

Faithful to God

Team Snow Quest

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EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor in Chief: Robin Johnston

Associate Editor, Curriculum:

Lee Ann Alexander

Children's Editor: Chris Anderson

Kindergarten Editor:

Krisann Durnford

WRITERS

Krisann Durnford, Ashley Hibbetts,

Hannah Schmidt, Linda Short,

Barbara Westberg

DESIGN

Layout: Dennis Fiorini

Artist: Ron Wheeler

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Kindergarten Teacher's Manual

Manufactured in U.S.A., December 2019, 1122011
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 36 Research Park Court, Weldon Spring, MO 63304

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Unit 1

Better Things

Unit Aim

Students will explain how God gave us better things through Jesus.

Unit Memory Verse

Hebrews 7:19

Scripture Text

Luke 1:26–38
Hebrews 1

Bible Lesson Verse

Hebrews 1:3

Bible Point

To save us, God had a better plan.

Life Application

I am thankful God came to save me.

THE BETTER PLAN

Jesus' Birth Foretold

CORE SUPPLIES

Excite and Engage

Welcome: Purchase fake snow or use DIY ideas to make it.

Attendance charts (AP) ⬇️, attendance race flag stickers (TRP) ⬇️, offering container (see opening pages for suggestions), unit 1 MV poster (TRP)

Opening Activity: Decorate the story area for a baby shower. Add blue crepe-paper streamers and balloons. Across the board write: IT'S A BOY!

Borrowed infant items (1 per student), basket

Relate and Receive

Bible Lesson: Long fabric headpiece for Mary, gold headband and sash for Gabriel, Bible

Apply and Act

Life Application: Cut apart the Life Application letter cards (TRP) ⬇️. For each student, print and cut apart a set of New Birth pictures (TRP) ⬇️.

Bible art: Gabriel Visits Mary (TRP) ⬇️, activity papers (page 1), crayons, glue

Prayer and Call to Action: New Birth poster (TRP)

Home Connection: For each student, copy the unit 1 HC calendar (TRP) ⬇️ and the lesson 1 HC devotion ⬇️. Separate the activity paper covers (AP) to send home. Prepare child information forms ⬇️ for parents to fill out as they drop off or pick up their child.

EXPANDED SUPPLIES

Worship and the Word

Worship: Battery-operated candle; *suggested songs:* “Jesus Loves Me,” “Away in a Manger” (traditional Christmas carol)

Memory Work: For each student, print the unit 1 MV handout (TRP) ⬇️.

Unit 1 MV poster (TRP), memory charts (AP) ⬇️, Bibles, glue, cotton balls

Reinforce and Review

Activity Paper: Activity papers (page 2), crayons

Option 1: Print and cut out a baby Jesus figure ⬇️ for each student. From brown construction paper, cut 4" x 1" strips (2 per student). Each student will also need a sheet of blue construction paper, yellow tissue paper, crayons, and glue.

Option 2: Foam ball

Option 3: Select and print one set of JBQ Verses ⬇️ for students to take home. Research Junior Bible Quizzing at the website, www.najbq.com.

Looking Ahead

Lesson 4 suggests having students perform the song “Go Tell It on the Mountain” (with motions) as a choir special for the adults. If doing this activity, practice the motions starting with today’s lesson.

Teacher Devotional

Read Hebrews 1. Prayerfully consider what this passage says:

About God

As the creator of the universe, the almighty God could have been exempt from facing the pain and suffering that life can bring. Even so, He chose to manifest in the flesh and then subjected Himself to the human experience. His love and desire for our salvation was His motivation.

To You as a Teacher

We should approach each day with a thankful spirit, knowing that the God of all creation came to save each of us individually. Our actions and words should reflect a constant rejoicing in this knowledge. Daily displays of thanksgiving are in order toward the King of kings.

To Your Students

Kindergarten students are still in the process of understanding abstract versus concrete ideas. Science experiments easily transfer parallel meanings. During this winter theme of Team Snow Quest, a demonstration of water properties would serve to enhance their understanding of how God the Spirit became God in human flesh. Water, ice cubes, and steam provide an inexpensive yet memorable visual lesson. A quick internet search of age-appropriate science experiments could cement this lesson in your students' hearts and minds.

Just as water is essential to our physical existence, Jesus Christ became the living water to save us.

CORE (designed for a teaching period around 45 minutes)

EXCITE AND ENGAGE

Welcome

Welcome students and encourage them to explore their newly decorated classroom. If your climate rarely includes snow, the excitement of snow will thrill students. Prepare or purchase fake snow and plan a few minutes of playtime during each lesson. **You are all members of Team Snow Quest. As a team we are ready to hit the slopes and face the challenges of life with faith.**

Distribute attendance charts (AP) 📄 and have students add their names. Students add one race flag (TRP) 🚩 to their attendance charts.

