

PARENTS INFORMATION

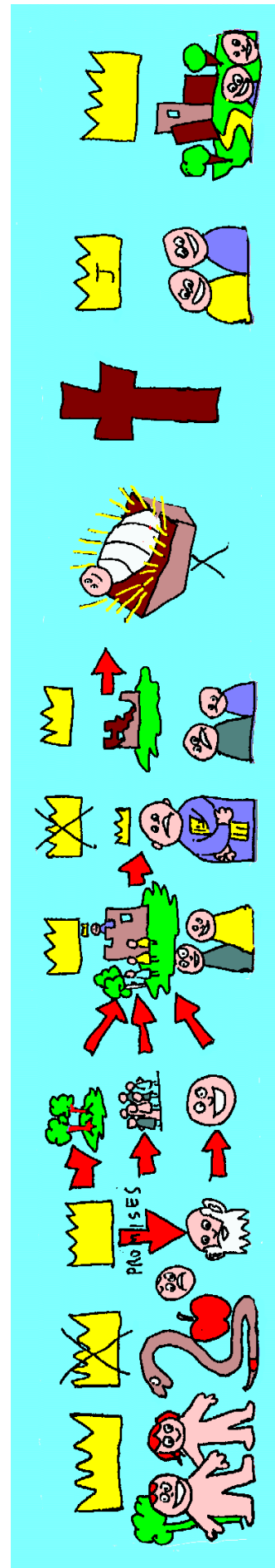
Welcome to The King, The Snake and The Promise – working through key Bible stories in 10 easy sessions

For most of us, the fact that the Bible has a storyline that spans from Genesis to Revelation wasn't something we picked up in Sunday School! In fact, the average Christian will be hard pressed to remember if Abraham comes before David, or Noah and his famous Ark came before or after Samson and Solomon. The bits and pieces of bible stories are all there - but how do they fit together? This is what our sessions aim to cover!

Each session has a passage of the Bible you can read together with your child and then some ideas of activities and thoughts you can chat about.

The banner which goes alongside this set of teaching is KEY as it enables the children to tell the story pictorially and gives them a reminder of the previous stories. You can either do this on material (and cut the pieces out of felt) or you could print the pictures and cut them out and stick them onto a long piece of wallpaper, or in a book, or get your child to draw them – it's up to you!

Original material produced by Phil and Louise Campbell including the banner pictures. Adaptations have been made to make it age specific. Additional activities have been provided by SundaySchoolResources.co.uk All permissions have been sought and granted.



LESSON 7

The Coming of the King

Aim

In this lesson, we bring to a focus God's promises in the Old Testament. God's promise of blessing for the whole world is fulfilled through Jesus. This week we look at the account of his birth.

Resources

- a dictionary of names to check the meanings of the names of the people in your family
- A toy baby
- Fabric scraps for “swaddling clothes”.

Review

Go over the banner with your child. Try to ensure that the promises to Abraham and the blessing of David are well covered, as they are key ideas for today's session.

Story Time

Last week we finished up with a bit of a problem, didn't we? Because we were wondering if God had forgotten all about his promises. Remember the promises? He promised Abraham that his children would become a great big nation with a country of their own. And that through them, the whole world would be fixed up. Because the problem was, everything had been ruined by God's people not listening and not doing what God asked them to do. People thought they could run things better than God. And everything was spoiled.

Adam and Eve messed things up in the garden. Then Solomon and the other kings after him messed things up in the land of Israel. And God was so angry he sent them away. At the end of last weeks' lesson, everyone was stuck in the land of Babylon. They spent a long time in Babylon - seventy years. And then God told them they could come back to their own special land.

But some of them couldn't be bothered. They decided they didn't want to be God's people any more. They liked it in Babylon where the people worshipped statues. So they stayed.

The ones that did go back were pretty sad when they got there. Because everything had been ruined. Years went by, and the people of Israel were a pretty sad bunch. They didn't even have a proper King. But God had promised David that Israel would have a good King like him forever. But now they had no king at all! The people thought God had forgotten all about them. No wonder they were so unhappy!

Well, that brings us to this week's story. Because God had a plan all along. Right back at the start he told Abraham that he was going to send someone special. Someone who would fix up the problem of sin. And then he told David that one day he'd send a King who would rule over the whole world for ever.

And GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES. God's plan was that he was going to send his very own SON. And his son was going to fix the problem. And his son was going to be King forever. So here's how it happened.

