

Gabriel's Visit

Key Verse:

"We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know Him who is true."

1 John 5:20a

Extra: Why did Jesus come to earth as a baby?

Level 3 lesson 41

Read Luke 1:26-33 and John 1:1-14

Every day, we see people delivering things: posties deliver mail, couriers deliver parcels and packages, and others who deliver the newspapers....

Well, the angels in Heaven are like God's delivery people - they deliver messages to people from God. All through the Bible we see times when God sent angels to tell people things that He wanted them to know.

Mary was a young Hebrew teenage girl; she was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph. However, one day she had a surprise visit from a Heavenly messenger - the Angel Gabriel. Wow, was she surprised to see him! Gabriel had come from being with God in all His glory, and he was shining like a dazzling bolt of lightning!

Gabriel spoke gently to Mary so that she wouldn't be frightened, and told her something amazing: even though she wasn't married yet, Mary was to have a baby!

This baby wasn't going to be just any baby - He was going to be a miracle baby, conceived NOT by a human father (Joseph), but by God the Holy Spirit.

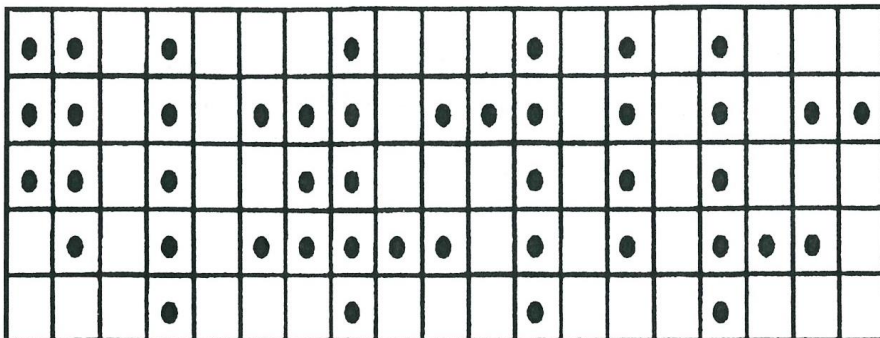
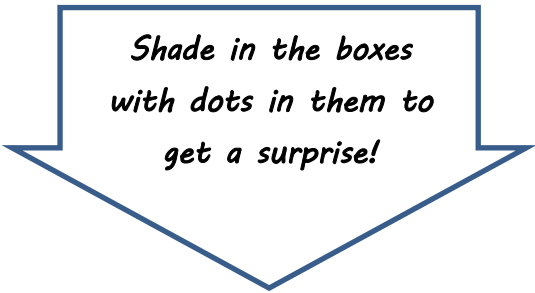


The Angel Appeared to Mary

All babies are wonderful gifts from God, but this baby was the most special baby of all because He was the Son of God! One day He will rule over God's people, just as King David did many years before, but His kingdom will last forever!

Often, when Mums and Dads try to decide what to name their baby, they look in books of baby names, think of relatives to name the baby after or ask others which name would sound best. But Mary didn't have to worry about all that! Gabriel gave her a clear instruction what to name the little baby boy who was to be born. She was to call Him "Jesus," which means, "God saves!" This baby was going to be the One who would save people from their sin.

Sadly, many people today celebrate Christmas without ever realising what it is all about. They don't even know that it's to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ - the One who came to be the Saviour of mankind!



1. Why was Mary's baby going to be different from every other baby?

2. What does Mary's baby's name mean?

Shepherd's Surprise!

Key Verse:

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the Heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Ephesians 1:3

Read Luke 2:8-20 and Ephesians 1:3-6

Everybody loves parties, don't they? We have parties to celebrate birthdays and holidays and weddings, and sometimes just because all the family are together and we want to have a good time! When there is something to celebrate people love to be joyful and sing, and do all kinds of things to show their happiness.

The message of Jesus coming to earth has been called 'GOOD NEWS.' What is it about the Christmas story that gives people a reason to be full of happiness and joy?

On the night that the baby Jesus was born, some shepherds were watching over their sheep when suddenly, an angel appeared near them! Like the angel Gabriel who visited Mary months before, this angel was shining with the incredible light of God's glory! "Don't be afraid!" He said. "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today, in the town of David, a Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord!"

