



The Mystery of the Manger at Christmas

INSPIRATIONAL LESSONS ON THE MANGER & ESSENCE OF CHRISTMAS

The ultimate Christmas guide for
parents and teachers

Nneka Ibukun Anyachebelu



THE MYSTERY OF THE MANGER
AT CHRISTMAS
A STUDY GUIDE FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

Nneka Ibukun Anyachebelu

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INTRODUCTION

The mystery of the manger is a Christmas narrative redefining Christmas by teaching the symbols used at Christmas.

This is a Teaching guide for Adults and children Ages 5 to 16

The Mystery of the Manger unveils the spiritual meaning of every incident surrounding the birth of Jesus, making Christmas more meaningful and impactful. This Narrative can be used as a Sunday School teaching resource (which will be done weekly at Sunday school) or as a family Bible study resource, in this case it will be done daily instead of weekly.

Whether you use it as a Sunday school resource or a Family Bible study resource, the effect remains the same as long as the narrative is taken a lesson at a time for full comprehension.

FORMAT OVERVIEW

BIBLE PASSAGE

Each lesson has a Bible reading. Kindly ensure you read the scripture using the Bible version that your class/audience can understand. It is advisable this is read at least once before you take the class

LESSON

This is the main lesson to be emphasized during the week's topic. In addition to this, we must also rely on the Holy Spirit for deeper revelations and insight

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Practical instruction of what should be done to fulfil the scripture and purpose covered in each lesson

DISCUSSION

To make the class interactive and understand their point of view, you need to make the class interactive

REFLECTION

A few minutes of self-appraisal to reflect on a particular truth especially as it relates to each child.

MEDITATION & JOURNALING

Guide about what the audience should write down in respect to the week's message and/or how it has impacted them. This is by no means exclusive

HOMEWORK

This is the after-lesson activity to be done outside the ministration. It is tailored towards the day's lesson so that learning can be reinforced

LESSON 1

The Manger

FAMILY WORD CENTRE

BEFORE YOU START



BIBLE PASSAGE:

Luke 2 vs 1-12

(Emphasis on verse 12)

PREPARATION

Have a MANGER set up
in front of the children
while teaching this



This week's lesson can be broken into
2 or 3 weeks, depending on how
much you are able to teach and cover



Lesson

When Jesus was born, an angel appeared to the shepherds and gave them a specific instruction. He said “this will be a sign to you, you find a baby wrapped in clothes lying in a MANGER”.

Note what the Angels said, they did not say you will find a baby born in a manger, but a baby lying in a manger. So, I will want you to meditate on this, JESUS WAS NOT BORN IN A MANGER, HE WAS LAID IN A MANGER.

What Is A Manger?

A manger is wooden box where animals feed from. Back then, farmers and shepherds used to go away for days leaving food for their animals in the manger, when the animals were hungry, they went to the manger to feed on the food that the farmer had stored up for them in the manger. So, a manger is a feeding box that animals feed from.



