



**Bible Point**

# Jesus is God's Son.

## Bible Verse

“Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners” (1 Timothy 1:15).

## Growing Closer to Jesus

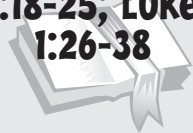
- Children will
- hear how angels told Mary and Joseph about Jesus' birth,
  - deliver messages about Jesus the way the angels did,
  - teach Whiskers a song about Christmas, and
  - thank God for sending Jesus.

## Teacher Enrichment

### Bible Basis

#### ■ Angels appear to Mary and Joseph.

**Matthew  
1:18-25; Luke  
1:26-38**



God sent the angel to speak to Mary at the right time for her—when God wanted her to know how honored she was and what was going to happen to her. The angel also appeared to Joseph at just the right time—when he needed reassurance that he should still marry his beloved because the story Mary told about what the angel said to her really was true. The baby she was carrying would be the long-awaited Savior!

When we hear about angels and see modern depictions of them, we often think of lovely young ladies with wings, dressed in white and glowing. However, there is little biblical justification to think of them in that way. Angels are not physical beings at all, and when they appear in the Bible, they are most often described as looking like men. Cherubim and seraphim are the only similar creatures described in the Bible as having wings, and it's unclear whether they are angels or not.

One thing we do know about angels: God used them in Scripture to announce important events. And the upcoming birth of Jesus, God's Son, certainly qualified as an important event!

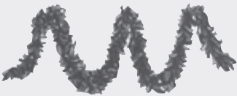





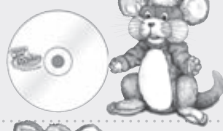

### Prayer

- Read Luke 1:5-20.
- How do these appearances of angels add to your understanding of Jesus' birth?
- Pray: Dear God, help me to clearly present the truth of Jesus' birth to your little ones by...

## Before the Lesson

- Collect the necessary items for the activities you plan to use, referring to the Classroom Supplies and Learning Lab Supplies listed on the chart.
- Make photocopies of the “Today I Learned...” handout (at the end of this lesson) to send home with your children.
- Pray for the children in your class and for God’s direction as you teach the lesson.

## This Lesson at a Glance

	What Children Will Do	Classroom Supplies	Learning Lab Supplies
<b>Welcome Time</b>	<b>Welcome!</b> —Receive name tags, and be greeted by the teacher.	“Shining Star Name Tags” (p. 23), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape	
<b>Let’s Get Started</b>  Direct children to one or more of the optional activities until everyone arrives.	<b>Option 1: Special Delivery</b> —Deliver Christmas messages to classmates.		
	<b>Option 2: Angel Clips</b> —Make clothespin angel clips.	Adhesive magnetic strips, spring-clip clothespins, white facial tissue, cotton balls, glue sticks, fine-tip marker, tape	
	<b>Option 3: Angel Food</b> —Cut out angel-food-cake angels.	Angel food cake, knife, angel-shaped cookie cutters, paper plates, baby wipes	
	<b>Pick-Up Time</b> —Sing a song as they pick up toys and gather for Bible Story Time.	CD player	
<b>Bible Story Time</b>	<b>Setting the Stage</b> —Pass along a special message.	Stop-and-go sign from Lesson 1	
	<b>Bible Song and Prayer Time</b> —Sing a song, bring out the Bible, and pray together.	Bible, CD player	
	<b>Hear and Tell the Bible Story</b> —Hear how angels appeared to Mary and Joseph.	Bible, CD player	
	<b>Do the Bible Story</b> —Play a game, and celebrate the good news that Jesus is God’s Son.		
<b>Closing</b>  	<b>Christmas Message</b> —Help Whiskers open a gift and discover the real meaning of Christmas.	Gift-wrapped box (larger than Whiskers), paper, marker, CD player	
	<b>Birthday Bash</b> —Celebrate Jesus’ birthday by singing to him.	Angel-food-cake angels from Option 3, baby wipes	

\*See the end of this lesson for extra-time ideas and supplies.