God sent an Angel to the town of Nazareth to speak to a girl called Mary. Mary was engaged to a man called Joseph, but they weren't married yet. The angel told Mary she was going to have a very special baby - a baby called Jesus.

Close your eyes and listen to what the angel said. Imagine you're Mary. You're probably feeling a bit scared, cause you don't often meet angels. In fact, you've never met one ever before.

Here's what he says. He says, "Mary, you're going to have a baby son. Give him the name Jesus. He's going to be GREAT, and will be called the SON OF THE MOST HIGH GOD. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will rule over Abraham's family forever; his Kingdom will never end."

How do you think Mary felt? She was excited. And a bit scared.

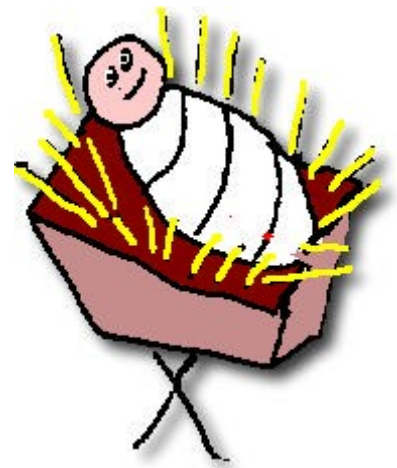
Well, the time finally came for her to have the baby. And everything happened in a very strange way. Mary and Joseph were visiting a little town called Bethlehem, which was called THE TOWN OF DAVID, and there was nowhere for them to stay. All the motels were full. And in the end they had to sleep in a cow shed. And that night in the smelly old cow shed, Mary had her baby. It was a baby boy, just like the angel said. And they gave him the name Jesus. Jesus is an interesting name. Because it has a meaning. [ASK children if any of them know the MEANINGS of their names. Be prepared to tell them the meaning of your own name. If possible, look up the meanings of the names of the children in your class in a dictionary of names beforehand so you can tell them the meanings of their names if they don't already know!]

The name JESUS means GOD SAVES US. And that's exactly what God sent his Son to do. And instead of being born in a palace, he was born in a shed. There were some shepherds out in the fields looking after their sheep, and suddenly the sky lit up around them. And there was an angel. I don't know if it was the same one who spoke to Mary, but he had a message for the shepherds. They were so frightened they fell over. Maybe some of them tried to hide behind the sheep. But the angel told them not to be frightened, because he had some good news. He said "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for ALL THE PEOPLE. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you. He is God's special King!"

