



GOD'S WORD – OUR TREASURE OF TRUTH

Life & Ministry of Jesus • U1#3 1st-3rd Grade • June 25, 2023

Concept

God is truth.

Goal

Students will learn that the Messianic prophecies were fulfilled through Christ's birth exactly as God said.

Passage

Luke 2:1-20, Luke 2:25-36, Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:23

Key Verse: "God will not lie. He does not change His mind. What He says He will do, He does. What He promises, He makes come true." Numbers 23:19

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 index cards each with a red, yellow, blue, or green X• 1 sheet each of red, yellow, blue & green paper <p>Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 small ball• 1 piece of candy• Play money• 2 pieces of jewelry• Jolly Pirate treasure box <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Large laminated "Jesus In His Land" map• 6 large magnets• Poster-size craft <p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jolly Pirate treasure box• Bible• Maps of the building/location, several/class	<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Letter size copy paper, 1/student• Cootie Catcher instructions, 1/student• Scissors• Markers• Pencils, pens, 1/student• Printed promise/Bible verse stickers, 5 sets/class• Promise Bible

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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“It is the fulfillment of specific detailed prophecies that provides the Bible with its divine seal—a seal that can never be counterfeited, since it is affixed to the truth which it attests, namely, that God’s foreknowledge of the actions of free and intelligent agents is one of the most ‘incomprehensible attributes of Deity and is exclusively a Divine perfection.’ We readily concede that the prophets themselves may not have understood the full import of the predictions they gave when they pictured beforehand the expected Messiah, yet the language they used could not refer to anyone else in history. It was thus that Paul was able to persuade the Jews that Jesus was the predicted One ‘out of the prophets’ (Acts 28:23).

“The drama of fulfilled prophecy is most evident in connection with the birth of Jesus, the details of which were exactly accomplished when He was born of Mary. Men must be blind if they cannot see that the identification between the One predicted and the One presented is most positive and complete. ‘Then said the Lord unto me, . . . I watch over my word to perform it.’ (Jer 1:12, R.V.). Thus having spoken, and guarding all, He inspired the prophets to set forth the truth carefully and accurately, for nothing short of absolute accuracy will suffice in the fulfillment of all He spoke concerning the Son He promised to send into the world.”²

The Bible certainly does have a “divine seal—a seal that can never be counterfeited.” This is exactly what we want the students to understand as we lay out a few of the fulfilled OT prophecies of Christ’s birth. God’s word is the one and only truth. The children will be amazed as they realize the incredible time gap between God’s prophecies about Christ’s birth and His actual birth. The compelling evidence that the prophecies were totally and accurately fulfilled should convince the children that God’s word can be trusted as the one and only truth.

Set Up

Incorporation Lg. Group

Introduction Lg. Group

Secretly put the items in the Jolly Pirate treasure box for the Introduction. Look through and remember exactly the items in the treasure box. You will need to know and exactly describe the contents.

For Learning Activity #1, put Bible in the second treasure box and hide the box. Put an X on the ten Main Campus maps, i.e., treasure maps, to indicate the location of the treasure box. (Weather permitting hide the treasure box outside.)

Hang the laminated map of Israel on the white board with large magnets. Evenly distribute the four colored pieces of paper on the white board tray.

Activity Stations:

• Game – Prophecy

- **Instructions:** Place stack of 12 index cards face down on a table. Ask students to stand. On each index card is an “x” – red, yellow, blue or green. Point out the four pieces of colored paper hanging on the white board. They are going to try to be “prophets,” (predict what color the next “x” will be) as you draw from the top of the stack students stand under the color of paper they think represents the color of the next “x.” Once a person makes one wrong guess, he must sit down. Repeat until no students are left standing. (EX: before you draw the first card, say, “Okay, go to your color.” Once every student is standing under one color, draw the card. If the “x” is red, then everyone standing under blue, yellow, and green must sit.)

• Craft – “Prophecy” Cootie Catchers

- **Instructions:** Give each student a sheet of copy paper and printed cootie catcher instructions. Have the students use The Promise Bible to find God’s promises/prophesies for His children, They can write their own verses in the spaces as they make their catchers or cut out the verse stickers if they prefer.

Guessing Game – “What’s Inside?”

Today we’re going to play a quick guessing game called “What’s Inside?” Show students treasure box and ask for EXACT guesses.

- Would you like to know what really is inside it? (Yes.) Nobody guessed exactly what is inside this treasure box. I’ll tell you what is inside before I open the box. There are... (Open the box and carefully show each item.)
- How do you think I knew what was inside? (Accept various answers.) I knew what was inside the treasure box because I put the items in there. I didn’t need to guess. I knew the contents of the box before the game started just like God knew about Jesus’ birth and life way before Jesus was born.
- Review what prophecy is and how we have talked about it over the past few weeks.

