



The Messiah Has Come

1

Key Theme

- God is faithful to His promises.

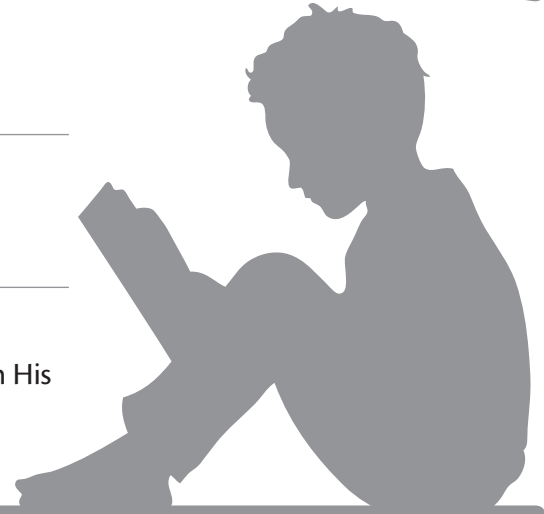
Key Passages

- Hebrews 1:1–2; Luke 2:25–28

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Connect the coming of the Messiah in the Old Testament with His arrival in the New Testament.
- Describe Simeon's response to the arrival of the Messiah.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will review the memory verse by filling in the blanks on the Memory Verse Review Sheet and reciting the verse to a friend or to the class.



Activity 1: The Messiah Has Come Class Notes

Students will fill out The Messiah Has Come Class Notes as you study the lesson.



Studying God's Word

God's people longed for their Messiah to come. And finally, in God's appointed time, Jesus was born. Simeon was one of many who had waited and rejoiced that the Savior had come.



Activity 2: Messiah Beanbag Toss Review

Students will review the lesson by answering questions and tossing a beanbag to score points.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- ☐ Print the Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- ☐ Memory Verse Poster
- ☐ Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student



THE MESSIAH HAS COME CLASS NOTES

- ☐ Print one The Messiah Has Come Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- ☐ The Messiah Has Come Class Notes for each student
- ☐ The Messiah Has Come Class Notes Answer Key
- ☐ Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- ☐ Study the Prepare to Share section.
- ☐ Go Before the Throne.

- ☐ Student Take Home Sheets
- ☐ Year 2, Quarter 4, Lesson 12 Lesson Theme Poster
- ☐ Year 2, Quarter 3 Lesson Theme Posters to show prophets



MESSIAH BEANBAG TOSS REVIEW

- ☐ Print one Messiah Beanbag Toss Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.
- ☐ Make a 2' or larger square with masking tape on the floor. Divide the inside of the square into sections. An X will make 4 sections. Assign each section a number value.

- ☐ Messiah Beanbag Toss Sheet
- ☐ One beanbag for each team
- ☐ Masking tape



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW GAME (OPTIONAL)

- ☐ Print and cut out one copy of the Memory Verse Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM, preferably onto cardstock.
- ☐ Save the cards for use in future lessons.
- ☐ This is an optional activity to use in some or all of the lessons to review the memory verse if time allows.

- ☐ Memory Verse Cards printed on cardstock
- ☐ Tape or poster putty



Memory Verse

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above along with this background.

Through the prophet Amos, God had declared to His people, “Behold, the days are coming,” says the Lord God, “that I will send a famine on the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord” (Amos 8:11). This judgment came about during the 400 years of silence that followed the prophet Malachi. There were no prophetic words from God to the people.

God had closed the Old Testament by confirming His promise to His people through His prophet Malachi that one day the Messiah—the Messenger of the Covenant—would come (Malachi 3:1). For a remnant of the Jews who understood the message of the prophets, such as Simeon (Luke 2:25–32), this was a message of hope as they waited expectantly for the Savior who would deliver them from their sins. It seems that the majority, however, were looking for national deliverance and restoration, as is seen by the question of some of Jesus’s own disciples in Acts 1:6: “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?”

God’s people had already been waiting a very long time for this promise of the Messiah to become reality. In fact, God first mentioned this good news nearly 4,000 years earlier in the Garden of Eden when the serpent was told that a Seed of Eve would bruise his head (Genesis 3:15). We hear of it again when the Lord promised that Abraham’s descendants would outnumber the stars in the sky and that in his seed all nations of the earth would be blessed (Genesis 22:17–18). The covenant continued with Abraham’s son Isaac (Genesis 26:4). Then it passed to Isaac’s son Jacob when God said to him that a company of nations would proceed from him, and He assured him of the land that He had given Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 28:13). The promise continued on through the tribe of Judah to David (Genesis 49:8; Revelation 5:5). God promised David a throne that would last forever (2 Samuel 7:16). And from the line of David, Jesus, the only eternal King, would enter the world as a helpless babe to one day sit on the throne of David (Luke 1:32–33).

