

10

No Room?

Worship

We praise God for His greatest gift.

POWER TEXT

"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship" (Galatians 4:4, 5).

KEY REFERENCES

- Luke 2:1-7
- *The Desire of Ages*, chaps. 3; 4; pp. 31-49
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 31-34
- Student lesson on page 112 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 4, The Son
- No. 11, Growing in Christ
- No. 23, Marriage and the Family

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that worshiping God begins with accepting Jesus, God's gift to us.
- **Feel** a desire to let Jesus live in their hearts always.
- **Respond** by making a place for Jesus in all the rooms of their lives.

POWERPOINT

We worship God when we accept the gift of His Son and make room for Him in our lives.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

Joseph and Mary, obeying the laws of their country, have to look for a place to stay where Mary can have her baby. There is no room in the local inn, so the innkeeper's family allows them to stay in his barn. There, Jesus is born.

This is a lesson about worship.

Our lives can become so crowded that we don't make room for Jesus. Jesus came to live in the most humble of places just so He could dwell with us. As we learn to worship, we learn to make more and more room for Him in our lives.

Teacher Enrichment

"Hearts selfish and world-engrossed were untouched by the joy that thrilled all heaven. Only a few were longing to behold the Unseen. To these heaven's embassy was sent. . . .

" . . . In the city of their royal line, Joseph and Mary are unrecognized and unhonored. Weary and homeless, they traverse the entire length of the narrow street, from the gate of the city to the eastern extremity of the town, vainly seeking a resting place for the night. There is no room for them at the crowded inn. In a rude building where the beasts are sheltered, they at last find refuge, and here the Redeemer of the world is born" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 44).

How have I crowded Jesus out of my life? What can I do to make room for Him?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice. »

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. It's a Boy!*	birth announcement, and/or new baby cards, paper, art supplies
		B. Making Room	large cardboard box, smaller boxes, white or brown paper, markers
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 107. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks; world map; pushpins; gift box with slit; materials for prayer chain: colored strips of paper, glue, tape, OR staples, pens/pencils, OR markers
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	three copies of *Net Kids* script (p. 148)
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles; Bible map; 20 to 30 pounds of rice or potatoes in a sack; special music about Jesus' birth
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles, white/chalkboard, markers/chalk
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Scenario*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Filling the Rooms*	paper, pencils, rulers (optional: sample house plan)
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments	
		B. Reminder to Parents	
		C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ birth announcement AND/OR new baby cards
- ☐ paper
- ☐ art supplies

It's a Boy!

Show one or more examples of birth announcements and/or "congratulations on the new baby" cards, if available. Tell the students that when a baby is born, parents often send out birth announcements telling the baby's full name; time, place, and date of birth; birth weight and length; and sometimes a photo. People respond by sending cards and gifts of congratulations.

Ask them to work alone or in pairs. Ask each group to create a birth announcement or congratulations for Jesus that includes the idea that Jesus is a wonderful gift to the world.

Allow the students time to work, then give each group a chance to read or show their card.

Debriefing

Ask: **What new understanding, if any, did you gain from working on the card? Whom could you give the card to? How would you feel if someone sent you one?**

Say: **Let's say our power text together, Galatians 4:4, 5:**

"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship" (Galatians 4:4, 5).

Say: **Let's remember our power point:**

We worship God when we accept the gift of His Son and make room for Him in our lives.

Accommodations for students with special needs

Allow students with special needs who experience difficulty with this activity to work with a partner who could assist them.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ large cardboard box
- ☐ small boxes
- ☐ white or brown paper
- ☐ markers

Making Room

Find a large cardboard box. If it has writing on it, cover it with white or brown paper inside and out. Fill it with smaller boxes (at least one for each student). Make sure that there is a place to write on each of the smaller boxes. Ask: **What are some of the things that keep people from accepting Jesus?** (They don't think they need a Savior; they are too busy; their family and friends are opposed.) **What are some of the things that keep people from worshipping Him? What are some of the things that keep people from making Him the center of their lives?** Ask students to each take one of the smaller boxes and write on it ways people could make room for Jesus in their lives. Then they will return the small boxes to the big box.