## Welcome Time

**SUPPLIES:** “Shining Star Name Tags” (p. 23), scissors, marker, safety pins or tape

- Bend down and make eye contact with children as they arrive.
- Greet each child individually with an enthusiastic smile.
- Thank each child for coming to class today.
- As children arrive, ask them how they put last week’s lesson into practice. Use questions such as “What did you learn about being patient last week?” or “Tell me about a time you waited patiently last week.”
- Say: **Today we’re going to learn that ► Jesus is God’s Son.**
- Hand out the shining star name tags children made during Lesson 1, and help them attach the name tags to their clothing. If some of the name tags were damaged or if children weren’t in class that week, have them make new name tags using the photocopiable handout.
- Direct children to the Let’s Get Started activities you’ve set up.

**teacher tips**

It’s important to say the Bible Point just as it’s written in each activity. Repeating the Bible Point again and again will help children remember it and apply it to their lives.



**BIBLE POINT**

## Let’s Get Started

Set up one or more of the following activities for children to do as they arrive. After you greet each child, invite him or her to choose an activity.

Circulate among the children to offer help as needed and direct children’s conversation toward the point of today’s lesson. Ask questions such as “What’s your favorite surprise?” or “Tell me about a time you had to give someone a message.”

### ■ Option 1: Special Delivery

**SUPPLIES:** none



Choose one child to be the Angel, and wrap the sparkly garland loosely around him or her. Have the rest of the children scatter around the room. Whisper a message in the Angel’s ear, such as “Christmas is coming, so clap your hands!” or ► “Jesus is God’s Son, so shout ‘hooray!’ ” Tell the Angel to gallop around the room and whisper the special message to the others. When everyone has heard the message and followed the instructions, choose a new Angel. Explain that today children will learn about an angel who gave a special message to two people.

After the activity, put the garland away.

### ■ Option 2: Angel Clips

**SUPPLIES:** adhesive magnetic strips, spring-clip clothespins, white facial tissue, cotton balls, glue sticks, fine-tip marker, tape

Before class, attach an adhesive magnetic strip to a spring-clip clothespin for each child. You can purchase adhesive magnetic strips at craft or hobby stores.

Give each child a clothespin with a magnetic strip and a sheet of white facial tissue. Show children how to pinch their tissues in the middle so they look like wings. Help each child tape the pinched tissue to his or her clothespin. Then set out cotton balls, and let children glue them to their clothespins. Encourage them to use a cotton ball to

### ⚠ WARNING!

Option 2 uses magnets. Swallowed magnets can attract each other through opposing intestine walls, causing serious infection or even death. Seek immediate medical attention if magnets are swallowed or inhaled.



**BIBLE POINT**



cover the tape. As they work, have them tell you what they know about angels. Explain that today's Bible story is about a time angels appeared to Mary and Joseph.

When children have finished gluing the cotton balls, help each child use a fine-tip marker to draw a simple face at the top of the clothespin. Tell children they can stick their finished angel clips on their refrigerators to hold papers from church or preschool.



### ■ Option 3: Angel Food

**SUPPLIES:** angel food cake, knife, angel-shaped cookie cutters, paper plates, baby wipes

Before class, prepare or purchase an angel food cake. Cut the cake into thin slices. You'll need one slice for each child in your class.

Help children clean their hands with baby wipes or at a nearby sink both before and after handling food.

Set out several angel-shaped cookie cutters, and give children the slices of angel food cake on paper plates. Have each child cut an angel out of the cake slice. Have children help you cut out angels for the rest of the class. As they work, tell them they'll be learning how angels told Mary and Joseph that ► Jesus is God's Son.

Set the angels aside for a closing activity snack.

When everyone has arrived and you're ready to move on to Bible Story Time, encourage the children to finish what they're doing and get ready to clean up.

### ■ Pick-Up Time

**SUPPLIES:** CD player



Lead children in singing "Come Along With Me" (track 2) with the CD to the tune of "Come and Go With Me." Encourage children to sing along as they help clean up the room.



