



Teacher Lesson Plans

Bibletime Levels 0-4

B Series

B11 & B12

Educational Services

Registered Charity UK (CIO 1186004)

BES Mission:

Producing Bible lessons for intermediaries to present the truth of Jesus Christ to the next generation worldwide.

BES Vision:

To reach the next generation with our full curriculum in their own language by developing and supporting a global network of committed partners.

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 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

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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 (FBI) which are downloadable from their website. These direct links to the story / study are available in Appendix A, B or C at the back of the booklet.
- **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	1. Starter Lesson - Intro	1. Starter Lesson - Intro	1. Starter Lesson – Intro
SERIES A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation 2. Noah 3. Peter 4. Peter - The Cross 5. Abraham 6. Abraham 7. Peter 8. Peter 9. Jacob 10. Early Christians 11. Paul 12. The Christmas Story 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation 2. Noah 3. Peter 4. Peter - The Cross 5. Peter 6. Abraham 7. Jacob 8. Prayer 9. Paul 10. Paul 11. Paul 12. The Christmas Story 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Creation & Fall 2. Early developments - Genesis 3. Peter 4. Peter - The Cross 5. Peter 6. Abraham 7. Jacob 8. The Christian Life 9. Paul 10. Paul 11. Paul 12. The Christmas Story
SERIES B	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Early Life of Christ 2. Miracles 3. Bethany 4. The Cross 5. Parables 6. Joseph 7. Joseph 8. People Jesus met 9. Moses 10. Moses 11. Moses 12. The Christmas Story 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parables 2. Miracles 3. Bethany 4. The Cross 5. Early Christians 6. Joseph 7. Joseph 8. Gospel Writers 9. Moses 10. Moses 11. Moses 12. The Christmas Story 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Parables 2. Miracles 3. Bethany 4. The Cross 5. Early Christians 6. Jacob & his family 7. Joseph 8. Acts 2: 42 - The way ahead 9. Moses 10. Moses 11. The Law 12. The Christmas Story
SERIES C	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Daniel 2. More Miracles 3. People Jesus met 4. Death of Christ 5. Ruth & Samuel 6. David 7. David 8. Joshua 9. Elijah 10. Elisha 11. Jonah 12. The Christmas Story 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Daniel 2. People Jesus met 3. More Miracles 4. Death of Christ 5. Ruth 6. Samuel 7. David 8. Joshua 9. Elijah 10. Elisha 11. Men used by God - OT 12. The Christmas Story 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Daniel 2. The sayings of Jesus 3. The Lord's Power 4. Death of Christ 5. Ruth 6. Samuel 7. David 8. Joshua 9. Elijah 10. Elisha 11. More OT Characters 12. The Christmas Story

B11 Story 1
“God gives food”

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God provided food for the Israelites for forty years in the desert. • For Christians, Jesus is the “Bread of Life” who meets their needs. <p>Key Verse: <i>John 6: 35</i> Bible Passage: <i>Exodus 16: 1 – 32</i></p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Briefly remind the pupils about what happened in B9 and B10. God had shown the Israelites His power in rescuing them from Egypt and now He promised to lead them to a new country. They weren’t long on the way until the people started to grumble and complain to Moses about being hungry! Their food supplies were finished and they were thinking about being back in Egypt and all the food they had enjoyed there (<i>Exodus 16: 2 – 3</i>). Already they had forgotten that God was in control and that He knew all their needs for their journey.</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even though the people failed to trust God, He showed that He still cared for them. God had a plan to ensure that they would always have food. He would send bread from Heaven and they were to gather it each morning. On the sixth day of the week they were to gather twice as much to last them for the Sabbath Day (God’s special day). Each evening they would receive meat (<i>Exodus 16: 4 – 12</i>). • <i>Imagine the Israelites coming out of their tents in the morning and describe their reaction to what they found.</i> Moses explained that this was the bread that God had given them. Everyone was to gather enough for the people living in their tent. No-one was to keep any for the next day. Some people, however, did try to keep it but by the next day it had gone bad (<i>Exodus 16: 15 – 20</i>). • The people called the bread from Heaven “Manna”. It tasted like honey! God sent the manna to the Israelites for as long as their journey lasted. God had given them even more proof that He was their God and would look after them (<i>Exodus 16: 31</i>). • In our story, the Israelites had to gather and eat the manna before it could satisfy their hunger and keep them alive each day. • <i>The Bible teaches that many years later, Jesus came down from Heaven to die for our sins. He called Himself the “Bread of Life”. Just as bread is necessary to satisfy physical hunger, Jesus was making the point that faith in Him is the only thing that brings true satisfaction, contentment in life and Eternal Life in Heaven.</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix A – God gives food.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain, where necessary, the Key Verse <i>John 6: 35</i>. Reinforce the point that food is essential for life. In the same way, the Bible makes it clear that Jesus is essential for Eternal Life.</p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>Use these questions in a quiz.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did the people grumble? • Who did they complain to? • What should they have done instead of complaining? • How many days each week did manna appear on the ground? • What did they find each evening? • How long did they gather manna? • What name did Jesus use for Himself? • In what way is Jesus greater than the manna?

B11 Story 2
“God gives victory”

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God helped the Israelites when they depended on Him. • Christians can pray to God to ask for help in times of need. <p>Key Verse: <i>Exodus 17: 15</i> Bible Passage: <i>Exodus 17: 8 – 15</i></p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Soon the Israelites faced another problem. An enemy army called the Amalekites started attacking them (Exodus 17: 8).</p> <p><i>Use the questions below to engage the pupils in thinking about the situation:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What would the Israelites have to do? (fight back)</i> • <i>Were they used to fighting? Remind the children that in Egypt they had been slaves, not soldiers.</i> • <i>How would they have felt?</i> • <i>Could they count on God’s help? Remind the children that God had brought them out of Egypt to bring them to a new land. Would He keep His promise?</i>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moses was a wise leader and knew what to do. He asked his helper Joshua to choose an army. Moses knew that the army would need God’s help so he went with Aaron and Hur to the top of a hill overlooking the battle-field. Moses held up his staff (long stick which he used when he was a shepherd) above his head using both hands. <i>Explain that this was a way of showing that the Israelites were trusting God to help them win (Exodus 17: 9).</i> • As long as Moses did this, the Israelites were winning. <i>Ask the pupils to hold their hands above their heads. What do you think would happen to your arms if you had to keep them up like that for a long time?</i> Soon Moses’ arms got tired and he put them down for a rest. Then the enemy started to win. <i>Ask the pupils to suggest how Aaron and Hur might have helped Moses and then clarify exactly what they did.</i> Moses was then able to hold up his arms until sunset and by that time the Israelites had won. Moses wanted to thank God for the victory so he built a stone altar and called it “The Lord is my Banner.” <i>Explain that Moses wanted God to have all the honour for the victory (Exodus 17: 10 – 13, 15).</i> • <i>Who do you think had the most important part in winning the battle?</i> Joshua and the soldiers couldn’t have won this battle if Moses hadn’t lifted his hands to God and depended on Him. Today, Christians depend on God to help them defeat their enemy – Satan. The Bible says that he wants to cause fear and take away the joy in their lives. The good news is that Jesus is more powerful than Satan. Christians need to depend on Him all the time. <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix A – God gives victory.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain, where necessary, the Key Verse Exodus 17: 15.</p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>The pupils could make a large decorated banner with the words, “The Lord is my Banner.” Alternatively, these questions could be used in a quiz:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who was the leader of the Israelite army? • Where did Moses go? • Who went with Moses? • What happened in the battle when Moses held up his arms? • When Moses got tired, who helped him? • Who gave the victory?

