

The
GOD-MAN
Christ in the Gospels



THE GOD-MAN: CHRIST IN THE GOSPELS

Written by Cherie Noel

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FROM THE AUTHOR

The primary goals of this study are to make the Word of God more meaningful and to have a life-changing impact on your students. As a Christian school administrator, I have used a variety of curriculum approaches with my students. Too often, however, I found that my students had mastered a great deal of material and factual knowledge without having seen the truth of Scripture at work in their own lives.

This is particularly true when it comes to the study of our great Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. It is easy to be satisfied with learning about the miracles He performed and the places He visited—but never accepting who He is and the claims He has placed on our lives.

This study presents Jesus Christ as He is—the unique Son of God who came to Earth, both fully God and fully human. The lessons take us from the preincarnate Christ of eternity to the prophecies of the Old Testament, then to His birth, life, ministry, death, resurrection, and ascension. Although this study focuses much of its attention on the major events of the Gospel of John, the lessons will address accounts from all four Gospels.

The God-Man provides adequate material and variety to keep Bible class both interesting and profitable. Focus on the living Word of God, and pray for the privilege of seeing your students walk in its truth.

Cherie Noel

FEATURES OF THIS STUDY

As an academic curriculum and a devotional study, *The God-Man* presents both factual content and personal application material. Students should complete this course with an introductory understanding of the life of Christ as presented by the Gospels, with particular emphasis on the major events recorded in the Gospel of John. Most lessons will include discussions of history and theology, as well as a challenge to better reflect the character of Christ.

Lessons should help students progress through deeper levels of thought:

- Knowledge—learning basic facts
- Comprehension—understanding concepts and ideas; recognizing allusions and patterns
- Analysis—thinking through the implications of new information
- Discernment—perceiving truth from revealed facts and concepts
- Evaluation—drawing conclusions; interpreting values to form personal decisions
- Application—using the information learned; applying truth to life

TEACHER’S LECTURES

The lesson content in the Teacher’s Manual can help you prepare and present the truths of this study to your students.

TARGET TRUTHS

These serve as learning objectives for each lesson.

TEACHING STRATEGY

Each lesson includes explanatory notes for you, the teacher. This section may also include group activities.

ADDITIONAL TEACHING SUGGESTIONS

These extra activities or discussions may increase student participation, if needed.

TEACHER’S LESSON

This lecture material is presented verbatim—though formatted with headings and bullets in case you prefer to teach from limited notes. Lectures usually highlight one facet of the lesson and examine it in the context of the entire Bible. Some chapters will not include lecture material, but rather group activities and discussion.

TEACHER’S LESSON NOTES

Each lesson in the Student Manual contains a fill-in-the-blank outline of the corresponding teacher’s lesson. Students can use this outline as a foundation for their lecture notes, which will help them review for quizzes.

You can find digital presentations with these outlines on the *God-Man* product page at **positiveaction.org**.

We encourage teachers to approach lessons not so much as a fact-finding process, but as a way to strengthen the students’ relationship with God. Perfect truth includes love, and perfect love includes truth, so please take care to present this material in a way that both encourages and challenges your students. Make time for discussion, and encourage your students to share their questions with the group.

STUDENT EXERCISES

Almost every lesson in the Student Manual includes exercises that students should complete outside of class. These exercises encourage students to seek God’s truth and love on their own. Early in this course, you may wish to complete some exercises together as a group.

The student exercises usually contain at least one section that focuses on personal application, called “My Relationship to Christ.” As your students become more comfortable bringing up topics and common problems together, these application sections may spark the best group discussion.

TESTING AND EVALUATION

For courses that require a score or grade, the Teacher’s Manual includes a weekly quiz for each lesson, to be taken after students have heard the teacher’s lecture and completed the corresponding exercises. Quizzes cover essential themes from both the Teacher’s Manual and Student Manual.

Quizzes and answer keys are both at the back of this Teacher’s Manual. You can find editable versions of this testing material on the *God-Man* product page at **positiveaction.org**.

Some teachers also grade weekly Scripture memorization, as well as the completion of student exercises and extra activities.

Note that these materials can help you evaluate students’ mastery of factual content—not, of course, their spiritual growth. However, throughout this Teacher’s Manual, you’ll find a number of non-graded self-evaluation quizzes that can encourage students to reflect on their priorities and growth thus far.

COMPLETED PAGES FROM THE STUDENT MANUAL

This Teacher's Manual contains a complete copy of the Student Manual. In each lesson, you can find facsimiles of the Student Manual pages with suggested answers filled in.

A digital version of these facsimiles is available on the *God-Man* product page at **positiveaction.org**. If presented via projector or screen, these pages can help you review exercises with your students.

SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

At the end of this introduction, you'll find a Scripture memory program with an assignment for each lesson. In the past, teachers have used this optional component in the following ways:

1. Assign verses to be recited or written in a graded quiz, whether weekly, monthly, or once a semester.
2. Assign verses to be written on the back of regular lesson quizzes, perhaps as extra credit.
3. Evaluate the students' understanding of the verses by offering a fill-in-the-blank verse test, or one that requires students to match the text of each passage with its reference.

You can find printable verse cards on the *God-Man* product page at **positiveaction.org**.

FORMAT AND GRADE LEVEL

Though teachers have successfully adapted and taught this study in grades six through twelve, we recommend this content for the sixth through eighth grade.

As with any other Bible study, your students' background, Scriptural literacy, and reading level will greatly impact their ability to approach this material. Some students may require additional teacher or parent involvement to understand and complete the exercises in the Student Manual.

NOTES

SUGGESTED WEEKLY SCHEDULE

This study includes 35 lessons—one for each week in an average academic year. In general, teachers can present the lecture content before or after students complete the corresponding exercises in the Student Manual. However, the lecture and the exercises should both be covered before students take the lesson quiz.

Note that this study likely contains more content than you could cover in depth, especially in a three- or four-day-a-week course. Depending on the needs of your students—and depending on the time you spend in discussion or review—you may need to cover some minor points quickly or not at all.

FIVE-DAY OPTION

Day One	Day Two	Day Three	Day Four	Day Five
Introduce target truths. Begin the teacher's lesson. Introduce the Scripture memory verses. Assign the student exercises.	Finish the teacher's lesson, along with any discussion activities. Review Scripture memory.	Review target truths. Review Scripture memory. Review and discuss the student exercises.	Review lesson material, especially concepts covered in the quiz. Review Scripture memory. Assign or discuss any additional activities.	Administer the quiz and review. Check or quiz Scripture memory. Discuss any student questions or personal application topics.

