

CHRISTMAS AROUND THE WORLD

Bible Verse

On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage.
(Matthew 2:11)

Bible Story Reference Matthew 2:1-11

PowerXpress!® Bible Experience Stations®

MAIN IDEA

God sent Jesus into the world to bring peace to all people and all nations. Today Christians from around the world prepare for and celebrate the birth of God's Son, Jesus.

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit children will

- * hear and experience the story of the magi visiting the Christ child;

- * experience Christmas customs from around the world;
- * study the stars and connect to the magi as astrologers of their time;
- * create gifts to be given to children around the world;
- * create gifts to be given to the homebound or to a neighborhood food cupboard.

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Written by: Barbara Bruce

Creative Consultants: Mark Burrows, Cathy Hoop, Sandy Mabry, Meredith Siler, Charlotte Teel, Sally Wizik Wills

Editor: Larry Beman

Development Editors: Daphna Flegal, Bethany Buchholz

Production Editor: Karen Williams

Designers: Paige Easter and Samuel Flegal

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MAIN IDEA

God sent Jesus into the world to bring peace to all people and all nations. Today Christians from around the world prepare for and celebrate the birth of God's Son, Jesus.

- * create gifts to be given to children around the world;
- * create gifts to be given to the homebound or to a neighborhood food cupboard.

Photocopy these sections for ALL your volunteers:

- * Main Idea; Objectives (page 3)
- * Bible Story (page 4)
- * Bible Background for Leaders (page 4)
- * Check Your Facts (page 5)
- * Shepherd Tips; About the Children (pages 6)

OBJECTIVES

By the end of this unit children will

- * hear and experience the story of the magi visiting the Christ child;
- * experience Christmas customs from around the world;
- * study the stars and connect to the magi as astrologers of their time;

BIBLE STORY

Matthew tells us that the birth of Jesus was a world event by including the story of the magi (Gentile astrologers) who had come from the East to Jerusalem looking for the “child who was born to be king of the Jews.” They had seen a great star and followed it across countless miles to locate and worship him.

The magi stopped at the palace to ask about the birth of the new king. (A logical assumption is that a king would be born in a palace.) Their question caused great concern for King Herod as he was fearful of a rival for his throne.

Herod called upon the priests who told him the child was to be born in Bethlehem in Judea to fulfill a prophecy. Herod instructed the magi to return to him once they have located the child.

The magi did find the Christ child. They worshiped him and presented him with gifts of great value.

BIBLE BACKGROUND FOR LEADERS

The purpose of Matthew’s message is twofold: to proclaim to the Jews that Jesus was the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, and to proclaim to the world that Jesus was the Messiah.

The Christmas story is found only in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. While Luke focuses the story on Mary, Matthew has Joseph as the main character.

Matthew says that Joseph was going to divorce Mary quietly (Matthew 1:19). In those days, an unwed pregnant woman could be stoned; Joseph did not want that for Mary. An angel came to Joseph in a dream and told him Mary was pregnant by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:20).

Joseph married Mary but did not have intercourse with her until after the child was born (Matthew 1:24-25).

Matthew is the only Gospel that mentions the magi. (Luke talks about the shepherds.)

Tradition and a familiar hymn tell us there were three magi. However, no number is mentioned in Scripture. Perhaps the number “three” comes from the three gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Frankincense is an aromatic substance produced by certain kinds of pine trees. In Levitical regulations, frankincense was a key ingredient in the holy incense. The use of this incense for anything other than religious purposes was forbidden.

Myrrh is a perfume and a key ingredient in sacred oils. Myrrh and aloes were brought by Nicodemus (John 19:39) for Jesus' burial.

It is believed that it might have taken the magi as long as two years to make their journey. Matthew 2:16-18 tells us of the killing of all male children two years old and under.

