

Investigating

God's Word...

YEAR ONE

Matthew 1-14

Sunday School Curriculum

Spring Quarter

Lesson Sequence

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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.

Week One	Matthew 1:1-2:12
Week Two	Matthew 2:13-3:17
Week Three	Matthew 4
Week Four	Matthew 5:1-37
Week Five	Matthew 5:38-6:24
Week Six	Matthew 6:25-7:29
Week Seven	Matthew 8
Week Eight	Matthew 9
Week Nine	Matthew 10
Week Ten	Matthew 11
Week Eleven	Matthew 12
Week Twelve	Matthew 13:1-52
Week Thirteen	Matthew 13:53-14:36

Summer Quarter: Matthew 15-28



Suggested Schedule

Welcome <i>Babies</i>	2-3 min.
Drill Time <i>Abraham's children</i>	3-5 min.
W.O.W! <i>Immanuel</i>	3-5 min.
Historical Context <i>Timeline</i>	2-3 min.
Bible Investigation <i>Matthew 1:1-2:12</i>	20-30 min.
Lesson-At-Home <i>Matthew 1:23</i>	3-5 min.

Lesson One

Matthew 1:1-2:12

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

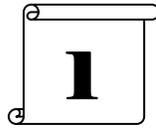
The incarnation of Christ is so crucial to Christianity that we must teach it to our children over and over again. We must teach our children the implications of the birth of Christ early on—not just the story itself. They need to hear how Jesus is fully God and fully man, as demonstrated by His conception 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.*



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 New International Version (NIV).

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 fboard. 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 A record 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.

² Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³ Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar, Perez the father of Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram, ⁴ Ram the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, Nahshon the father of Salmon, ⁵ Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, 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!*

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.

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

⁶and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife, ⁷Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa, ⁸Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father of Uzziah, ⁹Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon, Amon the father of Josiah, ¹¹and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile 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.

¹²After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel, Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵Eliud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. ¹⁷Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ.

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.

¹⁸This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind 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.

²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because 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.

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ²³ "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us." ²⁴ When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. ²⁵ But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the 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!*

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

¹ After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ² and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his

Application Points are woven into the fabric of the discussion, rather than being left to the end of the lesson.

star in the east and have come to worship him.”³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

Discussion: *What are MAGI? [Wise men.] 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.

⁴When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ⁶“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.””⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

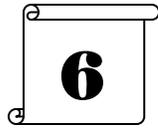
Discussion: *Do you think King Herod really wanted to find Jesus so that he could worship Him? [No!] Where was Jesus born? [In Bethlehem in Judea.]*

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

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

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

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.

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

Matthew 1:23 (NIV)

¹⁵“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him 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.