



# Teacher Lesson Plans

Bibletime Levels 0-4

C Series

C11 & C12



# Bible Educational Services

Registered Charity UK (No 1096157)

## **Mission Statement: “Serving you to Serve Others”**

We seek to produce consecutive Bible lessons for worldwide use, enabling the teaching of the Word of God to the current and next generations.

## **Vision Statement**

We aim to facilitate the production of Bible Educational Resources in many of the world's languages, through various means of communication, in partnership with others who share our core values.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **What Bible Educational Services does:**

Bible Educational Services (BES) publish “Bibletime”, “New Life” and “Gleaners” Bible lessons in English and support Postal Bible Schools and similar organisations using BES lessons in the UK and overseas. We do this by visiting, networking, advising and training. BES is also currently working in partnership with groups in other countries who are involved in translation, design, publishing and distribution of lessons. Lessons must be provided free of charge to all students.

Bibletime lessons were first used in Southern Ireland over 50 years ago. Bible Educational Services maintain editorial responsibility for Bibletime Lessons in English and in all foreign languages. Bibletime lessons have been normally published in an A4 format which enables students in some areas, every four weeks, to send the lessons back to a Bible School Centre for marking. More recently, thanks to Every Home Crusade (Revival Movement) in Belfast, lessons for six months have been published in an A5 format, which has made usage in Churches and Schools much easier, especially where there is no effective postal system.

The BES lessons are unique in that they are prepared with home or group (Church / School) study in mind. They follow a planned syllabus which allows students to continue studying for up to 20 years. Five levels of lessons are available for specific age groups, Pre-school, 5-7's, 8-10's, 11-13's, 14-16's. There is a three-year syllabus for each age group. The age groups may vary according to different levels of ability. The Bibletime Resources allow children the opportunity to study the Bible and reflect on its relevance in the lives of people today.

Printed copies of the lessons are available in English from the BES website [www.besweb.com](http://www.besweb.com) or from the BES Office in Enniskillen. They are also available on the website in other languages. BES has documents which may be helpful to you if you are considering partnering with us, which are also available on the website.

## **BES Contact Addresses**

### **BES Office (stockist of all English lessons):**

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## LESSON PLANS FOR TEACHERS

Teacher Lesson Plans are produced to equip Teachers using Bibletime lessons with suggestions and ideas for classroom study. In this booklet they are designed for use with Levels 0-4.

Each lesson plan follows the same Bible reference as the Bibletime lesson and are designed to be used on a weekly basis. The April lessons are specific to the Easter story and the December lessons are based on the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

Normally the classroom Teacher will work through the monthly A4 lesson each week with the class. They are free to allow time for independent study if this is appropriate. At the end of the month the Teacher will collect the lesson and do the necessary marking, returning the marked lessons as soon as possible to the pupils.

## PREPARATION FOR TEACHERS

Teachers should feel free to use their own ideas and initiatives when using the Bibletime lessons, adapting them as appropriate to their particular pupils. These are suggestions which may help in the use of this Resource:

- **Be familiar with the story** - Teachers should be as familiar as possible with the Bible Story and also with the Bibletime lesson that accompanies it. Ideally, the Bibletime lesson should be completed by the Teacher before the lesson. The Lesson Plans for each lesson should also be carefully considered as a planning aid for the lessons.
- **Understand the lessons to be learned** - At the top of each lesson plan you will notice the words 'We are learning that', followed by some learning intentions. The children will hopefully have grasped these points after listening to the Teacher's presentation and completing the Bibletime lesson.
- **Introduce it** - With all lessons, we start where the children are with their own experience of the situation. We have suggested various ways that might be used to introduce the story to enable the children to be interactive in discussing the starting point of the story.
- **Teach It** - We have given the Key Points in the story. Teachers should not have to refer to these when actually teaching the story, but they are a useful guide. Aim to teach it in an interesting and inspiring way! Help the children to understand the main points by grasping their attention - use the appropriate tone and ask questions to test their learning.
- **Show it** - We appreciate that in some situations, visuals will be very difficult to obtain but wherever possible it is important to focus on pictures or objects to help in the understanding of the story. In most lessons we have given the information about pictures from [www.freebibleimages.org](http://www.freebibleimages.org) (FBI) which are downloadable from their website.
- **Learn It** - There is a Key Verse attached to each story. Hearing and learning these verses should enable pupils to increase their knowledge of Biblical vocabulary.
- **Complete It** - In a school situation you will be aware of the abilities of children to complete worksheets and the amount of Teacher support required. For some, it will be a requirement that the Teacher reads over the text of the lesson as the children follow what is now a familiar narrative. Other children may be able to read the text independently. Whatever the approach, try to make the lesson enjoyable, and remember to praise the pupils' efforts.
- **Review it** - We have suggested possible quizzes, games, art and drama to assist learning, and as a means of revising the story.
- **Live it-** This section carries the heading 'How does the lesson challenge Christians today?' and also some suggestions of possible group work and individual responses to the challenge of the lesson.

# Bibletime Syllabus

	LEVEL 0 (Pre-School) LEVEL 1 (Ages 5-7) LEVEL 2 (Ages 8-10)	LEVEL 3 (Ages 11-13)	LEVEL 4 (Ages 14+)
STARTER SERIES	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Starter Lesson - Intro</li> <li>2. U1 - Luke's Gospel</li> <li>3. U2 - Luke's Gospel</li> <li>4. U2 - Luke's Gospel</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Starter Lesson - Intro</li> <li>2. U1 - Luke's Gospel</li> <li>3. U2 - Luke's Gospel</li> <li>4. U2 - Luke's Gospel</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Starter Lesson – Intro</li> <li>2. U1 - Luke's Gospel</li> <li>3. U2 - Luke's Gospel</li> <li>4. U2 - Luke's Gospel</li> </ol>
SERIES A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Creation</li> <li>2. Noah</li> <li>3. Peter</li> <li>4. Peter - The Cross</li> <li>5. Abraham</li> <li>6. Abraham</li> <li>7. Peter</li> <li>8. Peter</li> <li>9. Jacob</li> <li>10. Early Christians</li> <li>11. Paul</li> <li>12. The Christmas Story</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Creation</li> <li>2. Noah</li> <li>3. Peter</li> <li>4. Peter - The Cross</li> <li>5. Peter</li> <li>6. Abraham</li> <li>7. Jacob</li> <li>8. Prayer</li> <li>9. Paul</li> <li>10. Paul</li> <li>11. Paul</li> <li>12. The Christmas Story</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Creation &amp; Fall</li> <li>2. Early developments - Genesis</li> <li>3. Peter</li> <li>4. Peter - The Cross</li> <li>5. Peter</li> <li>6. Abraham</li> <li>7. Jacob</li> <li>8. The Christian Life</li> <li>9. Paul</li> <li>10. Paul</li> <li>11. Paul</li> <li>12. The Christmas Story</li> </ol>
SERIES B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Early Life of Christ</li> <li>2. Miracles</li> <li>3. Bethany</li> <li>4. The Cross</li> <li>5. Parables</li> <li>6. Joseph</li> <li>7. Joseph</li> <li>8. People Jesus met</li> <li>9. Moses</li> <li>10. Moses</li> <li>11. Moses</li> <li>12. The Christmas Story</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Parables</li> <li>2. Miracles</li> <li>3. Bethany</li> <li>4. The Cross</li> <li>5. Early Christians</li> <li>6. Joseph</li> <li>7. Joseph</li> <li>8. Gospel Writers</li> <li>9. Moses</li> <li>10. Moses</li> <li>11. Moses</li> <li>12. The Christmas Story</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Parables</li> <li>2. Miracles</li> <li>3. Bethany</li> <li>4. The Cross</li> <li>5. Early Christians</li> <li>6. Jacob &amp; his family</li> <li>7. Joseph</li> <li>8. Acts 2: 42 - The way ahead</li> <li>9. Moses</li> <li>10. Moses</li> <li>11. The Law</li> <li>12. The Christmas Story</li> </ol>
SERIES C	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Daniel</li> <li>2. More Miracles</li> <li>3. People Jesus met</li> <li>4. Death of Christ</li> <li>5. Ruth &amp; Samuel</li> <li>6. David</li> <li>7. David</li> <li>8. Joshua</li> <li>9. Elijah</li> <li>10. Elisha</li> <li>11. Jonah</li> <li>12. The Christmas Story</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Daniel</li> <li>2. People Jesus met</li> <li>3. More Miracles</li> <li>4. Death of Christ</li> <li>5. Ruth</li> <li>6. Samuel</li> <li>7. David</li> <li>8. Joshua</li> <li>9. Elijah</li> <li>10. Elisha</li> <li>11. Men used by God - OT</li> <li>12. The Christmas Story</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Daniel</li> <li>2. The sayings of Jesus</li> <li>3. The Lord's Power</li> <li>4. Death of Christ</li> <li>5. Ruth</li> <li>6. Samuel</li> <li>7. David</li> <li>8. Joshua</li> <li>9. Elijah</li> <li>10. Elisha</li> <li>11. More OT Characters</li> <li>12. The Christmas Story</li> </ol>



