



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** Jesus Is the King  
Winter Year 1, Lesson 29

# Announcing the King

**Take Home Point:** \*Proclaim Jesus as King!

\*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Matthew 1:18-25

**Key Verse:** Matthew 1:21: "She will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus (He Saves), because he will save his people from their sins."

**We will help kids know:**

- God used angels to proclaim to Joseph and Mary that he was sending Jesus.
- God's Son was to be named Jesus, meaning "Savior." He was also called Immanuel, meaning "God with us."




**We will help kids feel:**

- Awe in marveling at the greatness of God who rules over men and angels.
- Loved as they consider that God did all of this just for them.

**We will help kids do:**

- Proclaim Jesus as King to their family and friends.
- Make some witnessing tools to help them proclaim just as the angels did.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3-4	<p>Kids play a game called “Cats and Crickets” that watches communication get passed along. Today we will see how angels passed a message down to Mary and Joseph. The angels said God’s Son would be born and his name was to be Jesus. This is a very simple message, but it is important that it was passed along by angels to God’s people at that time.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>stuffed sock or light ball</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	<p>4</p> <p>7-8</p> <p>8-11</p> <p>11-12</p>	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p><b>Puppet Presentation:</b> “Gordy Gets Jumped”</p> <p><b>Dramatic Presentation:</b> “Through the Eyes of an Angel, Part One: Announcing the King”</p> <p><b>Puppet Presentation Conclusion:</b> “Gordy Gets Jumped”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>two angel costumes</li> <li>two ladders with white sheets draped over them</li> <li>fog machine (optional)</li> <li>back light (optional)</li> <li>spot light (optional)</li> <li>flashlight</li> <li>binoculars</li> <li>football with a cross</li> <li>first verse of each song on overheads</li> <li>accompaniment music for carols</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	5-6	<p>In modern times, angels are <i>not</i> the ones who tell others about Jesus...we are. Children will make angel invitations to invite someone to church.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>angel invitation printed with your church service information</li> <li>scissors</li> <li>glitter pens or markers</li> <li>glue</li> <li>glitter and/or sequins</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



**Purpose:** *Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.*

*Today we will talk about proclaiming Jesus as King. It is important that every child understands that he has personal responsibility to pass along the message of Jesus. Just as God used angels to proclaim Jesus' coming, we are his agents now to announce that he has come. Jesus is Savior of the world!*

Remember to ask the kids if they shared the poem and candy from last week with at least one friend. Remind them that their goal is to share with four friends.

The opening activity is a game that watches communication get passed along. You will need a light ball, a stuffed sock, or an object that is easy to throw across a circle. Have children stand or sit in a circle.

**We are going to play the game “Cats and Crickets.” Cats are quick and they can go around the circle very fast. We are going to practice moving the cat fast by tapping the arm of the person to your left and saying “cat.” Let’s see how fast we can move the cat.**

Lightly tap the arm of a child on one side of you and say,

**Cat! You tap the next person and say, “Cat!”**

That person taps the next person saying, “cat,” and so on. The quicker the children touch the friend next to them and say “cat,” the faster the cat moves around the circle.

Practice moving the cat around the circle, and then try changing directions. To change directions, tap back the person who just passed the cat. In other words, if the cat is going to the left, tap the person to the right. The cat can change directions at any time but only the person who is tapped can redirect the cat. Explain to the kids how to change direction and practice this a few times.

After the kids get the idea that cats are fast, introduce the cricket. The cricket is the ball or soft object that will be tossed around the circle.

**Though cats are quick, crickets can jump.**

Toss the cricket across the circle and say, “**Cricket!**” The child receiving the toss can then send the cricket jumping again by saying “cricket” and tossing it. Practice tossing the cricket around a few times. Then say:

**Now let’s put the two together and see if the cat can catch the cricket. Can the cat get passed along the outside of the circle so he can “capture” the cricket by getting to the person holding the ball?**

There are no winners or losers in this game. For that matter, people could make sure the cricket never gets caught by being intentionally slow to pass the cat. Or someone could make sure the cricket is caught by hanging onto the ball.

