

God Rescues



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Regular Baptist Press

Winter Quarter 2020–21 • Vol. 3, No. 2 • © 2018 Regular Baptist Press • Printed in U.S.A.
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STRONG[®]

curriculum

A world weak on truth needs a strong, trustworthy message. STRONG Curriculum builds stronger churches by teaching all Scripture to produce spiritually mature believers who measure up to the stature of Christ.



Look for the BuildUP icons in the table of contents and on the first page of each lesson.

A Plan You Can Trust

Regular Baptist Press firmly believes God's Word is living and powerful and more effective than any idea or philosophy man could ever dream up. The Bible is Spirit empowered, so it cannot fail to strengthen kids who interact with its truths. Believing this, we purposefully built Strong Kids on Bible bedrock. We know the curriculum's solid Biblical foundation will make it transformational.

Strong Kids provides each age group with the age-appropriate plan to prepare kids to successfully take the next step in their spiritual growth. The lessons for all five age groups form five steps for building spiritually strong kids.

Strong Kids for Pre-Primaries reinforces foundational Biblical truths concerning creation, Jesus, salvation, and living for God. Recognizing that pre-primaries are starting to understand the need for personal salvation, this curriculum provides opportunities for students to trust in Christ as their Savior and begin to live for Him.

The Strong Kids scope and sequence is built on the seven teaching aims Jesus had during His earthly ministry. Identifying Jesus' aims helps you teach the Bible with purpose and clear goals in sight. Every lesson in the Strong Kids scope and sequence addresses at least one of Jesus' teaching aims.

JESUS' TEACHING AIMS

 **Believe the gospel.** Jesus taught His students to understand, believe, and then share the gospel. This aim is obviously fundamental to all the rest.

 **Understand Biblical ethics.** Jesus instructed His students to live according to moral values. These values provided them with the tools to make wise decisions.

 **Internalize godliness.** Jesus taught His followers to be godly on the inside. He warned them not to become like Pharisees, with a mere outward appearance of godliness.

 **Learn doctrine.** Jesus knew the importance of teaching His students the truth and identified doctrine as one of the means for spiritual growth. Wishy-washy doctrine leads to faulty practice.

 **Develop life skills.** Jesus taught His followers to meet life's challenges in a way that honored and glorified God. He gave them the skills to navigate those challenges successfully.

 **Uplift others.** Jesus' life was all about others. Leading by example, He taught His followers to be all about others too.

 **Prepare to serve.** Jesus prepared His followers to serve in the context of local churches that were established soon after His ascension. He emphasized sacrifice and dedication.

STRONG[®] curriculum

Kit Contents

- Teacher Guide
- Junior Church Teacher Guide
- Student Book*
- Set of Take-Home Papers*
- One Attendance Chart and Sticker Page*
- Teaching Picture Book
- Flannelgraph Figures
- Resource CD with online download code
- Bible Story DVD
- Verse Posters
- Michael and Emily Storybook

*Order additional copies for classroom use.

Ordering Information

All materials are available from Regular Baptist Press.

- Web: www.StrongCurriculum.com
- E-mail: orders@rbpstore.org
- Toll-free orders in the United States: 1-800-727-4440
- Fax: 1-847-843-3757
- Canada: Contact your distributor.

Strong Curriculum builds stronger churches by teaching all Scripture to produce spiritually mature believers who measure up to the stature of Christ. In this quarter's Strong Kids for Pre-Primaries, children will learn that Jesus came to earth to die for their sins to provide salvation. They will also learn about God's direction for Jacob and God's protection of Joseph. Students will be encouraged to pray to God and trust Him in all circumstances.



Onetime Purchase (Sold Separately)

- Strong Kids Music Vol. 1



The Doctrinal Basis of Our Curriculum

A more detailed statement with references is available upon request.

