



OVERVIEW

Pre-Primary	Showcase 1	Showcase 2	Showcase 3	Showcase 4	Showcase 5
Title	Showing Christ's Love	Showing Christ's Holiness	Showing Christ's Compassion	Showing Christ's Humility	Showing Christ's Faithfulness
References	Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 2:1–11 (Jesus Is Born)	Matthew 4:1–11 (Jesus Is Tempted)	Mark 6:30–44 (Jesus Feeds over 5,000)	John 13:1–17 (Jesus Washes Feet)	Matthew 27:27–31, 39–46, 50; 28:1–8, 18–20 (Jesus Is Crucified, Then Rises to Life)
Focus	Christ's love in us	Christ's holiness in us	Christ's compassion in us	Christ's humility in us	Christ's faithfulness in us
Memory Verses	"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son" (John 3:16).	"It is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy'" (1 Peter 1:16).	"Jesus . . . was moved with compassion for them" (Mark 6:34).	"I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you" (John 13:15).	"You shall be witnesses to Me" (Acts 1:8).
Games	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ani-motion Relay Don't Mess with That Llama! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timber! Avoid Temptation Built Strong 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Match Me Compassion Fill-up Playful Dolphins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elephant Trunk Soccer Crazy Critter Races 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal Scavenger Hunt Penguin Relay
Snacks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Llama Wool Yummy South America Llama Crackers Andes Trail Mix 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beaver Lodge Cookies Beaver Cup Santos's Apple Tree 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fishing with Dolphins Dolphin Compassion Sea Snack Mix Fish in the Seaweed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal Cracker Dip Elephant Memory Mini Elephant Ears 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Polar Ice Sandwiches Penguin Swim Cheese Icebergs Faithful Penguins
Crafts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jesus Is Born! Fluffy Llama Wild Binoculars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Backstroking Beaver Jesus in View Memory Box Eager Beaver 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Color Your Own Dolphin Diving with Dolphins Floating Sea Turtle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wildlife Color Scratch Masks Elephant Smile Boldly Live for Jesus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Narwhal Friend Ice Skating Penguin Penguin on a Roll Jesus Always Loves Us

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PRE- PRIMARY

TEACHER BOOK



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Showing Christ's LOVE

Matthew 1:18–25; Luke 2:1–11 (Jesus Is Born)

MEMORY VERSE

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son” (John 3:16).

TOPIC

Christ's love in us

THEME

Jesus came to save us so we might know and share His love.

DESIRED STUDENT RESPONSE

Students will respond to the revelation of God's love by loving others.

TAKEAWAY

I can know and show God's love because He loves me.



- Smile, greet, and get to know each student. Kneel and make eye contact when speaking with a student.
- Make sure you have a completed registration card (30208) for each student.
- Distribute nametags (33633) and WildLIVE! passes (33634).
- Help each child record attendance on the attendance chart (33632).

TIP ►

Before class, do a quick online search to get familiar with captivating creatures that live in South America. Examples include alpacas, capybaras, collared peccaries, glass frogs, guanacos, llamas, long-wattled umbrella-birds, matamatas, Patagonian maras, pink fairy armadillos, sloths, and spectacled bears.

TIP ►

The habitat hangout is a guided exploration station. Change it each day to match the day's animal mascot. Follow the students' interest as much as possible and enjoy a relaxed, informal activity. You should be able to find children's books on each of the five lesson mascots (llama, beaver, dolphin, elephant, emperor penguin) at a public library.

TIP ►

The outer wool of an adult llama tends to be coarse in texture, so clothing is typically made from either baby llama wool or alpaca wool. Adult llama wool is more commonly used for items like bags and ropes, although their soft undercoat can be used for clothing.



Option 1: Llama Leaders

Materials

- Large play area.

Llamas are smart. They follow right behind their leader. They will even form a long line, like a train, and follow one another.

ACTIVITY: Play Follow the Leader. The teacher leads first. Walk around the room or an open play area in various ways: hop on one foot, tiptoe, crouch down, reach high, carry a heavy load like a llama. Take turns letting students lead. Eventually lead the herd back to the classroom for the Bible lesson.

Option 2: Habitat Hangout

Materials

- Plush sequin llamas (33855) or other plush llamas; building blocks; picture books about llamas; old camcorder; *optional*: maize (a.k.a. Indian corn).

ACTIVITY: Let arriving students explore the habitat. Build mountains with the blocks. Pantomime hauling maize up and down the mountains. Form a "train" of llamas. Talk about how llamas like to play Follow the Leader when they travel. Invite students to play with the llama figures. Let students pretend to be the WildLIVE! crew using the camcorder to film llamas at work. Show the picture books and talk about llamas' gentle, friendly nature.