Debrief the group by saying:

**Today we will see how angels passed a message down to Mary and Joseph. The angels said God's Son would be born and his name was to be Jesus. He was to be Immanuel, which means "God with us." This is a very simple message, but it is important that it was passed along by angels to God's people at that time.**

**In modern times, angels are *not* the ones who tell others about Jesus...we are. We will discuss today how we can *\*proclaim Jesus as King.***

## **Large Group: 20-30 minutes**



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

### **Overview**

#### **Puppet Presentation: "Gordy Gets Jumped"**

Gordy wants to invent a new game, "Cricket Bombardment/Make Gordy Jump!" He talks about how seeing angels *would* make him jump.

#### **Dramatic Presentation: "Through the Eyes of an Angel, Part One: Announcing the King"**

Today's drama is about two angels looking down from heaven at the events leading up to the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. The angels are amazed at the plan of God to send his own Son to dwell with the people on earth.

#### **Puppet Presentation Conclusion: "Gordy Gets Jumped"**

Gordy is amazed at the angels and understands why the angels were so amazed at God's plan of salvation. Just like the angels were amazed messengers proclaiming the birth of Jesus, we are to be amazed at God's grace and proclaim the message that Jesus is King!

# Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible Event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

## Observation Questions: What happened?

**Mary was supposed to have a baby, but she wasn't yet married to Joseph. Joseph loved her very much, but he must have thought she had another boyfriend. He was going to break up with her because she was going to have a baby. What made him stop?** *(Matthew 1:20-23. An angel appeared to him in a dream.)*

**What did the angel tell Joseph?** *(Matthew 1:20-23. Not to be afraid to take Mary as his wife and what the baby's name should be.)*

**Why do you think God wanted the baby's name to be Jesus?** *(Matthew 1:21. Because Jesus means "He Saves" and Jesus would save his people from their sins.)*

**What does Immanuel mean?** *(Matthew 1:23. "God is with us.")*

## Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

**How do you think Mary felt about the news of becoming the mother of the promised Savior?**

**What do you think the angel who told Joseph the news was thinking or feeling?** *(Excitement, joy.)*

**How do you think Joseph felt after he heard the angel's news?**

For older children read Matthew 1:22.

**What had the Lord spoken through the prophets? How did it come true?** *(God had spoken of Jesus—he had passed the promise—throughout the Old Testament. Now the prophecy is fulfilled with Jesus' birth.)*

## **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

Read Matthew 1:21.

***“She will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus (He Saves), because he will save his people from their sins.”***

**If the angel was excited and glad to tell the Good News of Jesus, how do you think we might feel as we tell others? (*Excited and glad, too.*)**

**Who have you told about Jesus?**

Let kids respond. Tell some of your own stories as well.

**One way to tell people about Jesus is to invite them to your Christmas program or to Christmas services. Today we will make some invitations for that. We want to *\*proclaim Jesus as King* to our friends and family.**

### Application Activity:

Pass out the angel invitations and have kids cut out and decorate them with glitter pens, markers, glitter, or sequins. Kids can even address the cards personally. (Some of these angels can even be used as Christmas tree ornaments.)

Have the children talk about who they will invite with these invitations. Reward them next week with a Tootsie Roll if they give someone an invitation this week (even if that person doesn't come).

### Closing Prayer:

Have the children pray for the person's heart they are inviting to be receptive. If they have not thought of a person to invite, have them pray that God would show them who he wants them to invite.

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# **“Gordy Gets Jumped”**

## **Puppet Presentation**

**Mr. King:** Welcome, kids! Let’s call Gordy.

*(Kids chant, “Gor-dy! Gor-dy! Gor-dy!”)*

**Gordy:** Hi, Mr. King! We just played a cool game. Cats are quick. *(Goes behind puppet stage to retrieve the “cricket” from the game and throws it at Mr. King during his next line.)*

**Mr. King:** Yes, I know. But crickets can jump.

**Gordy:** No, Mr. King, Gordy can jump.

**Mr. King:** I thought the game was about cats and crickets.

**Gordy:** No, it’s about Gordy jumping.

**Mr. King:** You mean you jumped during the game? I thought the crickets jumped.

**Gordy:** No. Gordy jumps when the cricket comes flying at him ’cause Gordy’s not too good at catching.

**Mr. King:** So maybe we should call the game something different. Instead of “Cats and Crickets,” maybe it should be called...uh...er....

