

Lesson: God Sends an Angel to Visit Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)

 ministry-to-children.com/lesson-god-prepares-joseph

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Mary was not the only one visited by angels in advance of Jesus' birth. In this story, God sends an angel to prepare Joseph for his very special role in the Christmas story. Ultimately, Joseph accepts Jesus as his son.

This lesson was first used in a broadly graded children's church program. It could easily be adapted as a Christmas Sunday School lesson or used in other ministry contexts. The emphasis on this lesson is the amazing facts about Jesus that Joseph learns from the angel. There is also some advanced teaching on the two natures of Christ – fully God and fully man.

Bible Passage: Matthew 1:18-25

Bible Story Title: Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

Target Age Group: Kindergarten – 5th Grade

Target Time Frame: 25 minutes

Original Teaching Context: Children's Church

Learning Objectives: After this lesson . . .

1. Children will demonstrate knowledge of the three amazing facts about Jesus in this passage ... by listing them when prompted with 3 "word clues."
2. Children will demonstrate a basic understanding of the two natures of Christ ... by explaining in their own words how Jesus is both 100% God and 100% Human.

Target Age: Kindergarten – 5th

Items Needed:

- Marked Bible: Read Matthew 1:18-25. Prepare the copy in advance by highlighting the significant points to emphasize and underlining items that will need additional explanation.
- Marker Board (or 3 poster boards that you can write on)

- Word Clues: Write the following statements on separate pieces of paper. Use different colors if available.
 - Holy Spirit
 - Immanuel
 - Save

Teaching Plan: God Prepares Joseph

Hook:

Show the children the three word clues. Display them on the wall. Each word clue will help them discover something amazing about Jesus from the story. Ask the children to listen carefully for these word clues in the story.

Book:

Say, "In this story we learn where Jesus really came from. Raise your hand if you think Jesus is really a human because his mother was a human? Hands down. Now raise your hand if you think Jesus was really God because he was born in a special way without a human father? Hands down. Let's listen and find out what the Bible says..."

Read (and summarize) Matthew 1:18-25. (Read with emotion and pause often to engage the children with the reading.) Make special note that Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit and of Mary – so he is both really God and really human.

During the telling of the story reinforce the three amazing discoveries about Jesus.

1. Holy Spirit – Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit.
2. Immanuel – Jesus will be called Immanuel, which means God with us.
3. Save – Jesus will save his people from their sin.

After the story, use the word clues and ask for volunteers to share their amazing discoveries about Jesus.

Draw the picture on the marker board that explain that Jesus is both 100% God and 100% Human. Invite one student to come forward and draw the same picture and repeat your explanation. Then draw several wrong pictures and explain why they do not show how Jesus is both 100% God and 100% Human.

Write on a marker board (or say) the three amazing facts statements but leaving out the "word clues." Have the children guess the word you left out. Leave out the underlined words.

1. Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit.

2. Jesus will be called Immanuel, which means God with us.
3. Jesus will save his people from their sin.

Read the following statements. Ask the children to stand up to answer YES.

- Could Jesus be really human if he did not have any human parents? NO.
- Could Jesus be really human if he had a human mother and father? YES
- Could Jesus be really God if he had both a human mother and father? NO.
- Could Jesus be really God if he was born of the Holy Spirit? YES.

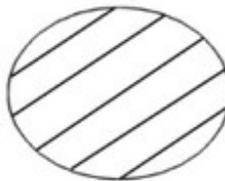
Test: Use the three “word clues” to prompt volunteers to state the 3 amazing facts they learned about Jesus from this story.

Ask for volunteers explain in their own words how Jesus is both 100% God and 100% Human.

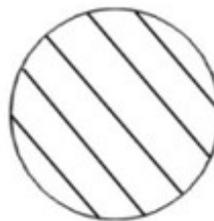
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Sample Visuals for this Lesson