B11 Story 3
“God gives commandments”

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God is Holy. • The Bible says we are unable to keep God’s commandments. <p>Key Verse: Exodus 20: 1 or Romans 3: 23 Bible Passage: Exodus 19 – 20</p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Talk about rules which you have in the school or home environment. What are they? Why do we have rules? Is it always easy to keep rules? In today’s lesson, we will learn about how God gave His rules to the Israelites.</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Israelites arrived at a large mountain called Sinai where they set up camp. God explained to Moses that He would come down in a thick cloud to the top of the mountain. He was to put marker stones around the bottom of the mountain so that none of the people would try to climb up. Even though the people had washed and prepared themselves, their sin meant they could not come close to God (Exodus 19: 1 – 14). • Three days later the people stood at the foot of the mountain. Smoke poured out of the mountain and it shook. <i>Explain that this showed the people how powerful God was. Reflect on how the people would have felt.</i> Then God called for Moses to come up and for a second time, He told Moses to warn the people to stay at the bottom (Exodus 19: 16 – 22). <i>Explain that the people could not approach God because He is Holy (without any sin) but they had sin in their lives. The Bible teaches that today, sin still separates us from God unless our sins have been forgiven.</i> • Later, Moses received the Ten Commandments from God, written on two big stones. The Commandments were God’s rules or laws and they made it clear to the people how God expected them to behave. They were to love God more than anyone else and they were also to love each other. <i>With Level 2 children it would be appropriate to read through these and explain each one briefly.</i> • <i>Sadly, the Israelites could not keep God’s laws and neither can we. All of us fall short of what God expects. We are sinners. The Bible makes it clear that Jesus is the only person who lived a perfect life on earth. This is why He is able to be our Saviour. He died to take the punishment for our sins so that God can forgive us. Then we can be in God’s family and not have to stay away from Him / be separated from Him as the Israelites did.</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix A – God gives commandments.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain, where necessary, the Key Verse Exodus 20: 1 or Romans 3: 23.</p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>To recap the lesson, you could split the class into two teams. As you read out the list of commandments, leave out a key word each time, e.g. Have no other _____ before me. Do not make any _____. If a child knows the missing word, they can earn a point for their team.</p>

B11 Story 4
“God provides a way”

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God provided a way for the Israelites to escape the punishment they deserved. • The Bible teaches that God has provided a way for us to be saved. <p>Key Verse: John 3: 14 Bible Passage: Numbers 21: 4 – 9</p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Sometimes we repeat the same mistake! Can you remember what the Israelites did when the food they had brought from Egypt was used up? Yes, they grumbled and complained! In today’s story they are grumbling again! Let’s find out why.</p> <p><u>Or</u> Talk about the danger of being bitten by a snake, the need to go to hospital and get anti-venom. In today’s story God had a very different cure for those who had snake-bites.</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sadly, the Israelites spoke against Moses and against God saying that things had been better in Egypt and that they hated the manna that God provided. How ungrateful they were! (Numbers 21: 5) • This time God was angry with the people and decided to punish them. Soon the camp was invaded by poisonous snakes. <i>What would happen to the people?</i> Yes, the people got bitten and many of them died. Straight away the people knew it was their fault. They came to Moses and said that they had sinned and asked him to pray to God to take the snakes away (Numbers 21: 6 – 7). <i>The Bible teaches that this is the right attitude when we have done wrong - admit our sin, say sorry and ask God to help us.</i> • After Moses had prayed to God, God told Moses to do a strange thing. He had to make a snake from bronze and put it high on a pole in the camp. The shining bronze snake was in everyone’s view. God promised that anyone who had been bitten would not die if he looked at the snake on the pole. Everyone who believed this and did as God said, lived. What an easy way to escape death! (Numbers 21: 8 – 9) (<i>If you used the second idea in the introduction, you could make a comparison.</i>) <i>Do you think the Israelites obeyed God’s instruction? Why? Emphasise that this was the only way for them to live – it was no use trying anything else!</i> • Years later, the Bible tells us that when Jesus was on earth, He used this story to teach everyone an important lesson. We are like the Israelites because we have sinned against God and our sins will be punished. But God has provided a way for us to escape the punishment for our sins. Jesus explained that He too was to be “lifted up” when He died for our sins. When we put our trust in what Jesus has done for us, God saves us and gives us eternal life. <i>Emphasise that the Bible makes it clear that it is only through Jesus that we can be saved.</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix A – God provides a way.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain, where necessary, the Key Verse John 3: 14. Mention that these are the words of Jesus. He explained how He would be able to save us when He would be lifted up on the cross.</p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>A small group of pupils could make a collage of the bronze snake on the pole and another group could make the cross. The verse could also be displayed on the finished art-work. <u>Or</u> you could have a quiz based on all the stories in B11. Additional questions on B11 could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did the Israelites complain about this time? • How did God punish them? • What did the people have to do to be healed from the snake-bites? • What does the Bible teach about the forgiveness of sins?

B12 Story 1
“Joseph and the angel”

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The name ‘Jesus’ means ‘Saviour’. • Christians try to listen to God and obey Him. <p>Key Verse: <i>Matthew 1: 21</i> Bible Passage: <i>Matthew 1: 18 – 25</i></p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Talk about names – Ask the pupils if they know what their names mean or why they were given their name.</p> <p>Explain that in today’s lesson we will be learning about a very special baby in the Bible who was given a very special name. Allow the pupils to guess who the story will be about.</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joseph and Mary were planning to get married, but one day Mary told Joseph that she was expecting a baby. Joseph knew he wasn’t the father of the baby so he decided not to marry Mary (<i>Matthew 1: 18 – 19</i>). • One night Joseph had a dream. An angel appeared in the dream and spoke to Joseph. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid to take Mary as your wife, because the baby is from the Holy Spirit.” (<i>Matthew 1: 20</i>) <i>Explain to the pupils that this means that the baby would be God’s Son.</i> • The angel told Joseph that he should call the baby ‘Jesus’ because He would save the people from their <i>sins</i> (<i>Matthew 1: 21</i>). <i>Explain that Jesus means “Saviour”. Discuss what a saviour is in everyday life, e.g. a person in danger of drowning needs a saviour or rescuer. Explain to the pupils that the Bible teaches that we need a Saviour because we have sinned against God by breaking His laws.</i> • When Joseph woke up from his dream, he did as he had been told and married Mary. Sometime later the baby was born and Joseph named Him ‘Jesus’ (<i>Matthew 1: 24 – 25</i>). <i>Ask the pupils about the instructions Joseph had been given and discuss how he followed them. Explain how important it is for Christians to listen to God’s instructions in the Bible and follow them. Try to make a list of some of the instructions that God has given Christians to follow.</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix A – Joseph and the angel.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain, where necessary, the Key Verse <i>Matthew 1: 21</i>.</p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>Ask pupils the following questions as a means of revising the story.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who was Joseph going to marry? • What news did Mary tell Joseph? • How did God speak to Joseph? • Who was the baby’s Father? • What was the baby to be called? • What does the name ‘Jesus’ mean? • What did Joseph do after he woke up from the dream? • Think of an instruction that God has given Christians to follow.