**Gordy:** “Cricket Bombardment!”

**Mr. King:** Or at least we could call it “Make Gordy Jump.”

**Gordy:** Well, what was the point of the game anyway?

**Mr. King:** In the game, we passed around the circle the stuffed sock (or ball) that reminded us of a cricket, right?

**Gordy:** Right, except my group threw the cricket at me!

**Mr. King:** Well, whatever. But this reminds us of how through the hundreds and hundreds of years before Jesus was born, God’s people passed the promise down to each generation that a king was coming who would deliver his people.

**Gordy:** What do you mean?

**Mr. King:** Don’t you remember last week that we saw Isaiah the prophet talk about people living in darkness who would see a great light?

Gordy: Yes. And that light would be Jesus.

**Mr. King: Right. *(Picks up the football with a cross on it.)* God had passed the promise down through all the prophets. But when it was time for Jesus to be born, God used angels to proclaim the message of what would happen.**

Gordy: Wow! I wonder what it would be like to see an angel. That would really make me jump.

**Mr. King: Let's use our imaginations to picture two angels in heaven named Sapphire and Ruby.**

Gordy: Are they real angels?

**Mr. King: No, they are not named in the Bible. We are going to have actors on ladders and we will imagine them in heaven looking down to earth. Let's imagine what they might be saying to each other as they watch the story of how the King of the universe, Jesus, would be born into the world.**

Gordy: Wow! I wonder what that would look like to angels.

**Mr. King: Let's pay attention and find out.**



# **Announcing the King**

## **“Through the Eyes of An Angel: Part One”**

### **Matthew 1:18-25**

#### Setting:

Have house lights turned off or dimmed. Both angels are sitting on top of ladders. Sapphire has binoculars. A spotlight should be on the angels. For special effect, the angels can be lit with back light and a fog machine can be used near them.

A scripture reader will be near a microphone using a flashlight for light.

Instead of regular large group song time, songs may be included in the drama. Musicians or music accompaniment, including overhead transparencies for songs, should be ready to go at the appropriate time. The overhead should be turned off after each song so the room remains dark for the drama.

If time does not allow, the songs can be eliminated.

#### Characters:

**Sapphire:** An inquisitive angel who is interested in the affairs of men and the mystery of God becoming flesh.

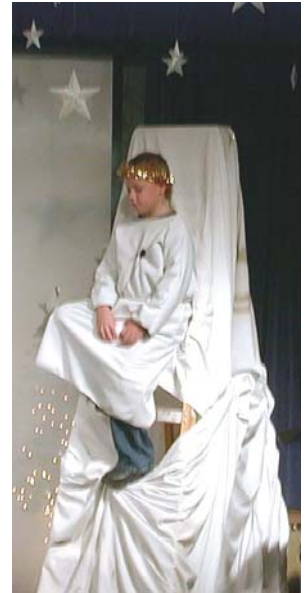
**Ruby:** An angel who has seen the glory of God and his plan unfold as he sends Jesus into the world. She is eager to help Sapphire see the glory in all of it.

#### Characterization Hint:

Any time an angel mentions the name of God or the Most High, both angels should lower their heads in reverence, raise their hands, and say, “Blessed be his name.” This will help the audience understand the angels’ perspective of being able to have seen God face to face and be completely awed by the experience.

#### Additional Helps:

In choosing the actors, look for older elementary kids, teens or adults who are willing to prepare and rehearse. The script can be enlarged and placed on the floor for the actors to refer to. Music can also be played while angels are getting set up on the ladders.



## SCENE 1: Mary and Joseph

**Reader:** *The birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. His mother Mary had been promised to Joseph in marriage. But before they were married, Mary realized that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph was an honorable man and did not want to disgrace her publicly. So he decided to break the marriage agreement with her secretly. (Matthew 1:18,19.)*

**Saph:** *(Looking through binoculars.)* Hey, Ruby, have you seen them yet?

Ruby: Seen whom?