CHECK YOUR FACTS

- Matthew's Gospel is the first in the New Testament and serves as a bridge from the Old Testament.
- Matthew's Gospel was written for a Jewish audience. He included many Old Testament prophecies that were fulfilled in Jesus' life and ministry. He often used phrases such as "for this is what the prophet has written," or "so was fulfilled what was said through the prophets."
- Matthew's genealogy traces Jesus through David to Abraham to give evidence of Jesus' Jewish heritage and to fulfill Scriptures in Micah 5:2 and 2 Samuel 5:2, which link the Christ with David's royal family.
- Matthew's birth narrative is focused around Joseph while Luke's Gospel focuses on Mary.
- Matthew includes the visit of the magi. No one knows exactly who the magi were, except that they represented the elite of the Gentile world. Their gifts were those fit for a king.
- The magi visited Jesus in a house. Shortly afterward, Herod ordered the execution of all children in the Bethlehem area. These facts suggest that Jesus may have been around two years old when the magi arrived.
- Most scholars agree that Matthew was a Jewish tax collector and was also called Levi.
- Messiah (Hebrew) and The Christ (Greek) both mean "The Anointed One."
- Isaiah 7:14 says: "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall call him Immanuel." *Immanuel* is a characterization, not a specific name. The word means "God with us."
- Women are mentioned in Matthew's genealogy—not a common custom.
- Betrothal was as legal as marriage and could be undone only by divorce.
- The wise men may have been Eastern astrologers, not to be linked with modern astrology (more like modern astronomers). Their visit served several purposes: to identify Jesus as a king and to affirm Bethlehem—the city of David—as the birth place of Jesus.
- Astrologers in the ancient world connected unusual phenomena in the skies as indicators of major events on earth. For example, the appearance of a major star might point to the birth of a king.

About the Children

Younger children are mostly driven by cultural norms of “I want.” Television and other media bombard them with games and toys that they “must have.” In this unit you can help the children understand that Christmas is not about toys. It is about giving yourself in response to God’s great gift to us.

Older children can begin to understand that Christmas is more than lists for Santa. Help them to understand that the great gifts the wise men brought to Jesus were a sign of honor and worship. Help them to see the need to give and not simply get.

SHEPHERD TIPS

- * Pray each week for the children under your care.
- * Model the behavior you want from the children.
- * Assist the station leader as needed.
- * Make sure the children use tools and equipment in a safe manner.
- * Talk to the church school superintendent or coordinator if you have any questions or concerns about the children in your care.
- * If your group does not use the Gathering Time activities, consider them as suggestions for discussions with the children in your group as they arrive each week.

Greet the Children

Help with nametags.

Thank the children for remembering to bring their offerings. Have the children place their offerings in the offering basket.

Take attendance. Note any children who are absent. Make plans to send absent children a note or card. Record names, addresses, and phone numbers of any children who are attending for the first time, and plan to call them or to send a welcoming card.

Read the **Talk Tips** in each of the station plans and support the station leader in helping the children explore the ideas of the unit.

Staff Meeting

Prepare

A week or so before the meeting, invite your staff to bring a gift for a child (select gender and age) to create an Operation Christmas Child box (see Science Station). Open wrap a shoe box and invite your teachers to place their items in the box as they arrive.

Make a display of the resources you will use in this unit.

Make copies of “Bible Background” and “Check Your Facts” for each staff member.

With the Staff

1. Open With Prayer

Loving God, grant us wisdom and guidance as we teach your children about the awesomeness of the birth of Jesus. Thank you for the greatest gift ever given—your Son. Help us to understand that this event affects people from around the world. Be with each of us as we celebrate your gift of Jesus. Amen.

2. Talk About a Special Gift

Invite staff members to talk about a special gift they received at any time in their lives. It should be a gift that stands out for them.

Ask: What made this gift special?

If necessary, explain that gifts given from the heart carry special meaning. When we give gifts like this, both the giver and the receiver are blessed.

Ask the group for insights from this exercise. Print their responses on whiteboard or newsprint.

3. Review Bible Background

Review the information from “Bible Background” and “Check Your Facts.”

Ask: What did you already know?

What did you discover?

4. Draw a Venn Diagram

Draw two large intersecting circles on the whiteboard or newsprint. Label one circle “Matthew,” and the other circle “Luke.”

Distribute the Bibles. Ask volunteers to read Matthew 1:18-25, Matthew 2:1-12, Luke 2:1-7, and Luke 2:8-20.

Ask: What events occurred in Matthew’s account?
Whose story was told in Matthew’s account?

Record the responses in the circle labeled “Matthew.”

Resources

Bibles

✱ *Christmas
Around the World CD*

Supplies

newsprint or

whiteboard

markers

shoe box

wrapping paper

CD player

Ask: What events occurred in Luke's account?
Whose story was told in Luke's account?

Record the responses in the circle labeled "Luke."

Ask: What events occurred in both Matthew and Luke?
Whose story was told in both Matthew and Luke?