Show pictures of animals feeding from a manger to buttress this point

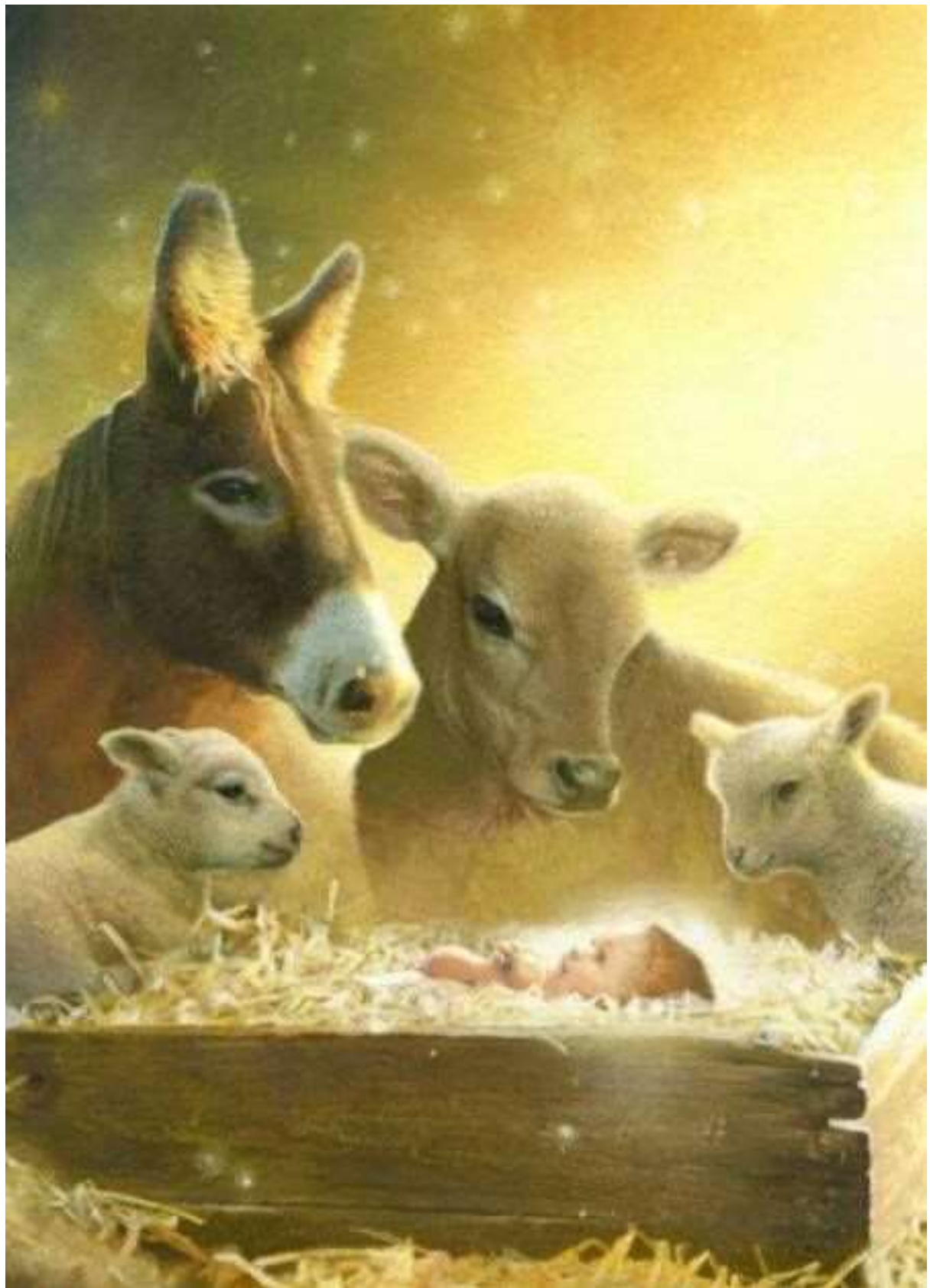
So Why Was Jesus Laid In A Manger A Food Box For Animals?

Before we answer this, I will want us to first find out why Jesus was born in a place where animals were kept.

There are several spiritual interpretations and lessons to from Jesus birth in a lowly place where animals lived.



For Ages 5 to 7, keep it simple, there was no space in the inn, and every hotel was full, and Mary really needed to have the baby, the only available space was a little space where animals were kept, so Mary had to have her baby there.





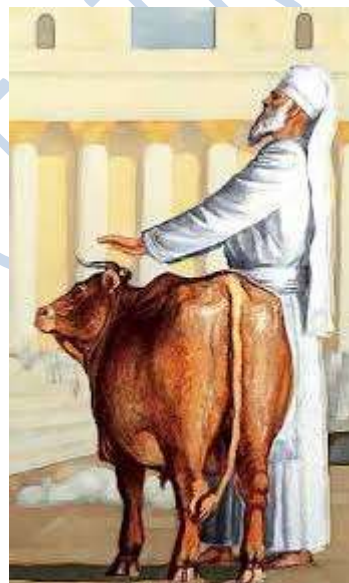
NOTE

First lesson

Before Jesus came into the world, animals were used for offering and sacrifices to atone for human sins.

You can refer and read from the old testament showing where this was done, showing pictures and images of where this was done will also help bring it to life. (You can get pictures online)

Animals were killed as sin offering to God and their blood was used as sacrifice for human sins. However, the blood of animals did not take away the sins of human, it only covered it, so humans had to continue



sacrificing animals over and over again from time to time, to atone for their sins.