FOUR-DAY OPTION

Day One	Day Two	Day Three	Day Four
Introduce target truths. Begin the teacher's lesson. Introduce the Scripture memory verses. Assign the student exercises.	Finish the teacher's lesson, along with any discussion activities. Review Scripture memory.	Review target truths and lesson material, especially concepts covered in the quiz. Review and discuss the student exercises. Review Scripture memory.	Administer the quiz and review. Check or quiz Scripture memory. Discuss any student questions or personal application topics.

THREE-DAY OPTION

Day One	Day Two	Day Three
Introduce target truths. Begin the teacher's lesson. Introduce the Scripture memory verses. Assign the student exercises.	Finish the teacher's lesson, along with any discussion activities. Review the student exercises. Review Scripture memory.	Administer the quiz and review. Check or quiz Scripture memory. Discuss any student questions or personal application topics.

FEEDBACK

As a non-profit publishing ministry, we consider teachers our co-laborers in the faith. Each of our curricula remains a work in progress, and the people who teach these studies have a great impact on the scope and format of each new edition. If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us—we'd love to hear from you.

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A FINAL WORD

It's our prayer that this study helps you and your students know God's glory, grow in that knowledge, and share it with others. To see the most from this study, we'd encourage you to do the following:

- Spend time each day in the Word. Use the material in this study to guide your devotional reading so that you can present God's truth and love from the heart. Spend time also marking and adjusting the lecture content to suit your students' needs.
- Pray for your students, and ask God to grow you, as well.
- Be vulnerable to your students, expressing questions and confidence in equal measure. Encourage them to explore Scripture with you.
- Be the love and truth you want to see from your students. Maintain an atmosphere of kindness and openness in your group.
- Depend on God's strength and grace, even in your weakness.

THE GOD-MAN SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION REPORT SHEET

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

Week	Scripture	Due Date	Parent's Signature
1	John 1:1-2		
2	John 1:3-5		
3	John 1:6-7		
4	John 1:8-10		
5	John 1:11-12		
6	John 1:13-14		
7	John 1:1-14		
8	Proverbs 3:1-2		
9	Proverbs 3:3-4		
10	Proverbs 3:5-6		
11	Proverbs 3:7-8		
12	Proverbs 3:9-10		
13	Proverbs 3:11-13		
14	Proverbs 3:1-13		
15	Galatians 6:1-3		
16	Galatians 6:4-6		
17	Galatians 6:7-8		
18	Galatians 6:9-10		
19	Galatians 6:1-10		
20	Ephesians 3:14-15		
21	Ephesians 3:16-17		
22	Ephesians 3:18-19		
23	Ephesians 3:20-21		
24	Ephesians 3:14-21		
25	Philippians 2:2-3		
26	Philippians 2:4-6		
27	Philippians 2:7-8		
28	Philippians 2:9-11		
29	Philippians 2:1-11		
30	Psalms 1:1-2		
31	Psalms 1:3-4		
32	Psalms 1:5-6		
33	Psalms 1:1-6		
34	Matthew 22:36-38		
35	Matthew 22:39-40		

L E S S O N O N E

THE ETERNAL CHRIST

TARGET TRUTHS

- Jesus is God.
- Jesus has always existed.
- Jesus created all things.
- Jesus is the Word of God.
- We are each very important to God.
- We need to learn to hear His voice.

TEACHING STRATEGY

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

Work through this introductory lesson together as a class, discussing the following as it fits into the lesson. Have your students turn to 1 Corinthians 8:6 and Ephesians 3:9. Read and discuss together these two verses to relate the idea of the mystery of Jesus being God. There is one God, but as we have also established above, Jesus is the true God. This is a mystery that we will never completely understand with our finite minds until we are with Jesus in heaven one day. Then all things will be made clear to us. In a moment we will understand. For now we accept the teachings from the Word of God. The third Person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit, is just as integral to the Godhead as is Jesus. We will discuss Him in more detail later.

Question four needs to be discussed thoroughly. Similar to the likeness of the triune Godhead, we have three different but integral aspects: body, soul, and spirit. (See 1 Thess. 5:23.)

It is our body (likened to plant life) that needs food for nourishment, grows, feels pain, grows old, and eventually dies.

It is our soul that is the core of our mind, our emotions, and our will. With our soul, we think and feel and make choices. Animals can think and feel and make choices on a much lower level. They nurture their young; they know to go after food and nurture themselves and store food for the future.

But what sets humans apart from all other living things (plants and animals) is our spirit. Neither plants nor animals can ever know God or understand His existence. We are not animals, nor should we ever allow ourselves to think on that level. It is our spirit that gives us a consciousness of God. It is our spirit that cries out to God before we receive Him as Savior. It is our spirit that understands the things from the Word of God.

If you have time and it seems appropriate, briefly discuss the problems with the theory of evolution from the viewpoint just discussed. Ask students to explain how the concept of being made in the image of God disputes evolution.

- Plants: have a body
- Animals: have a body, have mind, emotion, will
- People: have a body, have a soul, have a spirit

TWO IMPORTANT TRUTHS

The fact that Jesus was with God in the beginning means that He is not a created being as we are. Jesus has always existed. There is no beginning and no ending with Him. If Jesus had a beginning as we do, He would be no different than any other person; and He could not be our Savior, for no person can save another person. But He did not have a beginning—He has always existed as God. Again, this is a fact that we do not understand, but we accept it as true because it is a scriptural fact.

The second truth says that Jesus is eternal life. This is of key importance to our salvation because when we become a Christian, we are given a new life in Jesus that is eternal. God does not simply extend our earthly, fleshly life in heaven but gives us an entirely different quality of life—eternal (unending) life.

“I AM”

The term “I am” is used to describe the eternal existence of Jesus as God. Since both God and Jesus use the same term to describe themselves, they are one and the same person.

Also notice the way Jesus makes His statement “Before Abraham was, I am.” Such a statement may not sound grammatically correct to us since He is talking in the past (was) and the present (am) at the same time. Though the statement may not sound grammatically correct, it is factually correct. Jesus was making a statement about His eternal existence in the past and the present.

The Jews tried to stone Jesus for using this term because they understood that Jesus was claiming to be God, and they believed He was blaspheming God. They had not accepted who this man was.

