Preschool–Grade 6

The Road to Bethlehem

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God keeps His promises.
Bible passage: Luke 2. Read Luke 2:1–7 and Micah 5:2 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem" *Luke 2:4 (KJV)*. The **city of David** is the town of Bethlehem.
You need: a Bible, masking tape, a chair, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Luke 2. Make a long "road" on the floor with masking tape, with the chair at one end. The start of the road is "Nazareth," and the chair is "Bethlehem."

1. Opening game: Walk the Road (5 minutes)

Kids walk on the tape road in a line, one behind the other, from "Nazareth" to the chair. When you clap, everyone freezes. When you say "Walk!" they go again. Say: "Today we will hear a true story about a long walk to a little town called Bethlehem."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Luke 2. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Long ago, a ruler gave an order. Everyone had to go to his own town (Luke 2:1–3). *(Point your finger: "Go!")*
Joseph lived in Nazareth (2:4). *(Wave hello.)*
Joseph's family came from King David. So he went to David's town, Bethlehem (2:4). *(Put your hands on your head like a crown.)*
Mary went with Joseph. Her baby was coming soon (2:5). *(Rock a baby in your arms.)*
They went up, up, up into the hills (2:4). *(Walk in place with high knees.)*
Long before, God said a ruler would come from Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). *(Put your hand on your heart.)*
Say it with me: "God keeps His promises!"
And God did it! Joseph and Mary came to Bethlehem. *(Clap!)*
There was no room for them in the inn (2:7). *(Shake your head no.)*
Mary's baby was born. She laid Him in a manger (2:7). *(Rock a baby again.)*
That baby was Jesus! **Say it with me: "God keeps His promises!"**

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who went with Joseph? *(Mary, Luke 2:5)*
2. What town did they go to? *(Bethlehem, 2:4)*
3. Who keeps His promises? *(God does! Micah 5:2)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Joseph went 'unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem.' **Unto** means to." Teach the motions: on "unto the city of David," put your hands on your head like a crown. On "which is called Bethlehem," hold your hands over your head like a roof. Say the verse with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Luke 2:4" and clap two times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). When He grew up, Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Road to Bethlehem Picture (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a long road going up a hill, with little houses at the top for Bethlehem. They can draw Joseph and Mary walking on the road. While they color, ask: "Where did Joseph and Mary go? Who keeps His promises?" Kids who finish early can walk the tape road again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for keeping Your promises.
Help me trust You every day. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and do every motion big. If they get wiggly, walk the tape road again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child asks about a donkey: say simply, "The Bible doesn't tell us how they traveled. It tells us they went to Bethlehem, just like God planned."

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