if things were not hard enough for Jesus already, after a while King Herod heard that a new king had been born. (Show Herod.) Herod did not like that. He did not want someone else to be king instead of him, so he decided to find Jesus and kill Him.

But God always knows what is going to happen, and He knows what to do about it. God gave Joseph another dream.

Another angel came, saying to Joseph, "Get up. Take the baby and His mother and go far away to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you it is safe to come back. Herod is going to look for the child so that he can kill Him."

Joseph was quick to do what God's angel said. He woke up Mary, they got Jesus ready, and while it was still dark, they started off toward Egypt. (Show departure for Egypt.) They stayed there until the angel came once again and told them it was safe to go home.

Yes, Jesus left behind a lot in heaven to come down here and die to be our Saviour. (Show "Saviour.") Most of the time He was here, He was not treated like God at all.

But think how important His coming was for us. When He died on the cross, He took the punishment for every one of the wrong things we have done. Nothing is left for us to do but believe that good news.

### **TELLING HOW TO LIVE:**

I wonder if all of you have believed it? Have you believed that God sent Jesus into the world to be your Saviour?

Let us shut our eyes and think about that. And if you would like to, ask Jesus right now to forgive your sins and be your Saviour. He will hear you!

And if this is the first time you have ever done this, please do come and tell me after class.

### **HELPING TO REMEMBER:**

Tell the children they are going to make something to display on their bedroom door or the refrigerator. On the crossbeam of the red cross, have them print "JESUS," making sure the first S is centered. Starting with this S, they can print "SAVIOUR" vertically. On the blue crosspiece they will print "GOD WITH US," centering the I. Then, beginning with this letter, they can write "IMMANUEL" vertically. Staple the crosses together.

**EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT:**

"She shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21).

God's angel was telling Joseph that Mary's baby would be a son, a baby boy. He was not to be named for someone in the family, as was often done in those days. Mary's baby must be given the name "Jesus," which means "God saves." The angel then told why her baby had to be given that name: this baby had a special reason for being born into the world. He was coming to rescue people. He would grow up and someday die to save people from their sins.

**MUSTARD SEED LESSON ACTIVITIES:**

**"A Humble Start"**

**(Matthew 1:18–25; 2:13–15.)**

**CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD:**

1. "Now the [**STORY, BIRTH**] of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to [**DAVID, JOSEPH**], before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 1:18

2. "Then Joseph her [**HUSBAND, BROTHER**], being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away [**GENTLY, PRIVLY**]." Matthew 1:19

3. "But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the [**WORLD, LORD**] appeared unto him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee [**MELISSA, MARY**] thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost." Matthew 1:20

4. "Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the [**PROPHET, PERSON**]..." Matthew 1:22

**TRUE OR FALSE:**

5. An angel told Joseph that a "virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Ezekiel."

Matthew 1:23 **TRUE OR FALSE**

6. Joseph did as the angel said and changed his mind about divorcing Mary because she was with child.

Matthew 1:24 **TRUE OR FALSE**

7. Joseph named Mary's firstborn son JESUS, just as he was instructed to do.

Matthew 1:25 **TRUE OR FALSE**

8. A cloud came and spoke to Joseph telling him to take Mary and Baby Jesus out of Nazareth and into Egypt to escape King Herod's plan to kill Baby Jesus.

Matthew 2:13 **TRUE OR FALSE**

9. Joseph returned from Egypt to Nazareth after King Herod died. It was safe for Joseph, Mary, and Baby Jesus to return home.

John 13:20 **TRUE OR FALSE**

**MUSTARD SEED LESSON CROSSWORD PUZZLE:**  
**"A Humble Start"**  
**(Matthew 1:18–25; 2:13–15.)**

J V I I M B K R V O N H M G Y  
O E E A B L M O T H E R N G W  
S M R L V L Y O J Q C H I L D  
E Y G D Q E N E R A Z A N L C  
P N W S S G A L I L E E R Y N  
H B H U N U D O R E H Y M T A  
M A A J O A A W D J B Q B P N  
A S I L V D Z L U A E E I V G  
E P M J Y N Y A E E T S F E E  
R W E T L K E H R H K K U N L  
D J R T B E H J L E C G J S R  
F H E P C A A E V G T R Q J G  
U N J Y J U H R C A L H A A I  
D F K G N E L S S T D O E H K  
I G O E M W B R G I O J P N F

ANGEL  
HEROD  
MOTHER  
DREAM

GALILEE  
MARY  
CHILD  
JESUS

JOSEPH  
ISRAEL  
JEREMIAH  
EGYPT

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The KJV Parallel Bible Commentary, by Nelson Books.