NAMES OF CHRIST

Depending on the amount of time you have, instruct each student to look up every verse or divide the verses among the class to save time. Perhaps the girls could look up the first half and the boys the second. As you go over the names of Christ together, discuss the meanings, if necessary, to make sure students understand how each term is used. Many of the concepts will be further discussed throughout the year.

MY RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST_____

This lesson has focused on the eternity of Christ and shows that Jesus is the Creator God. Discuss the importance of this fact to each individual who has been created by God to live on this earth. The Creator

God who made all the earth and everything within the earth with care made all of these things for each of us. All of the earth was created for us to use and care for and enjoy.

In creating each one of us, God took care to design us perfectly and uniquely. Just as no two aspects of creation are the same, neither are any two people. Each of us is a unique and beautiful creation of Almighty God. Our physical characteristics, our families, our abilities and lack of abilities, our special talents and lack of talents, our personality—every aspect of who we are was planned by a loving God. With these things in mind, have students consider carefully the questions asked in this section. The Creator God who created us has a great plan. He deserves to be heard, and we need to know Him and listen to His words carefully.

ADDITIONAL TEACHING SUGGESTIONS ---

A PERSONAL LETTER FROM GOD

With the last section of the student's lesson in mind, have students compose a personal letter from God to themselves. This should be a unique experience for each of them and may be difficult for them at first. Have them think of themselves as the unique creation of the loving, Creator God we have studied about this week. Just as God spoke personally in the Garden of Eden to Adam and Eve, consider how He might speak to us as a loving Father who is proud of His workmanship. In their letter they should discuss their physical attributes, family, special abilities, etc. from God's point of view. Such an exercise is not meant to "puff up" a student's pride but to focus on an eternal relationship with God. You might read the following to help them understand the concept.

Dear Jane,

I love you and am so proud of you. I planned for you to have those beautiful green eyes and red hair. You will not grow very tall, but your height will be perfect for you. You will never be very good at sports or science because I have other plans for you. Instead, you are going to be wonderful at English and especially at writing. I have given you a very sensitive and caring heart as a strong part of your personality. Sometimes this will hurt deeply, but you will learn to use your feelings to help others in many ways. You have a wonderful family that is perfect to help you develop those areas that will be important for your life. I can't tell you now everything that I have planned for you, but be assured that you will have a wonderful, purposeful life. Learn to listen to Me, and I will show you the way. Always remember how much I love you. I will be guiding you and caring for you each step of your life.

All My love,

God

TEACHER'S LESSON ---

We have seen that when Jesus used the phrase, "Before Abraham was, I am," many of the Jews who heard Him tried to stone Him for blasphemy. As we continue our study of Jesus' life on Earth, you will see

many instances of people responding similarly to Jesus. We will look at three different ways that people responded to Jesus when He lived on the earth. Even today, people respond to Him much in the same ways. Times change, but people never really change. When John wrote about Jesus, he told us from the very beginning how people throughout the ages would respond to His teachings.

JESUS' PURPOSE ON EARTH

“And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world” (1 John 4:14). Jesus was the true God. He came from eternity to live for 33 years on Earth to die for our sins. He came to be our Savior.

RESPONSES TO CHRIST

John 1:10–12 tells about three responses to Christ when He lived on Earth. These same three responses are seen among people today.

Many Did Not Know Him (John 1:10)

Even though Jesus created the world and every man, woman, and child who has ever lived, many of those He created do not know of His existence. The Bible teaches that we can know of His existence through the things He created if we have a heart desire to know (Rom. 1). But most people in the world do not have the heart or desire to truly know God.

Many Did Not Receive Him (John 1:11)

Many people have been told about Jesus and who He is. They have heard the gospel and know all about Jesus. But because their hearts are filled with pride and self-centeredness, they do not accept Him into their lives. They do not truly believe that they have a need to be saved because they do not accept the fact of the sin that is in their lives. They deliberately reject Him.

Some Did Receive Him, and They Were Given Eternal Life (John 1:12)

Many hear about Jesus and who He is and believe that He is truly the one true God who can save their souls. They do not ignore Him or reject Him; they receive Him.

GOD WANTS TO SPEAK TO US

One of the most important reasons that God refers to Himself as the Word is because He is very interested in communicating with those who belong to Him. He speaks to us in different ways.

Through the Word of God

The most important way that God speaks to us is through the Scriptures. The Word of God is the completed work of God's words for our lives. The words in the Bible are all we need to live a life glorifying

to Jesus. They show us the way of salvation, doctrines important to our faith, and the principles and commandments of how to live a successful and purposeful life.

By the Holy Spirit Within the Believer

The Holy Spirit indwells the believer to convict us of sin, to teach us the truth of the Scriptures, and to comfort and help us live our lives.

Through Those He Has Placed as Authorities in Our Lives

God also speaks to us through those He has placed as authorities in our lives. For example, our parents, teachers, pastors, and grandparents are all used of God to instruct and teach us in the right way.

God Wants Us to Listen to His Words

We can know His voice: “. . . and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice” (John 10:4). We can understand His words: “incline your ear and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live” (Isa. 55:3). Only Christians can truly understand God’s voice and words; the unsaved cannot understand. “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned” (1 Cor. 2:14).

L E S S O N O N E

THE ETERNAL CHRIST



Most people in the world do not really understand who Jesus Christ is. Many think that He was a prophet, a very wise and good man sent from God. Others think He was the Son of God but came into existence when He was born in Bethlehem.

The truth is that Jesus was not simply a great man or prophet, nor did He have His “beginning” when He came as a little baby to be born in the manger at Bethlehem. It is true, as the books of Matthew and Luke tell us, that Jesus was born in Bethlehem; but God says that Jesus has always existed.

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

- As you look up each of the following verses, answer the questions below:
 1. Who created the heavens and Earth, according to Genesis 1:1? God
 2. Who is the Word that was “in the beginning” with God and “was made flesh” to dwell among us? (John 1:1, 14) Jesus Christ
 3. By whom were all things created according to John 1:3 and Hebrews 1:2? Jesus
 4. Read Genesis 1:26a and look carefully at the following: “And God (singular) said, Let us (plural) make man in our image, after our likeness.” What is this verse telling you about who God is? _____
God is both plural (Father, Son, Spirit) and singular (one God).
Jesus is one of the Persons of the Godhead.

Explain how we were made in His image after His likeness.

We were made in the image and likeness of God as triune beings—body, soul, and spirit.