So, Jesus had to enter the world through a stable where animals were kept and was not different from the animals while lying there in a manger, because he wanted to show that He was the main sacrifice for human sin. He was going to take the place of animals. Instead of the continuous use of animals for sacrifice, His blood was going to be used once and for all to save the whole of humanity.

He brought Himself low to the standard of animals, signifying that he was a sacrificial lamb just like all the other animals. That is also why He is called the lamb of God.

He could have been born anywhere else, in the palace, in the hospital, at home, in the inn etc. but he chose to enter the world through a stable where animals lived, because he was a lamb that was going to be sacrificed for humanity.

Second Lesson

Jesus was born in a stable where animals lived, to show us that no matter who we think we are, that without God in our lives, that we are just like animals.

Read Ecclesiastes 3: 18 to buttress this point

“I also thought about the human condition—how God proves to people that they are like animals”. NLT

Before Jesus came into the world, to reconcile us with God through his death on the cross and the giving of the Spirit of God, we were as low as animals in our life styles and spirit.

We lived in disorder, rage and rebellion. We were violent, lawless, cruel, aggressive, and disobedient.

Jesus had to come to earth through a stable filled with animals to show us our present state, that we were exactly like those animals. But with his arrival into the world, he elevated us from the ANIMALISTIC LIFE to the LIFE OF GOD.



DISCUSSION

Get the children at this point to mention some of the characteristics of animals

With his life on earth, death, resurrection, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, we are now elevated to the nature and life of God as we are now

controlled by the Holy Spirit who makes us behave more like God. (Mention fruit of the Spirit- love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control) and above all making us practice spiritual disciplines like prayer, fasting, purity, worship, and daily communion with God. Animals do not exhibit this character.

Reflection

Now take a moment to think about your life and character. Are you still in the animalistic state or are you elevated to the nature and image of God that Jesus earned for you?

Your Lifestyle should tell you your state. Animals don't

- Pray
- Read the Bible
- Fast
- Worship
- Obey instruction
- Respect adults
- Have self-control etc

If you are still in the animalistic state, then today is a good day to give your life to Jesus, He will come into your life and give you a new life (an upgrade)

Practical Application

Ask for anybody who wants a better life, who wants to be reconciled to God and be elevated to the life and nature of God.

Lead them to Christ with an infilling of the Holy-Spirit.

Meditation

The children should take time to meditate on all what was taught. They should write down what they learnt in their journals

Homework

Write down all the animalistic behaviour you portray and how you plan to stop then

This week anytime you display an animalistic behaviour write it down in your journal and cancel it out as a reminder that you will not go back to that life style again.

FAMILY WORDS

LESSON 2

Why Was Jesus
Laid In A Manger?
A FOOD BOX FOR ANIMALS

BEFORE YOU START



BIBLE PASSAGE:

Luke 2 vs 1-12

Emphasis on verse 7



Jesus was not laid in a MANGER by accident. His lying in a manger has major spiritual importance. Remember animals go to the MANGER (their dining table) for their physical food. We as humans now have Jesus (the Word of God) as our spiritual food now lying in the manger (the dining table). So, we are no longer supposed to feed on hay animal food, but we are to feed on Jesus the Word of God through the Bible.

Spiritual Symbol Of The Animal Food -Hay

Let's take a thorough look at what hay represents. Hay represents TV shows, internet, social media, friends, magazines, worldly music, alcohol, drugs, etc.

Anything that enters your life and minds through your eyes, ears and mouth is food i.e. *it is food for your mind and soul.*

So be very careful what you feed on, be very careful what you allow into your heart. The way you behave will show what you've been eating. Your life style will show if you've been feeding on the Word of God or on Hay (animal food).



Show pictures of hay inside a manger



DISCUSSION

Ask the children to meditate on what they have been feeding on.

New Food! Right Food!

So, Jesus was laid in the MANGER to show us that He is the new and right Food for the human soul. Feeding on Jesus through the Word of God (the Bible) will elevate you from the Life style of animals to the Life of God.