B12 Story 2
“Herod and the Wise Men”

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christians believe that Jesus is the King of kings. • The Bible teaches that Jesus deserves to be worshipped. <p>Key Verse: <i>Matthew 2: 2</i> Bible Passage: <i>Matthew 2: 1 – 8</i></p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Ask the pupils to make a list of people who are considered important in society. Discuss – Would you like to meet any of those people? If you did, who would you say? What would you do? How would you treat them? Explain to the pupils that today we will be learning about some men who went on a journey to find the most important person, the Bible teaches, ever lived.</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new star appeared in the sky. Wise men in the East knew that this was a sign of the birth of a new King. They travelled to Jerusalem to search for the new King. They went to Herod the King and asked “Where is the one who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His star when it appeared in the sky and we have come to worship Him” (<i>Matthew 2: 1 – 2</i>). Explain to the pupils that the new King who was to be born was Jesus, God’s Son and that He would be greater than any other King who ever lived. The Bible teaches that Jesus is the King of kings. Ask the children if they can remember what Jesus’ name means from the previous lesson. Discuss what the Wise Men meant when they said they wanted to ‘worship’ the King? Why did Jesus deserve to be worshipped? • When Herod heard about a new King he was worried. He didn’t want anyone else taking his place as King. He called some of his advisors and asked them where the new King was supposed to be born. They searched through the Scriptures and discovered that the child was to be born in a town called Bethlehem (<i>Matthew 2: 3 – 6</i>). • Herod called the Wise Men to him and said, “Go and find the child and when you have found Him, come back and tell me where He is so that I can go and worship Him too.” (<i>Matthew 2: 7 – 8</i>) Explain that Herod didn’t really want to worship the new King; he actually wanted to kill Him. Ask the pupils to think of reasons why Herod wanted to kill the new King. Explain that many people today still don’t treat Jesus as King. The Bible teaches that God wants people to worship Jesus and show Him the same love and respect that the Wise Men displayed towards Him. <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix A – Herod and the wise men.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain, where necessary, the Key Verse <i>Matthew 2: 2</i>.</p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>Ask pupils the following questions as a means of revising the story.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What appeared in the sky? • What direction did the Wise Men come from? • Where did they go to, to look for the new King? • What was the name of the King they spoke to? • How did King Herod feel when he heard about a new King? • What town did they discover the King was to be born in? • What did Herod tell the Wise Men to do? • Who is greater than any other King?

B12 Story 3
“The Wise Men and Jesus”

INTRODUCE IT	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wise Men worshipped Jesus and gave Him very special gifts because He was the most important baby ever born. • Christians worship Jesus today by thanking Him for all He has done and doing things that please Him. <p>Key Verse: <i>Matthew 2: 11</i> Bible Passage: <i>Matthew 2: 9 – 12</i></p>
TEACH IT	<p>Discuss – What is the best gift you have ever been given? (You could get the pupils to draw a picture of it). If you were going to visit a new baby what gift would you bring them?</p> <p>Explain to the pupils that today we will be learning about the gifts the Wise Men gave. Ask them if they can recall what they learned about the Wise Men in the previous lesson.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wise Men left Herod and went on their way. They saw the star again and it led them to the place where Jesus was. The Wise Men were very happy and excited when they saw the star (<i>Matthew 2: 9 – 10</i>). <i>Discuss - Why do you think the Wise Men were so excited when they saw the star?</i> • The Wise Men arrived at the house in Bethlehem where Joseph, Mary and the baby Jesus were staying. They went inside and when they saw Jesus they fell down and worshipped Him. They gave Him three gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh (<i>Matthew 2: 11</i>). <i>Ask the pupils if these gifts are similar to the ones they would have given to a baby. Explain that these gifts were very expensive and the sort only usually given to a King. Discuss – why do you think the Wise Men chose to give these gifts to the baby Jesus? Explain that although Christians today can't give gifts like the Wise Men, they can still worship God by thanking Him for all He has done and doing things that please Him.</i> • After a while, it was time for the Wise Men to go home. Herod had asked them to come back and tell him where they had found the baby. However, God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod, so they went home a different way (<i>Matthew 2: 12</i>). <i>Discuss – How do you think the Wise Men felt on their way home? What do you think they told people when they reached home?</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix A – The Wise Men and Jesus.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain, where necessary, the Key Verse <i>Matthew 2: 11</i>.</p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>Ask pupils the following questions as a means of revising the story.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What did the Wise Men see again in the sky? • How did they feel when they saw the star? • Where did the star lead them to? • Who was in the house? • What did the Wise Men do when they saw Jesus? • How many gifts did they give Him? • Name one of the gifts. • How did the Wise Men know to go home a different way?

B12 Story 4
“The Escape into Egypt”

	<p>We are learning that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God protected His Son Jesus. • Christians try to please God by following His instructions. <p>Key Verse: <i>Matthew 2: 15</i> Bible Passage: <i>Matthew 2: 13 – 23</i></p>
INTRODUCE IT	<p>Ask the pupils to tell you about any dreams they have had. Remind them that in Bible times dreams often had special meanings. Ask them to tell you about the dreams they have learned about so far in the story (Joseph’s dream, the Wise Men’s dream). Today we are going to learn about another dream.</p>
TEACH IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After the Wise Men left, Joseph had another dream. In the dream God told Joseph that Herod had got so angry that he was going to try and kill Jesus. God told Joseph that he needed to take Jesus and Mary and escape to Egypt so that they would be safe (<i>Matthew 2: 13</i>). <i>Discuss - How do you think Joseph felt when he had this dream?</i> • Again, Joseph did what he was told and took his family to Egypt. They stayed there for some time until they heard that King Herod had died (<i>Matthew 2: 14 – 15</i>). <i>Discuss - What do you think would have happened if Joseph hadn’t done as God told him in the dream? It was so important that Joseph did as God had told him to do. Tell the pupils about how the Bible had foretold Jesus’ birth hundreds of years before He was born. Explain how the memory verse talks about Jesus being in Egypt – God knew what Herod would try to do long before it ever happened. In everything that happened God was protecting His Son.</i> • When Herod died, Joseph, Mary and Jesus returned and went to live in a city called Nazareth (<i>Matthew 2: 19 – 23</i>). <i>Tell the pupils that while Jesus was growing up in Nazareth He always pleased His family, His neighbours and most importantly His Father God. The Bible teaches that God wants us to do the things that please Him too, most importantly, thanking Him for sending Jesus to be our Saviour and by asking Him for forgiveness from our sins.</i> <p>Complete the Bibletime lesson.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix A – The escape into Egypt.</p>
LEARN IT	<p>Teach and explain, where necessary, the Key Verse <i>Matthew 2: 15</i>.</p>
REMEMBER IT	<p>Ask pupils the following questions as a means of revising the story.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What happened to Joseph after the Wise Men left? • Where did God tell Joseph to go? • Why did he have to go there? • Who did Joseph take with him to Egypt? • When did they return home? • What city did they go to live in? • What was Jesus like when He was growing up in Nazareth? • What can we do to please God?