Lead students to the unit 1 MV poster (TRP). Slowly read Hebrews 7:19 while students echo. **Team Snow Quest is training for the faith race. Our verse will show us how God has better plans for us and our faith helps us believe in those plans.**

- **What kind of plan do you think God has for your life?**

All people need to be saved from sin. Many people have their own plan on how to be saved. Some people do many good things. Some ignore their sin. Our human plan does not work. We need a better plan. To save us, God had a better plan. In our faith race, we will learn what God's better plan was.

Introduce the Life Application: **I am thankful God came to save me.**

Opening Activity: Baby Shower

Explain that the Bible story will be about baby Jesus' birth. Pretend that students are attending Mary's baby shower. Explain why we have baby showers and the gifts we might give. Allow each student to select one gift to put in the gift basket.

SHARE IT!

Upload your photos to our Facebook group: Word Aflame Kindergarten Curriculum Teachers. Before sharing, ask parents or guardians for permission to photograph and share pictures of students using the child information form 📄. Keep the signed forms on file if you share students' pictures on Facebook or any other public site.

Teacher Tip

Sit in a child's chair to view the room from a kindergarten's perspective. Can your students see the decorations? The tabletop? Keep everything at their eye level.

Abby's mother was reading a Curious George story to her when Abby picked up her feet and tried to step on the book. When her mother asked what she was doing, Abby replied, "I want to get in there with Curious George." In this Bible story your students step into the story. They will live it, not just hear it.

Bible Point

To save us, God had a better plan.

Unit 1 Memory Verse

"For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God" (Hebrews 7:19).

Bible Lesson Verse

"Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Hebrews 1:3).

Teacher Tip

Ways to incorporate the memory verse into the CORE lesson:

- Recite it prior to the Bible lesson.
- Set memory verse timers throughout the morning. When a timer rings, students recite the verse.
- Incorporate the verse throughout the lesson by challenging students to listen or watch for a certain signal. When you give the signal, students stand and recite the verse.

We plan special moments like a baby shower to help others. Our plans work for the things we need here on Earth, but we need God's plan to help us get to Heaven. Jesus came as a baby because that was part of God's better plan. We need to be saved and God had a plan to save us. Review the Life Application. **I am thankful God came to save me.**

RELATE AND RECEIVE

Access Prior Experience: **Have you ever had a plan to do something important—like buy a bike or go to a special event? How would you feel if someone changed that plan and made it even better?**

Bible Lesson: Jesus' Birth Foretold (Luke 1:26–38)

Select volunteers to be Mary and Gabriel. Place a long fabric headpiece on Mary and a gold headband and fabric sash on Gabriel.

Gather students and show them Luke 1 in your Bible. **God's Word has many stories and every story is true. Let's step right into the middle of a Bible story—an important story about God's plan. This story happened hundreds of years ago, so we must step back in time.** Students mimic as you pretend to step back into the Bible. Make a zooming sound as if moving back in time.

Introduce Mary. **Mary and Joseph had plans. They would soon be married, build a home, and have a family. While Mary was planning and preparing for her wedding, she had a visitor.** Have Gabriel stand in front of Mary. Instruct Mary to gasp and act concerned. **The visitor was the angel Gabriel. God sent him with a special message.**

Instruct Gabriel to repeat your words: **"Do not be afraid, Mary. God is pleased with you. You will have a baby boy. You will name Him Jesus."**

The angel's words confused Mary. This was not her plan. God was changing her plan. But Mary realized God's plan was better than hers. She listened as the angel told her how her son would save people from sin.

- **How do you think Mary felt when she heard about God's plan?** Discuss the feelings Mary might have had (doubt, anxiety, excitement).

To save us, God had a better plan—a plan that is for everyone. Yes, Mary heard about God's plan before it happened, and she was thankful for God's better plan.

- **What part of God's plan was better?** *Jesus was coming to save us from sin.*

Review the unit 1 MV poster (TRP). **Our human plan did not keep us from sinning. God had a better plan. God's plan was for Him to come as a baby and be our Savior. That is the best plan because Jesus saves us from sin.**

APPLY AND ACT

Editorial Note:

Word Aflame children's levels are in alignment with the adult curriculum, sharing the same biblical text as a springboard into the lesson. Our aligned study texts are from Hebrews, but a Bible narrative text and story is included in each lesson to demonstrate the Bible Point. The Life Application is used to tie the two texts together.

Life Application: I am thankful God came to save me.

Scatter the Life Application letter cards (TRP) 📄 on the floor. Ask students to sort them by color. Then help students arrange them to spell the words. As you spell out and pronounce each word, students echo: **G-O-D (God) C-A-M-E (came) T-O (to) S-A-V-E (save) M-E (me)**. Point to each word as you read it. Repeat the phrase until students know it. Scramble the cards and repeat the activity.