**Come along with me and pick up all our things,  
Pick up all our things,  
Pick up all our things.  
Come along with me and pick up all our things  
So our room will be clean.**

*(Repeat 2x.)*

**teacher  
tips**

If you don't choose Option 3, cut an angel food cake into thin slices. Then cut each slice with an angel-shaped cookie cutter. Set the treats on a cookie sheet, and cover it with plastic wrap. You'll use the treats during the closing activity.

## Bible Story Time

### ■ Setting the Stage

**SUPPLIES:** stop-and-go sign (from Lesson 1)

Tell children you'll hold up the stop-and-go sign to get their attention. Explain that when you show the red side, the children are to stop what they're doing and listen for your directions. When you show the green side, you'll stop talking and listen to them.

Encourage children to respond quickly so you'll have time for all the fun activities you've planned.

Ask: • **What did you make or do when you came to our class today?** (Gave people messages; made an angel; cut out cake angels.)

Say: **Some of you made angels and some of you gave messages. Let's play a message game now. We'll all stand in a line and pass a message from one end to the other. After you hear the message, tell it to the next person in the line. We'll see how it turns out at the end.**

Form a line, and whisper a simple message such as "The sun is shining" to the first child. Keep your message short—no more than four or five words.

When the message reaches the end of the line, have the last child repeat it. It may not be the same message you started with.

Ask: • **Was our message the same at the end?**

• **We whispered our message down our line. What are some other ways to give someone a message?** (Call on the telephone; yell; ask someone to give them the message for you.)

Say: **Our Bible story today is about a very important message: ► Jesus is God's Son. God thought that message was so important that he sent an angel from heaven to tell people about it. Let's bring out our Bible and find out what happened in that story.**



You may need to help some children pass on the message. If they forget or don't understand what to do, gently whisper the message again.

Children near the front of the line may laugh or giggle if the message has changed significantly from the original. You may want to start another message from the other end of the line or mix up the line so all the children can see what it's like to be near the beginning and end of the transmission.

## ■ Bible Song and Prayer Time

SUPPLIES: Bible, CD player



tracks 3 & 4

Say: **Now it's time to choose a Bible person to bring me the Bible marked with today's Bible story. As we sing our Bible song, we'll pass around our special Bible. The person who's holding the Bible when the music stops will be our Bible person today. Remember that everyone will get a chance to hold the Bible one week.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad for the Bible" (track 3) with the CD to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp." As you sing, pass around the special Bible.



SING

**I'm so glad for the Bible.  
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.  
I'm so glad for God's book today.  
I'm so glad for the Bible.  
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'—  
Keep me learnin' all about his way.**

**Let me hear 'bout God's love—  
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.  
Let me hear 'bout God's love for me.  
Let me hear 'bout God's love—  
Keep me learnin', learnin', learnin'.  
Let's shine the light for all to see.**

*(Repeat first verse.)*



Be sure that a different child is chosen to be the Bible person each week.

Include more children each week by asking others to be the Bible Replacer (to put the Bible away) and the Cheerleader. Just be sure to keep track of who fills your roles each week so each child gets a chance to feel special.

When the music stops, invite the child who's holding the Bible to bring it to you. Lead the class in clapping for the Bible person, cheering, and making fun applause sound effects by slapping your thighs with your palms. Stamp the child's hand with the *manger stamp*, and thank the child for bringing you the Bible. Then stamp the other children's hands. Return the *manger stamp* and *ink pad* to the Learning Lab.

Say: **I'm thankful for [name of child who brought the Bible], and I'm thankful for everyone in our class today. Each of you is a special part of our class! Let's thank God together for all our friends in this class.**

Lead children in singing "I'm So Glad We're Together" (track 4) with the *CD* to the tune of "Give Me Oil in My Lamp."



**SING**

**I'm so glad we're together.  
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'.  
I'm so glad we're all here today.  
I'm so glad we're together.  
Keep us prayin', prayin', prayin'—  
Prayin' for each other every day.**

Lead children in folding their hands and bowing their heads as you continue to sing.

**Thank you, Lord, for each one.  
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful.  
Thank you for everyone who's here.  
Thank you, Lord, for each one.  
Keep me thankful, thankful, thankful—  
Thankful for our friends both far and near.**

This Bible story is featured in *My First Hands-On Bible™*. Order several now for your ministry at [group.com](http://group.com).