Bible Focus: *Exodus 19: 1 – 14*

Key Verse: *1 Peter 1: 16*

We are learning that:

1. The Bible teaches that God is holy and perfect.
2. Christians believe that obedience is very important in their relationship with God.
3. The Bible makes it clear that God’s laws expose the sinfulness of His people.

Bible Focus: *Exodus 19: 16 – 25, & 20: 1 – 7, Matthew 22: 34 – 40*

Key Verse: *Matthew 22: 37*

We are learning that:

1. God is a holy God.
2. God is a powerful God.
3. God is a jealous God.
4. God is a loving God.

INTRODUCE IT

Ask pupils to think about what they do if they are going to a wedding i.e. wash their clothes, have a shower or bath and make sure they look very clean and well-dressed for the big day! Explain how the people of Israel had to do this to prepare to meet God, because He is perfect and without sin and the people of Israel had so often sinned.

In this study, we will be considering how God commanded the people of Israel to have no other gods or idols but Him. Anything that comes between a Christian and God is an idol. Think of examples of idols or gods in today’s society and discuss with the pupils how they can take the place of God, e.g. money, clothes, car, house, sport, hobbies.

COMPLETE IT

Present the Bible Story

Discuss and Explain:

1. Only Moses was able to go up the mountain to meet God. God’s presence was too powerful and holy so that the people of Israel could not go up to Him.
2. God had a reason for rescuing the Israelites from slavery in Egypt and now He told them. He wanted them to obey Him and follow Him. God wanted Israel to become a holy nation, His special chosen people (*verses 5-6*).
3. When they heard the commands of the Lord the people responded by saying that they would do everything the Lord had said (*verse 8*).
4. God told Moses to consecrate the people of Israel for worship (*verse 10*). This was to get them ready to meet God. They had to wash and prepare their hearts and minds to meet God. Explain to the students how physically cleaning themselves would have also helped them to try to be mentally clean for worshipping God.
5. Look up the Key Verse to see why they had to prepare to meet God.

Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it.

Complete Lesson 1.

Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Meeting God

Present the Bible Story

Discuss and Explain:

1. The Israelites had been brought to Mount Sinai and were being prepared and made ready to go and meet with God. God was so holy that they had to try to make themselves outwardly as pure as possible (*19: 14*).
2. God descended from Heaven in the form of fire – the people of Israel trembled with fear under his power (*19: 16 – 18*).
3. God told the people that they should have no other gods but Him (*20: 3*). He also told them not to worship other gods or idols, something that would take the place of Him. Money, fame, work or pleasure can become gods today if they are allowed to dominate a person’s thoughts and time. God promises unending love to those who love Him and keep His commands (*20: 5 – 6*).
4. When God says He is jealous, this is not like human jealousy which is sinful. God’s jealousy always expresses genuine love and concern – He knows that true contentment is only to be found in Him.
5. They were also not to misuse the name of the Lord. The Bible makes it clear that the way we use His name shows how we feel about Him. We should use His holy name in praise and worship, not in bad-mouthing or swearing.
6. When Jesus was on earth the rulers of the Law tried to trick Him. Ask the pupils to look up *Matthew 22: 34 – 40*. What is the greatest Commandment according to Jesus?

Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it.

Complete Study 1.

Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – One God.

REVIEW IT

Consider with the pupils how Mount Sinai is a holy place. Here He spoke to Moses in a burning bush (*Exodus 3: 1 – 12*). God also spoke to Elijah in a small whisper when he had run away, afraid for his life. (*1 Kings 19: 1 – 13*)

Learn the Key Verse and discuss with the group how this verse summarises today’s study.

LIVE IT

How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.

1. The Bible teaches that God is holy and perfect, and that people cannot come to Him as they are – they need forgiveness of sins and faith in Jesus. What does this teach us about the character of God?

How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.

1. How easy/difficult is it to put God first?
2. How important is it to control our speech / consider the type of words which come out of our mouths?

Bible Focus: *Exodus 20: 1 – 12*

Key Verse: *Matthew 22: 37*

We are learning that:

1. The Bible teaches that God is the one true God.
2. God’s name is special and should be respected.
3. Sundays should be kept as a special day of rest.
4. It is important to honour our mothers and fathers.

Bible Focus: *Exodus 20: 8 – 11, Luke 13: 10 – 17*

Key Verse: *Exodus 20: 8*

We are learning that:

1. The Bible teaches that God wants us to keep the Sabbath as holy.
2. Keeping laws should not replace compassion for others.

INTRODUCE IT

Think about everyday situations where rules are a good thing e.g. in playing games, parents stopping children from touching something hot, traffic light signals, bedtimes, going to school, etc. Discuss with pupils how God gave the people of Israel rules to make them into His holy nation -The Ten Commandments. They needed God’s guidelines to live the way that God wanted them to.

Think about everyday situations where rules are necessary and consider the reasons why this is the case. Discuss with pupils how God gave the people of Israel Ten Commandments to make them into His holy nation and to show them the best way to live under His protection.

COMPLETE IT

Present the Bible Story

Discuss and Explain:

1. The first commandment (*verses 1 – 3*) that God gave was to not have any other gods or idols but Him. The Bible teaches that an idol is anything that takes the place of God in our lives. This was very important to God; this is why it is the first commandment. Jesus Himself confirmed this in *Matthew 4: 10*.
2. The second commandment (*verse 4*) was not to make any other idols. This may seem easy but the people of Israel have just come from Egypt, a place where there would have been many idols and gods. Jesus emphasises this commandment in *Luke 16: 13*.
3. The third commandment (*verse 7*) was not to misuse God’s name. The Bible teaches that God’s name is special and it must not be used wrongly. The way we use His name shows how we feel about Him. We should use His name in praise and worship, not in bad-mouthing or swearing.
4. The fourth commandment (*verses 8 – 11*) was to keep the Sabbath as a holy day, different to the other six days in the week. God made the heavens and earth in six days and then rested on the Sabbath. Christians want to follow His example by setting aside a day to rest and worship Him and His creation.
5. The fifth commandment (*verse 12*) was to honour their father and mother. *Discuss what honour means and how we can honour our parents.*

Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it.

Complete Lesson 2.

Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Knowing God

Present the Bible Story

Discuss and Explain:

1. One of the Ten Commandments to the Israelites was to observe the Sabbath day and to keep it holy, dedicated to God (*Exodus 20: 8 – 11*).
2. God made the heavens and earth in six days and rested on the seventh. Christians will want to follow His example by having one day a week different to the others, dedicated to rest and to worshipping Him and His creation.
3. God had even already begun to form this pattern with the Israelites through their instructions for collecting the manna (*Exodus 16: 22 – 26*).
4. When Jesus was on earth, people were not happy with his “observance” of this commandment. They accused him of breaking this commandment when He healed people on the Sabbath. This happened on many occasions. One of them is found in *Luke 13: 10 – 17*.
5. Jesus pointed out their hypocrisy - they would care for their animals on a Sunday yet Jesus could not care for a human? They had got so caught up in the Law and keeping the Law so strictly that they had forgotten to show love and compassion to those around them.

Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it.

