



## Future-proofing our children

Religious Instruction Class 1

|              |                     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Lesson Title | Joy - Jesus is born |
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**A Parent's Guide**  
Sunday School Home Schooling



# Dear Parent

Welcome to the “**Joy - Jesus is born**” Religious Instruction 1 lesson.

This document provides you with a minimum guide on how to present the lesson.

## How to prepare and present the lesson

Below are some tips on how to go about preparing and presenting the lesson:

| Step | Action   |
|------|--|
| 1.   | <p>Access the New Apostolic Church Website by keying-in or clicking on the following link from WhatsApp:</p> <p><a href="https://bit.ly/3NACSSHS">https://bit.ly/3NACSSHS</a></p>  |
| 2.   | <p>Gather the following tools to ensure that you are ready for the lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bible</li> <li>• The PDF lesson that is already prepared</li> <li>• Child’s workbook and pencils, crayons, etc.</li> <li>• The Video Clip which is an additional optional resource tool</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b></p> <p>2.1: An ideal time preferably to present the lesson is after the Sunday morning service in line with the normal Sunday School time to maintain the routine.</p> <p>2.2: Please keep the lesson as concise as possible, bearing in mind the retention span (to focus on the lesson) of our children<br/>– you know your child best.<br/><i>Sunday School normally does not exceed 45 minutes.</i></p> <p>2.3: The lessons are class specific (i.e. SS, RI, or Confirmation).</p> <p>2.4: Please contact your SS teacher if you need any of the above resources.</p> |
| 3.   | <p>Pray (see the prayer at the end of this document) and ask God to use you as a tool to present the lesson the way He would want us to present it.</p>  |



# Present a Sunday School Lesson at Home

## How to prepare and present the lesson

We continue to share some tips on how to go about preparing and presenting the lesson:

| Step | Action   |
|------|--|
| 4.   | Create a pleasant (disturbance free) learning environment where you and the children are at the same level<br><b>Example:</b> Sit on the mat or at a table |
| 5.   | Read through the lesson. Re-read the lesson so that you understand it. Watch the video clip of the lesson to get a better understanding of the lesson.     |
| 6.   | Make notes for yourself on important points that you would like to remember.   |
| 7.   | Understand the objective of the lesson that your child must remember.  |
| 8.   | Present the lesson to your child by telling the story. You can even read the story if you like.  |
| 9.   | Show your child the video and recap on the meaning/purpose of the lesson.  |
| 10.  | Refer your child to the activity in the child's workbook.  |
| 11.  | Pray, or ask your child to pray and close the lesson.  |

## Available tools in terms of Home Schooling

Herewith some tools to enhance the quality of the lesson:

1. WhatsApp chat the lesson with another Religious Instruction 1 family.
2. Discuss with other parents to obtain clarity regarding the lesson before it is presented.
3. Feel free to conduct your own research for additional information.
4. Your congregation's Sunday School Coordinator and Teacher is on stand-by to help.



# The Lesson

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Lesson Title</b>     | Joy - Jesus is born   |
| <b>Text</b>             | Luke 2: 8-20, Luke 2: 21-38 and Matthew 2: 1-12                   |
| <b>Lesson Objective</b> | The children find out that Christ's appearance created great joy. |

## Lesson Summary:

- Several months after the angel visited Mary, Caesar Augustus ordered a census throughout the Roman Empire.
- Mary and Joseph therefore travelled from Nazareth to Bethlehem, Joseph's home town.
- The journey was strenuous for Mary, because she was expecting her baby to be born soon.
- They arrived in Bethlehem and could not find place in the inn so they stayed in a stable and Mary gave birth to a son.
- During the night, shepherds were tending to their flock when suddenly, an angel appeared to them and said: "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour (Redeemer), who is Christ (the anointed one) the Lord. You will find him wrapped in strips of cloth, lying in a manger." Luke 2: 10-12
- Just as the angel finished speaking, the heavens were lit with a multitude of angels praising God: "Glory be to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"
- When the angels left, they immediately went on their journey to Bethlehem and found Mary and Joseph in a stable, with baby Jesus lying in a manger.
- They talked about their experience with the angels and everyone was amazed.
- Mary took the words of the shepherds to heart.
- The shepherds then returned to their flock, glorifying and praising God for what they have seen and heard.
- After forty days of his birth, Mary and Joseph, took baby Jesus into the temple to dedicate him to God and to bring a thank offering.
- The Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon, a devout and God fearing man, that he would not die until he had seen the Saviour.



- He was prompted by the Spirit to go into the temple.
- When Mary and Joseph came, he took Jesus in his arms and said, “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation.” He then Blessed Mary and Joseph.
- The prophetess, Anna, who arrived in the temple at the same time, thanked God and spoke about Jesus to everyone waiting for salvation.
- Did you know that the wise men from the East were astrologers? They could see from the appearance of a particular star that a new King was born.
- The wise men went to King Herod, The Great, to ask where the newly born King of the Jews was to be found.
- The King was troubled and tried to find out where the newly born King was.
- The wise men departed and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, until it stood over where baby Jesus was with Mary and Joseph.
- They worshipped Him and gave Him gifts of:
  - Ø Gold – a valuable means of payment,
  - Ø Myrrh – an expensive resin (paste from tree) with a pleasant aroma and
  - Ø Frankincense – made from a particular resin (paste from tree) which, when lit, gives off a pleasant smell.
- In a dream, God told them not to return to Herod, but to return home a different way.
- When King Herod realised that the wise men tricked him, he was furious and had all the boys, two years old and younger, in Bethlehem and the surrounding areas killed.

## What does this lesson teach us?

- We rejoice about the birth of Jesus Christ as the Redeemer for all mankind.
- We rejoice that through His sacrificial death, Jesus broke Satan’s power and thereby created the means whereby everyone can be saved from eternal death.
- We rejoice because the power of sin has been broken and our sins can be forgiven.
- We rejoice about Jesus’ promise to return and fetch us. Read John 14:3
- We rejoice because Jesus Christ chose Apostles and instituted the church so that all human beings can get to know the gospel.

**Through the birth of Jesus, God shows us how much He loves us and we should therefore love Him and our neighbour. We prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus Christ and look forward to it.**



**Do Exercise 1 with your child/ren.**

**Answers to Exercise 1:**

- The shepherds **praised and extolled God.**
- Simeon **praised God.**
- Anna **thanked God and talked about the Child.**
- The wise men from the East **gave Jesus gifts.**

**Some questions we can ask:**

1. What is the meaning of “Saviour”?

**Answer:** It means Redeemer or deliverer

2. What is the meaning of “Christ”?

**Answer:** it means “the anointed one”

3. Give one reason why we rejoice about the birth of Jesus Christ?

**Answer:** Refer to What does the lesson teach? us above

4. What effects does the birth of Jesus and the promise of His return have on us?

**Answer:** Through the birth of Jesus, God shows us how much He loves us and we should therefore love Him and our neighbour. We prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus Christ and look forward to it.

**A Prayer for Daddy and Mommy to pray before the lesson:**

*Dear God, thank you for this day, Bless all parents and children*

*May we feel your presence, Bless the lesson we will have*

*Please teach us how to serve you, And help us to do your will*

*So that we grow closer to you, Send Jesus to fetch us*

*And may we be ready to meet Him - Amen*

**A prayer after the lesson:**

*Dear Heavenly father*

*Thank you for keeping us safe.*

*Help me to be kind to everyone.*

*Thank you for being the Good Shepherd who loves and guides us. AMEN*