**teacher tips**

Be sure to emphasize to children that the story comes from the Bible, God's Word.

## ■ Hear and Tell the Bible Story

**SUPPLIES:** Bible, CD player



Open the Bible to Luke 1, and show it to the children. Say: **Our story comes from the Bible, God's special book. Our Bible Big Book shows us pictures of the Bible story.**

Open the *Bible Big Book: Jesus' Birth* to page 2. Fold back page 3 so children can't see it. Hold up page 2 as you listen to the "Angels Appear" (track 7) segment from the *CD*. On this segment, you'll hear Mary and Joseph tell how they were visited by angels. When you hear the chime, turn the book around and show children page 3. After the story, ask:

- **What do you think Mary thought when she saw that angel?** (She thought it was friendly; she didn't know what it was; she was scared.)
- **What would you do if you saw an angel?** (Listen to what the angel said; touch the angel to see if it was real; I wouldn't be scared because I know angels are from God.)


Say: **Angels gave Mary and Joseph special messages about Jesus. We can be like those angels and tell our family and friends about baby Jesus. When you tell people about Jesus, some of them will be surprised, just as Mary and Joseph were surprised.**

Let's play a game to see what it might have been like for the angels to tell others that ► Jesus is God's Son.

Have children sit in a circle and play a game similar to Duck, Duck, Goose. Loosely wrap the *garland* around the shoulders of one child. This child will be the "Messenger." Have the Messenger walk around the outside of the circle, gently tapping each child on the head. As the Messenger taps each head, he or she should say "Mary," "Joseph," or "angel." When the Messenger says "angel," all the children should show faces of surprise and shout, ► "Jesus is God's Son!" Then choose another child to wear the *garland*, and play again.

Say: **You all looked very surprised. That's how Mary probably looked when an angel told her that ► Jesus is God's Son and that she would be Jesus' mother.**





Say: **Some people are surprised when they learn that ► Jesus is God's Son. And some people are surprised to learn that Jesus wants to be our friend.**

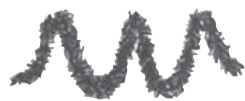
Ask: • **How do you feel when someone wants to be your friend?** (It makes me feel special; I feel loved.)

**We are special to Jesus and loved by him. Let's pray and thank him for coming to be our friend.**

Ask the children to fold their hands as you pray: **Dear Jesus, thank you that you love us so much that you want to be our friend. Amen.**

## ■ Do the Bible Story

SUPPLIES: none



Choose two helpers to be the "Wrappers." Have the Wrappers stand facing each other, each holding an end of the *garland*. Say: ► Jesus is God's Son—the best gift God ever gave us! Let's play a game and wrap each other up like presents. The Wrappers will raise their arms so the *garland* makes a bridge overhead. We'll walk under the bridge and sing a song. When the song ends, the Wrappers will lower the *garland*, wrap someone up, and say ► "Jesus is God's Son!"

Lead children in walking under the *garland*, singing "Mary and Joseph" to the tune of "The Mulberry Bush." This song is not on the *CD*.



SING

Mary and Joseph heard the news,  
 Heard the news,  
 Heard the news.  
 Mary and Joseph heard the news  
 That Jesus would be born.

Allow the child who is "wrapped up" to trade places with one of the Wrappers. Play several times so that many different children get to be wrapped up; then say: **The angel told Mary and Joseph that ► Jesus is God's Son. Let's see if Whiskers remembers that from last week.**

## Closing



### ■ Christmas Message

**SUPPLIES:** CD player, gift-wrapped box (larger than Whiskers), paper, marker



Before class, write the message “Jesus is God’s Son” on a small sheet of paper. Put the message in a box that’s noticeably bigger than Whiskers, and wrap the box with Christmas paper.

Bring out Whiskers the Mouse, and go through the following puppet script. When you finish the script, have Whiskers join the children for the “Birthday Bash.”



**Whiskers:** Boy, I sure love Christmas!

**Teacher:** We all love Christmas, too. Christmas is a great time to celebrate. What’s your favorite thing about Christmas?

