

INVESTIGATING GOD'S WORD...

MATTHEW 1-14 | YEAR ONE | SPRING QUARTER



SUNDAY SCHOOL CURRICULUM
FOR YOUNG ELEMENTARY CHILDREN

SS01SP-E

LESSON SEQUENCE

SPRING QUARTER

The Lesson Sequence gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter. The central goal of the *Investigating God's Word...* curriculum is to enable children the opportunity to read and study the entire Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—by the time they “graduate” from 6th grade.

LESSON ONE	Matthew 1:1–2:12
LESSON TWO	Matthew 2:13–3:17
LESSON THREE	Matthew 4
LESSON FOUR	Matthew 5:1–37
LESSON FIVE	Matthew 5:38–6:24
LESSON SIX	Matthew 6:25–7:29
LESSON SEVEN	Matthew 8
LESSON EIGHT	Matthew 9
LESSON NINE	Matthew 10
LESSON TEN	Matthew 11
LESSON ELEVEN	Matthew 12
LESSON TWELVE	Matthew 13:1–52
LESSON THIRTEEN	Matthew 13:53–14:36

SUMMER QUARTER Matthew 15–28

LESSON ONE

MATTHEW 1:1–2:12

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

WELCOME

Babies

2–3 mins.

DRILL TIME

Abraham's children

3–5 mins.

W.O.W!

Immanuel

3–5 mins.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Timeline

2–3 mins.

BIBLE

INVESTIGATION

Matthew 1:1–2:12

20–30 mins.

LESSON-AT-HOME

Matthew 1:23

3–5 mins.

OVERVIEW

This quarter's lessons will cover the first fourteen chapters of the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew 1 begins with a genealogy that connects the birth of Christ all the way back to Abraham. Jesus Christ is shown to be a human descendant of Abraham, as well as the only Son of God. From verse 18 forward, we read Matthew's brief description of the birth of Christ, which focuses mainly on Joseph's response. He is told to stay with Mary—since she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit—and name the baby Jesus, since He will save His people from their sins. Matthew also references Isaiah to teach us that Jesus is also Immanuel—“God with us.” Joseph obeys God, and the baby is born.

Matthew 2 tells the story of the Magi from the East. They come to Judea looking for the new king of the Jews, which distresses the present king, Herod. Herod plots to use the Magi to find Jesus in order to kill him. The Magi find Jesus and respond to Him as king—bowing down to him and giving him royal gifts. The LORD warns the wise men to avoid Herod in order to spare the life of baby Jesus.

PREPARATION

Read and meditate on Matthew 1-2 this week. **Use flannelgraph figures or other pictures to illustrate the lesson.**

TEACHING ENCOURAGEMENT

The incarnation of Christ is so crucial to Christianity that we must teach it to our children over and over again. We must teach our children the implications of the birth of Christ early on—not just the story itself. They need to hear how Jesus is fully God and fully man, as demonstrated by His conception by the Holy Spirit, as well as his human genealogy. They need to learn how our Savior was named Jesus to describe His central calling to save His people from their sins. They need to recognize that God also calls Him Immanuel, since He is “God with us.” Finally, they need to know baby Jesus as King—just as the Magi did. Telling the story of the birth of Christ must never become routine, and it also must never become detached from a solid Christology—a theology of who Christ is and why He was sent to us as a baby!

THE WELCOME SERVES AS BOTH AN OPPORTUNITY TO GREET THE CHILDREN AS WELL AS AN EFFORT TO HELP THEM GET FOCUSED.

EACH WEEK, YOU WILL BEGIN WITH QUESTIONS OR AN ACTIVITY THAT WILL ENGAGE THE CHILDREN AND HELP THEM THINK ABOUT GOD AND HIS WORD.

DRILL TIME GIVES THE CHILDREN THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECALL AND REHEARSE WHAT THEY HAVE BEEN TAUGHT IN THE PAST—AT HOME, SCHOOL AND/OR CHURCH.

THIS ELEMENT ALLOWS THE INVESTIGATING GOD'S WORD... CURRICULUM TO COVER MUCH MORE BIBLICAL "GROUND," SINCE TIME IS NOT EXPENDED REPEATING THE SAME BIBLE STORIES OVER AND OVER AGAIN FROM YEAR TO YEAR.



WELCOME

Greet the students. Welcome visitors.

Say: *Who here was once a baby? Do you remember what it was like to be a baby? Do you remember what the day was like when you were born? **Allow answers.** Even though you don't remember much about the day you were born, I bet your parents do! Why do you think the birth of a baby is such an exciting time? **Allow discussion.***

Babies are incredible creations! Their births bring amazing joy to parents. Pay attention to our Bible Investigation later on as we read about the birth of the most amazing baby of all time!



DRILL TIME

But first, we will move on to DRILL TIME—our weekly opportunity to review something we have learned in the past. Are you ready?

Today's questions: *Who was Abraham's son of promise? Who were Isaac's twin sons? Who was Jacob's favorite son? How many sons did Jacob have?*

Ask for volunteers or call on students.

