

## 2. Joseph's Story (Matthew 1:18-24)

The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people." (Luke 2:10)

# PLAN

---

### Session Outline

#### 1. Gather

- Greeting
- Joseph's Story
- Names
- Transition to Explore

#### 2. Explore

- Sacred Conversation
- Hear and See the Bible Story
- Interact with the Bible Story
- Say the Bible Verse
- Transition to Respond

#### 3. Respond

- Joseph's Dream
- Emmanuel
- Loving God,  
Loving Neighbor
- Transition to Bless

#### 4. Bless

- Inviting
- Praising
- Blessing
- At Home with God

### Supplies

**Basic Supplies:** CD player | DVD player | Projector or screen | Television | Craft glue | Crayons | Markers | Offering basket | Paper | Pencils | Scissors | Tape

**Gather:** Bell | Carpet squares

**Explore:** Bell

**Respond:** Bell | Candle | Carpet squares | Multipurpose lighter

**Bless:** No additional supplies

### Before You Teach

Of the four Gospels, only Matthew and Luke provide us with information about the birth of Jesus, and their accounts differ. Both Matthew and Luke tell of an angel messenger delivering the news that Jesus was to be born. In each case, the angel said the baby who would be born was to be named Jesus. However, as we learned last week, Luke told us of the angel's visit to Mary. In Matthew, the story of the angel's visit concerns Joseph.

Overall, the Bible mentions little about Joseph. We are told Joseph was a righteous man, and this statement is supported by his actions. Upon learning Mary was pregnant before they were married, Joseph made plans to divorce her quietly. In those days, once a couple was engaged, they were considered to be married. If Joseph had died during that time, Mary would have been considered a widow. For Mary to have become pregnant before they had marital relations would have been considered adultery. Mosaic law required capital punishment under such cases. Even before the angel appeared to him, Joseph had already decided not to follow the law to have Mary stoned to death. After the angel's visit, Joseph took Mary as his wife. Doing so must have caused Joseph to be subject to more than a few questions. Joseph's willingness to trust God gives us a good idea of the type of man who was Jesus' earthly father.

Some people are hesitant to call Joseph the father of Jesus, since Jesus is God's Son. However, legally, Jesus was Joseph's adopted son. The Bible refers to Jesus as the son of Joseph from Nazareth and as the carpenter's son. It is through Joseph that Jesus' lineage is traced back to King David.

## 2. Joseph's Story (Matthew 1:18-24)

The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people." (Luke 2:10)

# GATHER

---

### Greeting

*Before class: Display your choice of attendance chart (Class Kit—pp. 16-17 or pp. 18 & 15).*

- Play "Come to Us, Emmanuel" (Annual Music CD).
  - Welcome and greet each child as he or she enters the room.
  - Indicate location of the offering basket.
  - Help children mark their attendance inside the building on the Community Attendance Chart (opt.)
- 

### A—Joseph's Story (Art)

*Before class: Obtain Activity Sheets (Session 2).*

- Distribute "Angel"/"What Will They Call Him?" (pp. 5-6).
- Encourage the children to follow the journaling prompt and complete the activities.

OR

---

### B—Names (Game)

- Direct the children to stand in a circle.

**SAY:** In today's Bible story, a baby was to be given a special name. Let's play a game to remember the name of everyone.

- Choose a child to be IT. IT will stand in the middle of the circle. IT will point to a member of the circle and say one of the following: You, Me, Left, or Right. "Me" is IT. "Left" or "Right" are the children on the left or right side.
- When IT points and says the direction, he or she will count aloud to five. The child IT has pointed to will correctly identify the name of the other child before IT reaches five.
- If the person in the circle says an incorrect name, or doesn't say the name in time, that child becomes IT. If the child is correct, IT will point to someone new.
- Play the game as long as time allows.

**TIP:** Before playing the game, work around the circle to allow the children to say their names.

---

### Transition to Explore

*Before class: Obtain bell and carpet squares.*

- Ring the bell to acknowledge that it is time to transition.
- Direct the children to choose carpet squares (or equivalent items), then sit in a circle on the floor.

## 2. Joseph's Story (Matthew 1:18-24)

The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people.” (Luke 2:10)

# EXPLORE

---

### Sacred Conversation

- Ask a few wondering questions.

