

PREPARE HIM ROOM - LOWER ELEMENTARY

WEEK 2

# GOD SPEAKS TO JOSEPH IN A DREAM

ISAIAH 7:10-14; MATTHEW 1:18-25



————— BIBLE TRUTH —————

GOD REVEALED TO JOSEPH THAT MARY'S BABY WAS MORE THAN A BOY.  
HE WAS GOD COME AS A MAN, TO SAVE US FROM OUR SINS.

# LESSON SNAPSHOT

1. OPENING ..... 5 MIN
2. BIBLE STORY ..... 10 MIN  
SUPPLIES:  
✓ Bibles for the class (ESV preferred)
3. OBJECT LESSON 1 ..... 10 MIN  
Code Name, Immanuel  
SUPPLIES:  
✓ three 8.5 x 11 sheets of paper with the word GOD drawn in very large bold letters;  
masking tape; an adult helper
4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION ..... 10 MIN
5. OBJECT LESSON 2 ..... 10 MIN  
God Directs Our Path
6. CHRISTMAS BIBLE MEMORY: ISAIAH 9:6-7 ..... 5 MIN
7. ACTIVITY TIME ..... 15 MIN  
Build Your Own Nativity: Mary and Joseph  
SUPPLIES:  
✓ Mary and Joseph cutouts—one pair for each student; crayons, markers, or colored  
pencils; scissors for students; one 9 x 12 labeled envelope for each student from  
last week
8. CHRISTMAS HYMN: “O COME, O COME EMMANUEL” ..... 10 MIN  
SUPPLIES:  
✓ music accompaniment (*optional*)
9. CLOSING PRAYER ..... 5 MIN
10. BONUS OBJECT LESSON ..... 10 MIN  
Tell Me about Your Dreams

TOTAL 90 MIN

## PREPARING TO TEACH

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### TEACHING POINTS

**Jesus is our Savior**—An angel of the Lord visited Joseph in a dream and told him that Jesus would save God's people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). From the start God's plan was to send his Son to die. Philippians 2:6–8 tells us how Jesus left his throne to come down to earth and obey his Father's call to die on a cross for our sins:

[Christ Jesus], though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.  
(Philippians 2:6–8)

**Jesus is God**—The prophet Isaiah foretold that the promised deliverer would come as a child. He would not be just any child however; God's promised Messiah would be both God and man. He would be called Immanuel—God with us. It is very important that Jesus be both God and man. (We talked about this in last week's lesson, but it is a point worth repeating as this passage also teaches that Jesus was both God and man.) As God, Jesus was able to heal the sick and raise the dead. As a man, Jesus was able to take the punishment God reserved for men.

Today, as we call Jesus Immanuel, we fulfill the prophecy that foretold he would be called by that name.

**We must obey his commands**—Joseph did as the Lord commanded him and married Mary (Matthew 1:24). Joseph was going to break off his engagement (divorce her), but after his dream, Joseph trusted what God told him and obeyed the word of the Lord to him. He married Mary, named the baby Jesus, and took care of Jesus as his own son, even though God was Jesus's Father, brought to Mary by a miracle of the Holy Spirit. Joseph adopted Jesus.

Sooner or later we will all have to obey something we read in God's Word. For instance, we might not want to share our things or speak kindly to someone who is harsh with us, but God's Word tells us to love others. If we belong to God, we must obey his voice as we hear it through the Bible passages we read. God pours out his Holy Spirit on everyone who believes and trusts in Jesus. So that where we are weak and find it difficult to follow, the Holy Spirit changes us to want to be like Jesus and obey.

## Connecting This Story to the Gospel \_\_\_\_\_

Even before Jesus was born, God planned for him to die. When the angel told Joseph that Jesus would “save his people from their sins,” he was pointing forward to the cross. There is only one way that Jesus could save us from our sins. First, he would have to live a perfect life and never sin even once. Second, Jesus would need to be punished in our place, for our sins. That is what happened on the cross.