Answers:

1. Isaac.
2. Jacob and Esau.
3. Joseph.
4. Twelve.

Say: *Last quarter, we learned a lot about Isaac, Jacob and Esau, and Joseph. This quarter, we are moving way ahead in time and in our Bibles—to the New Testament. But I don't want you to forget about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph! Without knowing their stories, you wouldn't understand the stories we will learn this quarter. Abraham was not only the father of Isaac, he is also the father of our faith. Pay close attention and you will see how important Abraham truly is.*

THE **W.O.W!** IS THE WORD OF THE WEEK. THIS ELEMENT IS INCLUDED TO HELP THE CHILDREN BUILD THEIR THEOLOGICAL AND BIBLICAL VOCABULARIES. THESE WORDS ARE VITAL TO THE CHRISTIAN'S UNDERSTANDING OF GOD AND HIS WORLD.

EACH WEEK, THE BIBLE LESSON WILL BE PLACED IN HISTORICAL CONTEXT BY USE OF A TIMELINE.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE CHILDREN LEARN HOW THE STORY OF REDEMPTIVE HISTORY FITS TOGETHER. BIBLE STORIES MUST NOT BE VIEWED AS DETACHED SCENES—THEY ARE TO BE SHOWN AS A PART OF A MUCH BIGGER PICTURE. THE TIMELINE IS A USEFUL TOOL TOWARD THAT END.



W.O.W!

Remember that each week in this class, we get to learn a new word! I love learning new words, don't you? Let's learn another one now.

*Our W.O.W! (Word of the Week) this week is **IMMANUEL**. Write the word on the board. This word is actually a name. Has anyone heard this name before?*

The name IMMANUEL means "God is with us." A long time ago the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 7) told the children of Israel that God would send them a sign of His love for them—and that sign would be a baby boy. And guess what God said this baby's name would be? That's right, IMMANUEL. God with us!

What a wonderful name! Who wants God to be with you? We all do, don't we? God has always been with His people—but in IMMANUEL, He is with His people in a very special way.

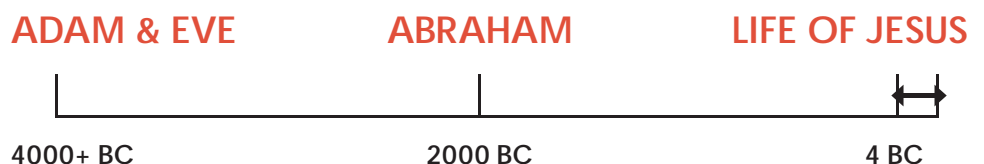
Some of you may already know who IMMANUEL is. If you don't know, we will find out His identity today in our Bible Investigation!



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Put this timeline on the board so the children can get an idea of when the stories in the Gospel of Matthew took place.

This Week's Timeline





BIBLE INVESTIGATION

THE BIBLE INVESTIGATION TIME IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF THE WEEK'S LESSON. IT PLUNGES THE STUDENT DIRECTLY INTO GOD'S WORD, NOT SIMPLY A PARAPHRASE OF A BIBLE STORY.

ALL SCRIPTURE TEXT INCLUDED IN THE CURRICULUM IS FROM THE ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION (ESV).

THE BIBLE READING IS TAKEN IN SHORT SECTIONS, SEPARATED BY TIMES OF DISCUSSION, QUESTIONS, AND APPLICATION POINTS. THIS FORMAT ALLOWS AMPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO STOP, THINK ABOUT AND DISCUSS WHAT IS BEING READ.

Have the children seated so they can see the board. Use flannelgraph figures or pictures to illustrate the lesson.

Introduction: *As I have already mentioned, we are going to move forward in our Bibles to the New Testament this quarter. The first book of the New Testament is the Book of MATTHEW. **Show the children Matthew in your Bible.** The Book of Matthew is the first of the four GOSPELS in the New Testament. A GOSPEL is a book that brings GOOD NEWS. What GOOD NEWS will we hear in the Gospel of Matthew? Let's find out!*

Read Matthew 1:1.

¹ The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Discussion: *Did you hear what the GOOD NEWS is? The gospel of Matthew tells us all about Jesus! He's the GOOD NEWS. And Matthew starts by telling us the GENEALOGY of Jesus. A GENEALOGY is simply a record of our family—names of our grandfathers, great grandfathers—as far back as we can go.*

*Listen to Jesus' GENEALOGY. **Read verses 2-5.***

²Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, Discussion: Let's stop there for a moment. We can trace Jesus' family all the way to Abraham. Remember I told you that learning about Abraham was important! Abraham is the father of our faith because he is the great-great-great....grandfather of Jesus! Jesus is a child of Abraham—by way of Isaac, Jacob, Judah, etc.

Application: *Did you know that you have a GENEALOGY too? You can ask your parents, and they can tell you who your grandparents, great grandparents, and maybe even great-great grandparents are. You each come from a long line of people, just like Jesus did!*

*Let's keep reading Jesus' genealogy. **Read verses 6-11.***

⁶and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father



THIS GREY SIDEBAR FOUND ON ALL PAGES IS FOR THE TEACHER TO WRITE NOTES AS HE OR SHE PREPARES THE LESSON.