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|---|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The verbal, plenary inspiration of the Scriptures • Only one true God • The Trinity of the Godhead • The Holy Spirit and His ministry • The personality of Satan • The Genesis account of creation • Original sin and the fall of man | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The virgin birth of Christ • Salvation through faith in the shed blood of Christ • The bodily resurrection and priesthood of Christ • Grace and the new birth • Justification by faith • Sanctification of the believer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The security of the believer • The church • The ordinances of the local church: baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper • Biblical separation—ecclesiastical and personal • Obedience to civil government • The place of Israel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pretribulation rapture of the church • The premillennial return of Christ • The millennial reign of Christ • Eternal glory in Heaven for the righteous • Eternal torment in Hell for the wicked |
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Children and the Nature of Angels

Snow angels, angel ornaments, angel-shaped jewelry, angel food cake. The list goes on and includes TV programs, music, and movies. Thinking about angels makes us feel comforted and secure. This quarter there are multiple appearances of angels. Our Christmas unit includes the appearance



to Mary, the appearance to Joseph, and the appearance to the shepherds. In unit 2 Jacob sees angels ascending and descending from Heaven on the ladder.

Pre-Primaries are at that age when they think about and begin to question the stories and images they don't understand. So do we, but as adults we often just accept that there are angels and don't really think too much about them. With so much emphasis on the supernatural in our society today, we need to be knowledgeable about what is truth and what is fiction.

Children are not always that interested in the details, but they want and deserve truth. They may ask a question about angels this week and then not ask about them for a couple weeks. However, that does not mean they are not thinking about them. Here are some questions and answers that might help you as you teach about angels this quarter.

Do angels have names? Apparently they do. We know of two mentioned by name in the Bible: Gabriel, who appears in three of our stories this quarter. He brings messages to people. And Michael, who is the archangel and the highest-ranking angel.

How many angels are there? More than can ever be counted (Heb. 12:22).

Where did they come from and why? God made them to serve Him (Ps. 148:5). They are not in human bodies; they are spirits. They were not born; they do not get old or sick; and they will not die. They are stronger than men, but not as strong as God. There are no baby angels. People who die do not become angels.

What do they do? They praise and worship God all the time. The angels that appeared to the shepherds sang. They always do specific things. God tells them what He wants them to do and say. They walk and talk just like us. Mary talked for a long time with Gabriel when he came to her. Remember that the angel told both Mary and Joseph to name God's Son, Jesus (Matt. 1:20; Luke 2:13). Some are messengers; some protect us. They watch us (Ps. 91:11) and know when we become believers in Jesus. They are wiser than humans but not as wise as God (Matt. 24:36). They do not get married, and they do not have children (Matt. 22:30).

What do they look like? They are not men or women; they are spirits. But sometimes Bible people saw them in dreams. The shepherds saw them as a bright light in the sky. Usually, they looked like men when people like Mary saw them.

Do angels have wings? Some angels have wings. Angels called seraphims have six wings. But those are special angels who guard God's throne. Some angels have four wings. Most angels are not seen with wings. They just appear.

Should I pray to angels? No. We only pray to God. God is above the angels. We are to worship and obey only Him.

Will I ever be an angel? No. God made you as a human, just like Adam and Eve. But you, too, were made to worship and praise God.

Will I see an angel? Probably not, though they are around us all the time. But when Jesus comes back, people will see angels with Him (Matt. 25:31).





Christmas Star Party

Planning a Christmas party for your Sunday School class is not easy when you have so many other activities to attend to. This Christmas star party will make your students feel special. Lesson 5 in this winter quarter is the story of the wise men. Schedule a star party between lessons 4 and 5 to emphasize the Bible account.

If you have a large pre-primary department, ask other pre-primary teachers to join you in making this event special. Plan to use a classroom close to the church kitchen if you decide not to have the party in your own home. Read through the following activities and note what preparations you need to make ahead of time. If you decide to bake star cookies, you will want to have the dough mixed up and divided before the party begins. For game prizes, give star stickers or star ornaments.

As the children arrive, give each one a yellow cardboard star to sit on (also use the stars for a game). When all the children have arrived, read a Christmas story of your choice or retell the story of the wise men. Invite a teen to dress as a wise man and tell his story.

Cookie Bake

Make a batch of sugar cookie dough and divide it, putting enough dough in a ziplock bag for each child to make one star-shaped cookie. Keep the dough refrigerated until the activity. Help the children roll out the dough and use cookie cutters to make the shapes. Bake the cookies and set them aside to cool while the children play Christmas star games.