Record the responses in the space where the circles intersect.

Ask: What parts of the Christmas story do we assume are true but are not found in the Bible? We believe these parts are true because of Christmas carols or Christmas cards (for example, three kings).
What did you already know about the Bible stories?
What did you discover?

5. Tell a Christmas Metaphor

Tell this Christmas metaphor:

One Christmas Eve a college freshman informed his parents he did not wish to go with them to Christmas Eve service, as he really didn't believe in all this Jesus stuff anyway. Being wise parents, understanding that college freshman know everything, and not caring to drag him kicking and screaming to church, they let him be.

It began snowing and, as throughout the evening, the storm grew to blizzardlike proportions. As the young man sat reading, he noticed that birds kept flying into the large picture window. He decided they were searching for safety from the storm and ignored them.

The birds flew into the window again and again. Finally, he put on his coat, hat, and boots and went out to open the barn door. This way, he thought, the birds would have a large, safe place to rest and be out of the storm. Then he went back to his warm room and book.

The birds still kept hitting the window!

Again the young man bundled up and went out into the storm. This time he turned on the lights in the barn. Then he returned to the house.

The birds still kept hitting the window.

He trudged out again and left a trail of breadcrumbs for the birds to follow. Almost immediately, the crumbs were lost in the snow. He looked up and shouted in frustration to the howling wind, "If only I could be a bird for a little while, I could lead them to safety."

At that precise moment the church bells rang. The young man stood stock still, unmindful of the cold wind and snow, and quietly said, "Now I understand."

Ask your teachers to form small groups to talk about the significance of this story.

6. Introduce the unit

Introduce the unit, the stations to be used, and the activities the children will be involved in. Talk about any details or issues related to the teaching of the unit. Explain Operation Christmas Child.

Ask if there are ways you can be helpful.

7. Sing “We Three Kings” (*Christmas Around the World CD*).

Close by singing “We Three Kings” as presented in the storytelling station. Then sing the first verse as closing prayer.

Reflection Week

Select one of the songs and activities from the Music/Movement station to begin the Reflection Week.

Prepare bags with a single item in each bag that has to do with the story. You might have straw (food for the camels), sand (for the desert), silk/velvet (for the robes of the magi), frankincense (one of the gifts), myrrh (one of the gifts), gold (one of the gifts), star (that they followed), or a crown (for King Herod or Jesus).

Ask the children to choose a bag and tell the part of Matthew’s Christmas story that is represented in the bag. (If your class size is larger or smaller, have children double up or take more than one bag.)

Divide the children into teams. Have one team draw a picture representing something from the Christmas story; the second team has three attempts to guess what part of the story is represented. If the second team guesses correctly, they get to draw the next picture.

For Younger Children

Ask the children to draw or paint a picture of their favorite part of Matthew’s Christmas Story as a Christmas Card to give to someone they love.

For Older Children

Give these instructions:

Talk with a partner about the best gift you ever received and why.

Change partners. Talk with your new partner about the best gift you ever gave and why.

Ask for insights.

Close by singing one or more of the songs from the Music/Movement Station.

Resources

* *Christmas Around the World CD*

Supplies

CD player
brown paper bags
drawing paper
pencils and markers
variety of items
(represented in the story)

GATHERING TIME

optional but highly recommended

Supplies

two Christmas trees
high back chair
large red candle
pictures of Christmas customs from other countries
map or globe
Christmas stars

Plan for the children to form groups as they arrive. Ask each group's shepherd to sit in the same area of the gathering place each week. Each group should have a different color flag, sign or carpet square for identification.

Ask the shepherds to visit with the children as they arrive, to make them welcome, and to remind them to stay with the group.

SETTING THE STAGE

Set up two Christmas trees. Place a high back chair between them. Have a large red candle on a small table. Find pictures of Christmas customs and practices in different countries. Post them all or add one each week. You may want to gather Christmas decorations from around the world as part of a display.

Read through each opening. If you complete the unit in fewer than eight weeks, decide which countries to focus on. Please make Christmas in Bethlehem your last or first week opening.

The opening will be the same each week; the country and customs will differ. The purpose of this gathering is to help children understand that Christians around the world celebrate the birth of the Christ child.

EACH WEEK

Have a map or globe available. Place a Christmas star on each country you mention to help children see that Christmas is celebrated all over the world.

