

Mission to Myanmar

Bible Lessons

Day 1 – God made the world

What you will need:

Bible

“Thinking Hats” (These can be any kind of hat – but the more outrageous, the funnier it will be. You might want to consider cone hats like these from Oriental Trading – Item # 15/402 -- \$4.99/12)

Bag of miscellaneous craft material (yarn, construction paper, stickers, etc.)

Paste and scissors

Memory Verse (Psalm 90:2) Bell Cards

The Lesson:

Greeting -- Greet children with “Mingalaba” and remind them to take off their shoes and sit on the floor. Show them your Bible. Let them know that the Bible is full of wonderful adventures – all true and that you want to tell them about how God created the Earth.

First Activity -- Get them involved! Announce that you have “thinking hats”. Ask the children to imagine something they would like to have...then think really, really hard about it and see if it would just APPEAR because they thought really hard and wanted to make it happen.

Second Activity -- When that doesn’t work, collect the hats and

give the kids a bag of craft materials and ask them to create something from what they find in the bag. (One bag per 5 kids). They can work together or separately for a few minutes to create something. After they have had time to complete, have them talk about their creation.

Teacher compliments kids on their creations, but also notes that God’s creation is ALIVE! Birds fly, fish swim, animals walk and humans think!

Bible Lesson -- God made every living thing in the universe! And he made the sun, the stars, the moon, the oceans and the land! He made the mountains too! And he made us! We are each unique – especially created by God to do His good work!

It is hard to even imagine how wonderful God is. There’s a book in the Bible called “Job.” In this book, God asks Job some questions, to help him understand how wonderful God is. Get comfortable, maybe even close your eyes, and imagine God asking you these questions: Teacher reads Job 38:4 – 39:26 (Note: this is a very long passage! Keep an eye on your students and as they begin to become restless, stop reading.)

Ask: Can you answer any of these questions? It is hard isn't it? God is so wonderful as the Creator! Can you think of a time when you have enjoyed God's creation? (Enjoying nature, enjoying the company of family, friends)

Memory Verse – Psalms 90:2 –“ From beginning to end, you are God.” Pass out bells with that memory verse. Ask children to discuss what that means to them. (God made everything. Without God, nothing could have been made. He was there in the beginning, and will be there at the end.)

Closing prayer – Thank God for making such a wonderful creation and always being present in our lives.

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Day 2 – Jesus is born.

What you will need:

Bible

Picture of the Myanmar Manger

Some hay or straw

Downloaded music – “Away in the Manger” and “Hallelujah Chorus”

Something to play the downloaded music

Newsprint

Markers

Memory Verse Bell Cards

The Lesson:

Greeting -- Greet children with “Mingalaba” and remind them to take off their shoes and sit on the floor. Ask students why we are doing this in our VBS (it is what people do in Myanmar, and that is our mission for the week). show them your Bible. Let them know that the Bible is full of wonderful adventures – all true and that you want to tell them about how Jesus came to Earth.

Review -- Review yesterday’s lesson about creation – about how God created the universe and everything in it out of nothing!

Lesson theme: Today’s lesson is about something wonderful as well – God sent his son, Jesus, into the world!

Activity One -- Before Jesus came to Earth, he lived in Heaven. Heaven is a REALLY nice place! It is filled with happy people and good things. What do you think might be in Heaven to make it so wonderful? Give the students a large piece of newsprint and lots of markers and let them draw some things that they think might be in Heaven that would make them happy. (Let the kid discuss...don’t worry too much about correcting any wrong perceptions of Heaven. The point is to help the kids imagine a special and wonderful place.)



Now...imagine leaving all that! Let’s listen to the true story of Baby Jesus.

The Lesson -- Jesus was willing to give up all the good things in Heaven to come down and live with people like us. He was

God's son, but he didn't come in a big parade! NO! He came as a poor baby, born to poor parents named Mary and Joseph.

His parents had to travel to a town called Bethlehem because the government said that everyone had to go back to their hometowns to be counted in a census. It was a hard trip because it was almost time for Jesus to be born, but Mary and Joseph were on the road...No cars, no McDonald's, no drive-throughs. What would they eat? Only what they could carry! I am sure they were tired, thirsty and hungry.

And even when they finally reached Bethlehem, they looked around for a place to stay! But the town was FULL of people! It was so loud and so crowded. Mary and Joseph had no one to help them. Finally, someone pointed them to a cold, damp and smelly stable. There was no clean bed for Mary, and no warm crib for Baby Jesus. All they had was the manger where animals ate, and some leftover hay. (Pass around the hay or straw so the kids can feel how prickly it is)

Activity 1: This picture was taken in Myanmar. (Pass the picture around) This is a manger – probably a lot like the one that held Baby Jesus. That is how Jesus came into the world – a helpless baby, laid in a manger! In a place that wasn't very clean, and certainly wasn't very nice. I am going to play a song you may know. Close your eyes and listen to the words. Think about how much Jesus loves us. Think about how much He was willing to give up! (Play "Away in the Manger")

With the kids' eyes still closed, transition to the Hallelujah Chorus! Over the music, the teacher explains that shepherds heard an incredible sound – the sound of angels proclaiming "Hallelujah" over the birth of Jesus, the Messiah! And the shepherds could not wait to run into Bethlehem to see what the angels told them about – they ran to the stable to look! They were overjoyed to see the newborn Savior of the world!