When he finished speaking, a whole crowd of angels appeared in the sky singing praises to God. It was like a heavenly party! The angel told the shepherds they would find the Saviour, "wrapped in strips of cloth, and lying in a manger."



Following the angel's directions, the shepherds went to Bethlehem and found baby Jesus with His mother, just as the angel had said. They were so excited that they went about telling everyone who would listen! Then they went back to their sheep, celebrating the wonderful news by singing praises to God.

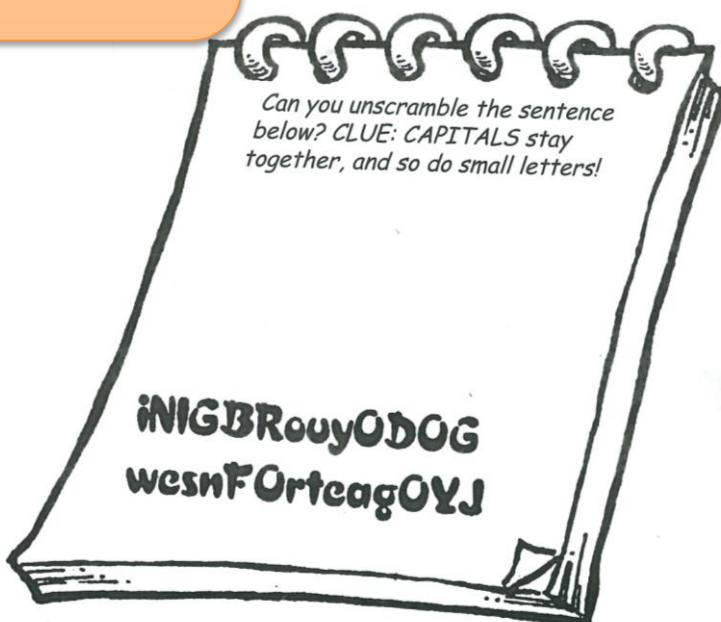
Have you believed in the Lord Jesus to save you? If you have, what better way is there to celebrate the Good News of His coming to save the world, than by telling others, and praising God for sending Him to us!

Here's one of the simplest ways to say what a Christian is: "Someone who celebrates Jesus with all of their life." The Apostle Paul described a Christian as someone who "glories (or rejoices) in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:3).

This Christmas can be a real celebration for you too - much more than just a party with presents, good food and fun with family. If you know Jesus as your own personal Saviour, you can have joy in knowing that God loves you and sent Jesus to save YOU!

Extra: How can you celebrate the Good News of Jesus in your life?

Level 3 lesson 42



1. What was the GOOD NEWS that the shepherds were told?

2. Why did the shepherds tell everyone about what they saw?

Wise Men Worship

Key Verse:

“At the name of Jesus every knee should bow... and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...”

Philippians 2:10-11

Read Matthew 2:1-11 and John 20:26-29

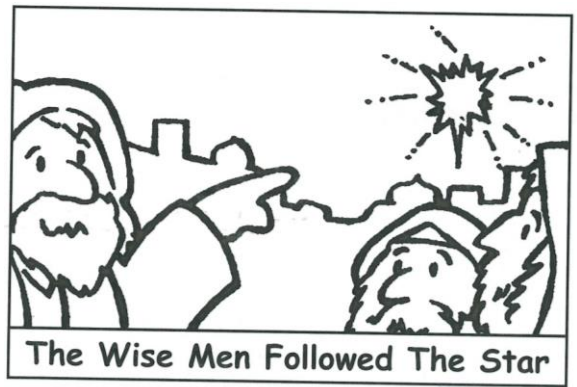
Worshipping Jesus: To some people, Jesus was just another little baby. To others, He was the long awaited King, the ruler of all of God’s people, the Son of God!

Have you ever asked someone what their favourite ice-cream is? Some will say vanilla or strawberry, many will say chocolate; everyone seems to have their own opinion about which flavour is best!

People have always had different ideas about Jesus, too. Some have loved Him, some have hated Him, some have believed He was the greatest teacher that ever lived, and some have thought He was a liar. Even when Jesus was just a baby in a manger, there were lots of different thoughts about Him.