Complete Study 2.

Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – God’s Way.

REVIEW IT

Look up *Matthew 22: 37 – 40* and discuss how these verses summarise the Ten Commandments.

Have a group debate on the subject of keeping the Sabbath holy and separate from the other days with two sides; “For” and “Against”.

LIVE IT

How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.

1. How can a Christian try to prevent people and things from taking the place of God?

How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.

1. If no one is capable of keeping the commandments fully, why should Christians still strive to be holy?

Level 3 – 4	B11 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 3 – Moses Topic – Obeying God	B11 - LEVEL 4 Study 3 – The Law Topic – God First
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Exodus 20: 13 – 21; Matthew 19: 16 – 30</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Matthew 19: 21</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God gave the commandments to be obeyed. 2. Obeying rules does not result in a relationship with God. 3. The Bible teaches that God should have first place in a Christian's life. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Exodus 20: 12 – 21, Mark 10: 17 – 31</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Matthew 6: 24</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Bible teaches that commandments and laws are important and should be obeyed. 2. Keeping commandments and laws alone will not result in a relationship with God or eternal life. 3. Idols can easily replace God.
INTRODUCE IT	Think about how we try to obey the rules at school but sometimes we forget and break them. Discuss some examples – copying homework, arriving late to class. The Bible explains that because we are human and sinful, we cannot be perfect like God.	The commandments listed in the Bible are important guidelines for living. However, the Bible makes it clear that because we are human and sinful we cannot be perfect like God. We cannot earn our way into Heaven by the things we do.
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The sixth commandment was not to murder. Look up Matthew 5: 21 – 22 to see Jesus' new definition of murder. <i>Consider how this affects how we treat people today.</i> 2. The seventh commandment was not to commit adultery. Jesus was making the point that people should not want / desire another person's husband / wife. 3. The eighth commandment was not to steal. In the New Testament, Jesus redefines this and says that if someone steals your shirt, then give them your coat too! (Matthew 5: 40) 4. The ninth commandment was not to testify wrongly against your neighbour. Explain to the pupils that this means to lie about what someone else did, or leaving out part of the whole story. <i>Look up Matthew 12: 36 to see what Jesus had to say on this matter.</i> 5. The tenth commandment was not to covet / be jealous of / want what other people have. To covet portrays a lack of trust in God as our provider. 6. Read Matthew 19: 16 – 30 with the pupils. Discuss how Jesus shows that keeping all of these commandments does not mean that you inherit eternal life. The Bible states clearly that salvation (forgiveness of sins resulting in eternal life in Heaven) does not come from good deeds alone but there needs to be a love for God, and a willingness to give up everything and trust fully in Jesus. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it.</p> <p>Complete Lesson 3.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Obeying God.</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. When Jesus came to earth, He was the fulfilment of the Law and revolutionised some of the commandments: 2. The fifth commandment - honour your father and mother – Matthew 10: 37 shows us Jesus' new view on this. 3. The sixth commandment – do not murder. Look up Matthew 5: 21 – 22 to see Jesus' definition of murder. <i>Consider how this affects how we treat people today.</i> 4. The seventh commandment – do not commit adultery. Matthew 5: 28 shows us Jesus' explanation. 5. The eighth commandment – do not steal. Jesus redefines this too (Matthew 5: 40). 6. The ninth commandment – do not testify wrongly against your neighbour. Explain to the pupils that this means to lie about what someone else did, or leave out part of the whole story. <i>Look up Matthew 12: 36 to see what Jesus had to say on this matter.</i> 7. Read Mark 10: 17 – 31. Discuss how Jesus shows that salvation does not come from good deeds alone but there needs to be a love for God, a willingness to give up material possessions and faith entirely in Jesus. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it.</p> <p>Complete Study 3.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – God First.</p>
REVIEW IT	In small groups, think of things that people value of more importance than God. How can reading the Bible, praying, spending time with Christian friends, joining Christian groups / clubs help Christians to keep God first in their lives?	When Jesus came to earth, He was revolutionary. Discuss how Jesus was the fulfilment of the Law. He taught that good works and obeying the commandments were not enough – faith in Him was the only way to God.
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Look at Ephesians 2: 8 – 9 – What do these verses say about works? 2. How much of a sacrifice is it to give things up for God? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How easy is it to get caught up in the trap of keeping rules and thinking you are earning God's favour? Refer to John 14: 6.

Level 3 – 4	B11 - LEVEL 3 Lesson 4 – Moses Topic – Failing God	B11 - LEVEL 4 Study 4 – The Law Topic – God's Word
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Exodus 32: 1 – 26</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Exodus 32: 26</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The people of Israel went back to disobeying God. 2. God showed mercy to those who followed Him and punished those who did not follow. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Mark 7: 1 – 23</i></p> <p>Key Verses: <i>1 Timothy 1: 15, Romans 5: 8</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Pharisees were hypocritical. 2. The Bible emphasises the importance of putting God's Word first. 3. Jesus challenged His followers on the purity of their hearts.
INTRODUCE IT	Ask pupils to think about a time when they were asked not to do something... But ended up doing it anyway! Explain that this is what happened in today's reading. The people of Israel had forgotten God and went back to worshipping false gods.	Think of traditions that we have, perhaps in our families or in church. Some of these may be good and some may be bad. Good traditions shine a spotlight on God's Word and move Christians to serve and obey Him. But they should never be more important than God's Word.
COMPLETE IT	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The people of Israel got impatient waiting for Moses to come back down from Mount Sinai. So, they made false gods to worship (32: 1 – 4). They wanted to make their own idol which they could make and control themselves. They had already forgotten the first two Commandments (Exodus 20:1 – 5). 2. God was ready to destroy the whole nation because of their disobedience and sin (32: 10) but Moses pleaded with God not to do this. God shows His love and mercy here in not destroying them all. <i>Explain the definition of mercy (being spared from the punishment that is deserved).</i> 3. God showed mercy to those who were willing to follow the Lord (32: 26) but to the others, they were killed for their disobedience. 4. Moses was disappointed in Aaron for leading the people of Israel astray. He should have known that what the people of Israel were doing was wrong but instead he listened to their complaints and helped them build this golden calf to worship (32: 22 – 24). <i>Do we sometimes do things that we know are not right, just because everyone else is doing it?</i> <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 4. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Failing God.</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. At the time when Jesus was on earth, the Law's which Moses and the people of Israel had been given were still being used. However, many extra laws and rules had been added by tradition, not from God, about how to live. 2. The Pharisees were very judgemental and so had come to check up on Jesus. They criticised Jesus' disciples for what they did, claiming that they were breaking God's laws (Mark 7: 5). 3. The Pharisees were hypocritical people. Their actions were external, for all to see and did not come from their hearts, which were far from God. They worshipped for the wrong reasons; because they wanted to appear holy and to increase their status. 4. Jesus accused the Pharisees of not obeying God's Laws, due to their own laws which they had made e.g. not caring for their mother and father anymore. He scolded them for keeping the laws and traditions to appear holy instead of honouring God. 5. Jesus taught the disciples the importance of a pure heart and how evil, sinful characteristics can come out of our lives if we do not seek to have a pure heart (Mark 13: 17 – 19). <p>Explain the Key Verses and encourage pupils to learn them. Complete Study 4. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – God's Word.</p>
REVIEW IT	Quiz the pupils on today's story as a means of reviewing the lesson. Discuss reasons why the people of Israel became impatient / forgot what God had already done for them / made unwise decisions. Does this still happen today?	Ask pupils to look at Mark 7: 21 – 22 and compare this with Philippians 4: 8 . Which characteristics should Christians have in their lives and how can they go about this?
LIVE IT	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Just like God showed mercy to the Israelites despite their sin, He has shown mercy to Christians too. They have asked for forgiveness for the wrong that they have done. Does this mean that they can live how they please, knowing they can always ask for forgiveness? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Are we quick to judge and accuse people without looking at the state of our own hearts and our own motives? 2. Like the Pharisees, we must not get caught up in our own rules and traditions and see them as the only way to live. This can stop us from honouring and loving God. Can you think of examples?

