



All Hands on Deck

Jump In

Today's story conveys the message that God sent Jesus for everyone. The magi were Gentiles, or non-Jews, traveling from the east. They came because they were astrologers who had seen a new star. They believed the appearance of the a new star meant a king had been born, and they were searching for this new king.

The magi's search for the new king led them to the current leader, King Herod. From King Herod's chief priests and scribes they learn of the prophecy that a new leader will be born in Bethlehem.

The magi continue on their journey, following the star that leads them to Bethlehem. Matthew tells us when the star stopped, the magi were "filled with joy." The magi acted on their feelings of joy by worshipping Jesus and offering him gifts.

Dive Deeper Together

Read Matthew 2:1-12 in the Deep Blue Kids Bible or "Follow the Star" in the Deep Blue Bible Storybook.

OR

Read "The Visitors from the East": Some men who lived in the East, called magi, liked to study the stars. One night the magi saw a new star in the sky. The star was very bright. The magi thought that the star meant a new king was born. They decided to follow the star to find the new king. They wanted to honor the new king with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The star led the magi to Jerusalem and King Herod. Then the star led the magi to Bethlehem. In Bethlehem the magi found Mary and Joseph and Jesus. The magi worshipped Jesus and gave him their gifts.

Grow Stronger Together

The magi brought Jesus gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Ask each family member to tell what gifts he or she would have brought to Jesus. What gifts can we give today that show honor to Jesus?

Pray Together

Share joys and concerns, and then say this prayer: Dear God, thank you for Jesus, the new king. Amen.

Session 6

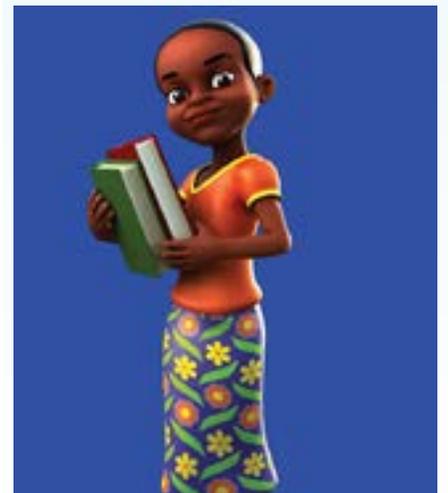
Unit 2: Jesus, the Greatest Prophet

BV: This is truly the prophet who is coming into the world. (John 6:14)

AP: God sent Jesus to tell us about God.

The Visitors from the East (Matthew 2:1-12)

Jambo! Hello! I'm Mercy. Welcome to Kenya! I'm so excited to show you my home. I work hard to take care of myself, my brothers, and my sisters. You're welcome to stay and visit with us. Learn more at www.deepbluekids.com/passport.





All Hands on Deck

Jump In

The first story Mark tells about Jesus is his baptism by John. Mark begins by identifying John as the one whom Isaiah foretold would prepare the way for God's messenger.

Although Mark doesn't provide John's background, we know from the Gospel of Luke that John is the child born to Zechariah and Elizabeth in their old age. Luke also tells us that Elizabeth was a relative of Mary's, making John the Baptist and Jesus related.

John is baptizing people in the river Jordan, and exhorting people to change their hearts and lives. One day as John was baptizing people, Jesus comes to be baptized. As Jesus was coming out of the water, the heavens opened, the Spirit descended on him like a dove, and a voice from heaven claimed Jesus as God's Son.

Dive Deeper Together

Read Mark 1:9-11 in the Deep Blue Kids Bible or "A Voice in the Wilderness" in the Deep Blue Bible Storybook.

OR

Read "A Voice in the Wilderness": Many people came to the wilderness to hear John the Baptist preach and be baptized. John wanted the people to change their hearts and lives. He wanted people to follow God. One day Jesus walked from Nazareth to the Jordan River. John the Baptist was there, baptizing people in the water of the river. John baptized Jesus in the river. When Jesus came out of the water, he saw a dove flying down to him. Jesus heard God's voice say, "You are my Son, whom I dearly love."

Grow Stronger Together

As you use water in your daily family life, talk about how important water is to us. We need water to drink, to bathe, to wash dishes and clothes. Water is essential to life. Water is used for something special in the church. It is used for baptism. If your children have been baptized, talk about their baptism day. If your children have not been baptized, assure them that God loves them.

Pray Together

Share joys and concerns, and then say this prayer: Dear God, thank you for your son, Jesus. Amen.

Session 7

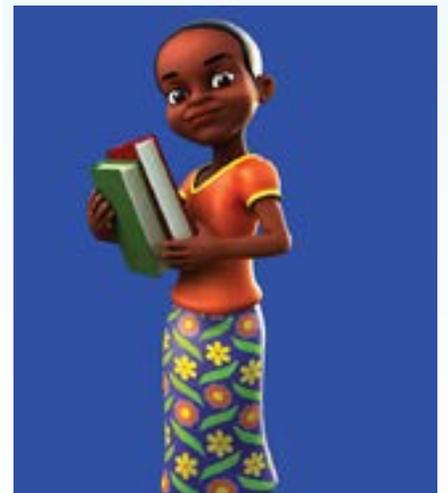
Unit 2: Jesus, the Greatest Prophet

BV: This is truly the prophet who is coming into the world. (John 6:14)

AP: God sent Jesus to tell us about God.