**Saph:** Mary and Joseph. All of heaven is talking about what is about to take place.

Ruby: Of course I've heard about that. Can you imagine, the Son of the Most High entering inside a young lady who would give birth to him?

**Saph:** But have you seen them? I've been looking all over.

Ruby: No, I haven't. I'm not assigned to that case.

**Saph:** Well, I'm hoping to get that assignment. Maybe I'll be the one to tell them the good news.

Ruby: Wow! Do you think you might?

**Saph:** Go figure! Someone must speak to Joseph and speak to him soon. He's planning to break his marriage agreement to Mary. He doesn't know that the child inside her is the King of kings. He thinks she must have some other boyfriend.

Ruby: Who will tell him?

**Saph:** I hope I get to. *(Looking into his binoculars.)* And, if I can find them, maybe the Lord God will give me that assignment.

Ruby: But wouldn't it go to the highest of angels?

**Saph:** Go figure. Why should they have all the fun? I know I can do it just as well.

Ruby: Whoever gets chosen is not important. But proclaiming him the King and letting Joseph know...that's important.

Spotlights fade out. Music rises.

SONG: "Hark the Herald Angels"

## SCENE 2: Angel Comes to Joseph

**Reader:** *Joseph had this in mind when an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said to him, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. She is pregnant by the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus (He Saves), because he will save his people from their sins." All this happened so that what the Lord had spoken through the prophet came true: "The virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel," which means "God is with us." (Matthew 1:20-23.)*

*(Ruby is gazing at Sapphire's binoculars.)*

**Ruby:** Saph, what are you looking for? Didn't you know that the Holy One has sent another angel to Joseph?

**Saph:** *(Disappointed.)* **Go figure. It wasn't me.** *(Perking up. Looking through binoculars.)* **But look how exciting it is nonetheless.**

**Ruby:** What do you mean?

**Saph:** *(Pointing down.)* **The angel has given Joseph a name for the child.**

**Ruby:** What is it?

**Saph:** **He is to be called Jesus.**

**Ruby:** Oh, because Jesus means "He will save the people from their sins."

**Saph:** **Yes, it means "Savior." Our comrade angel has told them that the prophecy for telling this is fulfilled.** *(Arms outspread.)* **For he shall be called Immanuel as the prophecy says.**

**Ruby:** Immanuel, that means "God with us." Can you imagine God himself leaving heaven to dwell with these people?

**Saph:** **Go figure. What an amazing love that would send him there.**

SONG: "Immanuel"

**Reader:** *When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him to do. He took Mary to be his wife. He did not have marital relations with her before she gave birth to a son. Joseph named the child Jesus. (Matthew 1:24-25.)*

## **“Gordy Gets Jumped”**

### Puppet Presentation Conclusion

**Mr. King:** Gordy, what do you think? Did Sapphire and Ruby make you jump?

Gordy: No, they didn’t startle me, but I could imagine that Joseph would have been quite surprised to hear from an angel.

**Mr. King:** I’m sure he was.

Gordy: Now I understand how the angels were quite surprised that the Son of God would leave heaven to be born as a person on earth.

**Mr. King:** That’s right. They were amazed at God’s love for us. It’s only because of God’s love that he would send his son.

Gordy: Do you think God uses angels today?

**Mr. King:** Yes, he does. But the most important messengers today are you and me.

Gordy: What?!

**Mr. King:** *(Shows the children the football again.)* Yes, God wants us to be his messengers today. It’s a job passed down to us and it’s a very simple message.

Gordy: What is it?

**Mr. King:** We need to be so amazed at God’s love for us that we can’t help but tell others that Jesus is the King.

Gordy: Sure, he’s the King!

**Mr. King:** Well, then let’s *\*proclaim Jesus as King*. In fact, you can do that right now as you close us in prayer.

Gordy: Okay. Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus. It really is amazing that he came to earth as a person. Now we want to *\*proclaim Jesus as King* just like the angels did. Help us to sing about it and invite others to church and tell others about the true meaning of Christmas. We pray in Jesus’ name, Amen.