Shadows and pictures of the Messiah are woven throughout Old Testament history. This history, these accounts, and the glimpses of God’s plan of redemption help to prepare us for the fuller truth revealed in

the New Testament—the coming of Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God, the promised one who is the Light of the world.

The New Testament letter to the Hebrews triumphantly proclaims Jesus Christ as the revelation of what was anticipated by the prophets of old. The writer of Hebrews, in the first two verses, expressed that God, who spoke in times past by the prophets, has now spoken through His Son. Then, the Son is richly described as the heir of all things, the one through whom God created the universe, and the express image of God, upholding all things by the word of His power and seated at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having purged our sins (Hebrews 1:2–3).

Another account in the New Testament that reveals Jesus as the promised Messiah is in the book of Luke. Simeon was a devout man in Jerusalem, “waiting for the Consolation of Israel” (Luke 2:25). The Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would not die before he witnessed the Lord’s Christ. When Jesus was brought into the Temple as a baby to be dedicated to the Lord, Simeon rejoiced that the Lord had, in Jesus, revealed to him the salvation promised for thousands of years (Luke 2:30–31). Simeon’s response to Mary and the baby was based on his knowledge of the Old Testament. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, he confirmed that this child was destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel. His mother would be grieved because of Him, and the thoughts of many hearts would be revealed by their response to Him (Luke 2:34–35). Simeon knew this was the Christ, and he believed.

Simeon’s reaction to the Christ shows the joy of one who had been faithful to God, had studied the Scriptures of old, and had waited for the revealing of God’s plan. He was now overjoyed at seeing the promise of salvation through the Messiah in the flesh and was content to die, knowing that his own salvation would be accomplished through this precious little child.

Simeon grasped the fullness and richness of Jesus Christ, the Messiah, through the revelation of the Holy Spirit and the Old Testament Scriptures. Like Simeon, our study of the Old Testament and the promises of God to redeem His people coupled with the illuminating work of the Holy Spirit will allow us a richer delight in Jesus Christ—His life, His death, and His Resurrection. Study and meditation on the Old Testament can guide us to a more complete joy in the hope, comfort, peace, grace, and forgiveness we find throughout the pages of the New Testament in the life of our Savior.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Without the history of the Old Testament, the New Testament narratives are hard to understand. If Jesus just showed up and died on a cross, no one would understand why He came. God was pleased to reveal His plan, but it was slowly revealed over thousands of years with increasing clarity (Romans 3:2). Why did God take so long to bring the Savior into the world? Why did God allow 400 years to pass between Malachi and Matthew? We can only answer these questions by trusting that God did as He pleased (Psalm 115:3) in His perfect timing—the “fullness of the time” described by Paul in Galatians 4:4.

Many have suggested that the “fullness of the time” described by Paul is tied, in some part, to the rise of the Roman Empire. Because of the common use of the Greek language and the roads and trade routes that connected the remotest regions of the empire, the message of reconciliation could spread widely and quickly. Combine that with the relative peace that accompanied the period around the birth of Christ (the *pax Romana*), and you have a culture that could effectively be reached with news that the Messiah had finally come.

As we turn from the Old Testament to the New Testament, the manuscript language moves from Hebrew to Greek. In the Hebrew Old Testament text, we find Jesus described as *meshiyach*, or Messiah. The basic meaning of Messiah is “anointed one” and refers to priests and others who were set apart for service to God through an anointing. In the New Testament we see that the Greek word used to describe Jesus is *christos*, or Christ. This Greek word also means “anointed” and is the equivalent of the Hebrew word *mashiach*, or Messiah. Some misunderstand the title of Christ given to Jesus in the New Testament to be part of His name. It is not His name, but proclaims His position as the anointed one of God.

Jesus confirmed His position for us and for the Jews of Nazareth when He read in the synagogue from the book of Isaiah: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor . . .” (Luke 4:18). The Samaritan woman at the well confirmed her knowledge of the Messiah, who is called Christ (John 4:25) as did Andrew who proclaimed, “‘We have found the Messiah’ (which is translated, the Christ)” (John 1:41). These references to Jesus—the Messiah, the Christ—found through all of

Scripture confirm the truth of who Jesus was and why He came. Confirmation of this sort builds the believer’s confidence in the living Word of God.