Jesus's Word is like no other food, it has the power to keep us alive, just like the hay in the MANGER keeps the animals alive.

If a person wants to be spiritually well-fed, it is important to read the Word that Jesus brought into the world daily.

Don't wait for anybody to feed you with the WORD, feed yourself. Just like the animals will walk to the MANGER to feed even when the farmers were not there, you also have to get up and feed your spirit with the Word of God.

Don't wait for your parents to tell you to read the Bible before you read the Bible and feed your Spirit .
Get up daily, grab your bible and feed your Spirit.

Now think about this, If ordinary animals know and go to the MANGER on their own when they need food, then you should know where to go when you need spiritual food. Go to Jesus (the Word of God, the Bible).

Application

To apply this to your life, you have to intentionally appraise yourself daily, to ensure you feed on the word

Assignment

This week ask the children to draw a simple 3-column table. The first column will have Date as the header, on the second column,

they should write Hay, and on the last column they should write Jesus (The Bible) as the title. Any day they do not feed on, (read) the word of God, they will write the date and then put a tick in the Hay column. This shows that on that day that particular child only fed on animal food.

They should do this daily and submit next week for all to see what they fed on during the week



*You may prepare
a sample before
class to show the
children*

FAMILY WORD CENTRE

LESSON 3

Why Was Jesus Placed
High Above The Hay?

DOMINANCE OF THE WORD OF GOD



Lesson

Jesus placed high-up on top of the hay inside the MANGER represents Dominance. The Word of God (Jesus) dominates every other thing we feed on and it should be so in our Lives.

Though we read Books on science, geography, computers, languages, sports, literature etc. All these should not be regarded higher than the Bible, because the Bible has dominance over them all. The Bible was written by the inspiration of God the creator of heaven and earth who created all the things that are written in every other book that you will ever need to read.

So, give the Bible the first place in your life, just like Jesus was placed high inside the manger with the hay beneath it.

Every other thing you read or learn from should be subject to what the Bible says. Nothing should come before the Bible.

Application

Make this an open discussion.

Now for every subject e.g. Science, refer to a place in the Bible where God was involved. For Languages refer to the Tower of Babel where God initiated languages etc. The essence is to show that all other things read in other books has its origin and source in God.

The Word of God should therefore be given pre-eminence above every other thing.

Practical

Ask the children how long they spend reading other books compared to the time they spend reading the Bible.



DISCUSSION

Let the children talk about all their various textbooks, covering different subjects.

Leave enough room for open confession and discussion

Wrap up by encouraging the children to make studying the Word of God first place in their Life.

Get the children to pray asking God for grace to avoid distraction and procrastination.

Assignment

Pick out a particular Bible Book for everybody to study this week. Let them write in their journals daily. This will keep everyone energized and on their toes.

FAMILY WORD CENTER

LESSON 4

Storing Up Food In The Manger

GOD CARES FOR YOUR
SPIRITUAL WELLBEING



FAM

Lesson

If ordinary human-farmers cared so much for their animals and kept enough food in the MANGER to make sure they always had hay to eat even while they were away, then be rest assured that God will provide enough Spiritual food through His Word (Bible) to feed and sustain you all your days on earth.

Just like the shepherds, Jesus is no longer here with us on earth physically, he has gone back to Heaven, but he has left his word (the Bible) just like the food stored up in the manger, so that we can always go and feed from the Bible when we need food for our Spirit.

Make A Choice

However, you have to make a choice.

Now, inside the MANGER, we have both hay and Jesus; but you have to decide if you want to feed on Jesus, the new food in the MANGER, or if you want to continue feeding on hay and remain in the animalistic state.

While you make that choice remember God cares so much for your soul and that is why He has provided the Bible for you to feed on. So choose wisely

Reflection

Let the children reflect/meditate at this point and make a choice .

If you continue feeding on Hay you will continue to act like animals wild, impatient, quarrelsome, lawless, greedy, disobedient, aggressive, loud, wicked, unholy, prayerless (animals don't pray) etc. Remember your lifestyle will tell what you feed on



DISCUSSION

Ask the children about the choice they made



Meditation/Journaling

Write down in your journal, all you learnt and how you plan to apply it in your life .