5. First John 5:20 describes Jesus Christ in two ways. According to this verse, who is Jesus Christ? **He is the true God and eternal life.**
6. Explain the extent of the creation by Jesus Christ according to Colossians 1:16.
All things were created by Him—including all things in heaven and earth—visible and invisible, whether thrones, dominions, principalities, or powers.

TWO IMPORTANT TRUTHS

- For what reasons are the following concepts concerning Jesus extremely important for your life in regards to salvation and understanding who Jesus is?
 1. Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1 both use the phrases “in the beginning.” What is important about this? **Jesus was not a created being; He has always existed.**
 2. First John 5:20 says that Jesus is “eternal life.” What is important about this? **His life will never end, unlike our physical, earthly life.**

“I AM”

It is very important to God that you understand the principle that Jesus Christ is truly God. God found several different ways to help you know the truth of this concept even though He knows your mind will not completely understand it. For further proof, God showed in different ways that Jesus is the one true God.

- Compare Exodus 3:14 with John 8:58. In each situation, who is talking, and what does He say about Himself?

God said, "I AM that I AM." Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, I am."

Both times the name I am is used of Himself by a Person of the Godhead.

- What do you think this term means, and what is important about its meaning?

It tells us that Jesus (God) has always existed. It means that the past, present, and future are all the same to God. He lives in the eternal present.

Jesus is saying that, as God, He has no past or future. His life is not involved in the sphere of time as we know it. It is true that Jesus lived on the earth for approximately 33 years of time, but His life in eternity has no time limits whatsoever.

- Now look at John 8:59. What did the Jews try to do to Jesus because of what He said?

stone Him

- Why do you think they did this?

They did not believe Him and thought that He was blaspheming God.

To truly understand how this phrase helps us to understand that Jesus has always existed, look up the following two verses and find the part of the verse that explains more fully the phrase, "I am."

- Revelation 1:8 **He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and ending, who is, was, and is to come.**

- Revelation 1:17 **He is the first and the last.**

- How do these verses further support what has already been discussed concerning the person of Jesus Christ?

They show He has always existed.

NAMES OF CHRIST

The Bible refers to Jesus in many different ways to show the many, many ways He meets our needs. Only a few of His many titles are given below. Look up each verse and write the term(s) given in each verse that explain who Jesus is.

Verse	Who Jesus Is
Psalm 118:22	The head stone of the corner; cornerstone
Isaiah 7:14	Immanuel
Isaiah 9:6	Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace
John 1:29	The Lamb of God
John 6:32	The true bread
John 8:12	The light of the world
John 10:11	The good shepherd
John 11:25	The resurrection and the life
Acts 3:14	Holy One and the Just; Holy and Righteous One
1 Corinthians 10:4	The Rock
1 Timothy 6:15	The only Potentate (Ruler, Sovereign), King of kings, and Lord of lords
Hebrews 4:14	High priest; Son of God
Hebrews 12:2	The author and finisher (perfecter) of our faith

MY RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST

- Who do you say Jesus is? **Answers will vary.** _____
- Is this important to you? _____ Why or why not? _____

- Based on the teacher's lesson, how can you "hear" God? _____
through the Word of God; by the Holy Spirit within the believer;
through those placed as authorities in our lives _____

- Are you conscious of listening to the voice of God? _____
- In what ways do you hear His voice? _____

- Give an example of a time when He spoke to you in a specific way.

TEACHER'S LESSON NOTES

JESUS' PURPOSE ON EARTH

- " **And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.** _____
_____ " (1 John 4:14)

RESPONSES TO CHRIST

- Many did not **know** Him (John 1:10)
- Many did not **receive** Him (John 1:11)
- Some did receive Him, and they were given **eternal life** _____ (John 1:12)

GOD WANTS TO Speak TO Us

- Through the Word of God
- By the Holy Spirit within the believer
- Through those placed as authorities in our lives

GOD WANTS Us TO LISTEN TO His Words

- We can know His voice
- We can understand His words

THE PROPHETIC CHRIST

TARGET TRUTHS

- The Old Testament gave many prophecies that were fulfilled in Jesus Christ.
- The Word of God is the story of Jesus Christ.
- The slaying of a lamb and the shedding of its blood provided a picture of what Christ would do when He died on the cross for our sins.
- God's promises are always fulfilled.

TEACHING STRATEGY

In Lesson 1 we discussed the fact that the Bible is the Word of God. We need to understand exactly what that means. God used different people to record His message by “inspiring” or inerrantly guiding them. So when we say the Bible is God’s Word, we know that this is literally true. When we read the Bible, we are reading the very thoughts of God.

Jesus is the Word of God (John 1: 1). So when “the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us” (John 1:14), He embodied the essence of the entire Bible.

This is why we have taken two lessons to understand that the life of Christ did not begin in Bethlehem. Christ has truly always existed. The entire Bible is His story.

JESUS CHRIST IN PROPHECY/ISAIAH 53

Have your students complete the sections on the fulfillment of prophecy and Isaiah 53. If you feel the sections are too long, divide them up by groups or have students work in pairs. Spend time together discussing each section.

Since the time of Adam and Eve, all believers in the true God have looked forward to a time when the Savior would come to Earth to save them. Many thought that the Savior would be a king that would come from the heavens and save them from the Roman soldiers and government. But many knew that the Scriptures taught that the Messiah would come as a lamb to suffer and die for our sin. Century after century went by, and the Messiah did not appear. From the time of the writing of the last book of the Bible until Jesus’ birth approximately 400 years passed with no word from God. But the Bible says that God has a perfect time for all events. And when the perfect time had come, Jesus was born and fulfilled every detail of prophecy.

THE LAMB OF GOD

Use this section in conjunction with the stories of Adam and Eve and Abraham and Isaac in the teacher's lesson. Begin by having students look up John 1:29 to learn how John the Baptist responded to Jesus. Then have the students look up the other verses to understand the fulfillment of this important aspect of Scripture. Emphasize again that the entire Bible is the story of Jesus. Though He is not mentioned by the name of Jesus in the Old Testament, He is mentioned again and again through prophecy and symbolism. The Bible is truly the story of Jesus from cover to cover.

MY RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST

Spend time discussing the need for integrity in our lives. Read with your students the importance of "keeping a vow" in Numbers 30:2, Deuteronomy 23:21, and Ecclesiastes 5:4–5. Help students think through their unspoken commitments to God, their parents, and their friends. Students at this age need to begin to realize that they have responsibilities and obligations to others that must not be overlooked. As they learn to keep their commitments and walk in truth and honesty, they are building a life of strong integrity and character to please God.