**C11 Story 1**  
**“Jonah in the ship”**

	<p><b>We are learning that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christians try to do what God asks them to do.</li> <li>• The Bible teaches that we cannot hide from God.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Verses:</b>     <b><i>Jonah 1: 3</i></b>  <b>Bible Passage:</b>  <b><i>Jonah 1: 1-9</i></b></p>
<b>INTRODUCE IT</b>	<p>Talk to the children about how we communicate with one another today i.e. email, text, phone calls, letters. We have many ways of contacting people. Ask the children if they know how God communicates to us today. Christians believe that the Bible is God’s Word and that He speaks through it.</p> <p>Explain to the children that in Old Testament times God would send His word through men, called Prophets. These men were sent by God to different places to pass on God’s message to that place.</p>
<b>TEACH IT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• God spoke to a man called Jonah; he was a prophet and God wanted him to go to a city called Nineveh. God had seen all the wrong behaviour that the people in the city had done. Now Jonah was to tell them that God was going to punish them for it. Nineveh was a foreign city for Jonah and a very scary place. He didn’t want to tell the people there what God had said, so he decided to run away from God. Jonah went to the dock and caught a ship going to Tarshish (completely the other way from Nineveh), to escape from God (<b><i>Jonah 1: 1-3</i></b>).</li> <li>• But God sent a storm on the sea and the ship was tossed around so much the sailors thought the ship would break up and they would all die. All the sailors cried out to their own gods and threw all the cargo overboard to help lighten the ship, but the storm continued. Jonah was unaware of the storm, he was fast asleep down inside the ship, not caring what was happening. The Captain went to wake Jonah and asked him to call on his God too to help save the ship (<b><i>Jonah 1: 4-6</i></b>).</li> <li>• The sailors decided to cast lots (this was a way things were decided in those days, like drawing straws or throwing dice) to see whose fault the storm was, and the lot fell to Jonah. They asked Jonah who he was and where he had come from. Jonah explained that he was a Hebrew, who served the God of Heaven, who made the sea and the earth and everything in it. He told them the storm was all his fault because he was running away from God (<b><i>Jonah 1: 10</i></b>).</li> <li>• <i>When Christians read the Bible, they try and put into practice what it says and not disobey God’s Word as Jonah did.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</b></p> <p><b>Show it:</b> <a href="http://www.freebibleimages.org">www.freebibleimages.org</a> – <b>Jonah and the large fish. (I) [Moody Publishers]</b></p>
<b>LEARN IT</b>	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse – <b><i>Jonah 1: 3</i></b></p>
<b>REMEMBER IT</b>	<p>Ask the pupils to answer the following questions as a means of revising the story:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What job did Jonah have?</li> <li>• Where did God want Jonah to go?</li> <li>• Why didn’t Jonah want to go there?</li> <li>• What did Jonah try to do?</li> <li>• What happened when the ship set sail?</li> <li>• What was Jonah doing during the storm?</li> <li>• How did the sailors discover it was Jonah’s fault?</li> <li>• Who did Jonah say he served?</li> </ul>

**C11 Story 2**  
**“Jonah in the sea”**

	<p><b>We are learning that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Christians believe we can pray to God wherever we are, and He will hear us.</li> <li>• The Bible teaches that even when we do things against God, He is still willing to forgive us.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Verse:</b>        <i>Jonah 2: 9</i>  <b>Bible Passage:</b>   <i>Jonah 1: 10-17 &amp; 2: 1-10</i></p>
<b>INTRODUCE IT</b>	<p>Ask the pupils if they have ever been on a boat, maybe a small sailing boat or a large ferry going across the sea. Talk about how it feels on a boat, but then ask how they think it would feel if that boat was in the middle of a huge storm. How scared would they be?  This is how Jonah felt in today’s story, how his actions had put others in danger and how he had turned away from God.</p>
<b>TEACH IT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When the sailors found out who Jonah was and who he served they were very frightened. The men asked Jonah what they should do to stop the storm from destroying them. Jonah told them it was his fault, that he was trying to run away from God, and that they should throw him overboard into the sea. However, the men didn’t want to kill Jonah, so they tried to row back to shore, but the storm grew worse. Then the sailors cried out to God and asked that they would not be punished for killing Jonah. They picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea. Immediately the storm stopped, and the sea grew calm. The men on the boat realised who God was and offered their praise and worship to Him (<i>Jonah 1: 10-15</i>).</li> <li>• As Jonah sank, God sent a great fish that came and swallowed him whole. Jonah spent three days and three nights in the belly of the fish (<i>Jonah 1: 17</i>).</li> <li>• As Jonah sat in the belly of the fish he prayed to God, he remembered how he thought he was going to die as he sank to the bottom of the ocean. He remembered how he had cried to God as he thought he was dying, how God had heard that prayer and saved his life. He thanked God for hearing him and acknowledged God was the only true God and that the people who prayed to idols would never be saved by their gods. Jonah praised God for being the only God who can save (<i>Jonah 2: 1-9</i>).</li> <li>• After 3 days and nights in the belly of the fish God ordered the fish to vomit Jonah out on to dry land (<i>Jonah 2: 10</i>).</li> <li>• God punished Jonah for His disobedience, but He also provided a way of saving him when he was really sorry and owned up to his sin. The Bible teaches that we deserve to be punished for our sins, but God will forgive us if we are truly sorry, because He sent Jesus to die for us.</li> </ul> <p><b>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</b></p> <p><b>Show it:</b> <a href="http://www.freebibleimages.org">www.freebibleimages.org</a> – <b>Jonah and the large fish. (I) [Moody Publishers]</b></p>
<b>LEARN IT</b>	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse – <i>Jonah 2: 9</i>.</p>
<b>REMEMBER IT</b>	<p>Ask the pupils to answer the following questions as a means of revising the story:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What did the sailors first do when Jonah told them to throw him overboard?</li> <li>• Why didn’t they want to throw Jonah overboard?</li> <li>• What happened when they threw Jonah into the sea?</li> <li>• What did the sailors do?</li> <li>• What did God send to rescue Jonah?</li> <li>• How long was Jonah in the belly of the fish?</li> <li>• What did Jonah do while he was in the fish?</li> </ul>



**C11 Story 3**  
**“Jonah preaches in Nineveh”**

	<p><b>We are learning that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If we are sorry for what we have done, no matter how bad, the Bible says God will forgive us.</li> <li>• Christians believe that God can work through ordinary people.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Verse:</b>        <b>Jonah 3: 5</b>  <b>Bible Passage:</b>   <b>Jonah 3: 1-10</b></p>
<b>INTRODUCE IT</b>	<p>Talk to the pupils about times they may have had to say sorry. How sometimes they may have been forced to but didn't really mean it. Talk about times when they know they've made a big mistake and wanted to say sorry; how guilty they may have felt and how they felt after saying sorry.</p> <p>Today we are going to look at how the people of Nineveh felt when Jonah told them how angry God was with them.</p>
<b>TEACH IT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No sooner had Jonah come out of the fish than God spoke to him again, telling him to go to Nineveh to deliver God's message. This time Jonah left immediately and went to the great city. Nineveh was such a great city that it took 3 days to walk across it. Jonah began to travel across Nineveh telling the people that God was going to destroy them for their wicked ways (<b>Jonah 3: 1-4</b>).</li> <li>• Surprisingly the people believed Jonah's message and were very upset for what they had done. They wanted to show God how sorry they were. The people in the city called for a fast; they didn't eat anything at all and put on sackcloth to show how they viewed themselves as worthless and how sorry they were (<b>Jonah 3: 5</b>).</li> <li>• When word reached the king, he got down from his throne, removed his royal robes and put on sackcloth too. He issued a decree that everyone in the city, including all the animals, should eat nothing and be covered in sackcloth. He also commanded that each person turn from his evil ways and call out to God. The king hoped that God would see and hear the people and not carry out His plan to destroy them (<b>Jonah 3: 6-9</b>).</li> <li>• When God saw how sorry the people were and how they were prepared to change, He changed His mind, He forgave them and decided not to destroy them. God also saw that the people really meant what they said, and they weren't just putting on a show in order to save their own lives.</li> <li>• <i>The Bible teaches that God is still kind and forgiving today. If like the people of Nineveh, we turn back to Him, say sorry for our sin and believe His message, we will be forgiven.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</b></p> <p><b>Show it:</b> <a href="http://www.freebibleimages.org">www.freebibleimages.org</a> - <b>Jonah and the large fish. (I) [Moody Publishers]</b></p>
<b>LEARN IT</b>	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse – <b>Jonah 3: 5</b></p>
<b>REMEMBER IT</b>	<p>Ask the pupils to answer the following questions as a means of revising the story:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What did God now want Jonah to do?</li> <li>• How long did it take to walk across the city of Nineveh?</li> <li>• What happened when the people heard his message?</li> <li>• What did the king do?</li> <li>• What did the king command the people to do?</li> <li>• What did God decide to do?</li> </ul>