Your own confidence will increase as you grow in studying the Bible. Passage cross-references can be a tremendous help as you read and study God’s Word. There are almost 300 references to the Old Testament in the New Testament. In most Bibles, a quotation from the Old Testament will be set in italics and often set apart as a block quote. The publisher of your particular Bible, no doubt, has a unique format. It would be worth your while to become familiar with it. It is usually explained in the introduction or preface.

Using the Bible this background was written from, Old Testament quotations can be found in Luke 4:10 and 4:18–19. These verses are set in quotes and block text, setting them apart from the rest of the text. This tells us that these verses are quoted from the Old Testament. These verses are accompanied by a small number or letter that refers to a footnote identifying the passage(s) quoted. Your personal study of Scripture will be richer if you become familiar with the study helps your Bible has included for you.

The Bible is the inerrant, infallible, and living Word of God. It is worthy of serious study. It tells of the Savior, who was born of a woman in the fullness of time. As we drink deeply from the record we have of His existence from eternity past, His life on earth, and the hope we have of joining Him in eternal glory, we will be filled with awe, wonder, and anticipation for what is in store for us as believers.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Precious Lord, Messiah, I cannot help but marvel at your sovereignty and faithfulness as I study your Word for this lesson. I celebrate the miracle of my Savior, God, born to a virgin, in the fullness of time. I pause to drink deeply from your Word which is the record of your existence from eternity past, your life on earth, and the hope of eternal life with you. I rejoice with Simeon at the depth and breadth of your love for me—for us—that you would be my salvation and bring your revelation to all people. Help me teach these same truths to my students this week. To you be all the glory!

➤ Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we encourage you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God’s Word.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will review the memory verse by completing the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, they will recite the verse to a friend or to the class.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Use the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson throughout the year to quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes before each lesson to reinforce the important truths the students have heard in the lessons.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



The Messiah Has Come Class Notes

MATERIALS

- ☐ The Messiah Has Come Class Notes for each student
- ☐ The Messiah Has Come Class Notes Answer Key
- ☐ Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Do not work ahead. We'll complete them together.

After filling out each point on the class notes, have the students re-read the statement together or call on individual students to read it.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes today, we will see that God was faithful to His promise and sent the long-awaited Savior—the one the prophets of old had talked about. And we'll learn about one man who was very happy that Jesus was born!



Studying God's Word

Refer to the Year 2, Quarter 4, Lesson 12 Lesson Theme Poster. Jesus was coming just as God had promised. Remember Malachi? He was the last prophet we read about in the Old Testament. Show the book of Malachi in your Bible. Malachi had a message of hope from God for the people. He spoke about a messenger who would come one day.



Who was the messenger? *John the Baptist.*

FAITHFUL

(Refer to Attributes Poster)

► Use the New Testament History Poster included with your teacher kit as you teach the lesson. Emphasize that Jesus ministered only 3 years, and He lived only about 35 years. Yet His life changed the world forever and brought eternal life to all who believe.

► Read the completed statements on the class notes together as you move through them.

That's right. John the Baptist was a messenger who would prepare the way for someone.

? Who was that? Who did John come to prepare the way for? *The Lord.*

Right! The people waited for the Messiah—the Lord—Jesus. God had given them hope through Malachi that the Messiah—the Savior—would come. God is always faithful to His promises, even when it seems like it takes Him a long time.

? Can someone find the attribute “faithful” on the Attributes of God Poster? What does that mean? *Have a student read it from the Attributes of God Poster. God will always keep His promises. He does not lie.*

? How many years did the people wait after hearing Malachi's message of hope? Do you remember? *Refer to the Year 2, Quarter 4, Lesson 12 Lesson Theme Poster. 400 years.*

That is a long time, isn't it!

God promised the Savior for many, many years. Throughout the Old Testament, from the very beginning, way back in Genesis, God said He would send a Savior—the Messiah. And finally, thousands of years later, Jesus arrived.

God does always keep His promises. We can trust Him and His Word, even when it seems like He is taking a long time.

Let's take a look at our class notes now. Look where it says “Old Testament.” These first three sentences all have to do with the Old Testament.

? Look at #1. Will someone read that for us? What is the answer? You may look at the Word Bank for a hint. *Assign a reader. Old.*

That's correct. All through the Old Testament, God spoke through His prophets. Now let's read that sentence together.