**Whiskers:** *(Nods head definitively.)* Presents. Definitely presents. What’s your favorite thing about Christmas?

**Teacher:** Well, there are so many, it’s hard to choose. Let’s ask your friends what they like best about Christmas. Children, what’s your favorite thing about Christmas?

*(Let several children respond; then continue.)*

**Whiskers:** I still like presents best. I wish it were Christmas every day so I could always get presents.

**Teacher:** Well, Whiskers, you’re in luck. I’ve brought a present with me to class today. *(Bring out the gift-wrapped box.)* Would you like to open it?

**Whiskers:** *(Sounding excited)* Would I ever! Wow! That present is really big! I wonder what it is? Maybe it’s a new bike for me!

*(Whiskers tries to unwrap the box but seems to be having trouble.)*

**Teacher:** Children, maybe we need to help Whiskers. Who can help open this present?

*(Let children help tear open the paper. Then have Whiskers reach into the box and take out the message.)*

**Whiskers:** This must be a mistake. The box is empty except for this piece of paper. What does it say? Maybe it’s a message about where to find the real present. *(Hands message to teacher.)*

**Teacher:** It says, ► “Jesus is God’s Son.”

**Whiskers:** That’s it? I thought I was about to get a really great present.



**Teacher:** Jesus *is* a really great present, Whiskers. Jesus is God’s present to everyone on earth. He came to help people and to show us how much God loves us. It’s fun to get Christmas presents from our friends and family, but Jesus is the best Christmas present of all. We celebrate Christmas because it’s Jesus’ birthday.

**Whiskers:** Hmm. I guess we’re lucky to get any presents at all. When it’s my birthday, I get presents. If it’s Jesus’ birthday, we should be giving him presents.

**Teacher:** That’s a great idea, Whiskers. We could have a birthday party for Jesus right now. But first, let’s sing a song to celebrate. *(To children)* Let’s teach Whiskers the song we learned last week. You’ll like this song, Whiskers. It reminds us that Jesus is God’s Son!  
*(Lead children and Whiskers in singing “God’s Son” (John 20:31) (track 5) with the CD.)*



**SING**

**Jesus is the Son of God,  
Son of God,  
Son of God.  
Jesus is the Son of God.  
He is God’s Son.**

**If you believe, then you’ll have life.  
You’ll have life.  
You’ll have life.  
If you believe, then you’ll have life.  
He is God’s Son.**

**Teacher:** Now let’s have our party. Whiskers, would you like to come?

**Whiskers:** I sure would! I love birthday parties, and I’ve never been to a party for Jesus.

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**■ Birthday Bash**

*SUPPLIES: angel-food-cake angels from Option 3, baby wipes*



Have Whiskers join the children in singing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus, and then have them sit around a table. Say: ► **Jesus is God’s Son. Let’s thank God for sending Jesus now. Pray: Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus to show us your love. Help us remember that Christmas is his birthday. Thank you for providing this snack for us. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

Help children clean their hands with baby wipes or at a nearby sink. Pass out the angel-food-cake angels children made during Option 3. Let children enjoy their angels, and then lead them in singing favorite Christmas carols to celebrate Jesus’ birthday.

When children have finished eating their snacks, say: **Whiskers didn’t get to learn our Bible verse last week. Let’s help him learn it. Our Bible verse tells us that ► “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” A sinner is anyone who does something wrong, so this means that Jesus came to save all of us! Let’s teach Whiskers the motions we learned with this verse.**




**teacher tips**

Three- and four-year-olds can memorize stories, songs, and finger plays. Using motions along with the Bible verse helps children remember the verse. And letting them teach Whiskers really cements the verse in their minds.

Lead children in doing the following motions, as you say the verse together. Have Whiskers try to follow the motions, too, and let the children correct him if he says the words incorrectly or does the motions out of order.

**Christ Jesus** (*point up*)

**Came into the world** (*make arms and hands into a large circle to represent the world*)

**To save sinners.** (*Hug arms around self.*)

Collect name tags for next week's use, and remind children to take home any crafts they made today.