**C11 Story 4**  
**“Jonah prays to God”**

	<p><b>We are learning that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The story of Jonah shows us a picture of what the Bible says Jesus did.</li> <li>• The Bible teaches that God cares for all people.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Verse:</b>        <i>Matthew 12: 41</i> <b>Bible Passage:</b> <i>Jonah 4: 1-11</i></p>
<b>INTRODUCE IT</b>	<p>Talk with the pupils about when we think someone has done something wrong, we want to see them punished. Sometimes we might tell a parent or a teacher when we see someone doing something wrong and then we can get cross when we don't think they have been punished properly.</p> <p>This is how Jonah felt towards God in today's story. He was angry because God didn't punish the people of Nineveh in the way He had said He would.</p>
<b>TEACH IT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jonah was very unhappy when he realised God was not going to destroy Nineveh and told him that this was why he had run away in the first place. He knew that God was merciful, slow in becoming angry and full of love. He told God that he was so upset that God had not punished the people that he wanted to die! (<b>Jonah 4: 1-3</b>)</li> <li>• Jonah went out of the city and sat down to watch if God was going to do anything. It was a very hot day and Jonah sat there, miserable. But God felt sorry for Jonah and caused a plant to grow near him to give Jonah shade from the heat of the sun. Jonah was grateful for the plant and went to sleep in its shade (<b>Jonah 4: 5-6</b>).</li> <li>• At dawn the next day God sent a worm to attack the plant, and the plant withered and died. Then God sent a scorching wind and the hot sun beat down upon Jonah. Jonah was feeling faint and told God he would rather die than to live anymore. Jonah was angry with God that He had killed the plant. God asked Jonah why he was so upset about a plant that he hadn't cared for or looked after, and which had only been there for one night. He should not be angry that God had spared a city full of 120,000 people who hadn't even known about God (<b>Jonah 4: 7-11</b>).</li> <li>• Explain that when Jesus was on earth he spoke to the people about Jonah. He told them that He would be buried for 3 days and 3 nights, the same amount of time that Jonah had been in the fish. He also told them that the people of Nineveh would be angry with the people who heard about Jesus but didn't believe in Him, because they had heard the message from Jonah, listened and repented. Jesus was a much greater person than Jonah (<b>Matthew 12: 40-41</b>).</li> </ul> <p><b>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</b></p> <p><b>Show it:</b> <a href="http://www.freebibleimages.org">www.freebibleimages.org</a> – <b>Jonah and the large fish (I)</b> [Moody Publishers]</p>
<b>LEARN IT</b>	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse – <b>Matthew 12: 41</b></p>
<b>REMEMBER IT</b>	<p>Ask the pupils to answer the following questions as a means of revising the story:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why was Jonah angry with God?</li> <li>• What did Jonah want to happen to him?</li> <li>• Where did Jonah go?</li> <li>• What did God send to help Jonah?</li> <li>• What happened to the plant?</li> <li>• Why did Jonah get upset?</li> <li>• How does the story of Jonah compare with what happened to Jesus?</li> </ul>

## Level 0-2

### C12 Story 1 “God sends His Son, Jesus”

	<p><b>We are learning that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Bible teaches that Jesus was God’s Son sent to earth to be born as a baby.</li><li>• Mary and Joseph travelled from Nazareth to Bethlehem to be counted.</li></ul> <p><b>Key Verse:</b>        <b>1 John 4: 14</b> <b>Bible Passage:</b>   <b>Luke 2: 1-7</b></p>
<b>INTRODUCE IT</b>	<p>Show the pupils some pictures of babies. (If possible, bring a photo of yourself as a baby or get the children to bring in photos of themselves as babies.) Discuss where babies are usually born i.e. in hospitals and the way they are cared for when they are born e.g. how you dress them, where you put them to sleep. Explain that today they will be learning a story about a baby being born.</p>
<b>TEACH IT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Roman rulers wanted to know how many people were in their empire. They ordered everyone to return to the place of their birth so that they could be counted (<b>Luke 2: 1-3</b>).</li><li>• Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth. They were engaged to be married. Mary was going to have a baby soon. <i>Explain that this would be a very special baby because Mary had been told He was the Son of God.</i> They had to leave Nazareth and go to Bethlehem to be counted (<b>Luke 2: 4-5</b>).</li><li>• While they were in Bethlehem, the baby was born. Mary wrapped her baby in cloths and she placed Him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.</li><li>• <i>Explain that a manger was where the animals would have eaten and then discuss if this was a good place to put a new baby (relate back to introduction discussion)</i> (<b>Luke 2: 6-7</b>).</li><li>• <i>Explain that even though this baby was the Son of God He was born into a difficult situation and grew up in a poor family. The Bible teaches that God showed how much He loves us by sending His Son into the world. One day this little baby would grow up to die on a cross as the Saviour of world (See the Key Verse).</i></li></ul> <p><b>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</b></p> <p><b>Show it:</b> <a href="http://www.freebibleimages.org">www.freebibleimages.org</a> – <b>The birth of Jesus (P &amp; I)</b></p>
<b>LEARN IT</b>	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse – <b>1 John 4: 14.</b></p>
<b>REMEMBER IT</b>	<p>Ask the pupils to answer the following questions as a means of revising the story:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who was ruling the land at that time?</li><li>• What did the Romans make everybody do?</li><li>• Who was Joseph going to be married to?</li><li>• Where did Joseph and Mary live?</li><li>• Where did they have to travel to, to be counted?</li><li>• What was special about the baby that was born?</li><li>• What did Mary wrap Him in?</li><li>• Where did Mary place Him?</li></ul>

**C12 Story 2**  
**“God sends Jesus, the Saviour”**

	<p><b>We are learning that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The shepherds were the first people to be told Jesus was born.</li> <li>• Christians believe that Jesus is the Saviour of the world</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Verse:</b>        <i>Luke 2: 11</i>  <b>Bible Passage:</b>   <i>Luke 2: 8-15</i></p>
<b>INTRODUCE IT</b>	<p>Talk to the pupils about names. Ask them if they know why their name was chosen (if any children have recently had a new baby in their family, you could also ask why their name was chosen.) Ask the pupils if they are ever called by any other names except their given ones i.e. nicknames. Remind them of the previous story about God’s son being born. Explain that the baby was given the name Jesus but that He was also given some other very special names.</p>
<b>TEACH IT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Near Bethlehem there were some shepherds out in the fields, watching their sheep at night (<b>Luke 2: 8</b>). <i>Explain why it was necessary for shepherds to watch over their sheep at night. Explain also that they were probably the only people awake who could hear this good news.</i></li> <li>• The sky lit up and an angel appeared. The shepherds were terrified. The angel said to them “Don’t be afraid, I am giving you good news that will bring joy to all people. Today, in Bethlehem a Saviour has been born and He is Christ, the Lord. The baby is wrapped in cloths and is lying in a manger.” <i>Ask the pupils to identify the other names that Jesus was called i.e. Christ, Lord and Saviour. Focus on the fact that Jesus was called Saviour because He would save the world from their sins. Explain to the children that in the Bible we read that when Jesus grew up, He died on the cross and took the punishment for our sin so that He could be our Saviour (Luce 2: 9-12).</i></li> <li>• Suddenly, a great crowd of angels filled the sky and they sang praises to God saying, “Glory to God in the Highest and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!” <i>Remind the pupils that God sending Jesus to earth to be the Saviour was a really amazing thing and that, just as the angels praised God, so Christians want to praise and thank Him too for what He has done (Luce 2: 13-14).</i></li> <li>• When the angels left, the shepherds spoke to each other and said, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that God has told us about.” (<b>Luke 2: 15</b>)</li> <li>• <i>Help the children to understand that for Christians, Jesus was the greatest Christmas present that God could possibly give.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</b></p> <p><b>Show it:</b> <a href="http://www.freebibleimages.org">www.freebibleimages.org</a> – <b>Shepherds worship Jesus (P) &amp; Shepherds hear of the birth of Jesus. (I)</b></p>
<b>LEARN IT</b>	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse – <b>Luke 2: 11</b></p>
<b>REMEMBER IT</b>	<p>Ask the pupils to create a piece of artwork of the field where the shepherds watched their sheep. Use different materials – cotton wool, silver paper, card, fabric, wool, paint, etc.</p> <p>Or ask the children to answer the following questions as a means of revising the story:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who was out in the fields?</li> <li>• What time of the day was it?</li> <li>• What appeared in the sky?</li> <li>• How did the shepherds feel?</li> <li>• Who did the angel say had been born?</li> <li>• What filled the sky?</li> <li>• What did they sing?</li> <li>• What did the shepherds decide to do?</li> </ul>

**C12 Story 3**  
**“The shepherds find Jesus”**

	<p><b>We are learning that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The shepherds' lives were changed when they met Jesus.</li> <li>• For Christians, Jesus, the Son of God, coming to earth as a baby was an amazing event.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Verse:</b>        <i>Luke 2: 20</i>  <b>Bible Passage:</b>   <i>Luke 2: 16-20</i></p>
<b>INTRODUCE IT</b>	<p>Talk to the pupils about a time when they heard really good news. Give some personal examples e.g. hearing about a new baby being born or hearing about someone coming to visit. Ask them how they felt when they heard the news and if they shared the news with anyone else. Tell the children that today's story will be about the good news that the shepherds heard, and how they told everybody about it.</p>
<b>TEACH IT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When the shepherds heard the good news about Jesus, they couldn't wait to go and see the baby for themselves. They hurried off and found Mary, Joseph and the baby lying in a manger, just as the angel had told them (<b>Luke 2: 16</b>).</li> <li>• When they had seen Jesus, they couldn't keep the good news to themselves. They told everyone they met about what had happened. The people they told were amazed and wondered about the things they had heard. <i>Remind pupils that Christians today want to share this amazing news, just like the shepherds wanted to tell people they met about Jesus (Luke 2: 17-18).</i></li> <li>• Mary remembered all the things that had happened, and she thought a lot about them. The shepherds went back to their fields, but they never forgot the things they had heard either. They continued to give glory to God and praise Him for all the great things that they had seen (<b>Luke 2: 19-20</b>).</li> <li>• <i>Explain to the pupils that when the shepherds met Jesus, their lives were changed, and they never forgot the things that happened. Christians believe that when we get to know Jesus and He becomes our Saviour, then He can change our lives too.</i></li> <li>• <i>We give thanks for presents we receive at Christmas time. Just like the shepherds praised God, Christians thank God for sending Jesus.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</b></p> <p><b>Show it:</b> <a href="http://www.freebibleimages.org">www.freebibleimages.org</a> – Shepherds worship Jesus (P) &amp; Shepherds hear of the birth of Jesus. (I)</p>
<b>LEARN IT</b>	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse – <b>Luke 2: 20</b></p>
<b>REMEMBER IT</b>	<p>Ask the pupils to answer the following questions as a means of revising the story:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who had told the news of the new baby to the shepherds?</li> <li>• What did they do when they heard the good news?</li> <li>• Who did the shepherds find when they got to Bethlehem?</li> <li>• Where was the baby Jesus lying?</li> <li>• Who did the shepherds tell about the things they had seen?</li> <li>• Who remembered the things that had happened and kept thinking about them?</li> <li>• Where did the shepherds go after they left Bethlehem?</li> <li>• Who did they give praise to?</li> </ul>

