



# PERFECT TIMING

Life & Ministry of Jesus • U1# 2 1st-3rd Grade • June 18, 2023

## Concept

God is sovereign/ he is powerful and in control. Nothing is impossible with God.

## Goal

Students will learn that God planned and controlled the time and conditions of Jesus' coming. They will learn what it means to trust God because He is sovereign.

## Passage

Isaiah 7:14, 9:6; Micah 5:2; Isaiah 53:5,6; Luke 1:5-56; Matthew 1:18-24; 1 John 4:10

Key Verse: "For nothing will be impossible with God." Luke 1:37

## Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p><b>Activity Station:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 4 sets of jacks &amp; ball</li></ul> <p><b>Lesson:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "The Savior – Who, What, Where, When, Why?," 1/student</li></ul>	<p><b>Activity Station:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• White cardstock, die-cut key verse puzzle pieces in a sandwich bag, 1 puzzle/every 2 students</li><li>• Various colors of construction paper, 1 piece/student</li><li>• Glue sticks</li><li>• White cardstock key verse with puzzle lines printed on back, 1/every 2 students</li><li>• Gel pens</li><li>• Markers</li><li>• Scissors</li><li>• Sandwich bags, 1/student</li><li>• Velcro</li></ul>

### \*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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"... the birth of John the Baptist took place amid great fanfare, complete with midwives, doting relatives, and the traditional village chorus celebrating the birth of a Jewish male. Six months later, Jesus was born far from home, with no midwife, extended family, or village chorus present..."

"C.S. Lewis has written about God's plan, 'The whole thing narrows and narrows, until at last it comes down to a little point, small as the point of a spear—a Jewish girl at her prayers.' Today as I read the accounts of Jesus' birth I tremble to think of the fate of the world resting on the responses of two rural teenagers. How many times did Mary review the angel's words as she felt the Son of God kicking against the walls of her uterus? How many times did Joseph second-guess his own encounter with an angel—just a dream?—as he endured the hot shame of living among villagers who could plainly see the changing shape of his fiancée?

"... Nine months of awkward explanations, the lingering scent of scandal—it seems that God arranged the most humiliating circumstances possible for his entrance, as if to avoid any charge of favoritism. I am impressed that when the Son of God became a human being he played by the rules, harsh rules: small towns do not treat kindly young boys who grow up with questionable paternity.

"The virgin Mary, though, whose parenthood was unplanned, had a different response. She heard the angel out, pondered the repercussions, and replied, 'I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you had said.' Often a work of God comes with two edges, great joy and great pain, and in that matter-of-fact response Mary embraced both. She was the first person to accept Jesus on his own terms, regardless of the personal cost."<sup>[1]</sup>

"For nothing will be impossible with God" (Luke 1:37). He sovereignly sent His Son in the way, the time and the conditions of His plan so that we can be His children. As you prepare this lesson consider the power, love and grace of our God.

[1] Philip Yancey, *The Jesus I Never Knew*, © 1995 by Philip Yancey, Zondervan Publishing House, pp. 30-32.

## Incorporation Lg. Group

## Introduction Lg. Group

## Transition

## Lesson Lg. Group

### Activity Stations:

- **Craft – Puzzles:**

- **Instructions:** Each student will choose the puzzle he/she would like to make. For cut- your-own: Use markers and gel pens to color. Cut on the lines on back of the page. Put the pieces in a baggie with student's name. For pre-cut: Give the student the baggie of pieces and a piece of construction paper. Assemble the puzzle then glue the pieces to the construction paper. Color the pieces with markers and gel pens.

- **Game – Jacks**

- **Instructions:** When Jesus was on earth children played the game of jacks. The jacks were pieces of bone. To play, toss the ball in the air with one hand while scooping up jacks with the other hand. Start with one jack, scooping it up with one hand while tossing the ball and catching it with the other hand. Put the jack aside. Toss the ball again, scoop up 2 jacks while the ball is in the air. Put the jacks aside and continue until you can scoop up all the jacks at one time. It is the next player's turn when a player misses scooping up the right number of jacks or doesn't catch the ball.

### “Is it Time Yet?”

**Instructions:** All of the teachers will sit on chairs in front of the students. The teachers will all have their legs crossed in the same direction. Each teacher will sit in their chair quietly doing something to pass the time. (For example: read a book, file their nails, drink coffee, read the paper.) Each teacher will "be in their own world" until one asks the question, "IS IT TIME YET?" The teacher on the end of the row will be the "time teller" and will answer "No, it's not time yet." One at a time, 5 of the teachers will ask the question, "IS IT TIME YET?" The time teller will finally respond "YES, it's TIME!" All of the teachers will then cross their legs the opposite direction, then go back to the thing they were doing. As each of the teachers asks the question get more and more impatient as time goes by. Also, allow some time in between questions—don't just ask the questions one right after the other. This can be done with the large group after music if desired.

Grab a Bible and sit down.

Does anyone like to wait? (Or raise your hand if you like to wait for things.)  
What are some things you have to wait for?

After the OT was written, about 400 years went by before the beginning of the NT. During that time, do you know what the Jews were doing? They were waiting! They were waiting for a child to be born. God had promised way back in the book of Isaiah that He would send a child through a Jewish mother. This child would be their savior.

## Lesson Continued

Who was this child they were waiting for? (They were waiting for Jesus.)

The Jews waited a long time for this child to be born. They probably asked the question, "IS IT TIME YET?" a lot. GOD knew exactly when His Son would be born. He knew exactly when the conditions and time were right. Our key verse today is, "For nothing will be impossible with God" (Luke 1:37).