Star Art

If you decide to have students just decorate the star cookies, bake them in advance of the party. Provide white or yellow frosting and a variety of sprinkles, cinnamon candy, colored sugar, and decorating tubes. Make sure each child has a few damp paper towels to clean up his hands. Provide small paper plates and plastic wrap

for students to take their cookies home. As the children work, talk about how God led the wise men to find Jesus. Let them express how the wise men might have felt as they traveled and then found Jesus.

Musical Stars

Play musical chairs, using Christmas music and the cardboard stars. Put a star on each chair. Instead of removing a chair when the music stops, remove a star. The person who sits on the last star is the winner.

Pin the Star on the Tree

Make a poster of a large Christmas tree. Prepare a star for each child with his name on it. Put a loop of masking tape on the back of each one. Blindfold each student in turn and have him place his star as close to the top as possible.

Pass the Star

Cut out stars from yellow tissue paper. Form two teams and give each child a spring clothespin. Give the first person on each team a tissue paper star. At the signal, he must pass the star to the next team member, using only the clothespin. The team to finish passing the star first is the winner. If students drop the star or tear the star, their team must start over.

Star Bingo

Make Bingo cards with different colors, sizes, or designs of stars. (Look for various sticker designs.) Make individual star cards to hold up so students can match the star you show to the one on their cards.

Hosting a party for young children can be exhausting, but it also can be very rewarding. Your students will remember and talk about the star party for a long time. The emphasis on the wise men will make the upcoming lesson unforgettable. This activity will also give you an opportunity to meet parents who do not usually attend your church.

Basic Supplies for Pre-Primary Teachers

Teaching Aids

Bible
Offering container
Flannelgraph board (26" x 36") (6063)
CD player
Pocket chart (8664)
Word strips (pkg. 75) (8666)

Paper Products

9" x 12" and 12" x 18" construction paper
in various colors
White copy paper
Butcher paper
Poster board
Card stock
Index cards
Self-adhesive labels
Lunch-size paper bags
6" and 9" paper plates
Paper cups, napkins, plastic silverware
Paper towels
Tissues

Markers

Pencils; colored pencils
Crayons; washable paint daubers
Black and colored felt-tip markers

Office Supplies

Paper clips
Brass fasteners
Rubber bands
Paper punch
Cellophane tape
Double-stick tape
Masking tape
Stapler
Scissors (sharp points for teachers; blunt ends for students)

Adhesives

Glue sticks
Craft glue
Sticky tack

Role Play Items

Child-size mop, broom, etc.
Dress-up clothes; lengths of fabric
Plush animals
Finger puppets
Nonworking cell phones
Paper towel or wrapping paper cardboard rolls
Aluminum foil

Bulletin Boards

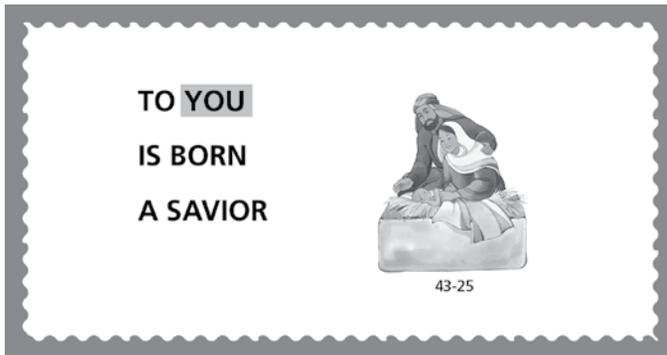
Scalloped yellow border (8539)
Scalloped red border (8538)
Yellow 3" letters (8513)
Red 3" letters (8511)

Miscellaneous

Large blocks; other types of building sets
Cardboard boxes (all sizes)
Play-Doh
Clear Con-Tact paper
Craft sticks (regular- and jumbo-size)
Premoistened towels
Hand sanitizer
Plastic tablecloths for art or food projects
Styrofoam
Large plastic bags or old shirts for smocks
Ziplock bags (sandwich- and snack-size)
Water colors and brushes
Yarn
Chenille wires
Cotton balls

Note: Products with an order number are available from Regular Baptist Press.