Materials

- Baby llama yarn or very soft yarn; various baby blankets; baby doll.

DISPLAY: Display the baby llama yarn. **ACTIVITY:** Let students touch it and describe the texture. Encourage words like "soft," "warm," "gentle," "comfortable," "nice." Explain that getting the yarn didn't hurt the baby llama.

This soft yarn is baby llama wool (*or like baby llama wool if you are using a different kind of yarn*). Baby llama wool is used to make very soft things.

ASK: What should we make with this yarn? (*Let students suggest various items.*) If someone answers "blanket," ask, "What kind of blanket? Who needs a soft, warm blanket?" Lead students to the answer "a baby."

Baby llama wool is so soft that it can be used to make baby blankets!

ACTIVITY: Show the baby blankets, and let the children touch and hold

them. Show the baby doll and let the children take turns wrapping the baby doll in a blanket.



In today's true story from the Bible, we are going to learn about the most special and amazing baby of all time: God's Son, baby Jesus! When Jesus was born, His mother didn't have a supersoft blanket to wrap Him in. Let's look at God's Word, the Bible, to learn more about God's Son, Jesus.



◀ TIP

Open in prayer and teach with an open Bible.

Materials

- Bible; lesson 1 visual packet and CD (33607) or visual book PowerPoint download (33607EB); box filled with Christmas items (e.g., ornaments, figurines, cards with angels); baby doll; strips of plain white cloth; a box to serve as a manger.

Before class: Place all supplies within reach. Open your Bible to Luke 2:1–11; place a bookmark in Matthew 1:18–25.

ACTIVITY: Reveal the Christmas box. One at a time call on students to choose an item out of the box and show it to the class. Identify it and its use. **ASK:** What time of year or during which holiday do we usually see a (*name of item*)?

DISPLAY: Lesson 1 visual 1 or PowerPoint visual 1.

(*Point to Joseph and Mary.*) At Christmas, we celebrate the birthday of the most special person of all. God loved the world very much—so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, to come to earth for us. (*Point to Jesus in visual 1.*)

DISPLAY: Lesson 1 visual 2 or PowerPoint visual 2.

Joseph and Mary loved God with all their hearts. Hundreds of years before Mary and Joseph were born, God made a promise. He promised He would send His Son to be the Savior for the world. He promised this because He loved you, me, and all the people in the world.

God's special people, the Jews, waited for God to give them His promise. One day God sent the angel Gabriel to visit Mary. Gabriel had a special message for Mary. "Be happy, Mary," Gabriel said. "God is with you. You are going to have a baby, and you will name Him Jesus. This baby will be the Son of the most high God."

Mary was a little scared and a little excited. "I don't understand," Mary said. "How is this possible?"

Listen carefully to hear the answer.

READ: Luke 1:35.

Mary would have a baby. That baby was the Son of God. God kept His promise!

ASK: Who is this baby? (*The Son of God. Jesus is the Son of God!*)



Lesson 1 Visual 1



Lesson 1 Visual 2



Lesson 1 Visual 2

Mary would be the mother of God's Son, Jesus! How exciting! Mary told Joseph the news.

"Joseph, I have something incredible to tell you," said Mary. "God has chosen me to be the mother of His promised Son, Jesus."

When Joseph climbed into bed that night, he was worried. He was not the father of Mary's baby. How could that be okay?

READ: Matthew 1:20. **DISPLAY:** Lesson 1 visual 2 or PowerPoint visual 2. Point to Joseph and the angel on the left side.

Suddenly, an angel appeared in Joseph's room.

(*Rub your eyes and act surprised.*) Joseph rubbed his eyes. Right next to Joseph's bed stood an angel!

"Joseph, don't be afraid. It is okay for you to make Mary your wife," the angel said. "Mary is telling the truth. Her baby is the Son of God."

The angel told Joseph what to do. "Give Mary's baby the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sin."

ASK: What name was Joseph supposed to give the baby? (*Jesus.*)

The name Jesus means "Savior." What a perfect name for God's Son!

Mary was so happy. Joseph was happy too. God was keeping His promise to send the Savior! What love He showed!

Joseph and Mary got married. Days and days went by. The time for baby Jesus to arrive was getting closer and closer and closer.

But then the emperor made a new law. Every family had to go to their hometown. When they got there, the emperor's servants would count them and tell the emperor how many people came from that hometown. Even Joseph and Mary had to go.



Lesson 1 Visual 3

DISPLAY: Lesson 1 visual 3 or PowerPoint visual 3.

Joseph and Mary packed their things and made the long trip back to Joseph's hometown, called Bethlehem. On the way there, Mary was very tired. Her tummy was so big. Her back ached. The baby would come soon.

ACTIVITY: Show me what you look like when you are very tired.