**C12 Story 4**  
**“John baptises Jesus”**

	<p><b>We are learning that:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John baptised Jesus in the River Jordan.</li> <li>• Jesus was about to start His work on earth as the Saviour.</li> </ul> <p><b>Key Verse:</b>        <i>Mark 1: 7</i> <b>Bible Passage:</b> <i>Mark 1: 1-9</i></p>
<b>INTRODUCE IT</b>	<p>Ask the pupils if they have ever experienced anyone important coming to visit their home or their school or their town (if not, you could imagine someone important was coming). Discuss the preparations that would need to be done for that person coming. Tell them that today’s story is about someone who prepared the way for Jesus.</p>
<b>TEACH IT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After Jesus was born, the Bible doesn’t tell us much about His life until He was 30 years old. He probably grew up in Nazareth with His family and He might have worked as a carpenter like Joseph did.</li> <li>• Jesus had a relation called John. We often call him John the Baptist. John had been living in the desert where he wore camel skins and his food was locusts and wild honey (<b>Mark 1: 6</b>).</li> <li>• John the Baptist became a preacher. His special job was to get people ready for the coming of Jesus Christ. Lots of people came out to hear the message that John was preaching. He baptised people and told them that someone far better and more powerful than him was coming. When he talked about Jesus he said, “I am not worthy to undo His sandals”. He also said that one day Jesus would bring the Holy Spirit to the people (<b>Mark 1: 4-5, 7-8</b>).</li> <li>• When Jesus was about 30 years old the time came for Him to start calling people to God and to preach the good news that the angel had spoken about on the day that He was born. Jesus went out to the River Jordan to where John was preaching and baptising people. John baptised Jesus in the River Jordan (<b>Mark 1: 9</b>).</li> <li>• <i>Explain to the pupils that Jesus didn’t need to be baptised. He didn’t need to publicly show that he was sorry for His sin as He had never done anything wrong. Instead, He was coming alongside sinful people, setting an example for them to follow, identifying with John’s ministry and marking the start of His mission to the world.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</b></p> <p><b>Show it:</b> <a href="http://www.freebibleimages.org">www.freebibleimages.org</a> – <b>John the Baptist. (P) Also, John the Baptist’s Ministry. (I)</b></p>
<b>LEARN IT</b>	<p>Teach and explain where necessary the Key Verse – <b>Mark 1: 7</b></p>
<b>REMEMBER IT</b>	<p>Ask the pupils to answer the following questions as a means of revising the story:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where did Jesus grow up?</li> <li>• What was Jesus’ relation called?</li> <li>• What did John eat in the desert?</li> <li>• Who did John the Baptist say was coming?</li> <li>• John the Baptist said that Jesus was much more ____ than him?</li> <li>• What age was Jesus when He came to see John?</li> <li>• What did John do for Jesus?</li> <li>• Did Jesus need to have His sins forgiven?</li> </ul>



Level 3-4	C11 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 1 – Men used by God Topic – Gideon	C11 - LEVEL 4 Study 1 – Men of the Old Testament Topic – Gideon
	<p><b>Bible Focus:</b> <i>Judges 6: 11-23; 7: 12-22</i></p> <p><b>Key Verse:</b> <i>Judges 6: 16</i></p> <p><b>We are learning that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At a difficult time in Israel's history, Gideon is chosen to free Israel from the Midianites.</li> <li>Christians believe that God uses all sorts of people to do His work despite their weaknesses and failures.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Bible Focus:</b> <i>Judges 6: 1-23; 7: 1-23</i></p> <p><b>Key Verses:</b> <i>Judges 6: 22 &amp; 23</i></p> <p><b>We are learning that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gideon, a reluctant deliverer is chosen to free Israel from the Midianites.</li> <li>If Christians trust and obey God, He will give them the strength to serve Him, even though they may not feel adequate for the tasks He calls them to.</li> </ol>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Once again, the Israelites had forgotten God and turned to false gods. God punished them by allowing the Midianites to attack them. God sent a special messenger to speak to Gideon to show him how he would defeat the Midianite army. Although Gideon felt he was not able for this task, he eventually obeyed God and God made him victorious.</p>	<p>God punished them by allowing the Midianites to attack them. When the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon he was threshing wheat in a pit hidden from the view of the Midianites, who were making the production of food impossible for the Israelites.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p><b>Present the Bible Story</b></p> <p><b>Discuss and Explain:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Israelites were being oppressed by the Midianites and when they cried to God for help, a prophet was first sent to remind them of their idolatry. Then the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon and told him God was going to use him to deliver the Israelites from the Midianites (<b>6: 7-12</b>).</li> <li>Gideon wanted a sign to show that God was really going to use him. He prepared an offering and brought it to the angel who touched it with his staff and it was burned up (<b>6: 13-22</b>).</li> <li>Later Gideon went to the camp of the Midianites and heard a Midianite tell his friend a dream which assured Gideon of victory. He returned to the Israelite camp to prepare them for war. Gideon divided them into three companies of 100 each and gave each man a trumpet and a pitcher with a lamp inside. When Gideon's men marched towards the Midianites camp, the blazing lights, the deafening noise of the trumpets and the breaking of the pitchers caused the Midianites to panic and flee (<b>7: 8-22</b>).</li> <li>The Midianites were defeated as God had told him (<b>Judges 6: 14</b>).</li> </ol> <p><b>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - <i>Judges 6: 16</i></b></p> <p><b>Complete Lesson 1.</b></p> <p><b>Show it: <a href="http://www.freebibleimages.org">www.freebibleimages.org</a> – Gideon and the Midianite army (I)</b></p>	<p><b>Present the Bible Story</b></p> <p><b>Discuss and Explain:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Midianites had been oppressing Israel for seven years, resulting in the Israelites turning back to God. A prophet was sent by God to explain to the Israelites that they were being punished because of their idolatry (<b>6: 7-10</b>).</li> <li>The angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon and promised to give him the strength needed to defeat the Midianites. Gideon made excuses about his limitations but eventually obeyed when the 'sign' he asked for was confirmed - the food he placed on the rock was burned up by the angel of the Lord (<b>6: 13-22</b>).</li> <li>God reduced the army of the Israelites from 32,000 to 300 so there could be no doubt the victory was from God. They were only armed with trumpets, clay pitchers and lamps and instructed by Gideon as to what to do when they reached the Midianites (<b>7: 1-8, 16</b>).</li> <li>The noise of the Israelites blowing their trumpets, along with the noise of the clay pitchers breaking and the sudden appearance of light from the lamps, terrified the Midianites, causing them to panic and retreat (<b>7: 17-22</b>).</li> <li>Although surprised by the challenge of the Lord, Gideon accepted the task he was called to do, which resulted in victory over the Midianites.</li> </ol> <p><b>Explain the Key Verses and encourage pupils to learn them- <i>Judges 6: 22 &amp; 23</i></b></p> <p><b>Complete Study 1.</b></p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review this lesson by asking the pupils:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who was the messenger? What was his message?</li> <li>Why was the dream Gideon overheard a source of encouragement to him?</li> <li>What was the strategy God gave Gideon and his men to defeat the Midianites?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read - <b><i>Judges 6: 24-40</i></b> - Discuss how Gideon put his life at risk for signs of proof that God would use him.</li> <li>Read - <b><i>1 Corinthians 1: 26-29</i></b> Discuss how God uses ordinary people in His service.</li> </ol>
LIVE IT	<p><b>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Before Gideon went to war he worshipped God (<b><i>Judges 7: 15</i></b>). How can a Christian reflect this attitude?</li> <li>Gideon could not see how God was going to work through him. Instead of making excuses, what should a Christian do?</li> </ol>	<p><b>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Like Gideon, Christians are called to serve God in specific ways. Discuss some examples.</li> <li>Read <b><i>2 Timothy 3: 16-17</i></b>. What do these verses teach about God's guidance?</li> </ol>