Unit Bulletin Boards



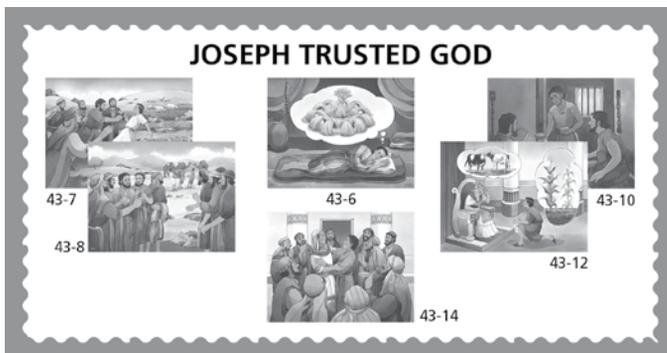
Unit 1

Before the first unit begins, make a bulletin board display using 3" red letters (RBP; 8511) for the title: TO YOU IS BORN A SAVIOR. Place as shown on the sample. Place a piece of yellow construction paper cut to fit behind the letters that spell YOU. This will emphasize that Jesus, the Savior, was born for each of your students. Add a red scalloped border (RBP; 8538). From the resource CD, enlarge and print flannelgraph figure 43-25 (manger scene) to place on the other side of the board.



Unit 2

Before lesson six, remove the unit 1 bulletin board. Use a dark backing and use the yellow scalloped border (RBP; 8539) to make a half bulletin board. Use the 3" yellow letters (RBP; 8513) to make the title: THE PROMISE. The teaching picture focus for this unit is 43-5 (Jacob's Ladder). Jacob is third in the line of God's promise. The picture will initiate a lot of discussion among students.



Unit 3

The five lessons of unit 3 comprise the story of Joseph. Use a yellow backing with the yellow scalloped border and red letters (see above). At the top of the board place the title: JOSEPH TRUSTED GOD. Print the following teaching pictures from resource CD #1243: 43-6, 7, 8, 10, 12, 14. These comprise the overview of Joseph's life from prince to slave to prince again. Overlap as necessary to display on the board.

LESSON 1 | UNIT 1

Jesus Is the Eternal Creator

Jesus' deity

Scripture Focus

John 1:1–4, 14, 15, 18; Hebrews 1:1–3; Colossians 1:15, 16

BuildUP Theme



LEARN DOCTRINE

Jesus, the Son of God, created the world.

Measurable Student Response

The student will recognize Jesus as eternal God.

Memory Verse

"Of old You laid the foundation of the earth" (Psalm 102:25, NKJV).

"Of old you laid the foundation of the earth" (Psalm 102:25, ESV).

Teacher Preparation

To prepare for this week's lesson, read the Scripture Focus several times, thinking on Jesus as eternal God. As we head into the Christmas season, your young students will be excited by lights, gifts, decorations, and the music of Christmas. Your job as their Sunday School teacher is to share with them the doctrinal truth behind the Christmas story.

Preschoolers love babies. Fours and fives are beginning to realize that they are growing up and can do so much more than a baby. Help your students see that there is more to Christmas than the baby in the manger. Guide them into the truth that the baby in the manger is eternal God, the Creator of the universe and the Savior.

Your students fully understand the concept of celebrating a birthday. However, they have a misconception that Jesus had a beginning, simply because He was born. Help them realize the truth that Jesus is eternal and that He existed in time past, before His arrival on this earth.

Transition from Sunday School

Snack Time

1. Students should use the restroom and wash hands.
2. Reinforce the truth that Jesus was with God in the creation of the earth. Provide animal-shaped snacks (fish crackers, graham cracker bears, gummy dinosaurs [whales, butterflies, etc.]), flower-shaped cookies, star-shaped cereal. Let each child tell about his favorite thing that Jesus made. Serve with apple juice. Talk about the juices made from fruits that Jesus made.
3. Choose students to distribute napkins, serve the snacks, and pray.

Guided Play

Guided Play is designed for children to explore the concepts in the Bible lesson for themselves. You may choose to use these ideas or create more of your own. You may prefer to set up stations that the students can choose from as they finish their snack, or you can conduct one of these activities as a group.

Option 1—Nativity Set

Gather

- Preschool nativity sets (unbreakable), more than one for a large class.

Steps

1. Display all the items needed for a traditional nativity scene.
2. Let students touch and handle the pieces. Talk with the students about each piece.
3. Ask students what they know about each character in the Christmas story. This will help you ascertain what your students already know and what they still need to learn.
4. Work together to set up the scene and discuss each figure and the role he/she plays in the Christmas account. Remember that the wise men were not at the stable. Therefore, the star is not there either. There is also no mention of angels at the stable.