Leader: *(this is the same opening each week)*

Good morning. I'm so happy you are here to learn about Christmas around the world. Each week I will light the Candle of Christ. This candle represents the light of Jesus all over our world. Everyone who believes in the light of Jesus is blessed. Each week we will discover how Christmas is celebrated in countries around the world.

Gathering Activities

Week 1

* Print the words *Buon Natale* on newsprint.

* Place an empty crèche on the table.

Say: *Buon Natale* means Merry Christmas in Italian. (Invite the children to say the words with you.)

Show the children where to find Italy on the map, and place a star there.

Ask: Do you think Santa is always a man?

Say: The children in Italy have a female Santa called Befana. She visits children on January 6. If she thinks they have been good, she leaves small presents in their shoes. If she thinks they've been bad, she leaves coal. There is a traditional story that the magi asked Befana to show them the way to the house in Bethlehem. She said she was too busy and, when she finally went to Bethlehem, the holy family had gone. To this day, Befana rides around on a broomstick looking for Jesus.

The children of Italy have a crèche (hold up a crèche) called a presepio [preh-ZEH-pyoh]. The presepio stays empty until Christmas Day, when they place the baby Jesus. Children place the presepio under a ceppo [CHEH-poh], a pyramid-type structure that is decorated with colored paper, pine cones, and candles.

Pray: Loving God, thank you for sending us the gift of your Son, Jesus. Thank you for sending him to tell the whole world about you. Help the children in Italy have a Buon Natale. Amen.

Week 2

* Print *Feliz Navidad* on newsprint.

Say: *Feliz Navidad* means "Merry Christmas" in Spanish. (Invite the children to say the words with you.)

* Show the children where to find Mexico on the map, and place a star there.

Say: In Mexico they celebrate Las Posadas [lahs poh-SAH-dahs] from December 16 through Christmas Eve. Children re-enact Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and their search for a place to stay. On the evening of December 16, two children carrying clay figures of Mary and Joseph lead a candle light procession to the home of a relative or friend. The group stops at the door, sings, and requests a place to stay. At first they are told to go away but, when the owner of the house discovers who they are, they are welcomed in. They kneel around a manger and sing songs to honor the Christ child. The children then go and break a piñata (peen-YAH-tuh).

The festivities last for nine days and end with midnight mass on Christmas Eve. Exactly at midnight the news of Christ's birth is announced with church bells ringing, whistles blowing, and fireworks. The people of Mexico return to their homes to celebrate and eat.

Pray: Celebrating God, thank you for sending us the gift of your Son, Jesus. Thank you for sending him to tell the whole world about you. Help the children in Mexico have a Feliz Navidad. Amen.

Week 3

* Print *Merry Christmas* on newsprint.

* Show the children where to find Australia on the map, and place a star there.

* Ask the children if they notice anything different about where Australia is. Explain that Australia is in the southern hemisphere, which means their seasons are the opposite of ours.

Say: Australian children celebrate Christmas in the summer! Imagine celebrating Christmas on a beach or by having a picnic or barbecue. There are boat races and other sporting events held on Christmas Day.

Christmas Around the World

Since many settlers of Australia came from England, Australians still have many of the English Christmas customs but with a bit of a twist. Instead of Christmas trees they decorate a Christmas bush that grows in Australia and has small red flowered leaves.

Ask: What do you think it would be like to celebrate Christmas in the summer?

Pray: Amazing God, thank you for sending us the gift of your Son, Jesus. Thank you for sending him to tell the whole world about you. Help the children in Australia have a Merry Christmas. Amen.

Week 4

* Print *Sung Tan Chuk Ha* on newsprint.

Say: *Sung Tan Chuk Ha* means Merry Christmas in Korean. (Invite the children to say the words with you.)

* Show the children where to find Korea on the map, and place a star there.

Say: The children in Korea hold a Christmas pageant on Christmas Eve, acting out the birth of Jesus. Then they go caroling in small groups to people in their churches. This lasts from midnight until about 5:00 in the morning. Wherever they sing, the children are invited in for snacks.

Christmas worship is followed by the baptism and reception of new members. Christmas dinner is usually served at the church. In Korea, Christmas dinner is usually a bowl of hot rice, soup, a tangerine, and a cookie.

Pray: Caring God, thank you for sending us the gift of your Son, Jesus. Thank you for sending him to tell the whole world about you. Help the children in Korea to have a Sung Tan Chuk Ha. Amen.