	B12– LEVEL 3 Lesson 1 – Christmas Joy! Topic – God’s Promises	B12 – LEVEL 4 Study 1– Christmas Joy! Topic – A Son is Born
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Isaiah 9: 1 – 7; Micah 5: 2</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Isaiah 9: 6</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Bible teaches that the birth of Jesus was predicted hundreds of years before He was actually born. 2. Many people were waiting expectantly for the birth of Jesus. 3. Christians believe that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah, the Light of the world. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Luke 1: 26 – 38; Luke 2: 1 – 7</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Luke 1: 35</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jesus' birth fulfilled prophecies written hundreds of years ago. 2. Mary and Joseph were willing to be used by God as part of His plan for the world. 3. Jesus' birth was almost unnoticed in Bethlehem.
<p>INTRODUCE IT</p>	<p>Ask pupils if they have ever known of anyone who was pregnant. Explain to them how long 9 months seems to be for the parents to wait for the baby to come. In Bible times, Prophets had told the people of Israel about Jesus coming but they had to wait hundreds of years before He was born.</p>	<p>Discuss with the pupils how we can make plans e.g. holidays, birthday parties, weddings, to visit friends. Consider how we react when these plans go wrong or don't go how we think they should. Discuss how Mary had a plan to marry Joseph but God had an even greater plan for her and Joseph.</p>
<p>COMPLETE IT</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss with the pupils how we don't know what the score of a football match will be before it starts, or what we will be doing in 40 years from now. We can't predict that. Yet Isaiah and Micah had predicted Jesus' coming to earth hundreds of years before the events took place. 2. The prophet Isaiah talks about how the people who are in darkness will see a great light that will shine even to those in deep darkness. Ask the pupils to look up John 8: 12 to see who this great light is. 3. Ask the pupils to look up Matthew 4: 14 – 16 to see how, for Christians, these prophecies in Isaiah came true, hundreds of years later. 4. Discuss with the pupils how God's great plan of salvation for the world was amazing and how the Jews had waited hundreds of years for this plan to be fulfilled. Many of them did not live to see Him born. Consider how God's timing can be difficult for Christians to accept / understand even today. Refer to 2 Peter 3: 8. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it.</p> <p>Complete Lesson 1.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – God's Promises.</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God sends the angel Gabriel to tell Mary that she will have a baby. Mary is scared as she is a virgin and doesn't understand how this will happen. But the angel reassured her and told her she had found favour with God (Luke 1: 26 – 34). 2. Mary may not have fully understood what was happening but she knew she had to trust God (1: 38). Discuss how we would react to news that would completely change our lives forever. 3. When she is heavily pregnant, Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem from Nazareth for a census. This census was ordered by Augustus (Luke 2: 1 – 5). Discuss how Augustus may have thought he was in control but the Bible makes it clear that God was. This was part of His timing and plan that Jesus should be born in Bethlehem. 4. Jesus was born in Bethlehem to fulfil Micah's prophecy (Micah 5: 2). Consider <i>why Jesus fulfilling the prophecies was so important</i>. 5. When Jesus is born, Mary wraps him in cloths and lays him in a manger (2: 7). 6. Discuss how the Jews would have been waiting for their long-awaited King to arrive in royal surroundings, yet Jesus was born with the animals. God's ways may have seemed strange but this was His plan for Jesus. He was guiding Mary and Joseph and providing them with all that they needed. Read 2 Corinthians 8: 9. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it.</p> <p>Complete Study 1.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C– A Son is born.</p>
<p>REVIEW IT</p>	<p>Read Isaiah 9: 6 & 7 with the pupils and discuss each of the titles listed that Isaiah prophesied would describe Jesus. Explore with them how Jesus fulfilled these names.</p>	<p>Ask the pupils to imagine that they are Mary and Joseph. Ask them to write a diary entry from either Mary or Joseph's point of view, based on the events from this study.</p>
<p>LIVE IT</p>	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask the pupils to think about the characteristics of light. Discuss what it means for Christians, that Jesus is called the light of the world (Isaiah 9: 2). 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider whether Christians today are as ready as Mary to accept God's plans for their lives, even when they may not understand them. 2. How do people react to Jesus today? Do they just see him as a baby in a manger at Christmas time? Or is He really the Saviour of the world?

	B12– LEVEL 3 Lesson 2 - Christmas Joy! Topic – Mary’s Surprise!	B12 – LEVEL 4 Study 2 – Christmas Joy! Topic – A Saviour is Announced
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Luke 1: 26 – 38</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Luke 1: 32</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Biblical prophecies about Jesus came true, showing that this was an important part of God’s sovereign plan. Mary and Joseph had made their own plans but God’s plan overruled. Christians today look to God to fulfil His plan in their lives too. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Luke 2: 8– 20</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Luke 2: 11</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The angels in Heaven were excited about the coming of the Messiah, the Christ. The shepherds were excited to meet baby Jesus after what they had heard from the angels. Christians today excitedly celebrate the birth of Jesus too.
<p>INTRODUCE IT</p>	<p>Discuss with the pupils how we can make plans e.g. holidays, birthday parties, weddings, to visit friends. Consider how we react when these plans go wrong or don’t go how we think they should go. Discuss how Mary had a plan to marry Joseph but God had an even greater plan for her and Joseph.</p>	<p>Think about how the birth of a baby is normally announced; perhaps by parents, a card or pictures on social media. There is such happiness and joy. The Bible makes it clear that Jesus was no ordinary baby so His birth would not be announced in an ordinary way! Remember that He came to ordinary people so the shepherds were the first to hear of His birth.</p>
<p>COMPLETE IT</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> God sends the angel Gabriel to Mary to tell her that she will have a baby, even though she is not married yet (verse 31). Mary is troubled and doesn’t understand how this will happen, yet the angel reassures her that she has found favour with God and that nothing is impossible with God (verses 34-37). <i>Discuss these verses with the pupils.</i> Point out the important facts that Mary was from Galilee and Joseph was a descendant of David. Discuss with the pupils why this is so important; the prophets said that this Coming Messiah would come from Galilee (Isaiah 9: 1) and would be a descendant of David (Isaiah 9: 7). These facts were part of the bigger picture fulfilling all the prophecies. Mary may not have fully understood what was happening but she knew to trust God (verse 38). Discuss how we would react to news like this that would completely change our lives forever. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 2.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Mary’s Surprise!</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The night that Jesus was born, shepherds were in the fields watching their sheep. Point out that normally at night watching sheep would be quiet and probably quite dull for the shepherds (verse 8). But this night, something amazing happened! An angel appeared to them and they were all terrified! <i>Ask the pupils how they would have felt (verse 9).</i> The angel had come to tell them that Jesus, the Saviour, had been born (verse 11). Then even more angels appeared and they sang praises to God, celebrating the arrival of Jesus to earth. <i>Explain how magnificent this sight would have been for the shepherds, in the darkness with the sheep (verses 13-14).</i> Once the angels left, the shepherds hurried to go and see this baby themselves. <i>Consider how they might have been feeling at this point; perhaps they thought they had imagined it, or that the angel was wrong.</i> They found the baby just as the angel had described! (verse 16) They praised and glorified God and began to tell everyone about the Saviour who had been born (verses 17 and 20). Think about how excited the shepherds were to see this baby and how they straight away started telling people about Him and wanted to share the Good News with others. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Study 2.</p> <p>Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C– A Saviour is Announced!</p>
<p>REVIEW IT</p>	<p>List all of the promises that the angel Gabriel makes in the Key Verse. What do we learn from this verse about the coming King and what He came to do?</p>	<p>Create a poster or a wall display of how you imagine this birth announcement to have looked. Include what the angel said (the Key Verse) in your display.</p>
<p>LIVE IT</p>	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Are there circumstances which make it difficult to accept that God has a plan for our lives? Jesus’ birth fulfilled Biblical prophecies. How should a Christian feel about those prophecies still to be fulfilled, e.g. Jesus’ Second Coming? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Does the excitement associated with Jesus’ birth still exist today? To what extent do the celebrations during Christmas reflect the true reason for the season?