Level 3-4	C11 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 2 – Men used by God Topic –Samson	C11 - LEVEL 4 Study 2 – Men of the Old Testament Topic – Samson
	<p><b>Bible Focus:</b> <i>Judges 16: 6-31</i></p> <p><b>Key Verse:</b> <i>Judges 16: 28</i></p> <p><b>We are learning that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Samson was born to rid Israel of the Philistines who had taken over their country.</li> <li>2. Despite Samson's many weaknesses, God used him to overcome the Philistines on several occasions.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Bible Focus:</b> <i>Judges 13: 1-25; 16: 4-31</i></p> <p><b>Key Verses:</b> <i>James 4: 7- 8</i></p> <p><b>We are learning that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Manoah's wife was told by the angel that her son would 'begin' the deliverance of Israel from Philistine oppression.</li> <li>2. God was able to use Samson despite his many mistakes.</li> </ol>
<b>INTRODUCE IT</b>	<p>Once again Israel was in the grip of the Philistines which lasted some forty years. Samson was born to Manoah and his wife and God's plan for his life was to rescue Israel from the Philistines. He was a judge in Israel for twenty years. If time allows, review for pupils the main events in <i>Judges chapters 13-16</i>.</p>	<p>The story of Samson is the sad record of the weakest, strong man of the Bible. However, in spite of his failures he accomplished the purpose announced by the angel who visited his parents before his birth. (<i>Judges 13: 5</i>) Before he died, Samson acknowledged it was only God who could give him strength and, God answered his prayer and destroyed the temple and Philistine worshippers.</p>
<b>COMPLETE IT</b>	<p><b>Present the Bible Story</b></p> <p><b>Discuss and Explain:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Samson fell in love with a Philistine woman called Delilah (<i>16: 4</i>).</li> <li>2. The Philistines are scared of Samson because of his great strength. Delilah is bribed by the Philistines and offered a great money reward if she could find the secret of Samson's strength. Delilah tried three times to find out the secret. Each time Samson lied to her and overcame those who attacked him (<i>16: 6-15</i>).</li> <li>3. Samson finally breaks down and reveals to her the secret of his strength. When he was asleep, the Philistines shaved off his hair and his strength left him, but Samson did not realise the Lord had left him (<i>16: 17-20</i>).</li> <li>4. The Philistines seized him, took out his eyes and placed him in prison. They held a giant celebration of their god, Dagon, compelling Samson to entertain them. Samson took hold of the two middle pillars in the temple, called on God for strength, pushed down the pillars and kills all present, including himself (<i>16: 21-30</i>).</li> <li>5. When we think of Samson, we tend to think of his undoubted strengths. However, he had many weaknesses because he disobeyed God, and in the end, was the author of his own violent death.</li> </ol> <p><b>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - <i>Judges 16: 28</i></b></p> <p><b>Complete Lesson 2.</b></p> <p><b>Show it:</b> <a href="http://www.freebibleimages.org">www.freebibleimages.org</a> – The secret of Samson's strength is revealed (I)</p>	<p><b>Present the Bible Story</b></p> <p><b>Discuss and Explain:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The angel of the Lord told Manoah and his wife they would have a son called Samson who was to be a Nazirite, a man set aside for God's service as a Judge, in Israel (<i>13: 3-5</i>).</li> <li>2. Eventually Samson formed a relationship with a Philistine woman, called Delilah, and she influenced him to betray his calling from God. He revealed to her the secret of his strength. His long hair wasn't the source of his strength but rather showed that he was a Nazirite. It was his relationship with God that made him strong. When his hair was cut, he was powerless (<i>16: 6-20</i>).</li> <li>3. The Philistines capture Samson, took out his eyes and put him in prison. Now he was blind and weak. The Philistines crowded into one of their temples, built to an idol god, to make fun of Samson. In spite of his past, Samson prayed to God for strength and one more time God answered his prayer. Samson pushed down the two pillars supporting the temple and killed all present, including himself (<i>16: 21-30</i>).</li> <li>4. When we think of Samson, we tend to think of his undoubted strengths. However, he had many weaknesses because he disobeyed God, and in the end, was the author of his own violent death.</li> </ol> <p><b>Explain the Key Verses and encourage students to learn them- <i>James 4: 7- 8</i></b></p> <p><b>Complete Study 2.</b></p> <p><b>Show it:</b> <a href="http://www.freebibleimages.org">www.freebibleimages.org</a> - The secret of Samson's strength is revealed (I)</p>
<b>REVIEW IT</b>	<p>Review the lesson by referring to the purpose of Samson's birth, announced by the angel of the Lord (<i>Judges 13: 5</i>). When Samson died, God turned his failures into victory by bringing about the deaths of the Philistines (<i>Judges 16: 30</i>).</p>	<p>Read <i>Judges 14: 1-20; 15: 1-20</i>. Explain to the pupils that these two chapters not only show Samson's strengths but show significant weakness in his life.</p>
<b>LIVE IT</b>	<p><b>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</b></p> <p>When Samson strayed from God he realised his weakness and his need for dependence on God. How is this same principle still true for Christians today?</p>	<p><b>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Samson allowed Delilah to influence him for wrong. How important is it for a Christian to choose positive relationships?</li> <li>2. The New Testament makes no comment in <i>Hebrews 11: 32-33</i> of Samson's failures, just some of his achievements. What does this teach us about God's patience and willingness to keep no record of wrongs?</li> </ol>

Level 3-4	C11 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 3 – Men used by God Topic – Jonah	C11 - LEVEL 4 Study 3 – Men of the Old Testament Topic – Jonah
	<p><b>Bible Focus:</b> <i>Jonah 1: 1-7; 3: 1-3</i></p> <p><b>Key Verse:</b> <i>Jonah 2: 9</i></p> <p><b>We are learning that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jonah disobeyed God and learned the lesson of obedience the hard way.</li> <li>The Bible teaches that we cannot hide from God; He knows all about us.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Bible Focus:</b> <i>Jonah 1: 1-17; 2: 10 -3: 2</i></p> <p><b>Key Verse:</b> <i>Jonah 2: 9</i></p> <p><b>We are learning that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If Jonah had obeyed God immediately he would not have experienced such difficulty.</li> <li>Christians read the Bible in order to receive direction from God.</li> </ol>
INTRODUCE IT	Jonah came from Galilee and was told to go to Nineveh in the reign of King Jeroboam, the mightiest king of the Northern Kingdom of Israel. God sent Jonah to preach repentance to the people of Nineveh, a wicked city, and capital of the Assyrian Empire at the time. The Assyrians were a very cruel Gentile nation. Jonah, a Jew, didn't want to take the message of repentance and salvation to the Ninevites. So, God had to deal with his disobedience.	In <b>2 Kings 14: 25</b> , we learn that Jonah was the son of Amittai, a prophet in Galilee. God sent Jonah to preach to Nineveh during the time when King Jeroboam II was ruling in the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Nineveh was the capital of the Assyrian Empire and was not only a Gentile nation but a cruel one. Jonah was reluctant to share God's love and mercy with the Ninevites because they were not Jews and he had grown up hating the Assyrians, so God had to deal with his disobedience.
COMPLETE IT	<p><b>Present the Bible Story</b></p> <p><b>Discuss and Explain:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Jonah's missionary call</b> – God sent Jonah to preach to Nineveh, but he disobeyed and took a ship to Tarshish in the south of Spain. He was sent on a 500-mile journey east but disobeyed and took a dangerous 2000-mile journey west on a ship, to try and flee from God's presence and power (<i>Jonah 1: 1-3</i>).</li> <li><b>The storm at sea</b> – There was a mighty storm and the ship and crew were in danger. They cast lots to see who was responsible and Jonah was identified as the culprit. The sailors were terrified and didn't know what to do (<i>Jonah 1: 4-10</i>).</li> <li><b>Jonah was thrown overboard and swallowed by a great fish</b> – The crew reluctantly threw Jonah overboard and he was held captive by the great fish for three days and three nights (<i>Jonah 1: 13-17</i>).</li> <li><b>Jonah goes to Nineveh</b> – Jonah acknowledged that salvation is of the Lord <i>Jonah 2: 9</i> and the fish vomited him out on dry ground. God told him again to go to Nineveh. He obeyed and warned the Ninevites about their danger, resulting in the people of the city repenting and being spared from judgement (<i>Jonah 2 &amp; 3</i>).</li> </ol> <p><b>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - <i>Jonah 2: 9</i></b></p> <p><b>Complete Lesson 3.</b></p> <p><b>Show it:</b> <a href="http://www.freebibleimages.org">www.freebibleimages.org</a> – Jonah and the large fish (I)</p>	<p><b>Present the Bible Story</b></p> <p><b>Discuss and Explain:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Jonah's call and commission</b> – God called Jonah to go and preach to the Ninevites because of their great wickedness (<i>Jonah 1: 1-2</i>).</li> <li><b>Jonah's disobedience and its consequences</b> – Jonah attempted to flee from God and headed for Tarshish on the southern coast of Spain. While Jonah was asleep on the ship, a storm raged, endangering the lives of all on board. After the casting of lots it was clear that Jonah was the problem. Jonah confessed his sin and was thrown overboard. He was swallowed by a great fish and was in its belly for three days and three nights (<i>Jonah 1: 3-17</i>).</li> <li><b>The great deliverance and renewed commission</b> – Jonah prayed from inside the great fish and God delivered him onto dry land when he acknowledged: 'Salvation is of the Lord' (<i>Jonah 2: 1-9</i>).</li> <li><b>Jonah is re-commissioned to go to Nineveh</b> – Jonah obeyed and went to Nineveh and preached the message God gave him, resulting in the people of the city repenting and being spared from judgement. However, Jonah was angry that Israel's Gentile enemies had been spared! (<i>Jonah 3 &amp; 4</i>)</li> </ol> <p><b>Explain the Key Verse and encourage students to learn it - <i>Jonah 2: 9</i></b></p> <p><b>Complete Study 3.</b></p> <p><b>Show it:</b> <a href="http://www.freebibleimages.org">www.freebibleimages.org</a> – Jonah and the large fish (I)</p>
REVIEW IT	Review this lesson by discussing with the pupils <b>John 3:16</b> . Remind them He not only loves the Jews, but the Gentiles. Jonah was of the Jewish line and the Ninevites were of the Gentile line. God showed His love by forgiving both Jonah and the Ninevites when they repented.	<b>Jonah 2: 1-9</b> – Discuss how Jonah was saved after his prayer. Jonah's prayer was thankful, but also repenting to God. <b>Jonah 4: 1-11</b> – Discuss Jonah's prayer and how he was happy when God saved him but angry when He saved the Ninevites. God taught Jonah forgiveness wasn't only for Israel but for all who repent and believe.
LIVE IT	<b>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</b> Jonah showed a lack of compassion for the people of Nineveh. God however, showed grace and love. How should a Christian treat others?	<b>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</b> Jonah was given a second chance to serve God. How should this encourage those who feel unworthy serving God? Do past mistakes or lack of ability, rule out a role in service?