Ask: **How can people make room for Jesus in their lives?** (By putting Him first.) Ask students to each remove a smaller box from the big box.

Set the big box on one of its long sides, with the opening facing out, to become the "stable" in which Jesus was born. Ask the students, or one of your adult facilitators, to draw windows, wooden planks, or blocks to make the box resemble a stable. Place it where you can add to the scene each of the next four weeks. (Read through the rest of the lessons through Lesson 13. Make plans for how you will add to the Nativity scene each week.)

Debriefing

Ask: **How was what we just did like accepting Jesus? How was it like worshipping Him?** (We have to make room for Him in our lives.) Say: **Let's say our power text, Galatians 4:4, 5:**

"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship" (Galatians 4:4, 5).

Our power point this week is:

We worship God when we accept the gift of His Son and make room for Him in our lives.

Prayer & Praise

Notes

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"There's a Song in the Air" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, no. 120)

"Go, Tell It on the Mountain" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, no. 121)

"Away in a Manger" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, no. 124)

"Silent Night" (*The Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal*, no. 143)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use *Adventist Mission for Youth and Adults* (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. For the mission story, have a map of the world where the students can identify the location of the mission story in comparison with where they live. They could use pushpins to mark the location of the mission story.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ gift box

Say: **Jesus offered Himself for us that we may live eternally. When we choose to give a part of our money to support the mission of our church, others can learn of His love for them.**

Prayer

YOU NEED:
- ☐ prayer-chain materials

Have materials for a prayer chain: paper; glue, tape, or a stapler and staples; and pens, pencils, or markers with which the students can write prayer requests or answered prayers. You can use one color paper for requests, another for answers, and still another for praise. Say: **Jesus is our greatest gift, and He brings other blessings along with the gift of Himself. Let's thank God for the blessings He sends with His Son (example: food, shelter, clothing, family).** Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ three copies of *Net Kids* script (p. 148)

Introducing the Bible Story

***The* Net Kids**

(Refer to Lesson 2 for background and setup information.) Make the appropriate number of copies of the *Net Kids* script found on page 148 of this guide. Distribute to the students you have selected as early as possible. Allow practice time before using this activity. Present the skit.

Say: **This week we are learning about making room for Jesus in our lives. There were very few people waiting for Him or making room for Him when He actually arrived. Let's remember our power point:**

We worship God when we accept the gift of His Son and make room for Him in our lives.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Bible map
- ☐ 20-30 pounds of rice, or potatoes in a sack
- ☐ special music about Jesus' birth

Experiencing the Story

Ask a student volunteer to read Luke 2:1-7. Have the students trace Joseph and Mary's route on a Bible map and figure out how many miles it was and how long it might have taken them by donkey and foot. Discuss how much less time it would take today using various methods (car, train, bicycle, bus, airplane).

Choose a strong volunteer (one with no physical ailments or weaknesses) and ask him/her to carry a 20- to 30-pound bag of something (e.g., rice or potatoes) while making a few steps in the room.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did that extra weight feel when you first put it on? How did it feel when you walked with it? How far do you think you could go carrying it if you were walking? What about if you were riding a bike or a donkey?**

Explain that Mary was very young (possibly about 14) when she made this trip to Bethlehem with her new husband, Joseph. Mary accepted her position as Jesus' mother as a gift.

Unlike most gifts, it did cause her some pain. But Mary was willing to do it no matter how uncomfortable it got, where she had to go, or what she had to do. Being Jesus' mother was her act of worship at that time in her life.

Say: **Right now let's quietly think about our own acceptance of God's gift and invite Him in our lives while we listen to some music.** Have someone sing or play an appropriate song about Jesus' birth. (Alternatively, have students listen to a recording of a song about Christ's birth).