Week 5

* Print *Froehliche Weihnachten* in large letters on newsprint or chalkboard.

Say: *Froehliche Weihnachten* (Vie-nock-ten) means Merry Christmas in German. (Invite the children to say the words with you.)

* Show the children where to find Germany on the map, and place a star there.

Say: Christmas in Germany is very much like Christmas here. Some of our customs and carols come from Germany. The Christmas tree, gingerbread houses, and many cookie recipes come from Germany. "Away in a Manger" and "Silent Night" are carols we have gotten from Germany.

In some parts of Germany there is a belief that the Christ child sends an angel in a white robe to bring gifts to children. His name is Christkind. Children in Germany also receive gifts from a Santa-like man called Weihnachtsmann (Vie-nockts-mon), which means "Christmas man."

Traditional German stories tell us that, at midnight on Christmas Eve, cows can talk. This is to honor them for keeping the baby Jesus warm with their breath.

Many people in Germany give handmade gifts. People take a lot of time to make beautiful gifts for one another.

Pray: Gracious God, thank you for sending us the gift of your Son, Jesus. Thank you for sending him to tell the whole world about you. Help the children in Germany have a Froehliche Weihnachten. Amen.

Week 6

* Print *God Jul* on newsprint or chalkboard.

Say: *God Jul*. That's Swedish for Merry Christmas. (Invite the children to say the words with you.)

* Show the children where to find Sweden on the map, and place a star there.

Say: Christmas begins in Sweden on December 13, which is St. Lucia's Day. Lucia was a young girl who lived in Sicily hundreds of years ago. Lucia was made a saint two hundred years after she died. She believed in Christ, which back then, was against the law. She turned down a marriage proposal from a man

who did not believe in Christ. He was very angry, reported her faith to the governor, and she was killed.

How St. Lucia became so popular in Sweden is a guess. Some believe it is because Lucia appeared in a vision during a winter famine. Everyone was cold and hungry. Lucia brought food and light.

As day breaks on December 13, the oldest daughter in each house dresses up in a white robe with a red sash. She wears a crown of lighted candles. She brings cookies, sugar buns, and coffee to her family.

On Christmas Eve the children of Sweden eat a meal that lasts most of the afternoon. They then wait for "Jultomten." He is a gnome who rides in a goat-driven sleigh. He leaves presents for all good people and extra food for their animals.

Pray: Creator God, thank you for sending us the gift of your Son, Jesus. Thank you for sending him to tell the whole world about you. Help the children in Sweden have a good Jul. Amen.

Week 7

* Show the children where to find Africa on the map, and place a star there.

Say: Because Africa is such a big continent and Christians are spread throughout the nations, there are many different customs.

Christians in Ghana send Christmas cards and, like the English, they have "Father Christmas." He comes from the jungle bringing gifts. Because the climate is so different, people in Ghana decorate their homes with palm branches and beautiful flowers.

On Christmas Eve, children in Ghana sing and shout in the streets: "Egbona hee! Egbona hee! Egogo vo," which means "Christ is coming! Christ is coming! He is near." Try shouting those words with me. *(Let the children shout.)*

Later, everyone goes to church where candles are lit on a giant palm tree.

Pray: Precious God, thank you for sending us the gift of your Son, Jesus. Thank you for sending him to tell the whole world about you. Help the children in Africa have a wonderful Christmas. Amen.

Week 8

* Show the children how to find Bethlehem on the map, and place a star there.

Say: Bethlehem is where the Bible says Jesus was born. That makes Bethlehem a sacred and special place. Our Jewish and Muslim brothers and sisters think that Bethlehem is special too.

There is a church called the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. People come from all over the world to worship there, especially on Christmas Eve. The church is very small and, because so many people want to be there, they send invitations to worship. The rest of the people stand outside the church and watch the worship service on large screen televisions.

Worship begins in Shepherd's Field where it is believed that the angel spoke to the shepherds and told them to go to Bethlehem to see the baby (Luke 2:8-15). The people walk to Bethlehem and go down the stairs to the center of the church. A 14-pointed star in the floor of the church represents where Jesus was born.

Since people come from all over the world to worship here, "Merry Christmas" can be heard in many different languages.

Pray: Generous God, thank you for sending us the gift of your Son, Jesus. Thank you for sending him to tell the whole world about you. Help the children all over the world continue to celebrate the birth of your Son. Amen.

