

CHRISTMAS LESSON #2
GETTING READY FOR THE BABY KING

Mt 1:18-2:18; Lk 1:26-38; 2:1-20

Lesson Memory Verse: Matthew 1:21 “And she shall bring forth a son and you shall call His name Jesus: for He shall save His people from their sins.”

Lesson Aim: To show the children how God planned for the birth of His Son so that He could come and save sinners from eternal hell.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Who is the most important person you have ever seen? How many of you have ever seen the President of the United States? Wouldn't it be a great honor if he should come to visit our town? I imagine the whole town would turn out to greet him (show a picture of a huge crowd), because the President of the United States is a very important man. Did you know that many weeks before the President would visit our town, he would send his men to help our city officials and our newspaper, radio and television managers to get ready for the President's visit? Then one week before the President would arrive, a huge Air Force jet plane loaded down with all sorts of radio, telephone and camera equipment would be sent to our town along with all the men to operate that equipment. These men would make the final plans to be sure everything was ready for the President's visit. Extreme care would need to be taken so that the President would be safe while in our town, so there would be Secret Service men sent to make sure no one would be allowed in town that would try to kill him. Finally, there would be men who would travel with the President to take pictures of him and record everything he would do and say while he would be in our town. All this would be done so that the whole world would know about it. Why? Because the most important man in the world, the President of the United States, would be visiting our town.

HE (for Authority): We read in Matthew 1:21 the message which the angel gave to Joseph about the coming birth of Jesus Christ. It would be an important message because Jesus would be the most important person that would ever be born in the whole world. You see, Jesus is the Son of God and as our Scripture verse says, He came to “save His people from their sins.” This was a very important reason for His coming to earth. We needed to be saved from going to hell. Surely the most important man ever to be born needed to be welcomed to Bethlehem and this earth more than the President of the United States would need to be welcomed to our town. So, whenever you hear the name of Jesus, which means Savior, you should remember that He was the most important man that ever was born and the reason He was born was to save you from your sins. Will you think about that this Christmas, and thank Him for coming to this earth?

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In Luke 2:1-7 we learn that Jesus was born in Bethlehem and laid in a manger. Now that does not sound like a very good welcome, does it? But let us look closer and find out what really happened when God got things ready for Jesus, the baby King to come to earth.

A. Getting Mary and Joseph Ready for the Baby King (Lk 1:26-38; Mt 1:18-25)

First, God sent Gabriel, an important angel, to tell Mary the good news that she would be the mother of Jesus. Then He sent Gabriel again, this time to tell Joseph about the good news of Jesus' birth. It was important that Joseph knew who this Baby was that would be born into his family. The President has important people to announce his coming, but no President has ever had an angel announce his coming. Both Mary and Joseph were told by the angel that Jesus was going to be born so that He might be able to save His people from their sins.

WE: Are we glad that Jesus came to save us from our sins? Have you received Him as your Savior?

B. Getting the Shepherds Ready for the Baby King (Lk 2:8-20)

When it was time for Jesus to be born, God sent a host of angels to a few shepherds that were taking care of their sheep near Bethlehem. At first only one angel appeared to them and he told them the good

news about Jesus being born in Bethlehem. They would find Him lying in a manger. Then a great many angels appeared and praised God for the wonderful Baby King that had been born because He was the very Son of God. Before He was born as a baby He had made the heavens and the earth; He had made the angels and the people; He had made everything. Now He had come to earth as a little baby to save sinners from going to hell. Furthermore, it is interesting that God chose to tell the good news of His Son's birth to some humble shepherds first. God loves the common, humble people and He chose to let them be the first to know that His Son was born. When they saw Jesus, they were so excited that they told everyone they met about Jesus' birth. The President may want important people to welcome him, but no one could have been more excited and more faithful in welcoming Jesus than these shepherds.

WE: Do we believe that Jesus is God's own Son? Have we received Him as our Savior? Are we excited about Him and do we want to tell others about Him? Be like the shepherds that went to Bethlehem to see this wonderful baby King.