Assignment

This week make out time to read the word of God daily. When you finish get an adult to sign in your journal stating that you fed from the Word of God

Bring in the journals for grading next week

LESSON 5

Do you live in
the Inn?

HOW TO HEAR GOD

BEFORE YOU START



BIBLE PASSAGE :

Luke 2 vs 7 -17

PREPARATION

Set up a sample God's corner for the children.

Get images or actual games, gadgets and other age appropriate items that distract children



You can visit familywordcentre.org for pictures of God's corner of other children

Lesson

Have you ever wondered why the angels appeared to the shepherds and not to the people in the inn? The answer is simply because the inn was very noisy and the people at the inn were too noisy and would not hear God (nor the Angels) if they tried to speak to them.

However the shepherds were out in the field, in a quiet place, so they could hear the angel when he spoke to them.

Do You Want To Hear God Speak To You One On One?

If you want to hear God speak to you one on one, then stay away from every day noise and endless activities.

What The Inn Represents

The inn represents noise - Cyber noise, social media, internet, parties, social gatherings, friends, TV, Games, gadgets and everything that causes distractions.

The more you spend time glued to these things, the more time you spend in the Inn and that will mean unending noise. You will never hear God with this lifestyle .



The Field

The field represents your daily **quiet** time with God.

To ensure you have a structured daily quiet time (field life) you have to create a place called the God's Corner.

Create A God's Corner

Pick a quiet place in your room or house, a place where there is minimal noise and activity. Now when you've found this spot spread a rug, mat, or a comfortable cloth on the floor.

Put one or 2 throw pillows on that spot, then place your pen, your journal and your Bible on the floor beside the pillows.

Make a very big poster that reads "My God's Corner", paste it on the wall, ensuring that it is very readable from all angles.

If you do this, you have created a God's corner -your Field !

Now, pick a time you will go to your God's corner and make out time daily to spend that time alone with God in your God's corner. Let this be your field.

Your time alone with God is your time in the field.

God will speak to you daily through His Word (the Bible) and through your thoughts.

- ◀○ Every day after reading your Bible, calm down to think about what you just read. God will talk to you through your thoughts if you stay calm and focus your mind on him
- Write down your thoughts in your journal
- Take time to worship God and pray
- After prayers don't get up immediately, lay still for God to speak to you .

Gradually you will learn to hear God for yourself if you continue this practice.

Practical Application

Let all the children pray. After praying let everyone stay still for 3 to 5 minutes listening to hear God Speak to them.

This will take a while but continue this practice weekly, after a while, the children will get used to this spiritual practice

Assignment

Create your God's Corner, take a picture of yourself in the God's Corner, send it in to the Teacher for grading.

FAMILY WORD CENTRAL

LESSON 6

The Wise Men & The Gifts They Brought

THE GIFT OF GOLD

BEFORE YOU START




BIBLE PASSAGE :

Mathew 2: 2-14

Genesis 13:2

Ecclesiastes 2:8



You may get video
clips of animals
exhibiting bad
behaviour

Lesson

The wise men brought the Gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to Jesus. For a child of a carpenter this was a very unusual gift, because this kind of gifts were only meant for Kings and royalties.

Significance Of The Gifts

Beyond the gifts, there are some deep spiritual representations. We will look at the gift one after the other to see the spiritual representations

The significance of the gifts lay in their great value—they were indeed gifts fit for a king.

The Gift Of Gold

As was tradition for royal visits, the wise men came bearing treasured gifts intended to honour the new born king. Just as it is today, gold was a valued gift even long before Jesus was born (*Genesis 13:2, Ecclesiastes 2:8*).

This gift symbolizes the spiritual royalty of Jesus, though he came into the world as the son of a carpenter, but His true identity is Royalty. He is the King of all creation, King of the World. Jesus is the king of Kings!

Application

Your physical birth should not limit you on earth. Remember your true identity is in God: Your Spiritual father who sent you to earth for an assignment.

Like Jesus, you are also royalty (you are the child of a king, so you are automatically a King.)

If you stay connected to God, time will reveal your true identity.

Don't ever allow your physical birth limit you. Always operate and be conscious of your spiritual identity.

Meditation

Let the children meditate on this.

After the meditation let them write about their true identity in their journals.