A Voice in the Wilderness
(Mark 1:9-11)

Jambo! Hello! I'm Mercy. Welcome to Kenya! I'm so excited to show you my home. I work hard to take care of myself, my brothers, and my sisters. You're welcome to stay and visit with us. Learn more at www.deepbluekids.com/passport.





All Hands on Deck

Jump In

Today we'll explore the story of Jesus blessing the little children. The disciples tried to keep the children away from Jesus. Children can certainly relate to being told not to do something. Help your children think about how they feel when they are not allowed to do something that they want to do (even if there is a good reason for the restriction). Help your children imagine how the children must have felt when they were not allowed to go to Jesus.

Jesus reprimanded the disciples for keeping the children away, making it clear that access to him and to God's love was for everyone. There are no "non-persons" in God's kingdom. By blessing the children, Jesus showed that they were full members in God's family.

Dive Deeper Together

Read Matthew 19:13-15 in the Deep Blue Kids Bible or "Jesus and the Children" in the Deep Blue Bible Storybook.

OR

Read "Jesus and the Children": Many people came to hear Jesus tell about God. One day, while Jesus was teaching, some mothers and fathers brought their children to see Jesus. They wanted Jesus to bless their children. The disciples stopped the parents and their children. They told them to go home and not bother Jesus. But Jesus scolded the disciples. "Let the children come," said Jesus. The children ran to see Jesus and Jesus blessed each child.

Grow Stronger Together

Make gingerbread boy and girl cookies with your children. Let the children decorate the cookies to be each person in your family. Remind your children that Jesus taught us that God loves everyone—of all ages.

Pray Together

Share joys and concerns, and then say this prayer: Dear God, thank you for Jesus. Help us remember that you love each one of us. Amen.

Session 8

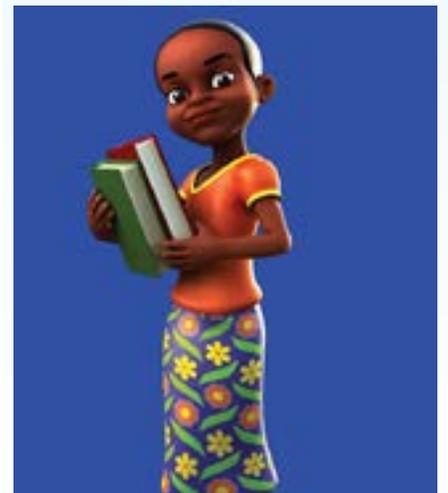
Unit 2: Jesus, the Greatest Prophet

BV: This is truly the prophet who is coming into the world. (John 6:14)

AP: God sent Jesus to tell us about God.

Jesus and the Children (Matthew 19:13-15)

Jambo! Hello! I'm Mercy. Welcome to Kenya! I'm so excited to show you my home. I work hard to take care of myself, my brothers, and my sisters. You're welcome to stay and visit with us. Learn more at www.deepbluekids.com/passport.





All Hands on Deck

Jump In

The story of the feeding of the multitudes is the only one of Jesus' miracles recorded in all four gospels. In John's record of this event, the miraculous feeding began with a young boy's lunch of five loaves of bread and two fish. The feeding of the thousands—five thousand men plus women and children—is told as a demonstration of Jesus' ability to perform miracles. But it is also the story of a young boy sharing what he had. Jesus used the boy's gift to provide for many.

The disciples are ready to dismiss the gift of five loaves and two fish because it is not enough. Jesus demonstrates that in God's hands, what seems like not enough is more than enough. The feeding of the 5000 is an abundance miracle. Starting with just five loaves of bread and two fish, thousands of people are fed, everyone eats their fill, and 12 baskets of food are left over.

Dive Deeper Together

Read John 6:1-15 in the Deep Blue Kids Bible or "A Boy's Lunch" in the Deep Blue Bible Storybook.

OR

Read "A Boy's Lunch": One day Jesus was teaching on the side of a mountain. A large crowd of people had gathered. There were about five thousand men, plus women and children. The people had been there a long time and they were getting hungry. Jesus told his disciples to feed everyone. The disciples didn't know what to do. Then a young boy offered his lunch of five loaves and two fish. Jesus took the boy's bread, gave thanks to God, and then distributed the bread to all of the people sitting there. Jesus did the same thing with the fish. After everyone had plenty to eat, the disciples gathered up twelve baskets of leftover bread and fish. When the people saw how Jesus had used a boy's lunch to feed so many people they said, "This is truly the prophet who is coming into the world."

Grow Stronger Together

Share a meal with another family. You might invite a family to your home, or prepare a meal and take it to the family.

Pray Together

Share joys and concerns, and then say this prayer: Dear God, thank you for Jesus. Help us remember that we can share with others. Amen.

Session 9

Unit 2: Jesus, the Greatest Prophet

BV: This is truly the prophet who is coming into the world. (John 6:14)

AP: God sent Jesus to tell us about God.

A Boy's Lunch (John 6:1-15)

Jambo! Hello! I'm Mercy. Welcome to Kenya! I'm so excited to show you my home. I work hard to take care of myself, my brothers, and my sisters. You're welcome to stay and visit with us. Learn more at www.deepbluekids.com/passport.