The only way Jesus could live a perfect life and take our punishment was for him to be more than man; he also had to be God. The prophet Isaiah wrote about a child who would someday be born and who would be called Immanuel. Immanuel means “God with us.” Jesus was able to take the punishment we deserved, because he was completely human—a person just like us in every way. But, Jesus was more than a human. He was also God—God with us! As God, Jesus was able to live a sinless life, defeat the curse of death, and rise again in victory.

## THE LESSON

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### 1. OPENING REVIEW . . . . . 5 MIN

Use last week’s lesson outline to review with the children what they learned.

### 2. BIBLE STORY . . . . . 10 MIN

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ Bibles for the class (ESV preferred)

Read together Isaiah 7:10–14 and Matthew 1:18–25.

Have the children tell you the similarities between the two passages. (*Isaiah 7:14 is quoted in Matthew 1:23.*)

Older students can open to both passages in their Bible and flip back and forth to compare the passages.

3. OBJECT LESSON 1 . . . . . 10 MIN

Code Name, Immanuel

SUPPLIES:

- ✓ three 8.5 x 11 sheets of paper with the word *GOD* drawn in very large bold letters
- ✓ masking tape
- ✓ an adult helper

This object lesson is designed to help the children remember what the word *Immanuel* means.

Have your helper take one of the sheets with the word *GOD* and attach it somewhere on her where it is visible to everyone. Have her interrupt you at the very end of your introduction and tell you to wear one of the sheets with the word *GOD* just like she is. Follow the suggested dialogue loosely and feel free to ad lib.

**HELPER:** *(Hands paper with the word GOD to the teacher and starts tearing off tape and making sticky loops to use to adhere it.)* Here, put this on yourself where the kids can see it.

**TEACHER:** What is this? I don't want to put it on. Why are you wearing that sign and why are you giving me one?

**HELPER:** *(Continues to make tape loops and hand them to the teacher.)* Come on now, don't be shy. The kids will be so appreciative. Just make sure it doesn't fall off.

**TEACHER:** What does this paper have to do with the lesson? You are wasting valuable time.

**HELPER:** Now, it's as obvious as the nose on your face. OK, OK, I get it. You are trying to play dumb so the kids shout out the answer.

**TEACHER:** I am not playing dumb. This whole thing seems a little dumb. What on earth does this paper have to do with anything in our story? Our story is about Joseph and his dream. What on earth does a sign with God have to do with that?

**HELPER:** You're getting warmer!  
*(Carry on the back-and-forth arguing as long as the children are enjoying it. Then move on to the conclusion.)*

**HELPER:** OK, OK, I'm going to give you a clue.

**TEACHER:** I don't want a clue. Just tell me how this connects to the lesson.

**HELPER:** *(slowly)* Im-man-u-el.

**TEACHER:** Immanuel? How do you connect a piece of paper with the word *GOD* on it to Immanuel?

**HELPER:** My oh my, you really are having a slow day. Let me give you another clue: What does the word *Immanuel* mean?

**TEACHER:** Immanuel means “God with us.” But what does that have to do with this piece of paper?

**HELPER:** (*sticking the paper to the teacher’s forehead*) God with us. Isn’t that amazing?

**TEACHER:** Oh, I get it: God with us. That is what the word *Immanuel* means.

**HELPER:** Yes, God with us. I wanted the class to remember that Isaiah’s prophecy that a child will be called Immanuel means that the child would be God with us. So, if we wear these signs we can ask the children what they mean and if they get stuck, simply point to the word *GOD* on us and they would remember God with us!

*Teacher agrees to wear the sign.*

Have the helper periodically all throughout the class time ask the children what the word *Immanuel* means, always pointing back to the signs.

**4. TEACHING/DISCUSSION . . . . . 10 MIN**

Using the teaching points and gospel connection, teach through today’s lesson.