Homework

This week go home and behave like royalty.

Every day look for 3 things to do (depicting the life of royalty) and thereafter write down 3 ways you behaved liked royalty

Do this daily and bring in for grading next week.

LESSON 7

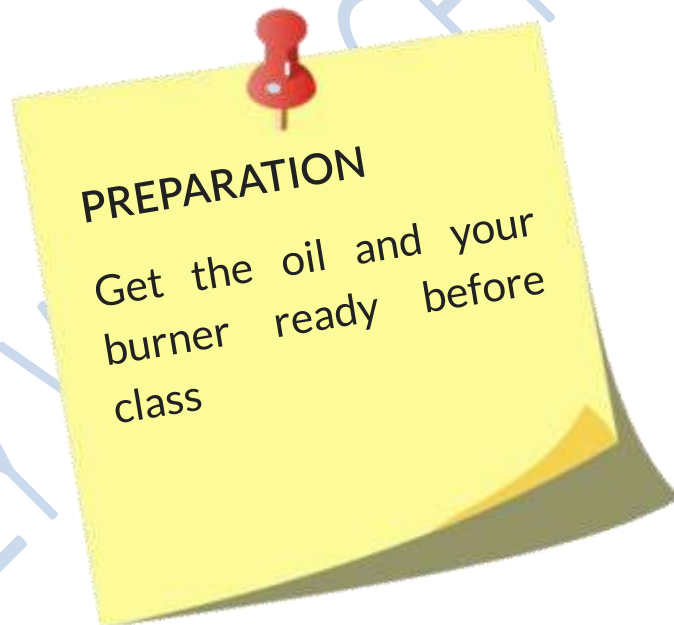
The Wise Men & The Gifts They Brought

THE GIFT OF FRANKINCENSE

BEFORE YOU START



BIBLE PASSAGE :
Mathew 2: 2-14



Ensure you burn the oil in a safe place.

Contact for frankincense oil

LESSON

Frankincense is an aromatic gum resin. It is produced by scraping the bark of certain native species of trees and then harvesting the beads of resin after they have dried. When burned as incense, it creates a strong and beautiful aroma.

Back then because of how expensive the frankincense was, it was excluded from being used as a common household air freshener. Rather, the burning of frankincense was associated with ceremonial worship of a deity.

In this way, the inclusion of frankincense as a gift for Jesus shows that Jesus is a divine being. He is not an ordinary human being, though he was born by a woman. Jesus is Deity; Jesus is God and the head of all spiritual beings.
(Read Colossians 2:10 to the Class)

Reflection

Let the children meditate on what they have been taught.

Application

Your worship must only be to God (Jesus alone) Do not worship any other God
Every other spiritual being is subject to Jesus and under the authority of Jesus

PRACTICAL

Bring in and burn a strong scented oil to illustrate the nature of the frankincense. Burn it in class as an illustration for the children to connect with what you are saying. (Don't just tell but show)

As you go through life, you are going to hear so many teachings from different people and diverse religions claiming that they are superior to Jesus Christ, do not believe them.

Hold on to the truth. From birth Jesus was marked out as a deity and the Head of all powers and authority. Worship only him.

Meditation & Journaling

Homework

Spend time in worship this week.

Write down your experience after every worship session.

FAMILY WORD CENTRE

LESSON 8

The Wise Men & The Gifts They Brought

THE GIFT OF MYRRH

BEFORE YOU START



BIBLE PASSAGE :

Mathew 2: 2-14

John 19 : 39-40

PREPARATION

Bring in a sample of a
scented spice for
illustration.



This week's lesson can be broken into
2 weeks, depending on how much
you are able to teach and cover

Lesson

Myrrh is a fragrant spice derived from the sap of a tree. Like frankincense, it can be used as incense, but back then, it was also used as a perfume, anointing oil, and for medicinal purpose. Myrrh was also a key ingredient in the mixture of spices that were used to prepare bodies for burial (read John 19:39-40).

Maybe the wise men intended this gift as an indication of Jesus's death and the manner in which he would save humanity, through his death on the cross.

Application

He was already prepared for his death from the time he was born as a child . His assignment on earth was not something that he decided to do after trying out different things on earth. No ! He was born to die for humanity, and this was shown from the gift he received at birth.