ADDITIONAL TEACHING SUGGESTIONS

MY LETTER TO GOD

After writing a letter from God last week, you might have students write a letter to God, thanking Him for what He has given them and describing their commitment to Him in response. This sequence of letters is based on the concept that "we love Him, because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19). As we understand the love and commitment of God towards us, we can begin to recognize what our response and commitment to Him should be. Being committed to God includes how we treat our parents and our friends and acquaintances.

INTEGRITY

Integrity means being open, honest, and trustworthy in all situations. As you discuss the concept of God's integrity and commitment to us through His promises, have students find verses in Proverbs that show a promise of God to us. (See Prov. 3 to begin.) The Book of Proverbs is based on the idea that if we obey God, He will make sure that His promises will come true in our lives.

Have your students listen to television advertising to notice half-truths that advertisers want us to believe. The world's ideas are built on half-truths that try to persuade us in some way. As we learn what true integrity is, we will gain more wisdom in dealing with the world and recognizing half-truths or "white lies."

TEACHER'S LESSON

DEFINITIONS

- “Testament” means a promise of God.
- “Prophecy” can mean either (1) the proclaiming of the Word of God (preaching) or (2) the ability to foretell the future by inspiration from God.
- “Inspiration” means God guided and directed people to deliver His words. Second Peter 1:21 says: “For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” Second Timothy 3:16 says: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God.”
- The Old Testament continually says, “Christ will come.” The New Testament says, “Christ has come.”
- The Word of God is the story of Jesus Christ.

THE LAMB OF GOD

The concept of the “lamb of God” is another very important aspect of the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy. We are going to look at verses throughout the Old Testament and see a pattern that points to Jesus Christ.

The Promise to Adam and Eve

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve’s sin brought a different relationship with God than they had been used to. God immediately withdrew His close fellowship with them because He could not allow sin in His presence.

A Response of Love

God’s response was one that came from holiness and righteousness based on His character. Adam and Eve could not restore the relationship they once had with God. Because God’s character is also love, He promised that He would provide a way to restore fellowship between God and people.

God made coats of skins (Gen. 3:21)

God made a promise. Read Genesis 3:15. Here God gives the first promise of a Savior to pay for the sin that had come to the people of Earth through Adam and Eve. Then, in Genesis 3:21, God provided a way to give all who loved God a picture of the coming Savior. God killed an animal and made coats of skins to clothe Adam and Eve. This was the first sacrifice.

From this time on until Jesus died on the cross, the sacrifice of an animal, usually a spotless lamb, was used as a symbol of the need for shedding of blood and providing a sacrifice for sin.

Abraham Is Willing to Sacrifice His Only Son

A picture of God's sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus

Review the story of Abraham and Isaac in Genesis 22:6–13. Abraham was asked by God to sacrifice his only son on an altar. In verse 7, Isaac asked a very important question. He wanted to know where the lamb was for the offering. God gave a very important answer to Abraham.

“God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering” (Gen. 22:8)

Abraham was willing to sacrifice Isaac, his beloved son, to God, trusting God even though he did not understand His purposes. At the last moment, a ram was substituted for Isaac. This incident with Abraham, Isaac, and God provides a beautiful picture throughout many centuries that God would provide His own Son as the promised sacrifice for sin. Jesus was the lamb that takes away the sin of the world.

The Passover Lamb

One of the most important events that showed the picture of the lamb as a sacrifice for sin took place in Egypt when Moses was persuading Pharaoh to release God's people. Over and over again, God had brought plagues on Egypt to persuade Pharaoh to let His people go; but Pharaoh continually hardened his heart against God. Nine times God had brought devastation to the land, but Pharaoh was firm in his refusal.

The blood of the lamb was placed on the doorpost

In Exodus 12:21–23, we read that God was to save His people from being subjected to the last plague. The tenth and last plague would bring death of the firstborn to every household in Egypt. God told the Israelites that to save their children from death, they were to kill a lamb, collect the blood of the lamb in a basin, and use hyssop to spread the blood over the top and down the sides of the doors to their homes. They were to stay inside their homes all night. During the night, God would “pass over” the homes with the blood of the lamb on the doors, and no harm would come to those homes.

The blood of the lamb saved the Israelite homes from death

That night the Lord passed through all of Egypt, and the firstborn from each home that did not have the blood of a lamb over its doorpost was dead by the morning. This was the beginning of the Passover celebration that is commemorated each year.

The Book of Leviticus

God gave laws and rules of conduct on how to use the lamb as a sacrifice for sin. Leviticus 1:10–11 shows a brief portion of the law in regard to the sin offering.

- The lamb must be a perfect male (without blemish).
- The blood from the lamb must be sprinkled on the altar.

God gave hundreds of different laws to the people, showing them specifically how to make sacrifices for different types of sin. We must remember, however, that these sacrifices were only symbols of the coming Savior who would sacrifice Himself for us by shedding His own blood. Their sacrifice did not in itself take away their sin, for only Jesus can wash away our sin. Now, because the Lamb of God shed His own blood, we no longer need to sacrifice lambs.

L E S S O N T W O

THE PROPHETIC CHRIST



The word *prophecy* in the Bible has two different meanings. One meaning refers to the proclaiming of the Word of God. A pastor or evangelist who teaches the Word of God and proclaims the need to repent from sin and live life for God is a prophet of God, for he is proclaiming and revealing the Word of God to others. The second meaning refers to the ability to foretell the future by inspiration from God. In this lesson, we will be discussing this second meaning.

There were literally hundreds of prophecies made about the life of Christ in the Old Testament that were fulfilled in the New Testament. Prophecies were made about the lineage or ancestry of Christ, about His birth, and particularly about His betrayal and death on the cross. Detail after detail was foretold about the life of Christ centuries before He walked on the earth.

The Old and New Testaments tell of the promise of God to all people. The Old Testament is a preparation for the coming of Jesus into the world. It prophesies (or foretells) what Christ would do on the earth. The New Testament begins with the birth of Christ and tells of the fulfillment of everything that was told (or prophesied) about Jesus in the Old Testament.

JESUS CHRIST IN PROPHECY

The prophecies of Christ generally fall into one of two categories: prophecies that describe a kingly Messiah and prophecies that show a suffering Savior. Most scholars of the Old Testament were awaiting the king who would rescue them from all their trials and earthly problems. So when Christ came to Earth and suffered on the cross, they did not recognize him as that same king. If they had focused on the entire Scriptures, they would have seen that Jesus, the suffering Savior, was also the kingly Messiah.

