

This weeks **MEMORY VERSE!**

To learn it well, **READ** it, or **WRITE** it **EACH DAY** after your lesson! Then say it to someone you know!

Matthew 1:21

She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

What was the baby's name going to be? _____

Why did Jesus come? _____



Fill in the blanks.

God sent an _____ to speak to a girl named Mary in Nazareth.

An angel of the Lord spoke to _____ in a dream.

Emmanuel was another name given to Jesus. It means _____ with _____.



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Name _____

God the Father Prepares

Genesis 3:15; 12:1-3; 2 Samuel 7:8-16; Isaiah 7:14;
Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25



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Lesson Link

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All through the Old Testament the people who believed God’s Word were looking ahead to the time when Jesus would come. Many hoped He would come in their lifetime, but God had planned a special time and place for the coming of His Son. In fact, He had been planning for the coming of His Son before the beginning of time.

In the very beginning of the Bible God made the first promise about the coming of the Savior. Adam and Eve had sinned, and they could not walk and talk with God anymore. As part of their punishment Adam and Eve had to leave the beautiful garden.

Now they both knew that God was holy—without sin—and they were sinful. But what was much worse, they had no way to come to God now, for their sin had separated them from God.

God promised Adam and Eve that He would send a Savior who will someday destroy Satan and save you from his power.

Many chose one man, Abraham, and said to him, “Abraham, you are to be the father of a special group of people. They are to be My people. Through you and My people the Savior will come, and He will bring blessing to the whole world.” This happened 2000 years before Jesus came. God was preparing a nation of people. The nation is called Israel. The people are often called Jews. Jesus was born into the Jewish nation.

About seven hundred years before Jesus was born, God told His prophet Isaiah about His mother.

In the little town of Nazareth there lived a girl whose name was Mary. Mary was one of God’s special people from the nation of Israel. Mary was not yet married, but she was engaged to a carpenter whose name was Joseph.

One day when Mary was alone, an angel appeared in the room with her. It was the angel Gabriel, one of God’s chief angels. He had been sent from heaven with a message from God for her. The angel said, “The Lord is with you. You are to be blessed more than any other woman.”

When Mary saw the angel, she was upset and very afraid. Then Gabriel said to her, “Don’t be afraid, Mary. God is going to send His Son into the world as a baby, and He has chosen you out of all the women in the world to be His mother. You are to name the baby Jesus, and He will be king over Israel forever.”

Mary was certainly confused. She said to the angel, “But I am not married yet, so how can I be the mother of this wonderful child?”

Gabriel said to her, “God’s power will come upon you so that the baby born will be the Son of God. He will not have a human father as every other baby has, for God is His Father.”

Although Mary didn’t understand all that was happening, she knew it would not be easy for her or Joseph. But she trusted and obeyed God. Mary said, “Let it be according to your word. Then the angel Gabriel left her.

Joseph, the man Mary was to marry, was a carpenter. He was a good man and a Jew. He loved Mary and was looking forward to the day when they would be married. He, too, was looking forward to the coming of the Savior.

Joseph had not seen the angel Gabriel nor heard his message to Mary. When he learned that Mary was to be a mother, he was very upset! It was against Jewish law and a shameful thing for a woman to be pregnant and not married in those days. Sometimes she had to leave her home and family, and sometimes she was even put to death. Joseph did not want that to happen to Mary, so he decided to break off their engagement quietly.

One night God sent an angel to help Joseph understand what was happening. After Joseph had gone to sleep, the angel appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, don’t be afraid to marry Mary, for the baby that will be born is the Son of God. God is His Father, but He wants you to take care of Mary and the baby.”

Then the angel continued by giving Joseph a command from God. He was to name the baby Jesus. The name Jesus means Savior. Then the angel told Joseph what Jesus was coming to the earth to do. Jesus was going to save His people from being punished for their sin. Sin is anything that we do, think, or say that goes against God’s Word.

Joseph did just what the angel told him. Like Mary, he trusted and obeyed God. He and Mary were married, and he brought her to his house to live. After Jesus was born, Joseph took care of Him and His mother, Mary. Jesus grew up in Joseph’s home, and many people thought He was the son of Joseph. But the Bible is very careful to tell us that Jesus’ real Father was God. God chose Joseph to take care of Jesus as He was growing up.