Option 2—Cotton Swab Art

Gather

- Black construction paper.
- Tempera paint in various colors.
- Paper plates.
- Cotton swabs.
- Table covers and smocks, if desired.

Steps

1. Before class, cover the work space and pour tempera paint on paper plates.
2. Provide each student with a sheet of black construction paper and cotton swabs.



Teacher Tip

Invest in a good unbreakable nativity set that your students can touch and use for years to come. Playmobil and Fisher Price have excellent sets. During the unit 1 lessons, leave the nativity set out for the students to explore each week.

3. Demonstrate how to make stars and planets by dabbing the cotton swab in paint and then creating shapes with each little dot of paint.
4. Encourage students to use a new cotton swab each time they use a new color.
5. Let students create their own planets and stars. Don't worry about accuracy of colors.
6. Be sure each student writes his name on his star painting.

Option 3—Instrument Center

Gather

- A set of preschool instruments (homemade or store-bought). (See page 52 for ideas.)

Steps

1. Distribute the instruments. Make sure there is one for each child.
2. Sing several Christmas carols or choruses together while playing instruments.
3. Encourage students to trade instruments for each new song.
4. Let students suggest their favorite Christmas songs and choruses to sing.

Bible Study Review

For your convenience, you will find the same Bible lesson that was taught in Sunday School printed below. Review the key points as you interact with the students. Use your open Bible as you teach and read directly from Scripture when appropriate. Encourage the students to interact with your lesson by asking questions.

Jesus Is the Eternal Creator (John 1:1–4, 14, 15, 18; Heb. 1:1–3; Col. 1:15, 16)

Gather

- December calendar with Christmas Day circled in red marker.
- Birth certificate.
- Baby footprints or baby pictures (optional).
- Verse poster 43-A (resource kit #1243).
- Resource 43-R2 ("Long Before" rhyme) from resource CD or student book page 6.



Teacher Tip

Invest in a durable set of preschool instruments. Preschoolers love music, and you will find many ways to use them throughout the years.



43-R2

ASK: Show calendar. What month is it? *December.*

ASK: What very exciting, important holiday do we celebrate in December? *Yes, Christmas!*

ASK: Why do we celebrate Christmas? What is Christmas really all about? *The birth of Jesus, our Savior, God's Son.*

We all love Christmas. It is such a wonderful time to celebrate. We love talking about how God sent Jesus, in the form of a tiny baby, to be born here on earth. We love singing songs like "Silent Night" and "Away in a Manger." We love the lights and the manger scenes. Everyone loves a sweet, little new baby!

ASK: Where was Jesus, and what was He doing before He was born in a stable and laid in a manger-bed? (Let students discuss. Their responses will help you get a glimpse of what your students might already know or what their preconceived notions are.)

God's Word tells us exactly where Jesus was and exactly what He was doing before He came to earth.

Listen closely as I read two verses that sound very much alike.

READ: Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1.

ASK: What did I say two times? *In the beginning.*

DISPLAY: Verse poster 43-A. Point to Genesis 1:1 on the poster.

We have learned that God is eternal. God does not have a beginning. God does not have an end. No one made God. God has always been. We also learned that in the beginning, God made heaven and earth. God is the creator.

John 1:1 calls Jesus "The Word." (Point to "the Word" in the verse and read it.)

ACTIVITY: (On the board, write: "The Word" = Jesus.) This time when I read the verse, I am going to say "Jesus" instead of "the Word" to make it easier for us to understand. (Do so.)

REPEAT: Listen again. (Read verse 1 again.)

ASK: Where was Jesus? *Jesus was with God.*

In the beginning, Jesus was with God, His Heavenly Father. He has always been with God. He is God's Son.

READ: John 1:3.

ASK: What did Jesus do? *He made everything. Nothing was made without Him.*



43-A (NKJV)



43-A (ESV)

(Point back to Genesis 1:1 on the verse poster.) Jesus was in the beginning. Jesus is the designer, the creator, the builder of the universe and everything in it! Jesus is God's Son, therefore, He is God. When we read "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth," we could also read "In the beginning, [Jesus] created the heaven and the earth." Jesus and God both created the world at the same time.

READ: Colossians 1:16.