Ask: Why do you think God let Jesus leave Heaven and be born in a humble stable – a stable very much like this one in Myanmar? Why would he do that?

Let the kids talk, but be sure to point out that it was love that sent Jesus to Earth. It was the only way to show people how much God loves us – by becoming one of us! Jesus was willing to give up Heaven to show us God's love.

Activity #2: Ask the children to tell you something that was done to them out of love. It will probably be a parent doing something nice for their child, but it could be a friend. It is nice when people show us their love. Jesus wants us to show other people we love them too!

Bible Memory Verse: Pass out today's memory verse. "God showed how much he loved us by sending his one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through him." (1 John 4:9)

Activity #4: Ask the children to make a list of ways God shows his love for us.

Closing Prayer: Thank God for sending Jesus to Earth, and for all the ways God continues to show his love for us.

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Day 3 – Jesus dies to forgive our sins (Luke 23) and Jesus promises us an eternal home

(John 14:1-3)

What you will need:

Bible

Whiteboard (Newsprint is a substitute if you don't have a whiteboard)

Eraser for Whiteboard

Markers for Whiteboard

Newsprint (for Activity #2)

Water Spray Bottle

Hula Hoops (Number depends on class size)

Shwedagon pagoda photograph (Sh-way-da-gon)

Memory Verse: Bell Cards

The Lesson:

Greeting -- Greet children with "Mingalaba" and remind them to take off their shoes and sit on the floor. Ask students why we are doing this in our VBS (it is what people do in Myanmar, and that is our mission for the week). show them your Bible. Let them know that the Bible is full of wonderful adventures – all true and that you want to tell how Jesus died for our sins and how he has returned to Heaven to create a new home for us there.

Review -- Review yesterday's lesson about Jesus born in Bethlehem, leaving Heaven to come to Earth.

Lesson: Jesus lived such a wonderful life! He taught people many things, and he was so kind. But Jesus had powerful enemies too – people who wanted to kill him.

One night, Jesus and his friends went to a garden to pray. While Jesus was praying, he and his friends began to hear sounds. Soldiers came and arrested Jesus! Many lies were told about Jesus, and he was sentenced to be put to death – by crucifixion!

But Jesus was always the one in control. He could have stopped this any time he wanted. But he loved us, and it was always his plan to die in our place.

Activity One: Why would Jesus need to die for us? (Let kids answer). He died for us because we have sinned and separated ourselves from God. Through His death, he became a bridge between us and God.

What is sin? (Let kids answer). Can you name some sins? (Have the kids make a list on newsprint.) If we accept Jesus as our Savior, our sins are wiped away! (Wipe away the listed sins). Jesus went to the cross because he loved us, and wanted to save us from our sins.

Lesson Continues: After he died, he was placed in a stone tomb. But here is the best part – Jesus rose from the dead. He was dead, but he became alive again! He is alive today! Jesus came back to life to defeat sin and death forever. Because of Jesus, our sins are forgiven! Because of Jesus, we can live with Him forever in Heaven!

Let's talk a little bit more about Heaven. We talked about how Jesus left Heaven to come to Earth.

But for now, we are on Earth. Some days are very wonderful – we play with our friends, our family is happy, school is fun! But sometimes we have days that are very hard. Here, the teacher needs to tell about a hard time she has had, keeping it very simple. For example, maybe a best friend moved away and then the teacher was lonely. Invite the children to tell about a hard time they have had.

Activity Two: Have a big sheet of newsprint and invite the kids to write one word that describes their hard time. Then take a water bottle and squirt it at the words. The words will begin “weep” – they will look a little bit like they have been crying. Hard times make can make us cry!

Lesson Continues: But listen to this (Hold up your Bible)...The Bible tells us that there is a place where there are no tears, no sickness, no loneliness, no sadness. That place is Heaven and Jesus is there preparing a place for us. Read Revelation 21:3-4: “And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

Point to the drippy hard-times paper and say, “No matter what happens here on earth, we know that because of Jesus we can go to a place where there is no trouble.” Tear the drippy paper off the wall, crumple it up, throw it away!



People can create beautiful things on this earth. This is a picture of Shwedagon pagoda in Myanmar. It is covered in real gold and there are many beautiful diamonds and other precious jewels.

But when you go inside, you see people who don't know Jesus. They don't know that Jesus died for their sins, and so they try to make

offerings to become good enough to gain a better life.

Heaven is much more beautiful than even the golden pagoda. And when we get to Heaven it will be Jesus who welcomes us. At the pagoda, there is no one to welcome visitors, and visitors are expected to pay money to be there. In Heaven, everything is free and perfect because Jesus made it that way – just for us.

Heaven will last forever! When I think about forever, I think about something that has no end – like this hula hoop. If we visit even the most beautiful places on earth, our time there will end. In Heaven, there is no end! It will ALWAYS be our perfect home.

Activity Three: Place hula hoops on the floor and invite the kids and leaders to stand inside the hula hoops. As each one gets inside the circle, say “Jesus loves you, (insert child’s name) and is preparing a forever home for you.” Once everyone is in a small group within a circle, close in prayer, thanking God for Jesus and for Heaven.

Pass out Bible Memory Verse – This is real love – not that we loved God, but that he loved us and send his Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins. I John 4:10.