

Bible background

Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-21; Luke 2:1-7

Aim of lesson

To teach that Jesus is the Son of God.

Preparation required

You will need dressing up clothes, a baby doll and box for manger. Also colouring materials.

Suggested outline of lesson

1. Ask the children to act out the story as you tell it. For example: 'Once there was a lady called Mary - Who wants to be Mary?' Give the volunteer a shawl round her head or shoulder and have the child sit sewing. 'One day God sent an angel to tell her something important - Who wants to be the angel?'
A piece of cloth as a tunic and a tinsel belt for the volunteer angel. The words spoken by the characters must be short and simple, e.g. 'Mary, you're going to have a baby.' 'But I'm not married yet.' 'This baby will be a special baby, he will be God's son.' (If your class prefer not to act, you could provide simple figures of the characters.)
2. Act out a similar scene where the angel tells Joseph. You may like to include a scene where Joseph and Mary tell each other of the angel's visits if you have older infants. Have Joseph and Mary going to Bethlehem, walking round the class and knocking at inn doors and then being offered the stable. Then wrap the baby and place it in the manger. Explain that swaddling clothes were very long strips of cotton material which were wrapped round the baby after it has been washed with salty water. Babies like to be wrapped firmly, so Jesus wouldn't have minded. Tell the children that although he was wrapped up like any other child, he was a very special child. He was the Son of God, and God commanded all the angels to worship him because he is someone more important than the angels.
3. The class could sing a song, a lullaby to Jesus.
4. Ask the children to colour and fold the activity sheet.

Alternative activities

1. There are lots of opportunities for role play, as suggested in the lesson notes.
2. Make a collage frieze to tell the story.
3. Help each child to make a manger from the drawer of a large matchbox. Fill it with hay or straw (from a pet shop) cut into short lengths or use shredded paper. Make a simple baby shape out of Plasticine and wrap it in strips of cloth or kitchen roll.

Relevance to the children's lives

Talk to the children about God in heaven. God had chosen Mary to be Jesus' mother, and Joseph to be his stepfather as he would need someone on earth to help take care of him. Talk about how pleased God was when Jesus was born and how he loved his son.

Prayer

Ask who wants to say a prayer to thank God for having his Son born here on earth like us when he might have liked to have had his Son in heaven with him.

Verse

'A Saviour has been born.' Luke 2:11.

Song

Dear Baby Jesus (Tune: Jesus Our Brother)

Musical notation for the song 'Dear Baby Jesus' (Tune: Jesus Our Brother). The music is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the first four measures, and the second staff contains the last four measures. Chords are indicated above the notes: E, B7, E, A, B7, E in the first staff; E, A, E, B7, E in the second staff.

- v.1 Dear baby Jesus on the hay
In a donkey's manger lay
We will sing to you today
Dear baby Jesus on the hay.
- v.2 Dear baby Jesus, kind and good
In a stable made of wood
Where the ox and donkey stood
Dear baby Jesus kind and good.

Music: Traditional.

Alternatively you could use 'Jesus Was Born' Sing To The Lord No. 38.