Level 3-4	C11 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 4 – Men used by God Topic – Nehemiah	C11 - LEVEL 4 Study 4 – Men of the Old Testament Topic – Nehemiah
	<p><b>Bible Focus:</b> <i>Nehemiah 1: 1-4, 2: 1-8, 4: 6-23</i></p> <p><b>Key Verse:</b> <i>Nehemiah 4: 20</i></p> <p><b>We are learning that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nehemiah was a great man of God who was used to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.</li> <li>2. Christians believe that God hears and answers prayer – the first step in any venture is to pray.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Bible Focus:</b> <i>Nehemiah 1: 1-4, 2: 1-8, 4: 8-23</i></p> <p><b>Key Verse:</b> <i>Nehemiah 4: 20</i></p> <p><b>We are learning that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nehemiah was a man of character, persistence and prayer.</li> <li>2. God worked through Nehemiah to accomplish what seemed like an impossible task.</li> </ol>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Nehemiah worked in Persia and was the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes which was a very influential position. However, he left this comfortable job to go and help the people of Jerusalem rebuild the city's walls, which had been destroyed years before. In Nehemiah's day city walls were essential to the safety of the city protecting it from raids by Israel's enemies. Nehemiah was not only a man of prayer, but a great leader who could decide on a plan of action and motivate others to help him carry it out.</p>	<p>Nehemiah was cup bearer to King Artaxerxes, the Persian King and the king trusted him. He was also a man of God, who was concerned about the Jews and the fact that Jerusalem's walls were in ruins. As he prayed to God about this situation he was guided about his role in the rebuilding of the city walls leading him to leave Persia and head to Jerusalem. From beginning to end, he prayed for God's help and the wall around the city was rebuilt in record time, despite resistance from his enemies.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p><b>Present the Bible Story</b></p> <p><b>Discuss and Explain:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nehemiah's brother brings him a report that the Jews who have returned from exile to Jerusalem were having a difficult time and the city's walls needed to be rebuilt (<b>1: 1-3</b>).</li> <li>2. Nehemiah was very concerned about the problem and he prayed and asked the king to release him to go to help rebuild the city's walls. The king agreed which was obviously an answer to Nehemiah's prayers (<b>2: 1-6</b>).</li> <li>3. Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem and inspected the walls (<b>2: 11-13</b>).</li> <li>4. When the walls were half built, they began to face opposition, but Nehemiah continued to pray about the problem and put men on guard in case of attack (<b>4: 7-9</b>).</li> <li>5. Nehemiah, and those working with him, continued to pray, watch and work and their enemies abandoned their plan to attack them (<b>4: 16-19</b>).</li> </ol> <p><b>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - <i>Nehemiah 4: 20</i></b></p> <p><b>Complete Lesson 4.</b></p> <p><b>Show it:</b> <a href="http://www.freebibleimages.org">www.freebibleimages.org</a> – Nehemiah: Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem (I)</p>	<p><b>Present the Bible Story</b></p> <p><b>Discuss and Explain:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Nehemiah was deeply concerned about the condition of Jerusalem, prayed to God and looked for ways to improve the situation by putting all his resources, knowledge, experience and leadership into working out what should be done (<b>1: 1-10</b>).</li> <li>2. The king noticed Nehemiah's sad appearance (<b>2: 2</b>). It was dangerous to show sadness before the king, but Nehemiah wasn't ashamed to admit his fear. Instead he prayed.</li> <li>3. Nehemiah arrived in Jerusalem and inspected the walls (<b>2: 11-13</b>).</li> <li>4. When the walls were half built, they began to face opposition, but Nehemiah continued to pray about the problem and put men on guard in case of attack, half the men worked while the other half kept guard (<b>4: 7-19</b>).</li> <li>5. Nehemiah encouraged the builders by assuring them 'God shall fight for us' and eventually the wall was finished, with God's help, in 52 days (<b>4: 20 &amp; 6: 15</b>).</li> </ol> <p><b>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - <i>Nehemiah 4: 20</i></b></p> <p><b>Complete Study 4.</b></p> <p><b>Show it:</b> <a href="http://www.freebibleimages.org">www.freebibleimages.org</a> – Nehemiah: Rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem (I)</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Read <b><i>Colossians 3: 23-24</i></b> and discuss with the pupils how these verses can be applied to Nehemiah in this lesson. Also discuss the number of times Nehemiah prays to God and tells the builders to depend on God with regard to the rebuilding of the walls (<b><i>Chapter 1: 4, 2: 4, 4: 9, 4: 14 &amp; 4: 20</i></b>).</p>	<p>Read <b><i>Nehemiah 2: 11-20</i></b> – Discuss how Nehemiah surveyed the walls by moonlight and came up with a plan of action which he shared with those who would build the walls. Point out how Nehemiah was depending on God in <b><i>verses 18 and 20</i></b> to achieve the rebuilding of the city walls.</p>
LIVE IT	<p><b>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</b></p> <p>Nehemiah's service for God included talking with Him in prayer and walking with Him by putting what he learned from God's Word into action each day. How can a Christian learn from his example?</p>	<p><b>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why is it important for Christians to share vision with others?</li> <li>2. Nehemiah was a trusted servant of the king and this gave him the opportunity to intercede for his people. Do Christians today have to be in positions of authority to achieve God's work?</li> </ol>

Level 3-4	C12- LEVEL 3 Lesson 1 – The Christmas story Topic – In the Beginning	C12 – LEVEL 4 Study 1– Christ’s birth Topic – Promises given														
	<p><b>Bible Focus:</b> <i>Genesis 3: 13-20; Isaiah 7: 14-16</i></p> <p><b>Key Verse:</b> <i>Isaiah 7: 14</i></p> <p><b>We are learning that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Bible teaches that the Christmas story did not start in Bethlehem but right at the beginning of history.</li> <li>2. God’s plan was to deal with the sin of Adam and Eve by sending His son to die.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Bible Focus:</b> <i>Genesis 3: 1-24; Isaiah 7: 14-16</i></p> <p><b>Key Verse:</b> <i>Isaiah 7: 14</i></p> <p><b>We are learning that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The relationship between God and man was broken when Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden.</li> <li>2. God promised that the birth of Jesus would result in the relationship between God and man being restored, by His death on the cross.</li> </ol>														
INTRODUCE IT	The Bible teaches that before Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, God already had a plan in place to deal with their disobedience. The sin of Adam has been passed on to all mankind. The entire Bible is the story of how God’s plan of salvation unfolds, ultimately leading to the birth of Jesus Christ.	Adam and Eve broke their relationship with God. They were convinced their way was better than God’s way and so disobeyed Him. Once they did that, they hid themselves. When God spoke to them, they tried to excuse and defend themselves. The sin of Adam was then passed on to all mankind. The Bible teaches that Jesus’ sinless life and death made it possible for God to offer forgiveness to all who ask for it.														
COMPLETE IT	<p><b>Present the Bible Story</b></p> <p><b>Discuss and Explain:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden when they disobeyed God’s commands. God searched after them, asking them where they were and what they had done. God had come to find them (<b>Genesis 3: 6-9</b>).</li> <li>2. God punished the serpent who had deceived Adam and Eve (Satan) and told him that even though he would oppose the coming Messiah, he would be defeated by the death and resurrection of the Messiah, in a coming day (<b>Genesis 3: 15</b>).</li> <li>3. God explained to Adam and Eve that their sin would have consequences in that the woman would suffer pain when having children and the husband would have to work hard to provide for the family. He also told them they would now die and return to dust because of their sin (<b>Genesis 3: 16-19</b>).</li> <li>4. Adam and Eve were driven out of the garden but, in the meantime, God continued to promise the Saviour’s birth through the prophets, especially <b>Isaiah 7: 14</b>.</li> </ol> <p><b>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - <i>Isaiah 7: 14</i></b></p> <p><b>Complete Lesson 1.</b></p> <p><b>Show it: <a href="http://www.freebibleimages.org">www.freebibleimages.org</a> - Prophecies about the birth of Jesus (I)</b></p>	<p><b>Present the Bible Story</b></p> <p><b>Discuss and Explain:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Satan tempted Eve by getting her to doubt God’s commands. After she sinned by disobeying God’s warning in <b>Genesis 2: 16-17</b>, she involved Adam in her wrongdoing. When God asked Adam about his sin, he then blamed Eve (<b>Genesis 3: 11-13</b>).</li> <li>2. Adam and Eve learned by painful experience, that God is holy and hates sin. He must punish sinners.</li> <li>3. God revealed his plan to defeat Satan. In <b>Genesis 3: 15</b>, the phrase ‘you will strike his heel’ refers to Satan’s attempts to defeat Jesus while on earth. However, the phrase ‘He will crush your head’ refers to Jesus’ victory at the cross. A bruised heel is not deadly, but a bruised head is. This all foreshadowed Satan’s defeat and the offer of salvation to the world through Jesus Christ.</li> <li>4. Adam and Eve’s disobedience, and fall in Eden’s garden, affected all creation (<b>Romans 5: 12</b>). Many years later, God, through the prophet Isaiah gave another promise regarding the birth of Jesus to be the Saviour of the world (<b>Isaiah 7: 14</b>).</li> </ol> <p><b>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - <i>Isaiah 7: 14</i></b></p> <p><b>Complete Study 1.</b></p> <p><b>Show it: <a href="http://www.freebibleimages.org">www.freebibleimages.org</a> - Prophecies about the birth of Jesus (I)</b></p>														
REVIEW IT	<p>Review this lesson by discussing how <b>Romans 5: 12</b> sums it all up:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Who is the ‘one man’ in the verse?</li> <li>(ii) Where did this sin take place?</li> <li>(iii) Sin has brought physical death. Which verse in <b>Genesis 3: 13-20</b>, tells us this?</li> <li>(iv) Sin also brings spiritual death and separation from God. What promise did God give to the serpent that Jesus would defeat sin and make it possible for our sins to be forgiven?</li> </ol>	<p>Use <b>Romans chapter 5</b> to discuss the following:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>Adam’s children:</b></td> <td><b>God’s children:</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sin</td> <td>Righteousness</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Death</td> <td>Eternal Life</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Separation from God</td> <td>Relationship with God</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Disobedience</td> <td>Obedience</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Judgement</td> <td>Deliverance</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Law</td> <td>Grace</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Adam’s children:</b>	<b>God’s children:</b>	Sin	Righteousness	Death	Eternal Life	Separation from God	Relationship with God	Disobedience	Obedience	Judgement	Deliverance	Law	Grace
<b>Adam’s children:</b>	<b>God’s children:</b>															
Sin	Righteousness															
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Judgement	Deliverance															
Law	Grace															
LIVE IT	<p><b>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How could you answer someone who said the Christmas story started in Bethlehem?</li> <li>2. Read <b>Isaiah 7: 14</b> and <b>Matthew 1: 23</b>. Jesus was God in the flesh and He literally walked among His creation. How do Christians experience the presence of God today?</li> </ol>	<p><b>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. When Adam and Eve sinned, their guilty consciences made them want to hide from God. Is this true of Christians today?</li> <li>2. Old Testament prophecies about Jesus’ birth were confirmed. How should this encourage Christians today?</li> </ol>														