**5. OBJECT LESSON 2 . . . . . 10 MIN**

**God Directs Our Path**

Read aloud the following verse: “In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps” (Proverbs 16:9 NIV).

Explain to the class that this verse tells us that even though we make plans, God is in control of all things and works circumstances to direct our lives according to his plan. For example, we might plan to go to a baseball game, but if God brings a rainstorm and the game is canceled, we can’t go.

Sometimes God does an extraordinary thing like he did in Joseph’s life. Joseph was planning to leave Mary, but in a dream, God directed his steps differently.

Have everyone stand up and form two separate lines, standing shoulder to shoulder, with the two lines facing each other. Have the children in each line hold hands. The two lines of students represent a long tunnel or course that can bend to the left or the right.

Pick a volunteer to walk between the two lines, down the middle of the course. If you have the students in the two lines straight, she can walk through straight. But if the last person in each line hold hands, the way is barred and the volunteer cannot go through. If you bend the course to the right, the volunteer has to go to the right, even if she wanted to go left.

Try this several times bending the course in different directions. What happens if your two lines form two circles, one inside the other, like an athletic track? Now your volunteer would go round and round forever.

Finally, sit the children back down and ask them to tell you how God changed Joseph's course. How did God change Mary's course? Then talk about how he has already determined the course of your student's lives by determining where they would be born.

**6. CHRISTMAS BIBLE MEMORY: ISAIAH 9:6-7 . . . . . 5 MIN**

Continuing memorizing this Scripture passage from last week:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

**7. ACTIVITY TIME . . . . . 15 MIN**

**Build Your Own Nativity: Mary and Joseph**

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ Mary and Joseph cardstock cutouts—one pair for each student
- ✓ crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- ✓ scissors for students
- ✓ one 9 x 12 labeled envelope for each student from last week

Explain to the class that today they are going to color and cut out Mary and Joseph. At the end of class place their nativity characters into their personal envelope with the ones from last week.

8. CHRISTMAS HYMN: "O COME, O COME EMMANUEL" . . . . . 10 MIN

**SUPPLIES:**

- ✓ music accompaniment (*optional*)

## O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Original words (vv. 1-2) by an unknown author, translated by John M. Neale (1851). Alt. and add. words (vv. 3-5) by Steve Cook and Bob Kauflin. Music: Veni Emmanuel, arranged by Thomas Helmore (1856).

**VERSE 1**

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
 And ransom captive Israel  
 That mourns in lonely exile here  
 Until the Son of God appear  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 Shall come to thee, O Israel!

**VERSE 2**

O come, Thou Dayspring from on high  
 And cause Thy light on us to rise  
 Disperse the gloomy clouds of night  
 And death's dark shadow put to flight  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 Shall come to thee, O Israel!

**VERSE 3**

O come, O come, true prophet of the Lord  
 And turn the key that opens heaven's door  
 Be Thou our comforter and guide  
 And lead us to the Father's side  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 Shall by His word our darkness dispel

**VERSE 4**

O come, our Great High Priest, and intercede  
 Thy sacrifice our only plea  
 The judgment we no longer fear  
 Thy precious blood has brought us near  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 Has banished every fear of hell

**VERSE 5**

O Come, Thou King of nations bring  
 An end to all our suffering  
 Bid every pain and sorrow cease  
 And reign now as our Prince of Peace  
 Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
 Shall come again with us to dwell

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**9. CLOSING PRAYER . . . . . 5 MIN**

Pick several children to pray prayers based on today's lesson.

**10. BONUS OBJECT LESSON . . . . . 10 MIN**

**Tell Me about Your Dreams**

Ask the class if anyone can remember another Bible story where God used a dream. If they give you an answer, have them retell the story and how God used dreams to accomplish his plan. Here are three examples that you can suggest to the class:

- Nebuchadnezzar's dream in Daniel 2:31-49
- Young Joseph's dream in Genesis 37:5-11
- The wise men's dream in Matthew 2:12

# WEEK TWO CUTOUTS

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