When Mary and Joseph finally arrived in Bethlehem, the town was crowded with people! There was nowhere for Mary and Joseph to rest. Finally, they found a place to sleep in a stable, or barn. Even though they would have to stay where animals were eating and sleeping, Mary and Joseph didn't mind. The stable was warm and quiet, away from the crowds of people. Mary and Joseph lay down in the fresh hay to rest. (*Lay your head on your hands.*)

Later that same night, something wonderful happened.

READ: Luke 2:6, 7. **ASK:** What wonderful thing happened? (*The baby was born!*) **ASK:** What name did the angel say Mary and Joseph should give the baby? (*Jesus.*)



ACTIVITY: Display the baby doll. Quickly wrap the doll with the strips of cloth.

Mary didn't have a soft blanket to wrap baby Jesus in. The Bible tells us that she wrapped Him in strips of cloth.

ACTIVITY: Lay the doll in the manger box. Pass the box around for children to see and touch.

Mary did not have a crib for baby Jesus either. So she laid Him in a manger. A manger is a box that holds animals' food. Baby Jesus didn't mind. God's plan was working out just as God had promised.

That very same night, shepherds were watching their sheep in a field near Bethlehem. The sky was dark. The stars (*twinkle your fingers like stars*) shone brightly in the sky.

Suddenly, the sky above the shepherds seemed to burst open with light! An angel appeared before the shepherds, surprising and terrifying them.

ACTIVITY: Show me your surprised face. Now show me your scared face.

DISPLAY: The left side of lesson 1 visual 4 or PowerPoint visual 4. **SAY:** Maybe this is how the shepherds looked.

Then the angel spoke amazing news.

READ: Luke 2:10, 11. **ASK:** What was the angel's news? (*A Savior has been born.*)

The angel told the shepherds how to find this new baby Savior.

READ: Luke 2:12. **DISPLAY:** The right side of lesson 1 visual 4 or PowerPoint visual 4. **ASK:** Wait . . . what Baby was just wrapped in strips of cloth and laid in a manger? (*Jesus.*) **ASK:** Then Who is the Savior the angel was announcing? (*Jesus.*)

Yes, the name Jesus means "Savior." Jesus is the Savior God had promised to send. The shepherds ran all the way to Bethlehem. Sure enough, just as the angel had announced, they found the newborn Savior, Jesus, wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger. This baby was everything they had been waiting for! He was the Savior, the Son of God!



Lesson 1 Visual 4, left



Lesson 1 Visual 4, right

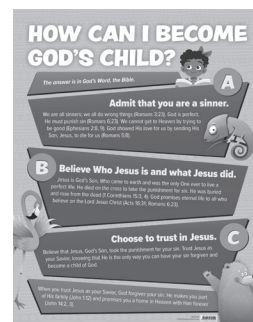
Decision Time

Materials

- Bible; lesson 1 visual packet and CD (33607) or visual book PowerPoint download (33607EB); salvation poster (33636).

SAY: Listen very carefully. Every time I say "no," shake your head no (*demonstrate*).

Jesus is God's Son. Long before God sent His Son to be the Savior, Jesus lived with God, His Father, in Heaven. Heaven is God's home. It is a perfect place with



Salvation Poster (33636)

no sin (*shake your head*), no sickness (*shake your head*), and no sadness (*shake your head*).

But we have a problem. We are sinners (*shake your head and look sad*). Sin (*frown*) is the bad things we think, say, and do. Remember, God is holy. That means He never sins. Wait! God never sins! That is something to smile about! (*Smile.*) Jesus never sinned. That means there is no sin in God's Heaven (*shake your head*). That is a problem for you and me, because God cannot allow sinners (*point to yourself, then the students*) into His holy Heaven.

ASK: What is sin? (*The bad things we think, say, and do.*) Can God allow sinners into His holy Heaven? (*No.*) **SAY:** Oh, no, we all are sinners! How can we become part of God's family and live in Heaven with Him someday?

I have good news. Long before God ever created the world, He loved you.

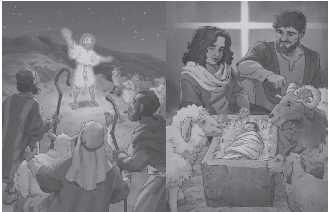
READ: John 3:16 from your open Bible.

God loved you and me so much that He sent Jesus to earth to be our Savior. God sent Jesus to make a way for us to have our sins forgiven and for us to become part of God's family.

DISPLAY: Lesson 1 visual 4.

Jesus was born a baby, but He didn't stay a baby. He grew up, just like you are growing up, just like I grew up. When Jesus was a grownup, He did something wonderful. He died on a cross to take the punishment for our sins so our sins could be forgiven. But Jesus did not stay dead. He came alive again three days later. Jesus did all this to pay the price, or punishment, for my sin and your sin.