Meditation

Let the children meditate on this.

After meditation let the children write down what they learnt.

Homework

This week live a life worthy of the death that Jesus died to have you live.

Write down how you practiced this during the week.

LESSON 9

The Value Of A Gift

WHAT DID HIS PARENTS DO
WITH THE GIFT?

BEFORE YOU START



BIBLE PASSAGE :

Mathew 2:1-14

FAMILY WORD CENTRE

Lesson

The gift was used to help the family escape to another country. The Book of Matthew tells us that as soon as the wise men departed, an angel of the Lord came to warn Joseph of Herod's rage (Matthew 2:13). Joseph was instructed to take refuge in Egypt, a journey of over 100 miles. For a family with low income (remember Joseph was a carpenter), a trip of this magnitude would be difficult to pull off.

So probably the valuable gifts Mary and Joseph received from the wise men may have sponsored the family's flight to Egypt.

Application

The wise men gave them gifts that were useful, valuable, profitable and relevant .

When next you want to give someone a gift, give them something that makes sense, something that will add value to their lives.

Don't just give out a gift because you want to discard something or because you want it to be on record that you gave the person a gift.

No! Never do that . Be it a birthday gift, a Christmas gift or just gift, ensure that it is a gift that will add value to the receiver's lives



DISCUSSION

Let the class discuss different gifts that is commonly given out, but do not add value to lives.

Let them also discuss different gifts that will add value to people's lives.

Finally do not only give gifts to people that can repay you, but give valuable gifts to people who really need them but might never be able to repay you. Just as the wisemen did When you do this, then you are truly a wise person.

Homework

This Christmas give out a gift that will add value to people's lives.

Take time to write the names of people you want to give gifts to and the gift you plan to give them, then liaise with your parents.

Further Lesson For Older Children

God goes ahead of us to prepare the things we need in life. God knew that Mary and Joseph would be needing money to relocate to Egypt, so he went ahead of them to prepare foreigners who would be bringing in all they needed for their journey

Further Application For Older Children

God made you and He knows all that you will need on earth to make your journey here on earth successful. He will send you all the help you need, even the ones that you don't know you will need.

So be anxious for nothing. There is no need for anxiety or depression. Your own responsibility is to stay connected to God through his Word and prayer. Do your part and God will do his part.

Further Homework For Older Children

Write down all the things that has given you anxiety. List them down.

Every day during your prayer time, mention it to God in prayer.

FAMILY WORD CENTRE

LESSON 10

Major Christmas Decorations And Symbols

BEFORE YOU START



PREPARATION

Have a decorated
MANGER set up in front
of the children while
teaching this

The essence of this lesson is to ensure that Christ is represented in everything the children see during the Christmas period.

Taking time to do this will help create a conscious mind set and keep Christ at the centre of everything they do and see during the Christmas period.

Manger

The manger must be a major Christmas decoration in our homes during Christmas, as it will consciously remind us of what to feed on.

You can decorate your Mangers in different styles and name them after the different Mangers below.



1. WISEMEN MANGER

This is a representation of Jesus lying in the manger with the 3 gifts from the wise men - gold, frankincense and myrrh

The treasures the wise men brought were of significant value and prophetic importance.

Gold, frankincense,

and myrrh are gifts worthy of a king. Gold is symbolic of Jesus's deity as King, frankincense represents His purity as Priest of God, and myrrh is suggestive of His anointed work as a Prophet and of His death.

2. COLOUR MANGER



This represent Jesus lying in the Manger bringing colours to our world and lives at his birth. As we feed on him, everything about us becomes colourful. Our behaviour, Character, grades, career, talents, marriage, relationships, health and life will become colourful.

3. LIGHT MANGER

Jesus brought light into our world at his birth. His arrival brought light to our world. When we feed on the Word instead of hay our eyes will open with illumination and understanding and darkness will be expelled.



4. THE FEEDING MANGER



Jesus is the Word of God. He was laid in a manger a feeding tray, so we can feed on him through the Bible for our spiritual nourishment. This Manger contains the baby and a Bible signifying that Jesus is no longer on earth, but we

can feed on him through our daily study of the words he left behind for us in the Bible.