Bible Focus: *Luke 2: 1 – 7*
Key Verse: *2 Corinthians 8: 9*
We are learning that:

1. Jesus’ birth was almost unnoticed in Bethlehem.
2. The Bible teaches that Jesus was God’s Son and truly human.
3. His birth fulfilled prophecies written hundreds of years before.

Bible Focus: *Matthew 2: 1 – 12*
Key Verse: *Matthew 2: 11*
We are learning that:

1. When Jesus was born, some welcomed Him while others did not.
2. God was looking out for Jesus, Mary & Joseph and keeping them safe.

INTRODUCE IT

Discuss with the pupils how they would react if a king or queen was coming to visit your hometown; people would probably be very excited and would make lots of grand celebrations! But when Jesus was born, no-one knew. It was almost unnoticed. There wasn’t even room for him in the inn and His bed was a manger.

Ask the pupils to think about what we do when a baby is born. Consider how we buy them presents, go and visit, hold the baby. Explain that it is a joyous time of celebration!

COMPLETE IT

Present the Bible Story
Discuss and Explain:

1. Mary and Joseph have to travel to Bethlehem from Nazareth for a census; to be counted and registered. Consider how tiring this long journey would be for a pregnant lady, especially in those days (**verses 1 – 4**).
2. This census was ordered by Augustus. *Discuss how Augustus may have thought he was in control but the Bible teaches that God was; this was part of His timing and His plan.*
3. While they were there, Jesus was born, wrapped in cloths and laid in a manger (**verse 7**).
4. Jesus was born in Bethlehem to fulfil the prophecy that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (**Micah 5: 2**). Consider *why Jesus fulfilling the prophecies was so important.*
5. *Discuss how this was not a normal scene for a King to be born, but that this was part of God’s plan for Jesus. He was guiding Mary and Joseph and providing them with all that they needed.*
6. *Discuss how the Jews would have been waiting for their long-awaited King to arrive in royal surroundings, yet Jesus was born with the animals.*

Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it.
Complete Lesson 3.

Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – Jesus’ Birth

Present the Bible Story
Discuss and Explain:

1. Herod was king when Jesus was born.
2. Wise men had travelled from the East and had seen the star that told them that a new king was to be born. They asked King Herod who this king was (**verse 1 – 2**).
3. King Herod was disturbed at the news, that there could be another king who could take his place on the throne. This is because he was not a legitimate king of Israel by birth, as Jesus was. He was therefore suspicious of this “king” (**verse 3**).
4. He told the wise men to go and find this king so that he could go and worship him too. But Herod was really planning to kill the child (**verses 7 – 8**).
5. The wise men followed the star and found the baby in his home. He was probably one or two years old when they arrived. When they saw Him, they were so very happy! They worshipped Him and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh (**verses 10 – 11**).
6. God had told the wise men in a dream to travel home a different way to avoid King Herod as he wanted to kill Jesus. They obeyed God and changed their route to protect Jesus (**verse 12**).
7. *Contrast the wise men’s reaction to the birth of Jesus with Herod’s. They recognised Jesus as the Messiah, the Saviour of the world, whereas Herod viewed Jesus as a threat to his throne.*

Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it.
Complete Study 3.

Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – A Sovereign Worshipped.

REVIEW IT

In small groups, write an article for the local Bethlehem newspaper to announce Jesus’ birth.

Quiz the pupils on today’s study as a means of reviewing the lesson, and helping them with Study 3.

LIVE IT

How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.

1. People didn’t really notice Jesus when He was born because they did not know about Him. The Bible makes it clear who He is – do people notice Him today?
2. Jesus became human in order to go to the cross to die for sins. What does this actually mean for Christians?

How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.

1. The Wise Men looked for Jesus so that they could worship Him and give Him gifts. Do Christians today have the same attitude?
2. The Wise Men listened to God and obeyed His warnings. In what ways can a Christian today follow this example?