- Compare the Old Testament verse to the New Testament verse and explain what prophecy was fulfilled through Christ. Beside each prophecy, write a “K” if the prophecy describes Jesus as King or “S” if the prophecy describes the suffering Savior.

O. T. Verse	N. T. Verse	Prophecy Fulfilled	K/S
Psalms 22:18	Mark 15:24	Lots were cast for His garments	S
Psalms 34:20	John 19:33–36	None of His bones were broken.	S
Psalms 41:9	Mark 14:10	He was betrayed by a close friend.	S
Psalms 68:18	Luke 24:51	He went up to heaven.	S
Psalms 69:21	John 19:29	He was given vinegar to drink.	S
Psalms 110:1	Hebrews 10:12	He sits at the right hand of God.	K
Psalms 110:4	Hebrews 6:20	He is a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.	K
Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18–23	He was born of a virgin.	S
Isaiah 9:1–2	Matthew 4:12–16	He was a light shining out of darkness.	S
Isaiah 50:6	Matthew 27:30	He was spit upon and beaten.	S
Isaiah 61:1	Matthew 3:16	The Spirit of God was upon Him.	S
Jeremiah 31:15	Matthew 2:16–18	Baby boys were killed, causing great weeping.	S
Hosea 11:1	Matthew 2:14–15	He was taken into Egypt to escape death.	S
Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1 Luke 2:4–6	He was born in Bethlehem.	S
Zechariah 9:9	John 12:12–15	He rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.	S/K
Zechariah 11:12–13	Matthew 26:15	He was betrayed for 30 pieces of silver.	S
Malachi 3:1	Matthew 11:7–10	John the Baptist prepared the way for Him.	S

ISAIAH 53

Isaiah 53 was written completely with Jesus in mind. It would be impossible, except for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, for the prophet Isaiah to have understood the sufferings of Jesus so completely and as accurately. The Lord knew what Jesus was to suffer and explained what would happen centuries before Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

Each verse has several descriptions of some aspect of what Christ did for us. For each verse, find one phrase and explain how it explicitly refers to Christ or our relationship to Christ.

Verse	Phrase	How It Refers to Christ
1	Answers will vary.	Answers will vary.
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		

THE LAMB OF GOD

- When John the Baptist first saw Jesus, he referred to Him in a very interesting way. How did John the Baptist acknowledge Jesus in John 1:29? _____

He acknowledged Jesus as the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world.

Now look at the following verses and explain what they have to say about Jesus as the Passover Lamb and sacrifice for our sins.

- 1 Corinthians 5:7— _____
Christ our passover was sacrificed for us to “purge out” our sins.

- 1 Peter: 1:19— _____
The precious blood of Christ was like a lamb without blemish or spot.

- Revelation 5:12— _____
The Lamb was slain to receive power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing.

Remember, the sacrificing and shedding of the blood of the lamb in the Old Testament did not take away the sins of the people. When they sacrificed a lamb, they were admitting to God that they could not rid themselves of their own sin but needed a Savior. They were trusting God to send Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, to sacrifice Himself and shed His own blood for them.

MY RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST

- I understand that the details of the life of Christ are given throughout the Old Testament. This is important to me because . . .

Answers will vary.

At the core of this lesson is recognizing the integrity of God. This quality is at the root of character strength. Integrity means honesty and truthfulness in every area of our lives. It means we can be trusted; it means that our words mean something; it means that we value

who we are. God is truth. His promises have always been kept. We can always trust Him to mean what He says. He wants this part of His character to be an integral part of our lives.

- What promises or commitments do I have in my life right now?

Answers will vary.

- Why is it important to keep these promises or commitments?

Answers will vary.

TEACHER'S LESSON NOTES

DEFINITIONS:

- Testament: A promise of God
- Prophecy:
 - The proclaiming of the Word of God (preaching)
 - The ability to foretell the future by inspiration from God
- Inspiration: God guiding and directing people to write down His message
- The Old Testament continually says, “Christ will come.”
- The New Testament says, “Christ Christ has come.”

The Word of God Is the Story of Jesus Christ

THE PROMISE TO Adam AND Eve

- A response of love
- God made coats of skins (Gen. 3:21)

ABRAHAM IS WILLING TO Sacrifice
HIS Only Son

- A picture of God's sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus
- "God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering" (Gen. 22:8)

THE PASSOVER LAMB

- The blood of the lamb was placed on the doorpost
- The blood of the lamb saved the Israelite homes from death

THE BOOK OF Leviticus

- The lamb must be a perfect male
- The blood from the lamb must be sprinkled on the altar

THE BIRTH AND CHILDHOOD OF CHRIST

TARGET TRUTHS

- The events of Jesus' birth were completely controlled by God, and they fulfilled prophecy.
- God showed in many ways and through many people that this was the child promised to bring redemption to the world.
- God protected Jesus even as a child so He could complete His earthly work in the correct way and at the correct time.

TEACHING STRATEGY_____

THE FIRST PROCLAMATIONS

After 400 years of silence, God began to speak. He sent the angel Gabriel to proclaim the coming of the Christ. Angels have been used throughout Scripture (history) to protect and safeguard the children of God. You might share the following Scriptures to help answer any questions concerning the work of angels.

- Psalm 91:11—"For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways."
- Hebrews 1:14—"Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?"

MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS

Explain to your class that Mary was probably not many years older than they are. Many scholars think that Mary was probably no more than 16 years of age when she became the mother of Jesus. The humility and faith of this young woman should serve as an example to all teenagers.

Explain also that Mary was not a perfect or sinless person. She was not chosen because of her own righteousness. She was in a unique situation because she also needed a Savior to die for her sins. The Savior that died for her was her own son—the Son of God. Mary had great honor in becoming the mother of Jesus, but we must realize that honor does not mean we should glorify or deify her. Mary cannot forgive our sins.

As the points concerning her character are brought up by your students and discussed, make certain each area is well understood—particularly her relationship with God and her purity of life. This is important for three reasons: first, it was a fulfillment of Scripture as was shown in our last lesson; second, the Son of

God was not to be thought the son of an earthly father, so her sexual purity must be beyond dispute; and finally, God is showing the great value He places on faith and submission.

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

As the first section is discussed, have students note that the Bible never says that Jesus was born in a stable. Many assume this because of the manger that was used to feed animals. Many historians believe that Jesus may have been born in a cave on the side of a hill, for many animals were kept in caves during those days. We cannot be sure exactly where the birth took place.