OTHER TEACHING TIPS OR IMPORTANT EXEGETICAL INFORMATION WILL ALSO APPEAR ON THE SIDEBAR FROM TIME TO TIME.

of Solomon by the wife of Uriah,⁷ and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph,⁸ and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah,⁹ and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,¹⁰ and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah,¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

Discussion: *Some of these names may be familiar to you, especially King David and King Solomon. As you study more of the Old Testament in your lifetime, you will get to read more about all of these men who ended up being in Jesus' genealogy.*

Let's move on. **Read verses 12-17.**

¹²And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,¹³ and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor,¹⁴ and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud,¹⁵ and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob,¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Discussion: *Did you hear that? There were fourteen generations between Abraham and David, fourteen from David to the exile, and fourteen between the exile and the birth of Jesus. Isn't that interesting? Forty-two generations lived between Abraham and Jesus. That's a lot of people and a lot of time.*

Now let's read about the birth of Jesus. Read verses 18-19.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

Discussion: *Babies are supposed to come AFTER a man and a*



woman get married. But Mary became pregnant with baby Jesus BEFORE she was married to Joseph. How did this happen? [Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, since Jesus is God!] What did Joseph plan to do about this “problem.” [He planned to divorce Mary.] Joseph did not understand that Jesus was given to Mary by the Holy Spirit. He thought Jesus was another man’s baby. So he thought the best way to solve this problem was not to marry Mary after all.

Let’s see what happened next. **Read verses 20-21.**

²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.”

Discussion: What did God do to make sure that Joseph and Mary would be married? [He sent an angel to tell Joseph about the situation.] Joseph received some GOOD NEWS, didn’t he? Why was Joseph to name this baby JESUS? [The name Jesus means SAVIOR.] Already, God was telling Joseph and Mary that Jesus would be the most special baby of all time—He would be the SAVIOR of His people.

Let’s read on. **Read verses 22-25.**

²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). ²⁴When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Discussion: Did you hear our Word of the Week? Who was given the name IMMANUEL? [Jesus.] What does the name IMMANUEL mean? [God with us.] Remember that Isaiah prophesied about the coming of IMMANUEL many, many years before. Did Joseph obey the angel, marry Mary, and name his baby Jesus? [Yes!]

Application: Boys and girls, the name IMMANUEL teaches us that Jesus is not just the son of Mary, He is also the Son of God. Jesus is God with us! And, since Jesus was conceived by God’s Holy Spirit, that also shows us that He is fully God. So Jesus is the only one who is FULLY God and FULLY man. He is the GOD-MAN. He is the one sent to save us from our sins!

APPLICATION POINTS ARE WOVEN INTO THE FABRIC OF THE DISCUSSION, RATHER THAN BEING LEFT TO THE END OF THE LESSON.



*Let's now go to Chapter Two. **Read Matthew 2:1-3.***

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;

Discussion: *These wise men followed the stars and were looking for the birth of a new king of the Jews. Why did this disturb King Herod? [Because Herod was the king of the Jews!]*

*Let's see what Herod does. **Read verses 4-8.***

⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶" 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.' " ⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."

Discussion: *Do you think King Herod really wanted to find Jesus so that he could worship Him? [No!] Where was Jesus born? [In Bethlehem in Judea.]*

*Let's finish our reading for today. **Read verses 9-12.***

⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Discussion: *Baby Jesus was now in a house. What did the wise men do when they saw Jesus? [They bowed down and worshipped Him. They gave him gifts.] These gifts were truly meant for a king!*



The wise men knew Jesus was a king, and they also knew not to tell Herod about Him. We'll read more about that next time.

Conclusion: *Do you know that Jesus is your King? Do you know that Jesus is “God with you?” We will learn a lot more about Jesus as we continue reading the Gospel of Matthew. Think about how Jesus was born as both God and man. Think about how He was sent to save His people from their sins. Think of the fact that of all the babies ever born, the birth of baby Jesus was the most joyous occasion there has ever been!*



LESSON-AT-HOME

Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (Matthew 1:23) to the children.

Matthew 1:23 (ESV)

²³ “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us).

Say: *There’s our Word of the Week again. Aren’t you glad Jesus came to earth? Aren’t you glad that He is “God with us?” We all need God to be with us, that’s for sure. Without God with us there is no life at all!*

Review the verse a couple of times.

Direct the students’ attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today’s lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.

Close in prayer and dismiss the students.

THE LESSON-AT-HOME SECTION IS THE CLOSING TIME EACH WEEK. BOOKMARKS ARE GIVEN TO THE STUDENTS THAT INCLUDE THE SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE AND A LESSON REVIEW. THE LESSON REVIEW CONTAINS WORDS AND PHRASES THAT CAN SPARK MEMORIES AS WELL AS CONVERSATION WITH PARENTS.