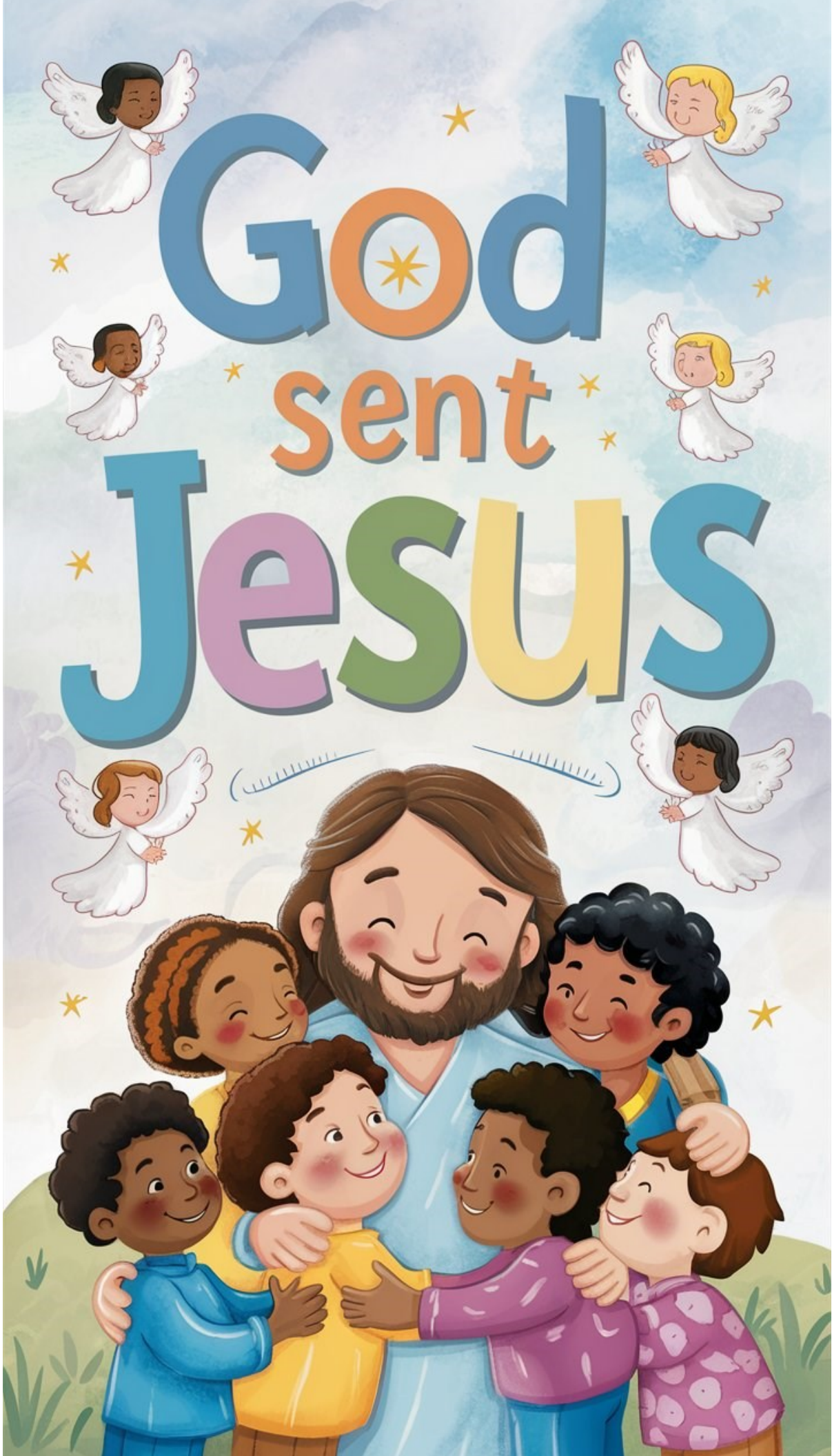


God
sent
Jesus





Year 2—Quarter 2 God's Big Plan

God Sent His Son

Explain that you're going to tell part of one of the most famous stories in the Bible, the story of Jesus' birth. But, that this is a part of the story that you don't hear very often. Choose 3 children to be Joseph, Mary and the angel and ask the to act out the parts while you read Matthew 1:18-24.

After reading the text, review the story with the following points:

- (1) Joseph was engaged to a young girl named Mary, but they weren't married yet.
- (2) Mary got pregnant and Joseph decided it would be best to divorce her quietly to keep from making a public scandal.
- (3) An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him that the baby was the Son of God and that he should marry Mary.
- (4) The angel told him that Mary would have a son and that they should name Him Jesus

because He would save His people from their sin.

(5) The angel explained that this baby was the Emmanuel promised in Isaiah 7:14 and that He was God coming to live with His people.

(6) Joseph woke up and married Mary as the angel commanded.

(7)... after going through this text, briefly tell "the rest of the story" from Luke 2:1-20 in your own words or have one of the kids tell the Christmas story.

Then, have one of the kids in the group read **John 1:1-2 & 14**. Briefly explain how this text helps us to understand what it means that Jesus is Emmanuel (God with us)... (1) Jesus was there in the beginning, (2) Jesus is God, (3) Jesus took on flesh, (4) Jesus came from God the Father.

Power Point

Jesus is
Emmanuel,
God with us.

MEMORY VERSE

Isaiah 7:14, "The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son, and he will be called Emmanuel."

He Took My Punishment

Tell the old story of the country school and it's new school master who had the boys make up some rules for the school to run by. (See story supplement for this lesson.)