In fact, God told about His plan to send a Savior way back in the first book of the Bible! *Show Genesis in your Bible.*

? What is that book called? *Genesis.*

? Yes! Now find #2 on your class notes. Who will read that for us? How would you answer that? *Assign a reader. Genesis.*

Write “Genesis” on your class notes. Look at the Word Bank if you need help spelling.

See how faithful God is? Even though it took hundreds—even thousands of years—God didn't forget what He said. He is faithful to remember His promises.

- ? Now someone read #3 on the class notes. *Assign a reader.* What is the answer? *Faithful.*

Right. God is faithful and will always keep His promises. He does not lie.



READ THE WORD

So we know that at the very beginning of the Bible, God promised that someone would come to save sinners. But how do we know that Jesus is the Savior—the one God promised? We can find out by digging into our Bibles. I'm going to turn to the book of Hebrews. It is in the New Testament near the back of the Bible. *Show the book of Hebrews in your Bible.* I am going to read Hebrews 1:1–2. Listen carefully while I read these verses so you can answer my questions. *Read the verses.*

Hebrews 1:1–2

➤ Re-read the verses or portions of the verses as necessary to help the students hear the answers directly from the biblical text.

➤ Have students name some of the prophets either from the Lesson Theme Posters or as you show the books in the Bible.

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? Who is this passage talking about? The beginning tells us! Listen again. *Re-read Hebrews 1:1. God.*

This says God spoke in the past to certain people. And we know that these people were God's prophets!

- ? Who were some of God's prophets in the Old Testament? We learned about quite a few of them. Who can name one? *Refer to Year 2, Quarter 3 Lesson Theme Posters, if available. Amos, Lesson 2; Hosea, Lesson 3; Nahum, Lesson 5; Micah, Lesson 8; Isaiah, Lesson 9; Jeremiah, Lesson 10. Or open your Bible to the prophet books and show the students where they are.*

- ? God told these prophets what to say. God spoke in times past through them!

But in this verse, God is telling us that He is now speaking through someone else. Listen as I read Hebrews 1:2 again. *Re-read Hebrews 1:2 emphasizing "spoken to us by His Son."*

- ? Who was God going to speak through now? *Hebrews 1:2. His Son.*

- ? Who is God's Son? *Jesus.*

- ? So, who did God speak through in the Old Testament? *The prophets.*

- ? And now, in the New Testament, who did God speak through? *Jesus, His Son.*

- ? Good job! Now find #4 on your class notes. Do you think these next questions have to do with the Old Testament or the New Testament? *New Testament.*

- ? That's right. We learned the answer to #4 from the New Testament—the book of Hebrews. Will someone read #4 for me? What is the answer? *Assign a reader. Past.*

- ? And how about #5? Will someone read that? How will you answer it? *Assign a reader. Jesus.*
- ? Where do we read about Jesus? *The Bible.*
- ? The whole Bible is about Jesus. And what part of the Bible tells us about Jesus after He was born? His life on earth? *Allow discussion. The New Testament.*

Yes. God spoke through the prophets in the Old Testament. And now God speaks through Jesus in the New Testament. But Jesus is not like the prophets of the Old Testament! Jesus is God! Jesus is the Savior who was promised long ago.

Discover the Truth

All through the Old Testament Scriptures, the prophets told of the Savior who would come and the hope that He would bring. Then in the New Testament, we learn that the Savior is Jesus—God’s Son.

God speaks through His Son now. The prophets who were speaking for God long ago were talking about Jesus, the one who would come to save His people from their sins! He is the Savior for all people who will believe in Him.

- ? Take a look at your class notes again. Find #6. Who will read that for me and give us the answer? *Assign a reader. Savior.*



READ THE WORD

Ok. Now let’s talk about this man on our class notes. *Point out the picture of Simeon on the class notes and Lesson Theme Poster.* Remember, God’s promise was fulfilled. The Savior had finally arrived. God’s people had heard and read about Him for many years. Then at just the right moment in time, God sent Jesus. God chose a young woman named Mary to be His mother. Mary was engaged to be married to Joseph. And Mary would have a Son, whose name was Jesus. You’ve probably heard about Jesus’s special birth many times. He was born in Bethlehem and laid in a manger. The angels came to shepherds in the fields the night He was born. The shepherds were keeping watch over their flocks. The angels told the shepherds the baby Jesus had been born. When they heard the good news, they hurried to Bethlehem to see the Savior who had been born. Then after they had seen Jesus, they told others about the good news—Jesus was born! The people had waited a long time, and He had arrived—the Savior sent from God!