**ASK:** I wonder:

- What made you laugh this week?
  - How did you help someone this week?
  - What are you grateful for?
  - Was there a difficult part of your week, and what made it better?
  - Where did you see God this week?
- 

### Hear and See the Bible Story

*Before class: Prepare television and DVD player.*

- Read the Bible story together (*CEB Deep Blue Kids Bible—Matthew 1:18-24*).
- Watch the Deep Blue Adventure DVD Session 2.

**ASK:** How do you help your community at Christmastime?

---

### Interact with the Bible Story

*Before class: Obtain Bible Story Sheets (Session 2).*

- Distribute the Bible Story Sheets and draw attention to Bible Story Retelling (p. 1).
  - Assign the role of Joseph, then present “Joseph’s Story.”
- 

### Say the Bible Verse

*Before class: Display Poster: Unit 1 Bible Verse (Class Kit—pp. 10 & 23). Review Unit 1 sign language (Leader Guide—p. 91).*

- Recite the Bible verse, “The angel said, ‘Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people’” (Luke 2:10).
  - Invite the children to say and sign the Bible verse with you.
- 

### Transition to Respond

*Before class: Obtain bell.*

- Ring the bell, then invite the children to put away their carpet squares.

## 2. Joseph's Story (Matthew 1:18-24)

The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people.” (Luke 2:10)

# RESPOND

---

### A—Joseph’s Dream (Art)

*Before class: Photocopy “Joseph’s Dream” (Leader Guide—p. 18), one per child.*

- Distribute the photocopies of “Joseph’s Dream.”

**SAY:** In today’s Bible story, an angel came to Joseph in a dream.

**ASK:** What do you think the angel looked like? What do you think happened in Joseph’s dream?

- Let the children color the picture and draw their ideas.

---

OR

---

### B—Emmanuel (Music)

**SAY:** Today’s Bible story says, “They will call him Emmanuel.”

**ASK:** Do you remember what “Emmanuel” means?

- Invite the children to sing the chorus of “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.”

“Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.”

**TIP:** Find all the unit song lyrics on pages 91-93. Use the United Methodist Hymnal to look up the song. Play musical instruments while singing.

---

### Loving God, Loving Neighbor

*Before class: Obtain Map 6: Deep Blue Shores (Class Kit—p. 8) and Figures/Pieces: Deep Blue Shores Map 6 (Class Kit—p. 25). Display Poster: Advent Wreath (Class Kit—p. 31). Obtain Poster Pieces: Advent Wreath (Class Kit—p. 29).*

- Display the Deep Blue Shores Map 6 on the floor or table. While the children interact with the map and figures, talk about Advent.

**SAY:** Advent is a time of waiting and preparing for Jesus. Each week we will add a word label to our Advent Wreath poster. This week the word is “Love.”

**ASK:** What does *love* mean to you?

- Display poster pieces. Invite a child to attach the #2 “Love” poster piece to the poster’s #2 candle.
- 

### Transition to Bless

*Before class: Obtain bell, candle, multipurpose lighter (or battery-operated candle), carpet squares.*

- Ring the bell to signal transition.
- Direct the children to each choose a carpet square, then sit in a circle on the floor.

## 2. Joseph's Story (Matthew 1:18-24)

The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people.” (Luke 2:10)

# BLESS

---

### Inviting

*Before class: Continue to display Poster: Unit 1 Bible Verse (Class Kit—pp. 10 & 23) where it is easily accessible for children. Obtain Poster Pieces: Unit 1 Bible Verse (Class Kit—p. 22).*

- Gather the children around the Bible-verse poster.
- Display the poster pieces.
- Invite a child to attach to the poster the “Joseph” poster piece.

**PRAY:** Thank you, God, for bringing good news to all people. Amen.

---

### Praising

*Before class: Obtain CD player and Deep Blue Song Sheets.*

- Distribute the song sheets of “Come to Us, Emmanuel” (Annual Music CD).
  - Sing the song “Come to Us, Emmanuel” (Annual Music CD).
  - Sign the Bible verse (Leader Guide—p. 91).
  - Collect the song sheets and store until the next session.
- 

### Blessing

**ASK:** How do you praise God?

- Invite the children to repeat after you Luke 1:46-47:  
“With all my heart I glorify the Lord!  
In the depths of who I am,  
I rejoice in God my savior.”
- 

### At Home with God

**ASK:** What is one thing that you learned today? Can you share with your family what you learned?

- Send home with each child Bible Story Sheets—Session 2 leaflet.

## 2. Joseph's Story (Matthew 1:18-24)

The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you – wonderful, joyous news for all people." (Luke 2:10)

### Joseph's Dream