	B12– LEVEL 3 Lesson 4 – Christmas Joy! Topic – The Angel’s Message	B12 – LEVEL 4 Study 4 – The Wonder of Christmas Topic – Salvation!
	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Luke 2: 8 – 20</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Luke 2: 11</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The angels in Heaven were excited about the coming of Jesus, God’s Son. 2. The shepherds were excited to meet baby Jesus after what they had heard from the angels. 3. Christians today excitedly celebrate the birth of Jesus too. 	<p>Bible Focus: <i>Luke 2: 25 – 40</i></p> <p>Key Verse: <i>Isaiah 7: 14</i></p> <p>We are learning that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People were thrilled at the arrival of the baby Jesus. 2. There would be mixed reactions to Jesus. People were either going to joyfully accept Jesus or they would totally reject Him. 3. The Bible teaches that Jesus is God’s salvation, sent to be a light in the world.
<p>INTRODUCE IT</p>	<p>Think about how the birth of a baby is normally announced; perhaps by parents, a card or pictures on social media. There is such happiness and joy. Explain how Jesus was no ordinary baby so His birth would not be announced in an ordinary way!</p>	<p>When a baby is born, there is much excitement as people have been waiting for it to arrive for nine months. Explain that the people we are going to learn about in this Study had waited their whole lives to meet this baby who had been born – they must have been thrilled that He was finally here!</p>
<p>COMPLETE IT</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The night that Jesus was born, shepherds were in the fields watching their sheep. Point out that normally a night watching sheep would be quiet and probably quite dull (verse 8). 2. But this night, an angel appeared to them and they were all terrified! <i>Ask the pupils how they would have felt (verse 9).</i> 3. The angel had come to tell them about Jesus, the Saviour, being born (verse 11). 4. Then even more angels appeared and they sang praises to God, celebrating the arrival of Jesus to earth (verses 13 – 14). <i>Explain how magnificent this sight would have been for the shepherds.</i> 5. Once the angels left, the shepherds hurried to go and see the baby themselves. <i>Consider how they might have been feeling at this point; perhaps they thought they had imagined it, or that the angel was wrong.</i> 6. They found the baby just as the angel had described! They praised and glorified God and began to tell everyone about this Saviour who had been born (verses 16 – 17). 7. Think about how excited the shepherds were to see this baby boy and how they started telling people about Him, straight away. <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Lesson 4. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix B – The Angel’s Message.</p>	<p>Present the Bible Story</p> <p>Discuss and Explain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Simeon was a man who obeyed and trusted God devoutly (verse 25). 2. The Holy Spirit had promised Simeon that he would see the long-awaited Messiah before he died (verse 26). <i>Discuss how Simeon must have felt in his old age, wondering if this was going to come true or not.</i> 3. One day, Simeon was at the Temple when Mary and Joseph arrived with baby Jesus. 4. Simeon was overjoyed, praised God and blessed the baby. 5. In Luke 2: 34, Simeon says that He will be a joy to many people but that many will oppose Him. <i>Explore what Simeon meant by this.</i> 6. Anna, a prophet, was also there at the Temple at the same time. She was always at the Temple, praying and fasting (verses 36 – 37). 7. When she saw the baby Jesus, she praised God and began to tell everyone about Him (verse 38). 8. Jesus went home with His parents, and as He grew, became wise. God was pleased with Him. <i>Explain how Jesus would have been different to the other children the same age as Him.</i> 9. <i>Consider how Mary and Joseph must have felt about Simeon and Anna’s reaction to their baby.</i> <p>Explain the Key Verse and encourage pupils to learn it. Complete Study 4. Show it: see FBI links in Appendix C – Salvation!</p>
<p>REVIEW IT</p>	<p>Create a poster or a wall display announcing the birth of Jesus. Include what the angel said (see the Key Verse) in your display.</p>	<p>Mary & Joseph must have felt overwhelmed at all of this excitement over their baby boy. Learn the Key Verse and discuss with the group how the verse summarises today’s Study.</p>
<p>LIVE IT</p>	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does the excitement associated with Jesus’ birth still exist today? 2. To what extent do the celebrations during Christmas reflect the true reason for the season? 	<p>How does the lesson challenge Christians today? Discuss.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Simeon and Anna were devout people of God. What characteristics do devout people of God possess today? 2. In the Key Verse, it says Jesus is to be called “Immanuel” which means “God with us.” How should this teaching impact Christians today?

Appendix A - Level 0 & 1 Free Bible Images

	Title	Story Images	Suggested slides to use or omit
B11	Moses	God gives food	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/moses-food-water/	(slide 13-14, 18-20, 22)
		God answers prayer / God gives victory	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/moses-amalekites/	(slide 1-5, 7, 9, 11; slide 3 may be inappropriate)
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/isc-soldiers-guards/	(e.g. Amalekites - slide 1-2, Joshua - slide - 14)
		God gives commandments	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/moses-sinai/	(e.g. slide 1, 9-11, 19-20, 32)
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/isc-objects/	(slide 8)
B12	The Christmas Story	God saves the people's lives / God gives salvation	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/moses-serpent/	(slide 19-22, 25-29)
		Joseph and the angel	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/ls-mary-angel/	(slide 7-8)
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/ls-shepherds-angels/	(slide 1)
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/birth-jesus-preschool/	(slide 2-4, 10, wise men slide 13-14)
		Herod and the wise men	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/ls-wise-men/	(slide 1-4)
B12	The Christmas Story	The wise men and Jesus	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/ls-wise-men/	(slide 5-8)
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/ls-jesus-born/	(slide 1-8)
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/isc-christmas-clipart/	(house - slide 1; star - 18; wise men - 19-21; camel - 22)
		The escape into Egypt	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/rp-abraham-land/	(Egypt - slide 15)
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-009-flight-egypt/	(slide 2)

Appendix A - Level 2 Free Bible Images

	Title	Story Images	Suggested slides to use or omit
B11	Moses	God gives food to the Israelites	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/moses-food-water/	(slide 17-26)
		God gives the victory	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/moses-amalekites/	(slide 6, 8, 10 may be inappropriate)
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/isc-soldiers-guards/	(e.g. slide 1-2, 5, 14)
		God gives commandments	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/moses-sinai/	(e.g. slide 1, 7-11, 14, 20-21)
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/ten-minute-ot-1/	(slide 39)
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/isc-objects/	(ten commandments - slide 8)
		God gives salvation	
	https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/moses-serpent/	(slide 19-22, 25-29)	
B12	The Christmas Story	Joseph and the angel	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-006-joseph-angel/	(slide 1-3, 5)
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-001-word-flesh/	(slide 13)
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/isc-objects/	(cross - slide 14)
		Herod and the wise men	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-008-wise-men/	(slide 1-5)
		The wise men and Jesus	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-008-wise-men/	(slide 6-9)
		The escape into Egypt	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-009-flight-egypt/	(slide 1-4, 6-8, slide 4 may be inappropriate)
	https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/isc-objects/	(scroll - slide 9)	

Appendix B - Level 3 Free Bible Images

	Title	Story Images	Suggested slides to use or omit
B11	Moses	Meeting God	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/moses-sinai/	(slide 1-3, 6-8)
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-001-word-flesh/	(slide 15)
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/the-tabernacle/	(slide 25)
		Knowing God	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/isc-objects/	(gold idol - slide 3)
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/moses-red-sea/	(slide 20)
		Obeying God	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/isc-objects/	(tablets of stone - slide 8)
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/lumo-rich-man/	
B12	The Christmas Story	Failing God	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/moses-golden-calf/	
		God's promises	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/prophecies-birth-jesus/	(slide 5 - 7, 11)
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/maps-israel-nt/	(map - slide 1, 9-10, 12)
		Mary's surprise	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/mary-angel/	
		Jesus' birth	
https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/jesus-birth/			
The Angel's message			
https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/shepherds-angels/			

Appendix C - Level 4 Free Bible Images

	Title	Story Images	Suggested slides to use or omit
B11	The Law	One God	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-001-word-flesh/	(tablets of stone - slide 15)
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/moses-golden-calf/	(slide 7)
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/lumo-lazarus3/	(e.g. slide 4)
		God's way	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/jesus-alive/	(e.g. slide 2, 9)
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/lumo-crippled-woman/	
		God first	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/jesus-teaching/	(slide 1)
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/lumo-rich-man/	
B12	The Christmas Story	God's Word	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/isc-objects/	(tablets of stone – slide 8, scroll - slide 9)
		A Son is born	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/mary-angel/	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/bj-jesus-journeys/	(map - slide 1)
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/maps-israel-nt/	(map - slide 9-10)
		A Saviour is announced	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/shepherds-angels/	
		A Sovereign worshipped	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/wise-men/	
B12	The Christmas Story	The wonder of Christmas	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/simeon-anna-temple/	
		https://www.freebibleimages.org/photos/prophecies-birth-jesus/	(slide 2)



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