- ? What do you think the people did when they realized this baby was the one they had heard about and waited for all those years? *Allow discussion.*

The Bible tells us that many people marveled—they were amazed and wondered about what the shepherds told them.

I would think people would have been pretty excited! We are going to see how one man in particular reacted when he learned the Messiah had come. Listen as I read Luke 2:25–28. *Read the passage with enthusiasm—remember, Simeon was probably excited!*

Luke 2:25–28

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

- ? Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. First, these verses tell us about a certain man. What was his name? *Luke 2:25. Simeon.*

Very good! Many people think Simeon was probably an old man when this happened. He had been waiting a long time to see the Savior. This verse also tells us that Simeon was a just and devout man. He loved God and obeyed Him. He had been faithful to God. Simeon had studied the Old Testament Scriptures and knew what they said about the Messiah, the Savior who was to come.

- ? Now, who was upon Simeon? Listen while I read this verse again. *Re-read Luke 2:25. The Holy Spirit.*

The Holy Spirit was upon Simeon and revealed something to him. Listen as I read Luke 2:26 again.

- ? What did the Holy Spirit reveal to Simeon? *Luke 2:26. That he would see the Lord's Christ before he died.*

- ? Who was this? Who had Simeon been waiting for? Who was the Lord's Christ? *Jesus.*

Simeon had waited for Jesus the Savior. He knew that God is faithful to keep His promises. And finally, one day, his waiting was rewarded. Listen while I read Luke 2:27 again. *Re-read Luke 2:27 emphasizing the answers to the following questions.*

- ? Where did Simeon go? *Luke 2:27. Into the Temple.*

- ? And who else came into the Temple while Simeon was there? *Luke 2:27. The child Jesus and His parents.*

That's right! God led Simeon to the Temple where Mary, Joseph, and the baby were. Simeon met the Lord's Christ—Jesus—the Savior just like God said he would. Simeon had waited for the Savior for so many years. Now he was finally seeing Him.

- ? So what did Simeon do with the child? Listen, I'll read it again. It is in Luke 2:28. *Re-read Luke 2:28. He took Him up in his arms.*

Wow! Have you ever waited and waited for something? It's so exciting when it finally happens, isn't it! Simeon knew what God's prophets had said many years earlier—that a Savior would come. Simeon believed God was faithful, and he trusted God to keep His promise. So Simeon waited and watched for the Savior. And the Holy Spirit guided him right to Jesus!

Not only did Simeon get to see the Savior, the Messiah, but he got to hold Him in his arms! Simeon must have been so happy! The Bible says that he blessed God. He said that this child—Jesus—was God's salvation and would be the light for people all over the world. Simeon knew that Jesus would bring God's truth to the people of every nation.

? Someone read #7 on your class notes and tell us the answer. *Assign a reader.*
Arms.

Discover the Truth

Picture this: for hundreds—even thousands of years—the people had heard the prophets talking about a Savior that would come someday. When would that someday be? Nobody knew. Only God knew the exact time.

? Have you ever had to wait like that? Did you ever know something super-exciting was going to happen, but you didn't know when? *Allow discussion.*

Simeon might have felt the same way. He wanted to see the Messiah—the Savior so badly! Then when he finally saw Him, he took the baby Jesus—HIS OWN SAVIOR—in his arms, and he blessed God. God had spoken through His prophets for so many years, but now Jesus was really here! Now God would speak through Jesus, His Son—OUR Savior.

Simeon was just one of many who must have rejoiced and celebrated after realizing that Jesus had finally come. For those who believed Jesus was the Son of God—the Promised One—it was truly an exciting and joyful time!

We should be excited about Jesus, too! God loved sinners so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, so they could be forgiven. We're all sinners, and we all need the Savior. Jesus is the only one who can save us and give us eternal life with Him in heaven. But we each have to turn from our own sins and trust Jesus, the one and only Savior.

Now let's finish up with #8 on the class notes. Who will read that and answer it for us? *Assign a reader. Sinners.*

Let's read it together now. *Read #8 together, shouting with enthusiasm.* Good job!