Level 3-4	C12- LEVEL 3 Lesson 2 - The Christmas story Topic – God’s Messenger	C12 – LEVEL 4 Study 2 – Christ’s birth Topic – Problems faced
	<p><b>Bible Focus:</b> <i>Matthew 1: 18-25</i></p> <p><b>Key Verse:</b> <i>Matthew 1: 21</i></p> <p><b>We are learning that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The birth of Jesus was unique and fulfilled all the prophecies of the Old Testament.</li> <li>He was to be called Jesus which means Saviour.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Bible Focus:</b> <i>Matthew 1: 18-25</i></p> <p><b>Key Verse:</b> <i>Matthew 1: 21</i></p> <p><b>We are learning that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Bible teaches that Jesus needed to be born in order to begin the fulfilment of God’s plan of salvation for the world.</li> <li>When Christians face difficult situations in life, they look to God as their source of help.</li> </ol>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Introduce this lesson by reminding pupils that many prophecies in the Old Testament pointed to the coming of Jesus Christ. In Lesson 1, we were reminded that Jesus would defeat Satan on the cross. Isaiah spoke of Jesus as being ‘the mighty God’ (<i>Isaiah 9: 6</i>), showing us He was God in human form. Micah also prophesied that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem (<i>Micah 5: 2</i>).</p>	<p>Introduce this study by reminding pupils that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit. His birth is referred to as the ‘Virgin Birth’, which is a central teaching of the Christian faith. The Bible teaches that He was born holy and because He could not sin, He was therefore able to die for our sins and make us acceptable to God. Jesus was a human being, but He was also the Son of God, born without any trace of sin.</p>
COMPLETE IT	<p><b>Present the Bible Story</b></p> <p><b>Discuss and Explain:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The birth of Jesus was different from any other birth – his mother was Mary, but His father was God. Mary’s pregnancy was a miracle of the Holy Spirit. As a result of the angel’s message to Joseph, he married Mary (<i>Matthew 1: 20</i>).</li> <li>700 years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah foretold His unique birth and that He would be called Immanuel meaning ‘God with us’ (<i>Matthew 1: 22-23</i>).</li> <li>This child would ‘<i>save His people from their sins</i>’ (<i>Matthew 1: 21</i>) by going to the cross to die in their place.</li> </ol> <p><b>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - <i>Matthew 1: 21</i></b></p> <p><b>Complete Lesson 2.</b></p> <p><b>Show it:</b> <a href="http://www.freebibleimages.org">www.freebibleimages.org</a> – An angel visits Joseph (P)</p>	<p><b>Present the Bible Story</b></p> <p><b>Discuss and Explain:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joseph faced a difficult choice when he discovered Mary was expecting a baby. Although Joseph seemed to be doing the right thing by wanting to break the engagement, God’s guidance from the angel in a dream helped him make the right decision (<i>Matthew 1: 19-21</i>).</li> <li>Jesus came to earth to save us from the power and penalty of sin, as indicated in the meaning of the name Jesus – ‘saviour’ (<i>Matthew 1: 21</i>). 700 years earlier Isaiah prophesied He would be born (<i>Isaiah 7: 14</i>) and would be called Immanuel, meaning ‘God with us’. Jesus was literally ‘with us’ when here on earth and is present in the life of every Christian today.</li> <li>Joseph obeyed God and went ahead with his marriage plans and married Mary. He was the earthly Father of Jesus whilst God was His Heavenly Father (<i>Matthew 1; 24-25</i>).</li> </ol> <p><b>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - <i>Matthew 1: 21</i></b></p> <p><b>Complete Study 2.</b></p> <p><b>Show it:</b> <a href="http://www.freebibleimages.org">www.freebibleimages.org</a> – An angel visits Joseph (P)</p>
REVIEW IT	<p>Review this lesson by referring to the fact that the birth of Jesus is also recorded by Luke. Read <i>Luke 1: 26-35</i> and discuss the similarities between this passage and <i>Matthew 1: 18-25</i>. Both writers wrote around the same time, 60AD, and whilst Matthew was writing to Jews, Luke wrote to the Gentiles. God was ensuring this important message of the birth of Jesus would be spread throughout all the people of the world, including those doing this lesson!</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read <i>Galatians 4: 4 &amp; 5</i>. Discuss how these two verses summarise this Study.</li> <li>Read <i>1 Timothy 1: 15</i>. Discuss how this verse summarises the reason for Christ’s birth.</li> <li>Read <i>1 John 4: 9, 14</i>. Discuss how in <i>verse 9</i>, Jesus is referred to as God’s only Son. Only Jesus enjoys this unique relationship with God. <i>Verse 14</i> also summarises the reason for Christ’s birth.</li> </ol>
LIVE IT	<p><b>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</b></p> <p>Joseph’s task was not easy but like Mary, he trusted in God and left everything in His hands. Think of some examples of difficult situations which Christians face. How can they rely on God in these times?</p>	<p><b>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joseph obeyed God and proceeded to marry Mary, even though others may have disapproved. Do we avoid doing right because of what others may think?</li> <li>Mary and Joseph were ordinary people, but God used them for extraordinary purposes. How might this encourage a Christian who thinks they have nothing to offer in service to God?</li> </ol>