Let's remember our power point and say it together:

We worship God when we accept the gift of His Son and make room for Him in our lives.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ white/chalkboard
- ☐ markers/chalk

Exploring the Bible

Write the following passages on the board where all can see:

Isaiah 61:1-3
John 3:16
Matthew 5:17
Acts 4:12
Romans 6:23
2 Corinthians 8:9
Hebrews 2:14, 15
Hebrews 4:15, 16

Ask: **According to these Bible passages, for what reasons did Jesus come to our world?**

Divide students into groups of three or four. Have students read and discuss the Bible passages written on the board. After the groups had time to read and discuss the above questions allow some of them to share some of their answers.

Debriefing

Ask: **From reading these passages, what did you learn about why Jesus came to our world? Do you believe that God has a plan for your life? He can hardly wait to reveal His plans for our lives, as we could read in Jeremiah 29:11. He will fulfill His plan in our lives as long as we allow Him to do so, as Joseph and Mary did.**

Our power point reminds us that

We worship God when we accept the gift of His Son and make room for Him in our lives.

Accommodations for students with special needs

Have students with visual impairments sit near the board or prepare for them ahead of time a handout with the Bible references and the questions for this activity.

Scenario

Read the following to your students:

Jonathan is a member of your church. He attends about once a month. He has told you that he is usually very busy on Saturday or tired from the week: He studies hard and plays on several sports teams. He is a great guy, and he believes in God. But he doesn't think he has time for much "religious stuff." He asks you why you hang out at church so much and study your Bible.

Debriefing

Ask: **What would you say to Jonathan?** (Encourage students to explore the ideas they have been studying today.)

Say: **Let's remember to apply the principle we learned from our power point this week:**

We worship God when we accept the gift of His Son and make room for Him in our lives.

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:

- ☐ paper
- ☐ pencils
- ☐ rulers
- ☐ optional: sample house plans

Filling the Rooms

Allow time for students to tell how they shared the story of Christ's birth with children who don't know much about the true meaning of Christmas. With whom did they share? How did the children with whom they shared respond?

Ask your students to draw the floor plan of a house with at least five or six rooms. Give them time to draw. Then ask them to think about what it takes to divide their lives into the number of categories that they have rooms in the "house" they just drew. (Possible categories: school, family, friends, church, sports, work, eating, sleeping, studying, etc.) Have them label each room.

Ask: **How could you accept Jesus into each of these areas of your life?**

Say: **Pray quietly about it, and then write one way that you can worship God by accepting Jesus into each area you listed in your house.**

Play some meditative Christian music and encourage students to take this as a serious commitment. Give them one or two minutes to complete this.

Say: **Choose someone with whom you can share your plan to worship God by making room for Him in your life.**

Let's say our power point again:

We worship God when we accept the gift of His Son and make room for Him in our lives.

Accommodation for students with special needs

You may wish to provide examples of floor plans or model drawing a basic floor plan for a house. If certain students require additional help, encourage them to work with a partner who could assist them in this activity.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

Ask God to bless the students' commitment to worship Him by accepting the gift of His Son and making room for Him in their lives.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **Angels announce the birth of Jesus, God's Son. We can worship God when we sing songs of praise to Him.**

Notes

Student lesson

No Room?

Do you recall expecting an event that was delayed for a very long time? Did you wait with growing anticipation? Or did you get distracted and lose interest in the expected event?

Let's take a journey back in time to the beginning of our world's history, when God created the first human beings. Adam and Eve were created in God's image, with freedom to choose between good and evil. Sadly, our first parents chose to listen to the tempter, who led them to mistrust God's warning and to disobey His instructions. The results of their sin were devastating for the entire human race. Sin caused separation from God's presence and led to destruction and death.

Yet, in His infinite love for the human race God devised a plan to save and restore humankind to the family of God. The Creator Himself chose voluntarily to come to this sin-polluted world and sacrifice His life that the human race may once again be reunited with the family of God.

The Creator promised that the Redeemer, the woman's "offspring," would crush the power of the enemy and gain victory over sin: "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel" (Genesis 3:15). This promise along with other prophecies about the coming of the Messiah kept alive the faith of God's chosen people from generation to generation. However, with the passing of time, people lost sight of the true meaning of the prophecies that were pointing to the coming of the Redeemer.