Because Jesus is God, Jesus had no beginning, and He will have no end. That is very hard for us to understand. Everything we know here on earth had a beginning. Each of us had a beginning.

ACTIVITY: Show your birth certificate.

This is my birth certificate. It is a legal document that tells who I am, who my parents are, when I was born, and where I was born.

ACTIVITY: Point to and read all the important information on your birth certificate. Let the students hold it and look at it. If you have the hospital footprint or a newborn picture for the students to see, they will enjoy seeing you as a baby.

Jesus was born on earth. But that is not the day Jesus started. Jesus lived forever in Heaven with His Heavenly Father long before He came to earth. Jesus lived in eternity long before He ever made the earth or the sky or the green grass or the animals. Jesus is God.

READ: John 1:14.

ASK: What did we say "the Word" was another name for? *It is a name for Jesus.*

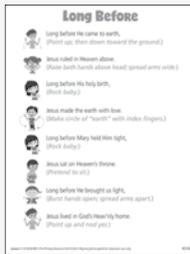
In John 1:1 and 14, we learn that "In the beginning was [Jesus] and [Jesus] was with God and [Jesus] was God." "[Jesus] became flesh and dwelt among us." That means Jesus left the glories of Heaven and took on the form of a tiny baby. He grew up to be the Savior of the world!

ACTIVITY: Point to John 1:14 on the verse poster. Read the words. Move your finger down to the manger scene below. Read Psalm 102:25.

EXPLAIN: The words "Of old" mean a long time ago. The words "to lay the foundations" mean to create. We could say, "A long time ago You, Jesus, created the earth."

DISPLAY: The calendar with December 25th circled in bold, red marker.

December 25th is the day we celebrate Jesus coming to earth to be born as a baby so that He could give His sinless life on the cross to be our Savior. Jesus is God. He came because of His great love for us.



43-R2

ACTIVITY: Practice the action rhyme “Long Before.” Have students do the rhyme with you as you teach the motions.

Application Story

Gather

- *Michael Emily Storybook* from resource kit #1243.

Jesus Is Forever

Finally, it was time! Time for Michael and Emily’s favorite family tradition. Thanksgiving was over, and all the fall leaves and pumpkins had been packed away. It was time to decorate for Christmas! First came the tree. Michael and Emily’s family used an artificial tree because of Michael’s allergies. Real pine trees made him sneeze and cough! Once Daddy had the tree set up, Mommy helped him string up the lights. Round and round they went, strand after strand. It was so bright once the tree was lit! Then they added decorations. That’s when Michael and Emily helped.

Mommy carefully unpacked each ornament and handed it to Michael or Emily to put on the tree. Then she would say things like, “No, a little higher. No, a little lower. A little to the left. There! Perfect!” It was almost like a game . . . well, almost.

Daddy hung lights around the windows and put a wreath on the door. Then came the best part of all—the nativity set. (Show picture 43-ME1.)



43-ME1

“Careful now, it’s breakable,” Mommy always cautioned.

“We know,” Michael and Emily repeated together.

One by one, each little ceramic piece came out of the box and out of the tissue paper.

First came the stable. Then the animals. Emily always begged to set up the animals. Her favorite animal was the little lamb. One year she dropped it, and its head broke off. Emily cried, but Mommy was able to glue the head back on, good as new. Now Emily treated the little lamb like it was made of gold.

“There you go, little buddy. Safe and sound. Now, you be still and no jumping around,” Emily talked to the ceramic lamb like it was real!

Michael’s favorite pieces were the shepherds. They looked so rugged and strong. Michael liked the shepherds because they were the first to hear about the birth of Jesus.

Emily set up a few angels and placed Mary and Joseph and the empty manger-bed in the stable.

It was a family tradition to wait to put the baby Jesus figure in the manger-bed until Christmas Eve. Michael held up the tiny package.

"Oh, here is baby Jesus," announced Michael. "But we don't need Him yet. God was still making Him. Here, Mommy. You can pack baby Jesus away till Christmas Eve."

"Wait, what did you say, Michael," Mommy inquired.

"I just said 'here is baby Jesus,'" Michael answered.

"What did you say after that?" Daddy asked this time.

"Oh, I just said that He has to wait because God wasn't finished making Him yet," Michael explained.