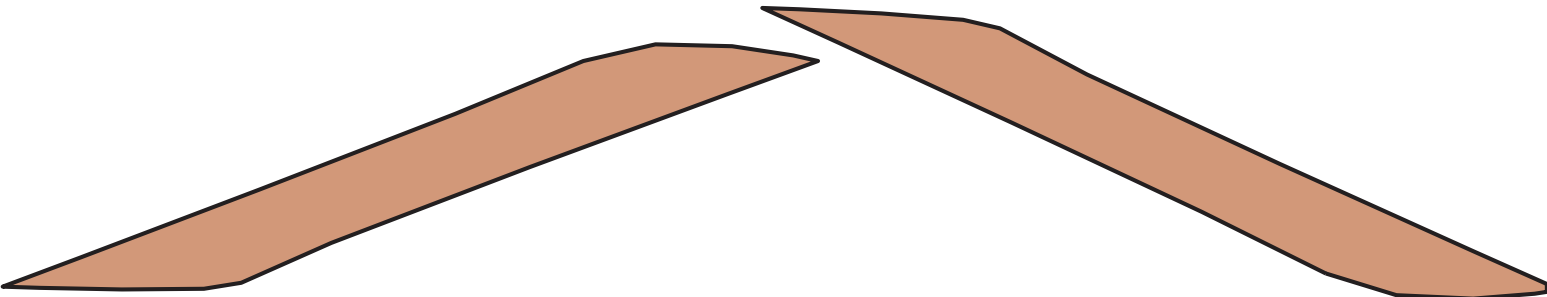
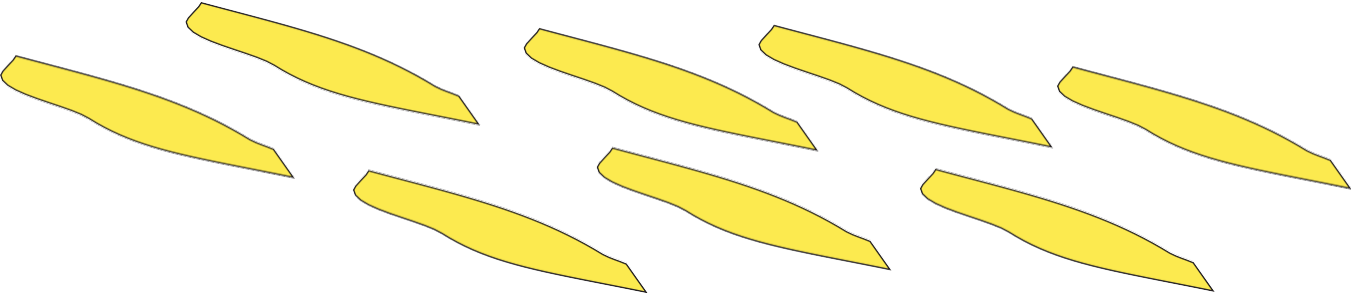
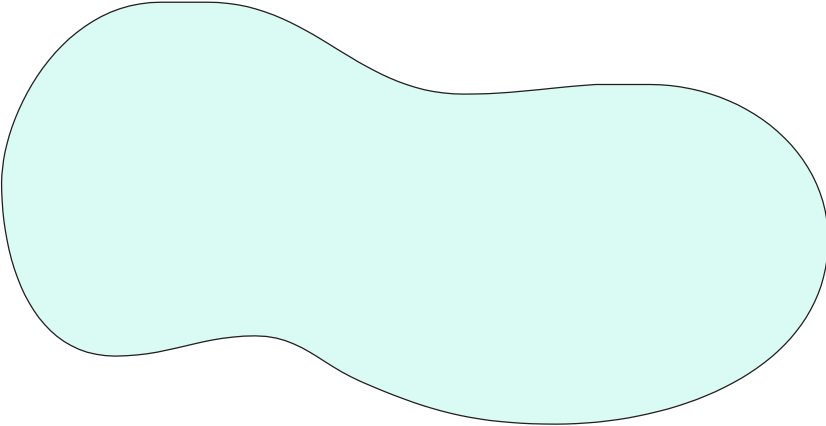
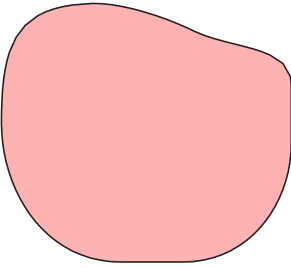
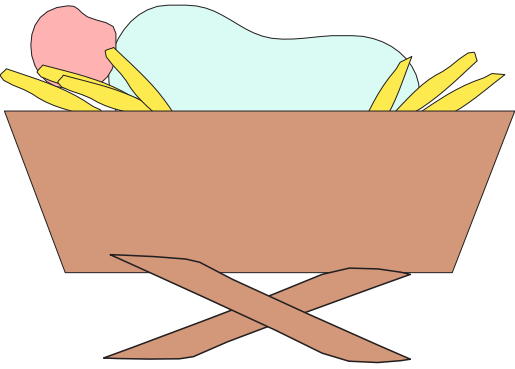
That's an important message, isn't it? He said GOD IS GOING TO BLESS THE WORLD. That's why he sent his son. JESUS HAS COME TO BE KING. God's kept the promise he made to Abraham, all those years ago. The shepherds raced into Bethlehem as fast as they could, and they found the cow shed, and they saw the baby Jesus, and straight away went out to tell everyone about the new king. And they were so excited, that they praised God all the way!

Banner

Now that we're getting near the end of the banner, check your spacing for the next three weeks. We want to finish near the end of the fabric, so make sure you don't cram things too much!



Birth of Jesus Assembly





STAINED GLASS CRAFT

Make a beautiful stained glass nativity scene which can be displayed at Christmas or all year round.

You will need:

- Nativity scene (on the next page)
- Black card/paper
- Large paper plate (or large circle of card)
- Tissue paper or coloured cellophane
- String to hang
- Glue

To do:

- Cut the centre out of your paper plate/circle to make a ring
- Copy/trace the nativity scene onto black card/paper
- Make a colourful background by sticking coloured tissue or cellophane in strips across the back of your card/plate (from side to side so they show in the middle)
- On the front of your paper plate glue the nativity scene onto the tissue paper/cellophane (put the glue on the nativity rather than attempting to glue the tissue paper)
- Make a small hole in the top and thread a piece of string through to hang it
- Hang it in a window or somewhere light to see the light shine through