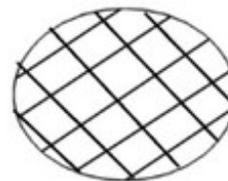
Jesus is really God =



Jesus is really human =

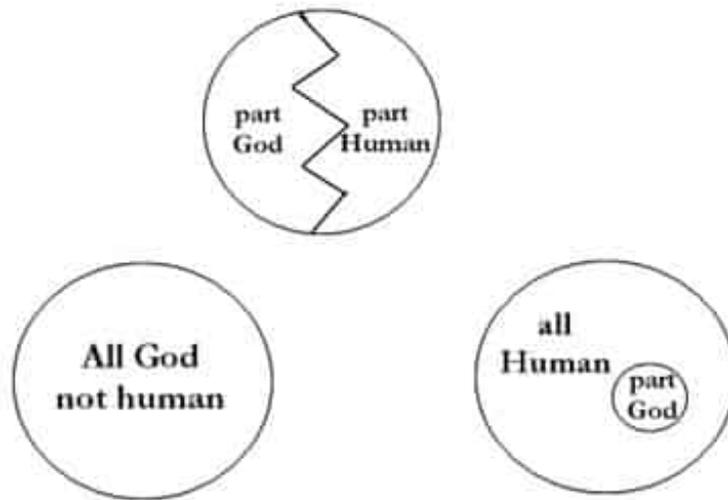


Jesus is 100% God and 100% human =



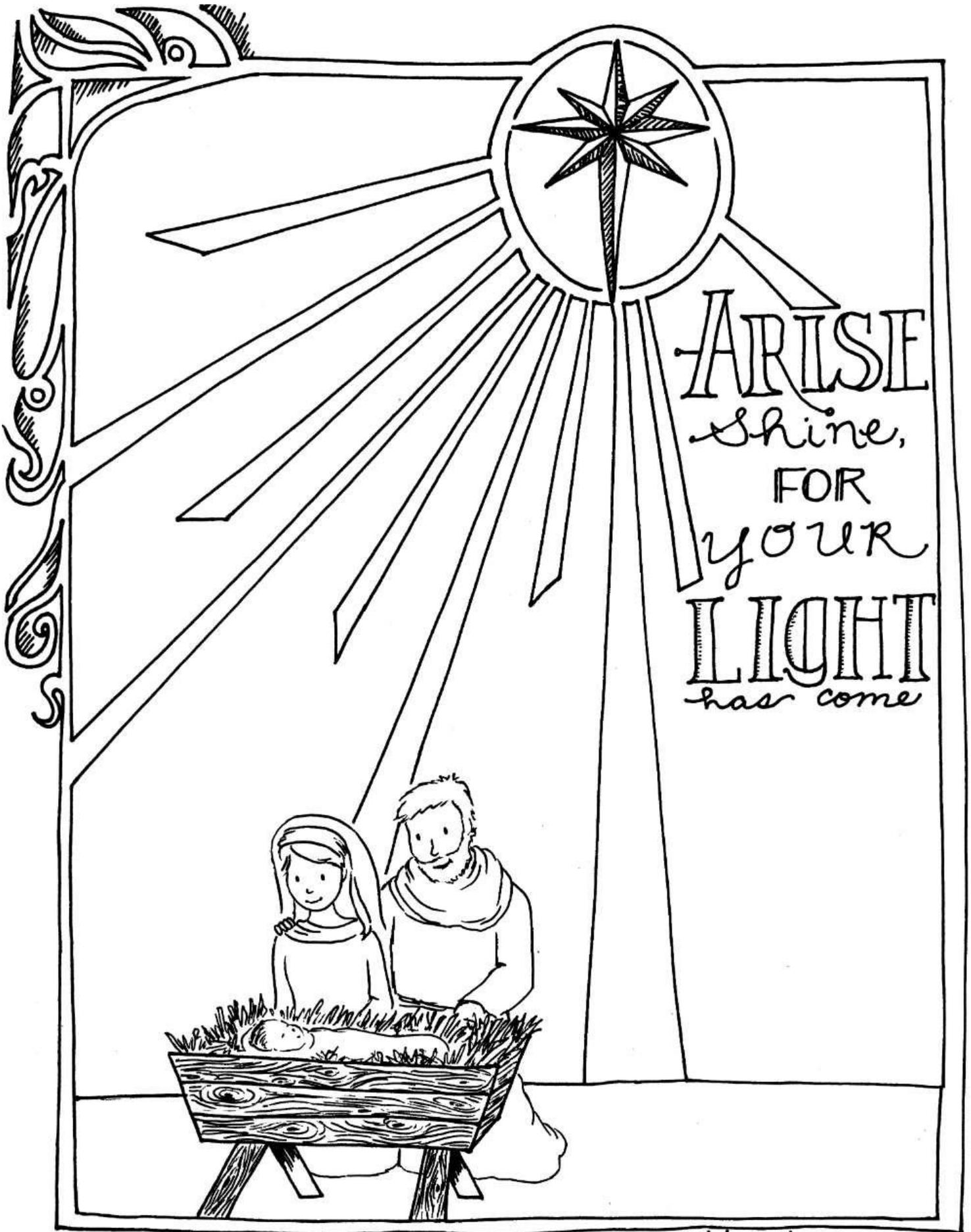
Jesus Christ: Fully God and Fully Man

Wrong Illustrations



Some wrong illustrations about the two natures of Christ

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ARISE
Shine,
FOR
your
LIGHT
has come

Because of Jesus

We have a Savior!

Luke 2:11





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