Mommy and Daddy looked at each other with a curious expression.

"Michael, do you think God made Jesus?" Daddy asked.

"Well, yeah. God makes all babies," Michael answered.

"God didn't make Jesus," Daddy began to explain. "Jesus is God. He is equal with God, and He is eternal, that means 'forever,' just like God."

"What?" Michael was confused. "Then where was Jesus? What was He doing all that time before the first Christmas?"

"Great questions, Michael," Mommy encouraged him.

"The Bible tells us that Jesus is part of the Trinity. A trinity is three parts. Jesus was with His Father and the Holy Spirit in eternity past. In fact, the Bible book of Colossians tells us that Jesus is the creator! It says, 'without Him nothing was made that was made!'"

"Wow," Michael said as he thought about what Mommy just said.

"So . . . that tiny baby that Mary laid in a manger-bed . . . was also the Creator of the universe?"

"Now you've got it," Daddy patted Michael's back.

Michael was silent for a moment. Then he voiced a very big thought, "That's amazing. Think about it: the eternal God, Who lived in Heaven forever, Who created everything with the power of His words, came to earth as a tiny, helpless baby and was laid in a feed box for animals!"

"It is amazing, Michael," Daddy smiled. "God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, Jesus, to come to earth in human form so He could die on the cross for our sin and rise again. Now, if that isn't amazing love, I don't know what is!"

“I can’t wait for Christmas now! It’s even better than I thought,” Michael smiled.

Questions

1. What piece of the nativity did Michael say they didn’t need until Christmas Eve? *Baby Jesus.*
2. Michael said God was making Jesus. Is that true? *No. Why? Jesus is God.*
3. Where was Jesus? *In Heaven.* What did He do? *Create the universe.*
4. Why did God send Jesus to earth? *To die on the cross for our sin and rise again as our Savior.*

Application Craft

Option 1—Paper Chain Border

NOTE: For the next few weeks students will make crafts to contribute to a class bulletin board display. Use an actual bulletin board, or design a space on the wall with a dark blue section of bulletin board backing or several large sheets of poster board. Use brown construction paper strips to make a stable (see page 24). The class will add to the display each week. Today students will work together to make the border. This chain will remind them of the deity and eternity of Christ.

Gather

- Red and green construction paper.
- Glue sticks.
- Christmas stickers and foam stickers (optional).

Steps

1. Before class, put up the backing and make (draw) the stable outline in the designated area. Cut red and green construction paper width-wise into 1½-inch strips.
2. Provide paper strips and a glue stick to each student.
3. Show students how to make a paper chain section with the strips.
4. Let students use stickers to decorate the chain.
5. Join the sections so the chain will go around your bulletin board in one continuous loop.
6. Have students help you attach the chain. Do not let students climb on chairs.

ASK: Can you identify the beginning of this chain? How about the end? *No, once it is all connected, there really is no beginning or end.*

ASK: What did we learn about Jesus today? *Jesus is God. Jesus is eternal.*

This chain is going to be the border of our Christmas display. This chain will help us remember that the baby in the manger is more than just a sweet baby: He is the eternal Son of God. He has always been with God, and He always will be.

Clean Up and Say Good-bye

Gather

- *Strong Kids Music* CD Vol. 1.
- Students' crafts and student book pages.
- *Strong Kids at Home* take-home paper and cover wrap for each student.

Steps

1. Enlist the students to help clean up the craft area and your classroom.
2. Give each student a copy of *Strong Kids at Home* take-home paper for students and the cover wrap (for parents). The take-home paper has additional activities for parents to do with their children as a way of reinforcing the lesson and measuring spiritual growth. Make a point of showing students the craft on the back this week's paper. It is a good reminder that Jesus left Heaven to become our Savior.
3. If time allows, sing "To God Be the Glory" (track 25).
4. Close in prayer and thank each child for coming to church today.
5. Sing the "Good-bye Song" to the tune "If You're Happy and You Know It."

"Good-bye Song"

It's time to say good-bye to all our friends. *(Wave to a friend.)*

It's time to say good-bye to all our friends. *(Wave to another friend.)*

We have learned a lot today. *(Nod yes and tap head.)*

May God keep you in all ways. *(Praying hands.)*

Oh, it's time to say good-bye to all our friends. *(Wave.)*