"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship" (Galatians 4:4, 5).

The details recorded in the Gospels about the birth of Jesus reveal the exact fulfillment of the prophecies about His coming.

Mary, a young virgin living in Nazareth, was engaged to Joseph, a descendant of King David. An angel appeared to Mary, announcing that she would give birth to a son and would name Him Jesus (see Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-25).

According to the angel's announcement, God's promise was fulfilled and Mary was chosen to be the mother of the promised Redeemer. What an awesome privilege!

Joseph and Mary were living in Nazareth, a town in Galilee. But according to the prophecies, the Messiah had to be born in the town of David (see Micah 5:2). And then something miraculous happened that the prophecies might be fulfilled: "In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world" (Luke 2:1). "And everyone went to their own town to register.

"So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them" (verses 3-7).

The only place they found for lodging was a stable. It was there, in the stable, that this most significant event took place in fulfillment of prophecy. Isn't it sad that God's chosen people who have awaited His coming for millennia did not recognize the time of His coming and were not prepared to welcome their Redeemer? "He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him" (John 1:11). Yet Jesus came willingly, knowing that the only way He could save us was to leave the glory of heaven and become a human being like one of us. Jesus accepted the most humble lot that He might identify with the common people and minister to the needs of the poor. He lived among us to reveal God's character of love, to save us from the penalty of sin, and to deliver us from the fear of death. Jesus identified Himself with our humanity and experienced our struggles, that He might be a perfect example for us. Indeed, through His life Jesus revealed how we might obey God's law and overcome sin through His power.

We are now living in the time right before the second coming of Jesus. The signs of His soon return are being fulfilled before our eyes (see Matthew 24). Because the prophecies about Jesus' first coming were fulfilled with exact precision as recorded in the Gospels, we have the assurance of His second coming according to His promise (see John 14:1-3; Matthew 16:27; Revelation 1:7). Would you make room in your heart for Jesus? Let's prepare to welcome our soon-coming Redeemer and King, who longs to take us home and spend eternity with us!

KEY REFERENCES

- Luke 2:1-7
- *The Desire of Ages*, chaps. 3; 4; pp. 31-49
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 7, pp. 31-34
- Our Beliefs, nos. 4, 11, 23

POWER TEXT

"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship" (Galatians 4:4, 5).

POWER POINT

We worship God when we accept the gift of His Son and make room for Him in our lives.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 75.

Sunday

READ Read Micah 5:2 and this week's lesson, "No Room?"

DECORATE Decorate a box to look like an empty stable, or find one from a Nativity scene. Think about making room for Jesus in your life. Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God that Jesus, His Son, was willing to become a baby in the world He created.

Monday

READ Read Isaiah 7:14 in several Bible versions.

REVIEW Review the power text.

SHARE Write or tell the Christmas story in your own words and share it with a child. (Consider recording it.)

PRAY Thank God for offering Himself to us as the Greatest Gift in order to save us.

Tuesday

READ Read Luke 2:1, 2.

SEARCH Look up the word "census" in your dictionary.

ASK Ask your parents if they had participated in a census. Invite them to describe their experience.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God that He knows everything about us.

Wednesday

READ Read Luke 2:3-5; 1 Samuel 17:12; 20:6; and Micah 5:2.

THINK Other than for the census, why was it important for Mary and Joseph to go to Bethlehem?

ASK Ask your parents where your hometown is and how far back they can track your family line.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for your parents, who care for you.

Thursday

READ Read Luke 2:6, 7.

ASK Ask someone: Where were you born? What was happening in the world when you were born?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God that you were born in a place where you could learn about Him and His great love for you.

Friday

READ Read Matthew 2:1-6.

SERVE With your family members at worship, talk about the true meaning of Christmas. Discuss and decide on a project you could do as a family to bring hope and brighten up the holiday season for those who are less fortunate.

PRAISE Sing a song of praise to Jesus, our Savior.

SAY Share the power text aloud from memory.

PRAY Tell God that you accept Jesus, heaven's perfect gift, and that you want to make room for Him in your life.