5. THE ROYAL MANGER

Jesus was laid in a Manger though he was the Son of God the king of heaven and Earth. He humbled himself, came to earth and had his first baby bed in a Manger, teaching us humility. Be humble.



6. GIVING MANGER

Jesus was a beautiful unmerited gift of love that God gave to



humanity . He was a gift we needed more than anything else.

The wise men also gave Jesus's parents gifts that were useful, profitable and relevant .

When next you want to give someone a gift, give them something that is valuable, something that will add value to their lives.

Don't just give out a gift because you want to discard something or because you want it to be on record that you gave the person a gift. No! Never do that . Be it a birthday gift, a Christmas gift or just a gift. Ensure that it is a gift that will add value to their lives. The Giving Manger is a reminder of how you should give.

This Christmas, let us exchange a gift of love to one another and to people that we do not know who need love and support.

7. SPARKLING MANGER



Jesus brought sparkle to our world. His coming into the world has enabled us to shine and be outstanding wherever we go. When you feed on Jesus the Son and Word of God, your life will begin to sparkle. First you will be filled with the wisdom of God, then you will discover your purpose, you will begin to fulfil purpose which adds value to people's lives. When you begin

to add value to your world, you will get attention, when you get attention you will begin to sparkle.

8. COMMUNION MANGER

Jesus commanded us to feed on his Body and blood. The communion Manger is a reminder of the Holy communion which represents the feeding on Jesus body.



9. STABLE MANGER



The old traditional Manger filled with hay with the Baby lying on top represents Jesus' dominance over everything that we feed on. It could be social media, Television, junk food, bad music, etc. Jesus should be above it all. Even our intellectual books. No matter what we read, the Bible must still be given priority. It must be on top. That is why the baby Jesus was laid on TOP of the Hay in the Manger.

PRACTICAL AND REWARD

The children should send in the pictures of their decorated Mangers to the class email or social platform. The most beautiful manger gets a reward and a gift.

Other Symbols

- i. **Christmas Tree:** let us just say it is the tree from where animal food (hay) was cut from and then placed in the Manger as food for the animals. That night Mary had no bedding for her baby so she had to place him on a heap of Hay that had been cut from a tree. This is not a Christmas symbol, remember if you must have a Christmas tree, you must first have a Christmas manger.

No Manger, No Tree

- ii. **Christmas Light**

This is not a major symbol but it represents Jesus coming into the world and bringing light into the World. Before His birth, humans were living in sin separated from God and once you are separated from God you are spiritually blind **(explain spiritual blindness for emphasis)**

With Jesus's birth, He reconciled us back to God, and now we have light. There is no more darkness

When next you see a Christmas light pause and say "Thank you Jesus"



This always works! Place a reward and watch them all go into action..

iii. Strips Of Clothes - Red, Yellow, Green

Luke 2:7

She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger...

Most times at Christmas we see everywhere decorated with red, yellow and green Strips of clothes. This is not a major symbol but let's just say the clothes represent what he was wrapped up in. Though the Bible never specified they were coloured strips)

Each colour represents what he will bring into our world

The red cloth represented His blood which was going to be used as a sacrifice for the whole world.

The green represents new life. We will all grow and have a new life, with our new relationship with God.

The Yellow clothing represents light (the colour of light). He brought back light into our world.

iv. The Red and white hat or socks.

This is not a symbol but let's say the red hat represents the blood of Jesus flowing into our lives and the smaller white portion in the hat represents peace, the peace of God coming gradually into our lives when we allow him to come into our lives and wash us clean with his blood.

Remember most of these are not Christmas symbols but just decorations. the major symbols that are of significance are the manger and the stable .

As you grow in life, keep these 2 symbols as your major Christmas decoration and symbols. It will make your Christmas meaningful, impactful and Christ centred.

APPLICATION / HOMEWORK

Now what do you think should be the main symbols for Christmas? Santa? The Christmas tree? The stable? The MANGER? The Baby?

If you were to write a book explaining the full meaning of Christmas. What will you write. Write what Christmas means to you.

Everybody should buy or build a Manger, decorate it and send a picture to the teacher for grading.

Always remember there is no Christmas without Jesus Christ .

Merry Christmas