Lesson 4: Jesus Is Our Savior Matthew 2:1-12

Youtube Link: https://youtu.be/JS02dYKPbKg

Children's Bible Story Video: https://youtu.be/1MO892n3ctY

Worship Theme: God wants us to believe that Jesus came to save us.

Memory Verse: "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Songs (Youtube links):

- 1. Noel This Year https://youtu.be/A59-uQCZfxE
- 2. Merry Christmas https://youtu.be/4B-8B5XN-2A
- 3. Feliz Navidad https://youtu.be/krpABa89_RU
- 4. Go Tell It on the Mountain https://youtu.be/z9qbWLyIWvA

Prayer: Oh Lord, thank you for today's gathering. Please stay with us and help us to learn from You. In Jesus' name, Amen!

Song: Select songs from the list above.

Icebreaker: Say "No"

Materials needed: Candies/snacks for each child Explain to the children that you're going to ask them questions, and they can only answer with "no." They cannot say "yes."

- 1. Do you like to fight? (No!)
- 2. Do you like to steal? (No!)
- 3. Do you like to get angry? (No!)
- 4. Do you like to eat? (No!)
- 5. Do you like to sleep? (No!)
- 6. Do you like this candy as a free gift? (No!)

When the children say "No" to the candy/snacks, ask them how they can say "no" to something so good. How do they feel about saying "no" to something that's a free gift for them? Jesus is a gift to us, but many people say "no" to Jesus. Explain to them that we need to help them to say "Yes" to Jesus.

Tell them that they can say "Yes" to this free gift and ask them again: Do you like this candy/snack as a free gift? When the children say "yes," give them the candy/snack.

Introduction:

Jesus' birth is something to celebrate because he is the answer to God's promise. Hundreds and thousands of people, throughout all generations since Adam and Eve, had waited for Jesus to come to show us the way back to God. He kept his promise and sent Jesus to earth. That's a reason to celebrate! But some people were not happy with the birth of Jesus. Let's find out who was not happy!

Bible Story:

At the time Jesus was born, King Herod was the king of Israel. He became a king of Israel when he was not an Israelite. One day, the three magi from far away came to Israel and came to King Herod. They asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him" (Matt. 2:2). The bible says that King Herod was "disturbed" when he heard this. Then he told the three magi to "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him" (Matt 2:8). But King Herod did not want to worship Jesus, the baby king. He wanted to kill the Savior!

The mighty, miraculous, mysterious power of God was displayed in the birth of Jesus, who came to earth, fully God and yet fully human, as a helpless newborn baby. The world was in desperate need of the salvation, hope, and light that Jesus brought. Some people understood their need and received Jesus with open arms, while others continued to live in darkness. King Herod was one of the people who lived in the darkness. He did not know that it is only through faith in Jesus that we can return to God in heaven! Let us not be like King Herod. We must remember that Jesus came as our Savior!

Questions to discuss:

- 1. What was the name of the king of Israel? (King Herod)
- 2. Who was not happy that Jesus the King of Israel was born? (King Herod)
- 3. Who came to ask about the birth of Jesus to King Herod? (The three magi)
- 4. Why did King Herod ask the three magi to let him know where the newborn king of Jews is? (To kill the newborn king)
- 5. Who came to us to help us return to God in heaven? (Jesus)

Game: Say "Yes"

- 1. Divide the children into groups of 3-4. In each group, select one child who does not want to believe in Jesus. The other children have to find good reasons to convince their friend to say "yes" to Jesus.
- 2. After each group had time to prepare, let them present how they decided to convince their friend to believe in Jesus.
- 3. Ask the select child in each group if they are convinced. Then ask the question, "Do you believe in Jesus?" The selected child will say, "Yes, I believe in Jesus."

Memory Verse:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Craft: John 3:16 Box



Materials Needed: Print the John 3:16 box pattern for each child (see below)

1. Give a print to each child and ask them to decorate it as they remember to say the memory verse.

2. Once they're done decorating, they can carefully cut out the box pattern and fold it to make it into a box.

3. Ask children to think about how each image refers to the verse.

Song: Select songs from the list above

Pray

Teacher's Devotion (Please read before you get ready to teach the students.) We need a Savior because we cannot take care of our own sins. Sins separate us from God. Jesus came to us in order to take care of sins by dying for us on the cross. This is amazing love and great sacrifice. Unfortunately, not everyone believes that Jesus is the Savior who came to save us. It is our responsibility to share this Good News with people in our lives. This week, think about someone who does not know Jesus and pray for them. Then share about Jesus with them.