**Instructions:** Give each student a copy of "The Savior—Who? What? Where? When? Why?" As you work through the lesson, copy the chart on the white board. These verses are self-explanatory. Use the provided text, make the point and keep moving. The goal is for the students to see that the prophecies were exactly fulfilled as spoken.

**See text for "WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY?" on separate page**

## Transition

Let's get into small groups to talk about this some more

## Learning Activity #1 Sm. Groups

### Discussion Groups

- Have you all heard about these prophecies before?
- What one is the most amazing to you?
- Is it hard for you to understand how God was able to keep all these predictions He made? Why is that?
- Even though it's hard to understand, can you believe that God predicted these things?
- If these things are all true, it means that "... nothing will be impossible with God" (Luke 1:37). Is there something you believe is impossible? Will you talk to God about it?
- What does it mean to start a relationship with God?

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

Let's pray. You can thank God that He has planned all of history and is in control. "... nothing will be impossible with God" (Luke 1:37). Ask Him to show you areas where you can depend on Him. Isn't it amazing that we worry and try to be in control of our own lives when God knows everything that will happen in the future. He will guide us to the best and provide all we need.

## Transition

Let's play a game!

## Learning Activity# 2 Lg. Group

### Game – "Wait a Minute" [1]

**Instructions:** When the teacher gives the signal, the first student will mentally try to estimate the length of a minute. The other students can talk, cheer and try to distract them as much as they want. When each student thinks the minute is up, he raises his hand.

## Learning Activity# 2 Continued

The winner is the student who raises his hand nearest to the minute mark. Repeat with the other students, and then have a play-off between the closest two to determine the champion. The teacher must be careful not to give any indication when the time is drawing to a close, as contestants will be watching for a hint.

**Debrief:** People had to wait hundreds of years for the Messiah to come. Just as it must have been hard to wait for this event and not know when it would happen, you had to wait and guess how long a minute was. Some people misjudged the time when the Messiah would come like some of you misjudged the length of a minute. Some were too early, or too late. You had to wait to step back until the perfect time, one minute. And the Jews had to wait for God's perfect time, the coming of His son.

[1] Adapted from Sunday School Ideas for Grades 3 & 4, 1988, Rainbow Publishers, Division of Success With Youth, p. 17.

## Optional Activity

Review key points of lesson, how they apply to students and the key verse.

## The Savior - Who, What, Where, When, Why? CHART

<u>Question</u>	<u>Old Testament</u>	<u>New Testament</u>	<u>Answer</u>
Who? What?	Isaiah 9:6; 7:14	Matthew 1:18-23	Savior born a baby to a young, Jewish girl
Where?	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:6	Bethlehem
When?	Mystery	Galatians 4:4	When the time was right
Why?	Isaiah 53:5,6	1 Peter 2:24	God loves us so much that He sent Jesus to die on the cross to take the punishment we deserve for our sins.

### TEXT FOR WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY?

The Jews waited a long time for the Savior to come. In Luke 1 we read that a poor, young, Jewish woman by the name of Mary was chosen by God to carry His Son. This did not happen by chance or by accident. It happened exactly as planned by God. Turn to Luke 1:37 in your Bibles. The angel Gabriel said to Mary in Luke 1:37, "... nothing will be impossible with God." God perfectly planned and timed this event. The Old Testament prophesied who, what, and where in regards to the birth and arrival of the Savior He promised.

**Who? What?** Follow along while I read Matthew 1:18-24. Joseph questioned what he should do about this weird situation. His fiancée was going to have a baby and he knew that baby was not his. He wasn't going to marry Mary, but when God sent an angel to convince Joseph that this whole situation was from Him, he had to trust that was true. Perhaps he was convinced because he knew that verse 23, "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD, AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUE" was from the Old Testament book of Isaiah. Isaiah predicted this "who" 700 years before Christ was born. Isaiah 9:6 says, "a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us ..." Isaiah 7:14 says, "... a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call his name Immanuel, meaning 'God with us.'" Isn't this amazing? This was not chance. God spoke directly to Isaiah and the prophecy was accomplished 700 years later, exactly as stated because "... nothing will be impossible with God" (Luke 1:37).

**Where?** Over 400 years before this birth Micah 5:2 prophesied the "where" of Jesus' birth. It says, "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel..." Micah's prophecy was correct. Matthew 2:6 tells us that Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

**When?** These prophecies answer the who, what, and where. What about when? Galatians 4:4 says, “But when the right time came, God sent his son. He was born of a woman and as a Jew.” We read this only in the New Testament. The Old Testament didn't prophesy the exact time because the time was a mystery. Even though it was a mystery to man, God knew exactly when He would send the Savior.

**Why?** So to sum it all up... The Bible prophesied who and what—Jesus Christ, Son of God, born of the virgin Mary; where—Bethlehem. The last “W” is why. Who can tell me why God sent His Son to earth? (He sent His son to die on the cross, to take away the sins of the world.)

**Isaiah 53:5 says, "But he was wounded for the wrong things we did. He was crushed for the evil things we did. The punishment, which made us well, was given to him. And we are healed because of his wounds."** God loves us so much that He sent His son to earth at the perfect time to die for us. He came to take the punishment for all of our sin—past, present and future. God loves us and has provided the way for us to be forgiven so we can have a relationship with Him and live forever with Him in heaven. **1 Peter 2:24 says, "Christ carried our sins in his body on the cross. He did this so that we would stop living for sin and start living for what is right. And we are healed because of his wounds."** When you know God's great love and sovereignty, it only makes sense to trust Him. You show you believe God when you accept His Son's death on the cross as payment for your sin. To do this you admit that you are a sinner, you want to be forgiven, and you want a personal relationship with God to begin now. As you get to know God you will believe more and more that “... **nothing will be impossible with God**” (Luke 1:37).