In a distant land, far from where Jesus was born, there lived wise men who studied the stars. One day, they noticed a bright new star in the night sky and somehow they knew it meant that a new ‘King of the Jews’ had been born. Excited at this important discovery, they set off on their camels to follow this special star, and see where it would lead them!

On and on they rode, until they reached the city of Jerusalem, where they probably thought they would find Him. But King Herod didn’t know anything about it! However, the religious leaders told them that when ‘The Messiah’ (the King of the Jews) came, He would be born in Bethlehem.



The Wise Men Followed The Star

So finally, they arrived at the humble home where Mary, Joseph, and the young child Jesus were staying.

And then, an amazing thing happened! When they saw the young child Jesus, these important wise men knelt and worshipped Him! Then they unwrapped their precious gifts and presented them to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh - gifts fit for a king!

Others in Bethlehem didn’t even realise that Jesus was to be born, or that He was their long-awaited Messiah. But these Wise Men realised that Jesus was the true King, so they worshipped Him! However, evil King Herod hated the thought that another King had been born and wanted to kill Jesus. But God helped the wise men and Jesus and His parents escape to safety.

You will still meet people today who don’t care about Jesus, or like King Herod, would rather He had never been born. Sometimes you may meet those who have never even heard of Him. For these people, Christmas is just a holiday; but for many of us, God has opened our eyes to see Jesus for who He really is: our Saviour, the King of Kings! Christmas is a special time to worship Him, and the Bible tells us clearly that in a coming day “every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord” (Philippians 2:10-11)!

Extra: What does Jesus mean to you personally?

Level 3 lesson 43

Help the Wise Men follow the star!



1. Why did the Wise Men bring gifts to baby Jesus?

2. Why should we still worship Jesus today?

Simeon's Hope

Key Verse:
"The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise... He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."
 2 Peter 3:9

Extra: What do you think of Jesus coming back to earth at any time?

Level 3 lesson 44

Read Luke 2:25-35 and Romans 1:1-14

Sometimes, waiting a long time for something makes us lose hope. God always keeps His promises, so we can have a hope that never dies...

How long is a long time to wait? A day? A year? Five years? Would you start to give up hope waiting for something after ten years? Well, imagine having to wait thousands of years for something to happen! God first mentioned a Saviour for the world way back in Adam and Eve's time! (Genesis 3:15)

By the time Jesus was born, God's people had been waiting for Him for a very long time. However, this did not concern Simeon, a man who loved God and worshipped Him every day at the Temple in Jerusalem. He was one of those who eagerly waited for the coming of 'Messiah,' God's promised Saviour. God told him one day that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah with his own eyes!

When Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus to the Temple to dedicate Him to the Lord, God revealed to Simeon that this was the One! Simeon was overjoyed! He took the little baby in his arms and blessed Him. He knew that he was holding the One who would save God's people, the One who had been promised thousands of years before!



Simeon And The Baby Jesus

Simeon prayed, "Thank you Lord! Now I can die in peace; I have seen the One You promised who will be the Saviour of the world!"

Simeon had always trusted God to keep His promises; it didn't matter that it had taken so long. He knew that God wouldn't break His promise! Guess what? We are now in a similar place to what Simeon was. Over two thousand years ago, the Lord Jesus returned to Heaven and promised that He would come back! Some people don't believe Jesus' words because it has been such a long time. But like Simeon, those of us who know God always keeps His promises, also know that Jesus will return for sure!

This Christmas, remember that the Lord Jesus was born several thousand years after God promised it would happen - but it DID happen! And the Bible makes it very clear that Jesus could return at any time, just as He has promised! Over two thousand years have already passed, but ARE YOU READY to meet Him?

Starting at the bottom right hand square, keep reading upwards to find out how long Simeon had waited to see the Messiah?

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1. What had kept Simeon hoping so long to see the Messiah?

2. Why is God waiting before He sends Jesus back? (see Key Verse)

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THERE ARE NO LESSONS IN JANUARY. THE NEXT LESSONS WILL BE SENT IN FEBRUARY