Make certain your students also recognize that swaddling clothes not only refers to birth wrappings but also death wrappings. These were long, narrow strips that were used to wrap around a person's body.

THE WISE MEN AND THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

Have students complete this section individually or in pairs and then discuss the sequence of events together. As the events are discussed, make certain that the following points are brought out.

These events took place not quite two years after Jesus was born. We know this because Herod had all children under two years of age killed so he could be certain that the child who was to be a king would be killed also. When the wise men came, Jesus was not a baby but a small child.

When Herod called the priests and other scribes together to explain about the child the wise men were looking for, they were fully aware of the Scriptures. See verses 5 and 6 of Matthew 2.

Herod was very deceptive to the wise men regarding his true motives. God protected Jesus by warning the wise men in a dream not to return to Herod.

The wise men brought frankincense and myrrh as gifts. These oils are the same ones that were used during burial. God continually points to the impending death of Jesus.

The murder of children under two years of age was a fulfillment of prophecy.

Angels were used two more times: to tell Joseph to take Mary and Jesus and flee into Egypt, and later to tell Joseph that Herod was dead and that the family could return to Israel.

Joseph was told by God in a dream to live in Nazareth, fulfilling another prophecy.

MY RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST_____

Discuss the first section together and then read the second part with your class. Help them to understand that protection does not always mean freedom from problems but protection and help through the problems.

ADDITIONAL TEACHING SUGGESTIONS ---

NEWS STORY

Use the following lesson either this week or next week to give students a glimpse of what Jesus was like as He grew up. He was both knowledgeable and understanding of His mission on the earth while still being submissive and obedient to His parents.

Read and discuss the passage in Luke 2:41–52 concerning the Passover in Jerusalem when Jesus was 12 years old. Discuss the experience focusing on the following ideas.

- Who was involved in the discussions at the temple when Jesus was talking to the learned men?
- What topics were being discussed?
- How did Jesus see the situation as it unfolded?
- How did Mary and Joseph see the situation?
- What was the response of Mary and Joseph?
- After Jesus left, what did the people say about Him?

Have your students pretend that they are covering the Passover celebration for a local newspaper. They are looking for an interesting story when they hear about the young man in the temple astounding the learned men. They rush to the temple to cover the story. They then write a news article explaining who, what, when and why. The first sentence in particular should be used to capture the attention of the reader of the article

TEACHER'S LESSON ---

MATTHEW

- The genealogy of Christ
- Gabriel appears to Joseph
- The visitation of the wise men
- The flight into Egypt

JOHN

- “The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.” The Word, Jesus, is the Creator of all things.

MARK

- Does not refer to the birth of Christ

LUKE

- Gabriel visits Zacharias and Mary
- Details of the birth of Christ
- The visitation of the shepherds
- Jesus is presented to the Lord in Jerusalem
- Simeon and Anna recognize the Savior

L E S S O N T H R E E

THE BIRTH AND CHILDHOOD OF CHRIST



For centuries, God had used His Word and His creation to explain that the kingly Messiah and the suffering Savior would be born. Prophets and teachers had proclaimed the coming of the Messiah. Priests had made sacrifices, looking forward to the time when an animal sacrifice would no longer be necessary to symbolize atonement for sin. And now, for approximately 400 years, God had been silent. It was a time of quiet waiting. Then, suddenly, out of eternity, God's voice proclaimed the time had come.

- Galatians 4:4 explains it this way: “ _____
But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son,
made of a woman, made under the law
 _____.”

THE FIRST PROCLAMATIONS

Very few people have ever seen angels. God says that we may have seen an angel and not even have been aware of who it was we were meeting. Angels are sent by God to minister to us and protect us in ways that we are usually not even aware of.

But now, God sent angels to proclaim or announce the greatest event in history. The Son of God was to be born in order to be the final sacrifice for the sin of man. The fulfillment of the promise given to Adam and Eve and to all those who believed throughout the centuries was to come to pass.

- Find the following verses. Tell whom the angel visited, the purpose of the visit, and the response.

Verses	Who Was Visited?	The Purpose	The Response
Luke 1:5–22	Zacharias	to say that his wife would have a child (John the Baptist)	He did not believe it.
Matthew 1:18–25	Joseph (while asleep)	to say that the child Mary would have would be the Son of God	He obeyed the angel and married Mary.
Luke 1:26–38	Mary	to tell her that her child would be the Son of God	She showed great joy.
Luke 2:8–17	Shepherds	to announce Christ's birth and where He could be found	They were amazed and joyful and went to find Christ.

MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS

Consider what it would be like to be a teenage young woman who is preparing to marry. You have been raised in very humble surroundings and have been very sheltered. You know from the Scriptures that someday, the Messiah will come to the earth.

How did Mary's life show that she was willing to serve God? Reread the passage regarding Mary's visitation by the angel and then read her response in Luke 1:26–56.

- As you read, think about the character of Mary and list those qualities that showed her relationship with God, and how she fulfilled prophecy.
- A virgin**
 - Very poor; from Nazareth**
 - Totally submissive to God**

4. Rejoiced in God
5. Life brought glory to God

THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Read the details of the birth of Jesus carefully in Luke 2:1–39.

Joseph loved his wife, Mary, and he understood the great responsibility he had undertaken. He knew that the child she was carrying was the Christ. Joseph took good care of her and protected her. When it was time for the birth of the child, they had to make a long trip to Bethlehem.

- Why was such a trip necessary at this time? _____
Joseph had to pay taxes there because he was a descendant of King David.
- While they were in Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to Jesus. Where did the birth take place? _____
by a manger where animals were kept
- Why was this necessary? _____
There was no room for them in the inn.
- How did she take care of the baby under such circumstances? _____
Mary wrapped Jesus in swaddling clothes and used the manger as a bed.

THE SHEPHERDS

- During the night, the angels announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds, and they came to the stable to worship Him. What does God's choice of shepherds tell you about how He sees people? _____
Jesus came to help the common people of the world.

- How did Mary respond to what was happening? _____
She watched what took place and pondered it, keeping it between herself and God.