### **Growing closer to Jesus extends beyond the classroom.**

Photocopy the "Today I Learned..." handout (at the end of this lesson) for this week, and send it home with the children. Encourage parents to use the handout to plan meaningful family activities to reinforce this week's topic.



## For Extra Time

If you have a long class time or want to add additional elements to your lesson, try one of the following activities.

### Lively Learning: The Baby's in the Manger

Remind children how to play the Baby's in the Manger game. Choose a child to be the "Baby," and then say: **Let's walk around** [name of child] **as we sing "The Baby's in the Manger."**

Have children form a circle, walk around the child in the center, and sing the first two verses of "The Baby's in the Manger" to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell." Sing the song without the *CD*. After the second verse, have the child in the center pick two people to be the angel and Mary. After the third verse, invite the children in the center to pick someone to be Joseph.



**SING**

**The baby's in the manger.  
The baby's in the manger.  
Hip-hip hooray, we're glad today  
The baby's in the manger.**

**The angel told Mary.  
The angel told Mary.  
Hip-hip hooray, we're glad today  
The angel told Mary.**

**The angel told Joseph.  
The angel told Joseph.  
Hip-hip hooray, we're glad today  
The angel told Joseph.**

**Jesus is God's Son.  
Jesus is God's Son.  
Hip-hip hooray, we're glad today  
Jesus is God's Son.**

### Make to Take: Paper-Plate Tree Angels



Photocopy and cut out the "Angel Pattern" (p. 38). Help each child trace the pattern onto a paper plate and then cut it out. Set out art supplies, and let children decorate their angels. As they work, talk about the angels in today's Bible story.

Show children how to bring the scalloped edges of the plate together to form the bottom of the angel's robe. Tape the edges in place. The angel should fit nicely on top of a Christmas tree!

### Treat to Eat: Cone Angels



Help children clean their hands with baby wipes or at a nearby sink. Set out plastic knives and prepared white frosting. Give each child a sugar cone, a large marshmallow, and two candied orange slices. Have children "paint" their cones with frosting and then attach the orange slices for wings. They may need to hold the orange slices in place while the frosting sets. Then show them how to place a marshmallow head on the cone's point. Be sure to use fresh marshmallows so children don't break the tips off their cones as they're attaching them. As children work, talk about the angels' messages in today's Bible story.