Introduction Continued

There were many things written about Jesus' birth hundreds of years before He was born and today we're going to see how true the prophecies were. If God tells us something will happen, it will. This is why God's word, the Bible, is called the truth. Share Key Verse (Numbers 23:19). God is not a liar, He doesn't change His mind, and He sticks to His promises. God is truth. Today we're going to see in great detail that God's word is exactly true about Jesus' birth. I hope you will decide to depend on His words for your own lives.

Transition

Everyone grab a Bible and sit down.

Lesson Lg. Group

Instructions: Use the provided poster as you go through each prophecy. Read scripture from your Bible.

Who can tell me our key verse for this week? "God will not lie. He does not change His mind. What He says He will do, He does. What He promises, He makes come true" (Numbers 23:19).

Birth God's promise to Isaiah about how Jesus would be born to Mary (hundreds of years before it happened): (Isaiah 7:14). Now let's all turn in our Bibles to Matthew 1:23. Will someone read this verse aloud? The words in these two verses are very much the same, and yet the verse in Isaiah was written hundreds of years before Mary was even born. (Explain this was not by chance, God didn't have to hope for it, he KNEW it would happen) (Look under the first door of the poster.) The words God spoke to Isaiah are the truth. Review key verse (Numbers 23:19). Everything happened exactly as He said it would.

The Line of Abraham There are two other Old Testament prophecies, or promises, about the birth of Christ. They say that this baby would be from the line of Abraham (Gen. 12:7) and of the house of David (2 Sam 7:12-13). These two doors on the poster tell us about the ancestry of this special baby. Genesis and 2 Samuel were written long before Jesus came to live on earth. (Point out it's impossible to know details about our future children/grandchildren, but God knew this information exactly!) The Abraham door of the poster has Galatians 3:8 and 16. Again we see that God's word is totally true. Christ was born exactly as God predicted.

The House of David 2 Samuel 7 tells us about Jesus' ancestors being of the house of David. In 2 Samuel God makes this awesome covenant with David in which He promises David that His household would live on forever. Let's read one of the verses under the David door of the poster. Romans 1:1-3, Luke 2:3-4, Luke 1:31-33.

Lesson Continued

Turn to Romans 1 and follow along as I read verses 1-3. Jesus was from the line of David. God promised David that his family would be the one through which the messiah would come. The angel Gabriel told Mary that she would have this son named Jesus who would be from the family of David. God kept both His promises exactly as He made them. God's word is absolutely true.

Born in Bethlehem God's Promise to Micah about where Jesus would be born (Bethlehem door): According to Micah the prophet, God's chosen ruler of Israel would be born in Bethlehem. Micah made this prophecy over 700 years before Jesus was born. Turn to Luke 2. Read along with me in verses 1-7. (READ passage).

Point out how Mary and Joseph didn't live in Bethlehem but God still knew Jesus would be born there! This is amazing! Numbers 23:19 says, "What He promises, He makes come true."

Transition

Earlier when we played the game "What's Inside?" we found awesome treasures. I know of something else that is an even better treasure and we're going to go find it.

Learning Activity#1 Lg. Group

The Truth Treasure Hunt

Instructions: Give the 10 maps of the building to the students. They will study the map to find the real treasure. The treasure is at the spot you marked with an X before class. When they find the treasure box, have one of the students open the box and take out the Bible. God's word is the truth and a great treasure.

Debrief:

Why is the Bible a treasure? (Accept various answers.) God has kept His promises and His words have always been totally true. If His promises about the birth of Christ have been perfectly fulfilled, don't you think we can trust the rest of the Bible to be true, too?

Transition

Let's get into small groups.

Learning Activity#2 Sm. Groups

In Luke 2:25-35 a man called Simeon believed that God's word is the truth. (Summarize how Simeon waited for the the Messiah, he saw Jesus and realized it was the Messiah he had been waiting for. Simeon knew God's truth and that's why he was able to recognized God fulfilling his promise).

Learning Activity# 2 Continued

- Who can tell me why God promised to send a Messiah? (We are sinners and need to be forgiven for all our sins.) How did Jesus take the punishment for all our sins? (He took the punishment we deserve when He died on the cross.) Does the Bible say that everyone is forgiven? (No.) So, who is forgiven? (Those who ask for Jesus' death to pay for their sins are promised forgiveness.)

What does Simeon's story have to do with us today? Can we relate to Simeon? Do we trust God enough to depend on Him in situations that we are unsure of?

- Can any of you think of a situation when you acted on what God says is true? Were you glad that you did this?
- Have you ever chosen to love an enemy, learned to depend on God when you were afraid, or decided to give money to someone in need rather than spend it on yourself?
- How can you use the truth you learned from this lesson this week?

Mission Prayer: Talk about and pray for Oasis Giving campaign.

Let's pray and thank God that we can always believe what He says. Let's ask Him to help us to learn and depend on His truth rather than our own thinking. Jesus died on the cross for your sin so you can have a relationship with God.

Review

God's word is the truth. Review fulfilled prophecies and key verse.

Review Gospel—God promised his Messiah would come to pay for our sins!

Optional Activity

Discussion

Discuss that often people don't understand that there is real truth that they can understand. What difference does it make in everyday life?