ACTIVITY: Use the salvation poster to share the gospel. Ask students to bow their heads and close their eyes. Invite students who want to learn more about how to believe on Jesus as their Savior to look up at you. Assign workers to counsel and pray with responding students.



Lesson 1 Visual 4



Option 1: Sing "Away in a Manger"

Sing the traditional version of "Away in a Manger" with the students (*words below*). Do the actions and invite the students to mimic you. Then teach the students the new verse to emphasize the message of today's lesson.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed (*Rock the baby.*)

The little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head. (*Pretend to sleep.*)

The stars in the sky looked down where He lay. (*Twinkle fingers overhead.*)

The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay. (*Rock the baby, then pretend to sleep.*)

Away in a manger God sent His own Son. (*Rock the baby.*)



A tiny little baby, the Holy One. (*Motion “small” with hands, then point up and nod.*)

How much God must love us to do such a thing! (*Hug self and sway side to side.*)

Jesus is our Savior; His praises we sing! (*Rock the baby.*)

Option 2: ‘God Sends Jesus’ Role-Play

Materials

- Baby doll; strips of cloth; manger (from Explore the Bible); *optional*: angel halos; shepherd staffs; costumes as desired.

Before class: Gather props/costumes to encourage imagination and make role play more fun.

Using Matthew 1:18–25 and Luke 2:1–11 as your script, appoint roles to every student in your class. If desired, give out costumes and props. Read the account directly from Scripture. Guide the students in role play. Encourage them to show emotion on their faces and to use their own words to express the account. Where appropriate, feed students lines to say. Close your role-play in prayer, thanking God for loving us so much that He sent His own Son to be our Savior.



**“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son”
(John 3:16).**

John 3:16 tells us that God loves you, and you, and you, and me! In fact, God loved us long before we were even born! God doesn’t love us because of how good we are. So we cannot do anything to make God love us or not love us. And God never stops loving us—not even when we sin. Sin makes God sad, but God never quits loving us. God loved us so much that He didn’t want our sin to keep us out of His family and away from Him forever. So God sent His “only Son.”

Option 1: Pantomime the Verse

ASK: Who is God’s “only Son”? (*Jesus.*)

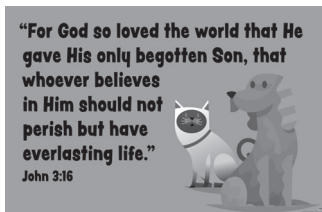
ASK: What did Jesus do so our sins could be forgiven? **DISPLAY:** Lesson 1 visual 4 again. (*Jesus died on a cross to take the punishment for our sin in our place.*)

ACTIVITY: Teach the following actions as you memorize the verse together.

“For God	(<i>Point up.</i>)
so loved	(<i>Hug self.</i>)
the world	(<i>Starting above your head, draw a huge circle in front of yourself with both index fingers.</i>)

◀ TIP

Hold your Bible open as you teach the verse, emphasizing that the verse is from the Bible.



Verse Poster
(33666-1)



Lesson 1 Visual 4

TIP ▶
Nonreaders can track along with you as you point to each word.

that He gave

(Hold hands palms up and move them as if offering a gift.)

His only begotten Son." (Pantomime rocking a baby.)

John 3:16

(Open hands like a book).

Option 2: Hum the Verse like a Llama!

Materials

- Photo of a llama in its native habitat, a plush llama, or a page in a picture book about llamas.

(Show the llama.) Did you know that llamas hum? Yes! When they are curious or meet new people, they hum! Let's practice our verse by humming like llamas.

ACTIVITY: Write the verse on the board. Say the verse in unison. Then draw a line through one word. Instruct the students to hum, rather than say, the word. Quote the verse, inserting the hum for the word. Repeat this process until several words are crossed out.



Sing and Sign God's Love

Teach and sing this simple song to the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

God sent us His only Son

(Point up and then show one finger.)

Only Son, only Son.

(Sign "only.")

God sent us His only Son

(Point up and then show one finger.)

To show His love for us.

(Sign "love.")

Jesus showed His love for us

(Sign "Jesus" and "love.")

Love for us, love for us.

(Sign "love.")

Jesus showed His love for us;

(Sign "Jesus" and "love.")

He died and rose again.

(Reach both palms down to the floor then sweep them up overhead.)

I can share God's love with you

(Sign "love," then point to a nearby classmate.)

Love with you, love with you.

(Sign "love," then point to a nearby classmate.)

I can share God's love with you.

(Sign "love," then point to a nearby classmate.)

When I am your friend.

(Hug a nearby classmate.)