Another Idea:

Consider serving communion to the children. You may serve it in the way your church does, or use an alternate method. For example: you could have a small drink box of grapejuice for each child (the ones with their own straw attached). And you could serve pita bread for the children to tear off a piece. Read from the Bible to explain communion. (1 Corinthians 11:23-26)



Year 2—Quarter 2 God’s Big Plan

Craft Idea

This craft is so cute and children of just about any age can make it! This Baby Jesus craft would obviously also work well for a Christmas craft.

Supplies Needed to Complete this Craft:

- Popsicle Sticks (we used jumbo popsicle sticks)
- Shredded crumpled paper (you can get this by the bag full at the Dollar Tree)
- School Glue (*not* a glue stick)
- Manila File Folder
- White Felt (you could substitute white paper)
- Construction paper

Before you begin, trace around a milk cap on a manila file folder and cut it out. Draw on a face for Baby Jesus. Also, cut out a rectangle of white felt for his “swaddling clothes”. If your kids are older, they will be able to cut out Baby Jesus on their own. Now you’re ready to begin. Have your kids run a line of glue down each popsicle stick and glue them in the middle of their paper in the shape of an “X”. This is the manger. Then put lots and lots of glue on top of the X and stick the crumpled paper on it. Lastly, glue on Baby Jesus’ blanket- then his head.



How Did Jesus Pay for Our Sin?

What Adam ruined in the garden Jesus redeemed on the cross.

Jesus was very kind and taught people about love and helping each other. He did many amazing things like healing sick people and even calming storms! Many people loved Jesus, but some did not like what he was teaching.

One day, those people who didn’t like Jesus decided to hurt him. They put him on a cross, which was a wooden frame, and it was very sad because Jesus hadn’t done anything wrong. People who were with Jesus felt very sad and scared because they loved him a lot.

But Jesus had told them that this would happen and that it was a part of a big plan. He said he would come back, and he did! Three days after he was put on the cross, he came

back to life to show everyone that he was really special and that there was a wonderful place called heaven.

Even though the story of the cross is sad, it shows us that Jesus loves everyone so much that He was willing to die to pay for our sin.

What Does Emmanuel Mean?

“Emmanuel” is a special name that means “**God with us**”. It’s like having a best friend who is always there for you, no matter what. This name is used for Jesus in the Bible to tell us that when He came to Earth, it was God coming to be right by our side.

Here’s a little rhyme to help you remember:

Emmanuel means God's with me,
Like a close friend, He'll always be.
In every laugh, in every tear,
With the name Emmanuel, God is near.

Isn’t it wonderful to know that God is always with us, just like a friend who never leaves?

Year 2—Quarter 2 God's Big Plan

Story: One Room Schoolhouse

In the days of the wild West, there was a one room school with a bad reputation. The kids were completely out of control. There were rough fights. Some kids were so mean, nobody wanted to go to school there. Even the teachers would quit.

They might start with good intentions, but the teachers eventually just left.

While several teachers did leave, a new teacher was called to take over the school. Something happened when he arrived; somehow, things just seemed different. This teacher was calmer. He listened to the kids. There was another thing that made him different – he carried his Bible, and he spoke about God.

There was, of course, the first day. It was chaos as usual. The fighting was so bad, it looked like someone would be seriously hurt for sure. The kids didn't even stop when the teacher came in.

They expected him to start yelling, but he didn't.

This new teacher walked straight to the blackboard. He told the kids it was his job to make the school work, but he wanted their help. They could help be in charge. He asked them if they would like to take part in making the rules.

The kids couldn't believe their ears. This was what they'd been waiting for! One by one the kids made suggestions for the rules. If the others agreed, the teacher listed each suggestion. The not included not stealing, no fighting, no cursing and no spitting. Then the teacher asked for suggestions on punishment.

In those days, it was common for teachers to spank the children. In fact, the kids in our story decided how many swats with a stick would be given for the offenses.

The kids thought it was fun, but the teacher reminded them how serious it was. He told them not to complain when the penalty had to be paid.

At first there were no problems. The kids had such a big part in making the rules that they wanted to see things work. However, one of the kids decided to steal an apple. He waited for recess, and while everyone was outside, he snuck back into the classroom. He wasted no time pocketing the apple and even thought his scheme worked. However, one of the students saw what happened.

The boy was caught and brought before the class. The teacher asked him if he had anything to say before he received his swats. What he said next broke every-

one's heart.

He said that his father was out of work and had left home. The family had no money for food, and there was nothing to eat in their house. He said he was sorry for taking the apple and promised never to do it again.

Everybody felt sorry for the boy and they all expected the teacher to let him go. The teacher explained that he didn't want to give the boy a spanking, but the children had agreed to the rule and the punishment. As he lifted the stick, the other kids shouted, "No! That's not fair!"

One of the kids held up his hand and said, "Wait! We talked about the rules and the punishment, but we never discussed who had to take the punishment."

The teacher listened as the older boy explained. He stood up and said he was willing to take the punishment for the younger boy. The fact is that it was the older boy's apple that was stolen, and he was still willing to accept the swats. The teacher told him that he didn't have to, but the older boy insisted.

The teacher allowed the older boy to take a stand for the younger lad and began the punishment. It was ten swats, the penalty for stealing.

After five swats, tears started rolling down the younger boy's cheeks. Other kids began to choke up as they thought about how the older boy was taking the punishment.

The teacher said he was thankful to be in a school where children would support each other. He asked the class to bow their heads and just listen. He opened his Bible as he continued to speak to the class.

He said that the greatest price ever paid was when Jesus went to the cross. Jesus took all the sin of the world. Jesus laid His life down for all humankind. He told the students that Jesus took our punishment ... our swats. The price had to be paid because of our sin. That was a day that would always be remembered by each kid in that one room school.



Empowered
~ God with
us ~