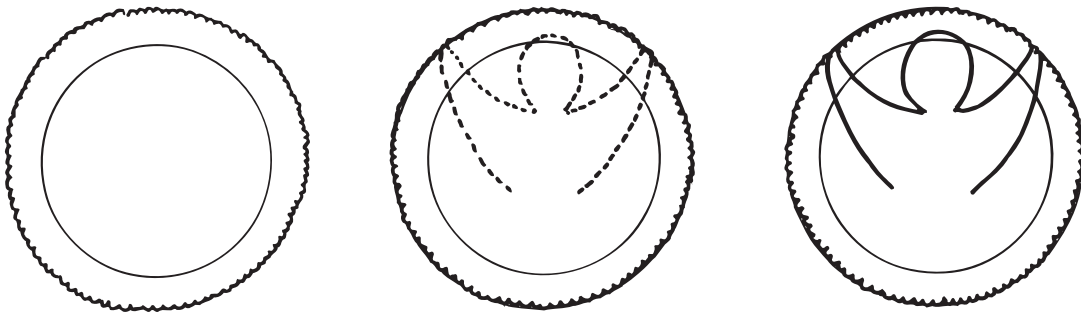
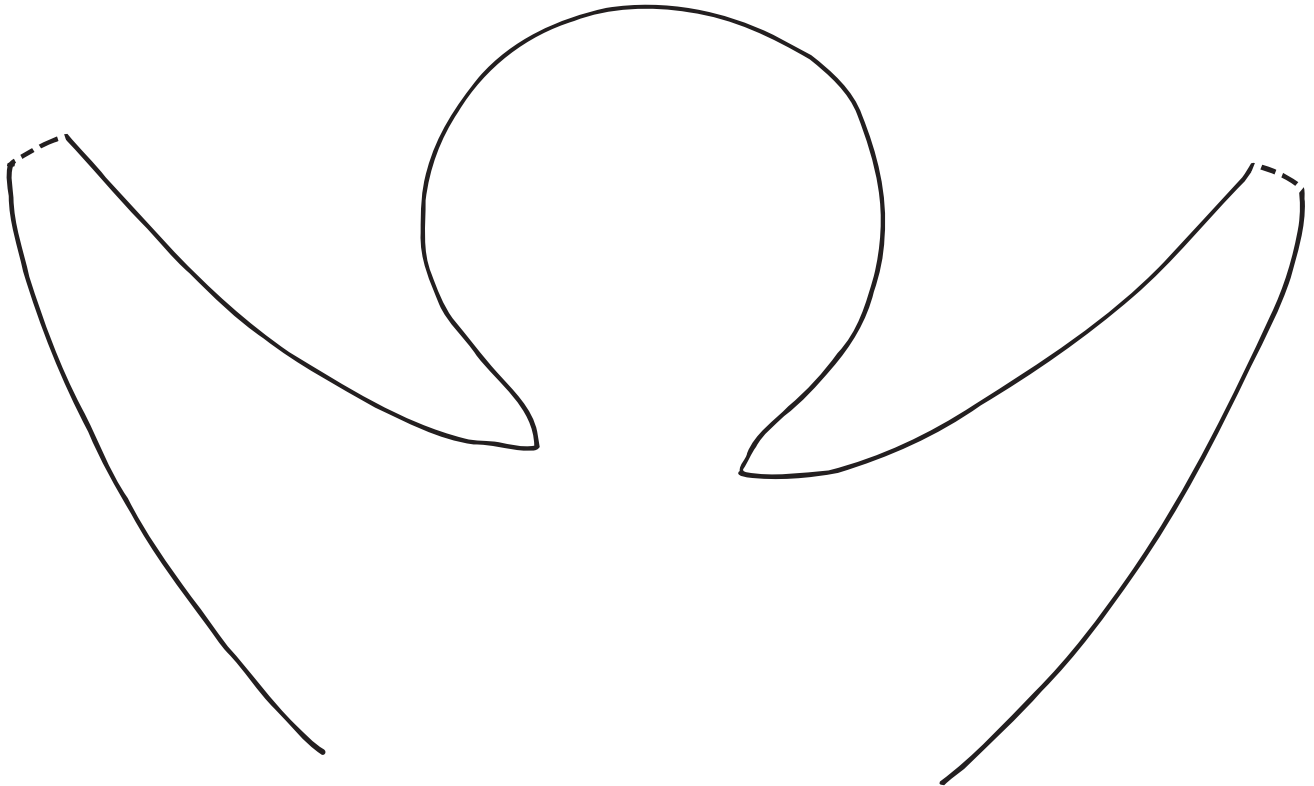


### Story Picture: An Angel Tells Joseph That Jesus Is God's Son

Give each child a copy of the "Today I Learned..." handout. Set out crayons, glue, and cotton balls. Have each child glue cotton to the angel's robe and then color the picture. Talk about how Joseph might have felt when he saw the angel.

# Angel Pattern

Photocopy and cut out this pattern. Line the dotted lines up with the edges of a paper plate, and then trace the pattern onto the plate.



# Today I learned... Jesus is God's Son.

## Help me learn this:

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners"  
(1 Timothy 1:15).

## Ask me:

- Who told Mary that baby Jesus would be God's Son?
- Who can you tell that Jesus is God's Son?
- How can our family show our love for Jesus this week?

## Lesson 2

Today your child learned that **JESUS IS GOD'S SON**. The children heard how angels told Mary and Joseph about Jesus' birth. They learned that at Christmas we celebrate Jesus' birthday.

## Family Fun

- Help your child make an empty manger from an oatmeal box. Cover it with Christmas paper, and cut an opening in one side. Have family members place a piece of straw, ribbon, or shredded paper in the manger each time someone shows kindness. By Christmas your manger will be brimming with gifts of kindness for Jesus.

### An Angel Tells Joseph That Jesus Is God's Son (Matthew 1:18-25)