STATIONS AT A GLANCE

Stations	Focus	Preferences	Activities
<p>Art Children will learn the Bible story through art experiences.</p>	<p>Station Focus: God sent Jesus into the world to bring peace to all people and all nations. Today Christians from around the world prepare for and celebrate the birth of God's Son, Jesus.</p>	<p>Learning preference: visual physical social logical</p>	<p>Commission Art Luminaries: Lighting the Way for the Holy Family Papel Picado Field and Fountain, Moor and Mountain Yule-Log Centerpiece Stars Around the World Guiding Star Wise Men or Kings What Gift Shall I Bring?</p>
<p>Computer Children will learn the Bible story through computer experiences.</p>	<p>Station Focus: God sent Jesus into the world to bring peace to all people and all nations. Today Christians from around the world prepare for and celebrate the birth of God's Son, Jesus.</p>	<p>Learning preference: logical independent visual verbal</p>	<p>Merry Christmas Magi Crossword Fluffy and God's Amazing Christmas Adventure Play & Learn Children's Bible Astronomy Christmas in Churches Around the World Galaxy Hunter</p>
<p>Cooking Children will learn the Bible story through experiences with food preparation.</p>	<p>Station Focus: God sent Jesus into the world to bring peace to all people and all nations. Today Christians from around the world prepare for and celebrate the birth of God's Son, Jesus.</p>	<p>Learning preference: logical social verbal physical</p>	<p>Polish Mazurkas Mexican Nut Cookies German Ginger Cookies Sugar Star Cookies English Wassail Bowl Magi Mix</p>
<p>Game Children will play a series of learning games.</p>	<p>Station Focus: God sent Jesus into the world to bring peace to all people and all nations. Today Christians from around the world prepare for and celebrate the birth of God's Son, Jesus.</p>	<p>Learning preference: musical physical social independent</p>	<p>Where Is the Star? Star Scripture What Gift Shall We Bring? Piñata Shelter Search Game First Foot Game Catching Stars</p>
<p>Music Children will learn the Bible story through musical experiences.</p>	<p>Station Focus: God sent Jesus into the world to bring peace to all people and all nations. Today Christians from around the world prepare for and celebrate the birth of God's Son, Jesus.</p>	<p>Learning preference: physical social verbal</p>	<p>Star Music Song of the Camels Bilingual Buddies Heart Beats The Gift of Music What's Shakin' With Shekeres? Steel Drum Band</p>
<p>Science Children will learn the Bible story through science experiences.</p>	<p>Station Focus: God sent Jesus into the world to bring peace to all people and all nations. Today Christians from around the world prepare for and celebrate the birth of God's Son, Jesus.</p>	<p>Learning preference: logical physical verbal visual social</p>	<p>Constellation Lamps Brownies in a Jar Operation Christmas Child My Own Planetarium Star Time Line</p>
<p>Storytelling Children will retell the Bible story.</p>	<p>Station Focus: God sent Jesus into the world to bring peace to all people and all nations. Today Christians from around the world prepare for and celebrate the birth of God's Son, Jesus.</p>	<p>Learning preference: verbal visual social</p>	<p>The Legend of the Poinsettia The Legend of Old Befana Melchior's Story We Three Kings Kings or Magi</p>
<p>Video Children will hear and see the Bible story.</p>	<p>Station Focus: God sent Jesus into the world to bring peace to all people and all nations. Today Christians from around the world prepare for and celebrate the birth of God's Son, Jesus.</p>	<p>Learning preference: visual verbal social independent</p>	<p>Starlight Escape How the Grinch Stole Christmas (Dr. Seuss) How the Grinch Stole Christmas Nicholas: The Boy Who Became Santa Select Your Own Video</p>