C. Getting the Wise Men Ready for the Baby King (Mt 2:1-12)

When Jesus was born, God put a bright star in the night sky to let some wise men in the East know that His Son was born. These were important men who lived in a far country. These men believed God and wanted to see this baby King when He was born. In order to do this they traveled a long way to get to Bethlehem. It cost them a lot of money and took many, many weeks to make the trip, but they were glad to do it for such an important person. At first, they went to Jerusalem to find this baby King, because that is where the king lived, but He was not there. Then they learned from the Scriptures that He was supposed to be born in Bethlehem. When they left Jerusalem, God provided a bright star to guide them to the very place where Jesus now lived in Bethlehem. It was a great miracle for the star to guide them to Jesus' home. (He was probably a year old by this time.) The President of the United States has great power, but in no way does he have power over the stars. Only God could use a star to get the wise men ready to see the baby King! Not only did they come, but they brought expensive gifts to Jesus. Then the most important thing was done: they worshipped the baby King.

WE: How important is Jesus to us? What have we given to Him? How do we feel about Him? Is He so important to us that we worship Him? We should because He is the Son of God and He came to take away our sins. Is He our Savior? Is He our King?

D. Getting the Jews Ready for the Baby King (Mt 2:1-8)

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God told His people many things about His Son's birth. He even told Micah that His Son would be born in Bethlehem of Judah. When Micah heard it, he told the people about God's message and wrote it down in his prophecy (Micah 5:2). Seven hundred years later when King Herod heard from the wise men that the King of the Jews had been born, he was troubled and demanded from the chief priest and scribes where God's Son would be born. They told him that it would be in Bethlehem. How did they know this? Because they knew about Micah's prophecy in the Bible (Mt 2:4-6). Only God could have told them these things about the coming of His Son hundreds of years before it would happen. We may know about the coming of the President several months before he comes, but that is the best that he can do. God let Jerusalem know about His Son's coming hundreds of years before He came.

WE: God has also told us about His Son's Second Coming. He says it could happen at any time. This He has told us for hundreds of years. Do you believe it could happen today?

Furthermore, God protected His Son from King Herod, who did not want to lose his throne to the baby King. He was a dangerous man and wanted to kill baby Jesus. There are also many dangerous men who would like to kill the President. For that reason the President may have as many as one hundred Secret Service men who will travel with him to protect him from being killed. Even so, some presidents have been killed because they cannot do everything to protect the President, even though they do their best. One hundred men cannot protect the President as well as God can do it alone. So when Herod wanted to kill the baby King, God gave the wise men a dream and told them not to return to Jerusalem and tell him where Jesus was living in Bethlehem (2:12). They obeyed God and this made Herod so angry that he decided to kill all of the children in Bethlehem who were two years old and under (2:16). Of course, all of these children went to heaven, but God saved His own Son from death at this time because He was not going to die until he was a man and then He was going to die for our sins on the cross. How

did God save His Son from being killed by Herod's sword? He warned Joseph in a dream to get out of Bethlehem just before Herod's soldiers came to kill the babies. Joseph obeyed God and left Bethlehem at night with the baby King and His mother and fled to Egypt where they stayed until Herod was dead (2:13-15).

WE: Who do we trust to protect us? The police men? Our parents? Or God? If we trust in God, we will be protected very well.

BE (for Action): The President of the United States may seem to be the most important man to visit our town (show picture of crowd), but he is not the most important man. There is another that is more important, whose name is Jesus Christ. He is the KING OF KINGS and the LORD OF LORDS (Rev 19:16). He is greater than any president, and He has come to save us from our sins (Mt 1:21; Rom 10:9-13). When you ask Jesus to save you from your sins and receive Him into your heart, you will become a child of God (Jn 1:12). That is the greatest gift that you can receive from God, better than any person can give to you. Our Constitution of the United States says that you cannot become the president of the United States until you are 35 years old, but you can become a child of God today. Will you receive God's gift by asking Jesus Christ to save you from your sins right now? (Give the children an opportunity to show their desire to receive Christ as their Savior.)