- **When you sin or do something bad, what should you do?**

Mary had a plan for her life. She knew what she was going to do and what she wanted to be, but God had a better plan for her.

- **What was God's plan for Mary?** *To be the mother of baby Jesus*
- **What do you want to be when you grow up?**

Let's thank God for coming to save us. Let's clap to tell Him we are thankful He came to save us. Lead in a round of applause, starting slowly and gradually becoming faster and louder.

Distribute activity papers and crayons. On the front page, help students glue on the new birth pictures (TRP) 📄 showing repentance, baptism, and infilling of the Holy Ghost. Review the Life Application as students trace the words. Discuss how this is part of God's plan to save us.

Prayer and Call to Action

Gather students in a semi-circle near the New Birth poster (TRP). Ask simple questions and help students better understand each picture. Lead in a prayer of repentance with students echoing. Then pray that students would be filled with God's Holy Spirit.

Home Connection

- For each student, send home a copy of the unit 1 HC calendar (TRP) 📄 and the lesson 1 HC devotion 📄, or show parents the URL on the back of the activity paper so they can download it themselves.
- Send home the cover of the activity paper. Show parents how the back contains the MV posters for the entire quarter.
- Use the child information form 📄 to get contact information from parents. This will be used to establish a home connection throughout the quarter.



EXPANDED *(designed for a teaching period over 45 minutes)*

WORSHIP AND THE WORD

Worship

Suggested songs include “Jesus Loves Me” and the traditional Christmas carol “Away in a Manger.”

Gather in a circle. Select a volunteer to hold the battery-operated candle. Dim the lights. **This candle makes our room feel warm and happy as we worship, but it does not provide enough light for the entire room.** Ask a volunteer to turn up the lights. **When electricity came, it was a better plan to light buildings—better than using small candles.**

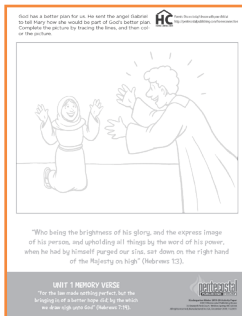
Before Jesus came, people had only a little light in their dark worlds of sin. God had a better plan, and He came to save us. Jesus shines into darkness and brings light to our entire lives. Because He does, I can be saved from sin. I am thankful God came to save me.

Teacher Tip

If memory charts are mounted on the wall, use crayons or place a sheet or cardstock behind each one (markers can bleed through paper).

Unit 2 Memory Verse

“For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God” (Hebrews 7:19).



See page 7 for more information on the JBQ option.

Memory Work: Hebrews 7:19

Gather students at the unit 1 MV poster (TRP). Slowly recite the verse, allowing students to echo the words. Help them find the verse in their Bibles. **With God’s plan, He became our Savior. This brought better hope than people had before Jesus came.**

Imagine training for a race without a plan. It might look something like this. Ask several volunteers to follow your instructions. Have them start a push-up and then stop to run in place for a moment. Once they are running, ask them to touch their toes. Continue mixing exercises while never completing one specific move.

- Why is it wrong to mix up the exercises while training?
- What kind of plan would work better for a team’s training?

Our verse tells us that, even though the old plan (the Law) was not perfect, God’s plan was coming. The verse says, “But the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.” That means God’s better plan of Jesus coming to save us works. Jesus brings us closer to God.

Students glue one cotton ball on their memory charts (AP) Ⓣ.

REINFORCE AND REVIEW

Activity Paper

On the back of the activity paper, students complete the picture by tracing the lines and then color the picture. **God had a better plan for us. He sent the angel Gabriel to tell Mary how she would be part of God’s better plan.** Review how God’s better plan brought salvation.

Option 1: Baby Jesus in the Manger

Give each student a baby Jesus figure Ⓣ, two 4" x 1" strips of brown construction paper, yellow tissue paper, and a sheet of blue construction paper. Instruct students to color baby Jesus. Show them how to glue the two brown strips (in the shape of a V) on the blue paper to make the supports for the manger. Glue crumpled pieces of tissue paper in the V shape to represent hay. Glue baby Jesus on top of the hay.

As students work, discuss how God’s plan was for Jesus to come as a baby, grow to a man, and die to save us.

Option 2: Thankful Toss

Gather in a circle. Toss the ball to a student as you say: **I am thankful.** The student catches the ball and responds: **God came to save me.** The student tosses it back to you. Continue play until all students have a turn.

Option 3: JBQ Introduction

Introduce the concept of Junior Bible Quizzing. Hand out one set of JBQ Verses Ⓣ. Explain that each week, a fun activity will help students review the material.

Option: If you have some JBQ games for the upcoming quarter prepared, show students some activities they will be playing.