## Level 3-4

	C12- LEVEL 3 Lesson 3 – The Christmas story Topic – The Special Star	C12 – LEVEL 4 Study 3 – Christ’s birth Topic - Prophecies fulfilled
	<p><b>Bible Focus:</b> <i>Matthew 2: 1-12</i></p> <p><b>Key Verse:</b> <i>Matthew 2: 11</i></p> <p><b>We are learning that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The young child born 'King of the Jews' was so special that men came from the east to worship Him.</li> <li>The Wise Men were guided to Jesus by a special star.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Bible Focus:</b> <i>Matthew 2: 1-12</i></p> <p><b>Key Verse:</b> <i>Matthew 2: 6</i></p> <p><b>We are learning that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The birth of Jesus was predicted by the prophet Micah (<i>Micah 5: 2</i>) approximately 700 years before it happened.</li> <li>The Wise Men travelled thousands of miles to see Jesus. When they found Him they responded with joy, worship and gifts.</li> </ol>
INTRODUCE IT	In this lesson, we learn that wise men from the east came in search of the 'King of the Jews' ( <b>verse 2</b> ). This star somehow made them aware of Jesus' birth. The course of this star was highly irregular as it led the wise men right to the house where Jesus was ( <b>verse 9</b> ) and then stopped! Point out that this event was so unusual that Christians explain it as a miracle.	Discuss how the birth of Jesus was prophesied by both Micah and Isaiah. Micah said He would be born in Bethlehem and would be 'Ruler in Israel'. Isaiah also used names to describe the coming Jesus: Wonderful meaning exceptional, Counsellor meaning giving right advice, Mighty God meaning God revealed as man, Everlasting Father meaning timeless, and Prince of Peace meaning His government is just and peaceful ( <i>Isaiah 9: 6</i> ).
COMPLETE IT	<p><b>Present the Bible Story</b></p> <p><b>Discuss and Explain:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When Jesus was born, Herod, a very wicked man, was king. He was troubled because he heard that this baby was to be the King of the Jews - a threat to his position (<b>2: 3</b>).</li> <li>Herod sent for the religious leaders of the day to ask where the 'new born' King could be found, and they quickly quoted <i>Micah 5: 2</i> which said in Bethlehem. Herod asked the Wise Men (Magi) to let him know when they found the baby, pretending he wanted to visit him as well (<b>2: 4-8</b>).</li> <li>The Wise Men were guided by the star to the house where they saw Jesus. They fell down and worshipped Him. They brought Him presents and each of these presents tells us something about this special child. Gold speaks of the fact He is really God; Frankincense speaks of His perfect life; and Myrrh speaks of the sufferings He would endure when He would be crucified (<b>2: 9-11</b>).</li> <li>The Wise Men were warned in a dream not to go back to the evil Herod but to go home by another route. God was in control! (<b>2: 12</b>)</li> </ol> <p><b>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it- <i>Matthew 2: 11</i></b></p> <p><b>Complete Lesson 3.</b></p> <p><b>Show it: <a href="http://www.freebibleimages.org">www.freebibleimages.org</a> – Wise Men worship Jesus (P)</b></p>	<p><b>Present the Bible Story</b></p> <p><b>Discuss and Explain:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Wise Men, who travelled thousands of miles to see the new born King saw 'His star in the east'. Whatever the explanation for this star, couldn't God who created the heavens have created this special star to signal the greatest birth ever – the arrival of His Son? (<b>2: 1-2</b>)</li> <li>Herod the Great was not the rightful heir to the throne and was troubled at the news that the 'King of the Jews' was born! Herod did not want the Jews to unite around a Jewish King, who would swing the balance of power away from Rome and himself! Although he told the Wise Men he wanted to worship Jesus, he was lying. His plan was to kill Jesus (<b>2: 3-8</b>)!</li> <li>Jesus was probably one or two years old when the Wise Men found Him. They were overjoyed (<i>Matthew 2: 10</i>) when they found Him and fell down and worshipped Him! They gave Him expensive gifts only fit for a future King and gifts that were to be symbolic of His life. Gold because He was God, Frankincense for His perfect life and Myrrh was a spice for anointing a body for burial (<b>2: 9-11</b>).</li> <li>The Wise Men, warned by God, returned home by another route, avoiding any contact with the evil Herod. (<b>2: 12</b>)</li> </ol> <p><b>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - <i>Matthew 2: 6</i></b></p> <p><b>Complete Study 3.</b></p> <p><b>Show it: <a href="http://www.freebibleimages.org">www.freebibleimages.org</a> – Wise Men worship Jesus (P)</b></p>
REVIEW IT	Review this lesson by emphasising the point that the Wise Men were full of trust and worship. They gave expensive gifts because they knew these were worthy of a future king.	Review this Study. Show how <i>Isaiah 9: 6</i> and <i>Micah 5: 2</i> have already been fulfilled in this Study and how <i>John 14: 1-6</i> is yet to be fulfilled.
LIVE IT	<p><b>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Wise Men diligently sought for Jesus and found Him. How can a Christian diligently seek after God today?</li> <li>When the Wise Men entered the house, they worshipped Jesus. What does it mean to worship?</li> </ol>	<p><b>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Wise Men gave Jesus their very best gifts. What can Christians learn from their devotion?</li> <li>After the Wise Men found Jesus they were warned to return home by a different route. The Christian life isn't always straightforward. What can a Christian do to maintain a sense of divine protection?</li> </ol>

**Level 3-4**

	<b>C12- LEVEL 3</b> <b>Lesson 4 – The Christmas story</b> <b>Topic – The Night-time Escape</b>	<b>C12 – LEVEL 4</b> <b>Study 4 – Christ’s birth</b> <b>Topic – Persecution begins</b>
	<p><b>Bible Focus: <i>Matthew 2: 13-23</i></b></p> <p><b>Key Verse: 1 <i>John 3: 8</i></b></p> <p><b>We are learning that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The birth of Jesus and His protection was carefully carried out by God as prophesied by the prophets many years earlier.</li> <li>Satan was unable to destroy Jesus; God had promised in the Garden of Eden that Jesus would defeat him when He died on the cross.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Bible Focus: <i>Matthew 2: 13-23</i></b></p> <p><b>Key Verse: <i>Hebrews 2: 14</i></b></p> <p><b>We are learning that:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Herod was king appointed by the Romans, but Jesus was the true King, so God’s place for His son could not be thwarted by anyone.</li> <li>Jesus became a man so that He could die and rise again in order to destroy the devil’s power over death as foretold in <b><i>Genesis 3: 15</i></b>.</li> </ol>
<p><b>INTRODUCE IT</b></p>	<p>Discussion could centre on people in the world today who are facing persecution in places such as Syria and becoming refugees in other countries.</p> <p>From infancy, the threat of death hung over Jesus and, although born to die for sinners, it would be at God’s appointed time. Joseph was warned by an angel of the Lord to flee to Egypt with his family – he would become a refugee to escape Herod’s wrath. We do not know how long they stayed.</p>	<p>Introduce this study by asking if anyone has heard of the Sphinx and the Great Pyramids in Egypt. Explain that they were as much part of Egyptian culture in Jesus’ day as they are today. Also, at that time there were colonies of Jews in several of the large cities of Egypt and were also under Roman rule, just like the people in Judea and Galilee. These circumstances would have made it easier for Joseph, Mary and Jesus to settle temporarily in Egypt.</p>
<p><b>COMPLETE IT</b></p>	<p><b>Present the Bible Story</b></p> <p><b>Discuss and Explain:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For the Fourth time, in <b><i>Matthew 2</i></b>, we are reminded of another prophecy being fulfilled by Hosea (<b><i>Hosea 11: 1</i></b>) who said that Jesus would be called out of Egypt. This prophecy was fulfilled when Joseph and his family returned to Israel from Egypt (<b><i>2: 15</i></b>).</li> <li>When Herod realised his plot had failed to locate the young child Jesus, he ordered the death of all male children under the age of two in Bethlehem and in the districts around it. This wicked act caused much grief to the parents concerned but his young ‘Rival’ was safe in Egypt (<b><i>2: 16-18</i></b>). It was part of the devil’s plot to destroy Jesus but, of course, it failed.</li> <li>An angel of the Lord told Joseph when it was safe to return to the land of Israel after Herod had died. However, Joseph knew Herod’s son had become king and he decided to avoid Judea and travelled north to Galilee and settled in Nazareth. God was guiding the young child’s movements as the prophets said He would! (<b><i>2: 19-23</i></b>)</li> </ol> <p><b>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - 1 <i>John 3: 8</i></b></p> <p><b>Complete Lesson 4.</b></p> <p><b>Show it: <a href="http://www.freebibleimages.org">www.freebibleimages.org</a> - Escape to Egypt (I)</b></p>	<p><b>Present the Bible Story</b></p> <p><b>Discuss and Explain:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the first dream or vision Joseph received from God he was told Mary’s son would be Jesus (<b><i>Matthew 1: 20-21</i></b>). In this second dream or vision he was told how to protect the child’s life by fleeing to Egypt. Joseph again obeyed God’s Word (<b><i>Matthew 2: 13-15</i></b>).</li> <li>Herod was afraid this new-born king would take his throne one day; he ordered that all the boys of two years old and under in Bethlehem and its surrounding districts, should be killed. However, God was in control and Herod could not harm Jesus. Herod misunderstood the reason for the coming of Jesus – He did not want Herod’s throne; He wanted to be king of Herod’s life (<b><i>Matthew 2: 16-18</i></b>).</li> <li>When Herod died in 4BC his son Archelaus, a very evil ruler, was in charge of the regions of Judea and Samaria which included places such as Jerusalem and Bethlehem. God did not want Joseph to return to this area, nor did Joseph, and directed him to go northwards to Nazareth in Galilee (<b><i>Matthew 2: 21-23</i></b>).</li> <li>Jesus grew up in the despised town of Nazareth and that meant He too would have been treated with scorn like all the other Nazarenes.</li> </ol> <p><b>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it - <i>Hebrews 2: 14</i></b></p> <p><b>Complete Study 4.</b></p> <p><b>Show it: <a href="http://www.freebibleimages.org">www.freebibleimages.org</a> - Escape to Egypt (I)</b></p>
<p><b>REVIEW IT</b></p>	<p>Review this lesson by asking the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why did Joseph, Mary and Jesus have to flee to Egypt?</li> <li>Why did Herod kill the baby boys in Bethlehem?</li> <li>Why did this family settle in Nazareth?</li> <li>Why is the Christmas Story one of sadness as well as joy?</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read <b><i>Genesis 3: 15</i></b> – Ensure pupils understand that this verse was pointing forward to the time when Jesus would die and rob Satan of his power.</li> <li>Read <b><i>Acts 10: 38-43</i></b> – Discuss how Peter’s powerful sermon in these verses sum up this study.</li> </ol>
<p><b>LIVE IT</b></p>	<p><b>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In <b><i>Luke 2: 11</i></b>, when the angel announced the birth of Jesus, he referred to him as both ‘Saviour’ and ‘Lord’. What do these two titles mean?</li> <li>How have these lessons helped in understanding the importance of the Old Testament?</li> </ol>	<p><b>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Joseph looked for God’s guidance for his life. How can a Christian do this?</li> <li>After Jesus’ birth Herod caused severe persecution. However, God was in control and protected the new-born king. How can this encourage a Christian facing persecution today?</li> </ol>







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