Messiah Beanbag Toss Review

MATERIALS

- ☐ Messiah Beanbag Toss Sheet
- ☐ Enough beanbags for each team to have one
- ☐ Masking tape

INSTRUCTIONS

Make a 2' or larger square with masking tape on the floor. Divide the inside of the square into sections. An X will make 4 sections. Assign each section a number value. Divide the class into two or more teams depending on size. Give each team a beanbag. Students will toss a beanbag then get a question to answer. If they answer correctly, they will be awarded the number of points according to where the beanbag landed. If the team misses the question another team may try. If no one gets the answer, give the answer and repeat the question later in the game. Repeat questions, or add others according to your class and your lesson.

We're going to play a beanbag tossing game while we review what we've studied today.

We'll divide into teams. Each team will take turns tossing a beanbag to earn points after correctly answering a question. If you miss a question, we'll let the other team try to answer it. Okay! Let's play!

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Both the Old and New Testaments point to Jesus. God spoke through His prophets to tell the people that a Savior was coming. In His perfect timing, God kept that promise, and Jesus was born. He lived, He died, and He rose again to save sinners. God always keeps His promises.

You did a great job reviewing this lesson. God loves it when we study His Word!





Memory Verse Review Game (Optional)

John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

If you find you have extra time, please consider reviewing the memory verse with your class using this activity.

MATERIALS

- ☐ Memory Verse Cards printed on cardstock
- ☐ Tape or poster putty

INSTRUCTIONS

Print and cut out one copy of the Memory Verse Cards, preferably onto cardstock. Tape the cards in order on the wall or board as you recite the verse together. Review the verse as you point to each card. Choose a student to remove one card of his choice. Recite the verse again. You can use these cards for Lessons 1–5.

We're going to practice our memory verse. Let's say the verse together as I place these cards onto the board. *Show each card as you read it, post it on the board, and have the students repeat.*

Good job! But wait! I'm going to ask one of you to come up and take one of the cards down. Then say the verse without that card! Are you ready? *Continue to choose students to remove cards one at a time reciting the whole verse between each one.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Put cards back on the board for the explanation. Now let's think about our memory verse. It says,

"... the Word became flesh." Remember we read in Hebrews that God used to speak through prophets, but now He speaks through someone else. And the *Word*, in this verse, is talking about that same someone who came to us and lived with us, then died for us.

? Who is that? *Jesus!*

Yes! Jesus is the Word that God speaks through now. He is God, and He became flesh.

? What does that mean? *Jesus became flesh? Allow discussion. He was born a human; He became a man.*

Right. Jesus became a person and dwelt, or lived, right here on earth. But He was still God at the same time!

? Who is the Word? *Jesus! Say it again. Who is the Word? Jesus!*

Refer to the Memory Verse Poster. Yes, Jesus is the Word. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We have seen Jesus's glory! Jesus is God's only begotten Son. He is full of glory, grace, and truth. He is the Savior who came to save sinners from their sins. He alone can offer forgiveness and eternal life.





Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

In the Old Testament, God spoke through His prophets telling that the Messiah, our Savior, would one day come. That day finally did come. The one God had promised was here. It was Jesus Christ, the Messiah!

And we read about Jesus in the New Testament. Jesus is that Savior. Jesus is the Word. And now God speaks to us through His Son, Jesus, in the Bible.

When Jesus was born, there was great rejoicing by those who were waiting for Him to come. Simeon was one of those who rejoiced. He knew the prophecies, and the Holy Spirit showed him that Jesus was the one he had been waiting for. He took the baby Jesus in his arms and blessed God because he knew the baby he was holding was the long-awaited Savior who would bring the truth of salvation to the whole world.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Simeon rejoiced that he was able to see the Savior promised by God. Simeon had been faithful to God and had studied the Scriptures. Many people today don't want to read the Old Testament Scriptures. They think that it's boring and doesn't have anything to do with their lives. But when we take time to study the Old Testament it helps us make sense of what God tells us in the New Testament! We can better understand things like why Jesus had to come to save us from our sin; and why He had to die to take the punishment for the sins of all those who would believe in Him; and why His Resurrection is so important—He is alive, and death has been overcome! The Old Testament is a wonderful part of God's true Word. So don't skip over it. Because if you do, you'll be missing out on a treasure that teaches us about who God—our Creator and Savior—really is!

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the students to practice the memory verse this week.



Group Prayer Time

- Praise God for being faithful to always keep His promises in His perfect time.
- Thank God for giving us the whole Bible—the Old Testament and the New Testament—which is a treasure that teaches us about Him.
- Ask God to help us study the Scriptures, trust in His promises, and be obedient to Him each day.

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