A TRIP TO JERUSALEM

- After a period of time, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Jerusalem. What was the purpose of this? _____
to present Jesus to the Lord at the temple

SIMEON AND ANNA

- While they were in Jerusalem, two people recognized Jesus as the Savior. Who first responded to Jesus in this way? **Simeon**
- What had God promised him? _____
that he would not die until he had seen the Savior
- How did he recognize the Son of God? _____
The Holy Spirit revealed it to him.
- Who was Anna? _____
Anna was a prophetess who lived at the temple, fasting and praying.
- What did she do when she saw Jesus? _____
She gave thanks to the Lord for the redemption of Israel.

THE WISE MEN AND THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

After presenting Jesus to the Lord in Jerusalem, Mary and Joseph returned to Bethlehem. Some events began to take place that could have taken the life of Jesus, but God protected the child. It was not meant that Jesus would die as a child in secret—He was to live His life openly and share many principles before dying on the cross in view of everyone.

- To understand these events, read each section of Scripture given below and explain what takes place. All the verses are from Matthew chapter 2.

Verses	Who Was Involved?	What Took Place?
1–2	Wise men from the East	They came to worship the King of the Jews.
3–6	Herod and the chief priests	They heard of these things and learned that Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
7–8	Herod and the wise men	The wise men were to find Jesus and report back to Herod.
9–11	The wise men	They followed the star, found Jesus, and worshipped Him.
12	The wise men	God warned them in a dream to go home a different way.
13–15	Joseph	An angel told him to take Jesus to Egypt to escape Herod.
16–18	Herod	He had all children in Bethlehem that were less than two years old killed.
19–23	Joseph, Mary, and Jesus	An angel told them to return to Palestine to live in Nazareth.

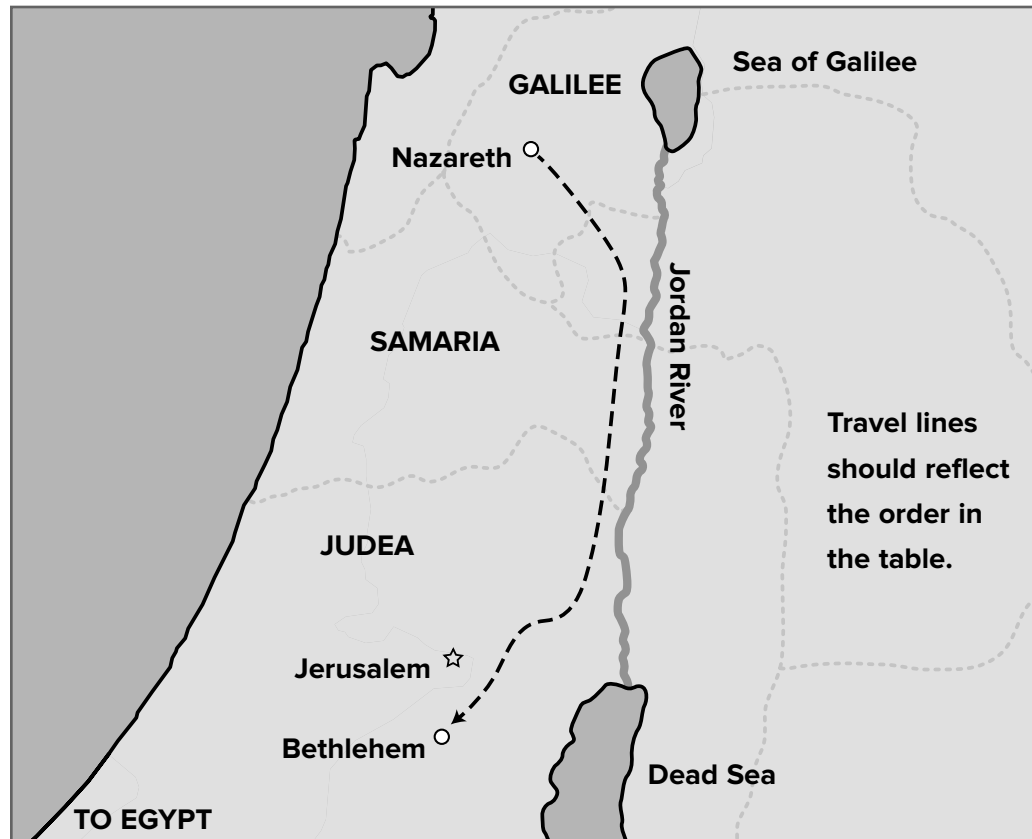
JOURNEYS OF JESUS IN HIS EARLY LIFE

- As another review of the events we have discussed, use the map in this lesson to trace the journeys of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. Draw a line from place to place. Begin to learn the places that were important in the life of Jesus.

Verses	Where He Traveled/Lived	Purpose
Matthew 2:1	Bethlehem	was born there
Luke 2:22–38	Jerusalem	was presented in the temple
Matthew 2:13–14	Egypt	went to escape Herod
Matthew 2:19–23	Nazareth	grew up there
Luke 2:42–46	Jerusalem	asked questions in the temple at age twelve
Luke 2:51–52	Nazareth	lived there until He was grown

JESUS' JOURNEYS AS A CHILD

- Label the following using a map in your Bible if necessary:
 - Sea of Galilee
 - Dead Sea
 - Jordan River
 - Galilee
 - Samaria
 - Judea
 - Label the cities given above and trace the path showing Jesus' early life.



MY RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST

- Review the story of the first few years of Jesus' life and explain in what ways God protected Jesus. _____

Answers will vary. _____

God had a great plan for Jesus. Jesus' life had a very definite purpose. It is important to understand that while the purpose of our lives can never be compared to the holy and awesome purpose of Jesus' death on the cross, our lives do have a unique purpose in God's plan. He is vitally concerned about our welfare and will protect us so that we can also fulfill our purpose. We must realize that just as Jesus and his family had problems and tribulations that even made them have to flee into Egypt for a while, still God was in control and protected them from harm. In our lives, we also will face problems, but God will be there to protect us through the problems.

- Think about your own life. Describe a time when you believe God was working to protect you in some way. _____

Answers will vary. _____

TEACHER'S LESSON NOTES

MATTHEW

- The **genealogy** of **Christ**
- **Gabriel** appears to **Joseph**
- The **visitation** of the **wise men**
- The **flight** into **Egypt**

MARK

Does not refer to the birth of Christ

LUKE

- **Gabriel** visits **Zacharias** and **Mary**
- **Details** about the **birth** of **Christ**
- The **visitation** of the **shepherds**
- Jesus is **presented** to **the Lord** in Jerusalem
- **Simeon** and **Anna** recognize the **Savior**

JOHN

"The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us." The Word, Jesus, is the Creator of all things.