LESSON 1

JESUS IS BORN IN BETHLEHEM



Aim: **To show the children that it was God the Father's plan to send the Son, Jesus Christ, to this world so that he could show us what God really is like.**

Scripture Reading: **John 1:1-14; Luke 2:1-20**

During this set of lessons the class will learn by heart John 1:1-14, a passage that testifies that Jesus is the Son of God. The lessons are taken from the Gospels of Luke and John.

Memory Verse: **John 1:1**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God ...

Presenting the Lesson

Starting point

Talk about making plans. You have to plan your journey. It's no good travelling in the rainy season, for you get stuck in the mud. You have to plan the route, or the journey may take longer than necessary. Everything works much better when we plan ahead, otherwise things are disorganised.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. God the Father is a master planner. He planned the whole world and all of creation! He also keeps the world in existence.
2. When the time was right God chose to send the Son, Jesus Christ, into this world as a human baby. People so easily forget God, that our Heavenly Father decided to send the Son among us so that he could show us what God really is like.
3. Jesus was born in a stable in the land of Israel about 2 000 years ago. His mother, Mary, was a virgin (she had never slept with a man). This means that Jesus' father was the one true God. That is why Jesus also is called "the Son of God".
4. **Tell the story from Luke 2:1-7:** how Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born.
5. The angels told the shepherds that their Saviour was born. He was the Son of God, Christ the Lord. **Explain to the children that Christ means "Saviour".** God's heavenly choir of angels celebrated the event (2:8-14).
6. The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem. **Show Picture 1.** They told everybody they met what they had seen. The people were amazed (2:15-20).
7. However, Jesus was alive before he was born as a human baby into this world. He was with God before the beginning of time, and at the creation. This is what today's memory verse tells us.

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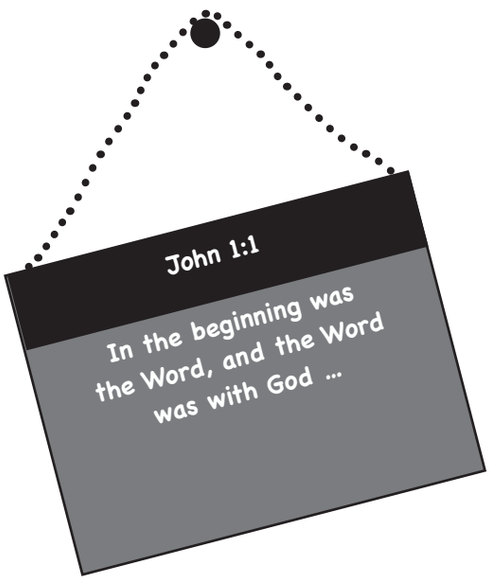


Our Response to the Story

People in Africa often have several names. These are given for special reasons. Jesus, too, had more than one name and every one had a special meaning. It was the will of God the Father that Jesus would come into this world to save us from sin and death. This is what the name "Saviour" says about Jesus. By his words and actions he showed us what God is like – so that we may love and obey the Father, just as the Son does.

Instil the Memory Verse

Point out that another name is used here for Jesus: the Word. The Bible calls Jesus "the Word" because he carries out the Father's plans and brings the Father's message to his people.



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