Resources	Plan Ahead Supplies		
<p>Bibles art prints of the visit of the magi <i>The Children's Bible in 365 Stories</i>, by Mary Batchelor Christmas Around the World CD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> mural paper or foam core board or plywood <input type="checkbox"/> paper (see station) <input type="checkbox"/> prints of artwork <input type="checkbox"/> string and tape <input type="checkbox"/> needle and thread <input type="checkbox"/> heavy duty stapler <input type="checkbox"/> assorted materials (see station) <input type="checkbox"/> colored self-drying clay <input type="checkbox"/> rolling pin and cookie sheets <input type="checkbox"/> knitting needle and red yarn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> thin-colored ribbons <input type="checkbox"/> cooling racks <input type="checkbox"/> star-shaped cookie cutters <input type="checkbox"/> table coverings <input type="checkbox"/> bowls <input type="checkbox"/> salt <input type="checkbox"/> paints/brushes (see station) <input type="checkbox"/> small box for each child <input type="checkbox"/> white chalk <input type="checkbox"/> fabric scraps, sequins <input type="checkbox"/> glue, glitter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> logs, evergreen pieces, pine cones, and holly <input type="checkbox"/> small Christmas decorations <input type="checkbox"/> hot glue and glue gun <input type="checkbox"/> ribbon <input type="checkbox"/> paper lunch bags <input type="checkbox"/> sand and straw <input type="checkbox"/> candles (see station) <input type="checkbox"/> wax <input type="checkbox"/> straw <input type="checkbox"/> colored tissue paper
<p>Bibles <i>The Children's Bible in 365 Stories</i>, by Mary Batchelor <i>Crossword Studio: Bible Edition</i> CD-ROM or other crossword software <i>Fluffy and God's Amazing Christmas Adventure</i> CD-ROM <i>The Play & Learn Children's Bible</i> CD-ROM <i>Kid Pix Deluxe 4</i> CD-ROM card-making software word-processing software</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> computer with Internet access <input type="checkbox"/> word processing software <input type="checkbox"/> construction paper <input type="checkbox"/> computer paper <input type="checkbox"/> printer <input type="checkbox"/> chalk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> colored construction paper or posterboard <input type="checkbox"/> gold foil paper <input type="checkbox"/> prints of artwork <input type="checkbox"/> black marker <input type="checkbox"/> string and tape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> glitter <input type="checkbox"/> heavy paper <input type="checkbox"/> envelopes <input type="checkbox"/> globe or world map
<p>Bibles</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> ingredients (see station) <input type="checkbox"/> chalk <input type="checkbox"/> gold foil paper star <input type="checkbox"/> black marker <input type="checkbox"/> string and tape <input type="checkbox"/> jelly roll pan <input type="checkbox"/> cooling rack <input type="checkbox"/> cookie sheets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> electric mixer <input type="checkbox"/> margarine <input type="checkbox"/> waxed paper <input type="checkbox"/> bowls <input type="checkbox"/> mixing spoons <input type="checkbox"/> cookie cutters <input type="checkbox"/> star cookie cutter <input type="checkbox"/> storage bag 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> spices <input type="checkbox"/> cheesecloth <input type="checkbox"/> large pot <input type="checkbox"/> cups and napkins <input type="checkbox"/> ladle <input type="checkbox"/> measuring spoons and cups <input type="checkbox"/> rolling pin
<p>Bibles Christmas Around the World CD</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> construction paper or posterboard <input type="checkbox"/> chalk <input type="checkbox"/> gold foil paper star <input type="checkbox"/> black marker <input type="checkbox"/> string and tape <input type="checkbox"/> kazoo's or noise makers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> posterboard <input type="checkbox"/> markers <input type="checkbox"/> timer/watch/clock <input type="checkbox"/> yardstick <input type="checkbox"/> stapler <input type="checkbox"/> strong twine <input type="checkbox"/> chair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> star piñata or heavy white paper, and ribbons <input type="checkbox"/> broom handle <input type="checkbox"/> wrapped candy <input type="checkbox"/> masking tape
<p>Bible Christmas Around the World CD Christmas Around the World sheet music and lyrics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> CD player <input type="checkbox"/> tape recorder <input type="checkbox"/> blank audio <input type="checkbox"/> cassette <input type="checkbox"/> 2 sets of index cards (each set a different color) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> scissors <input type="checkbox"/> construction paper <input type="checkbox"/> rubber mallets <input type="checkbox"/> rubber bands <input type="checkbox"/> empty plastic bottles <input type="checkbox"/> metal cans (see station) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> thread
<p>Bibles books about stars and constellations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> prints of artwork <input type="checkbox"/> colored construction paper or posterboard <input type="checkbox"/> chalk <input type="checkbox"/> gold foil paper star <input type="checkbox"/> black marker <input type="checkbox"/> string and tape <input type="checkbox"/> map of constellations <input type="checkbox"/> frankincense, myrrh <input type="checkbox"/> aluminum cans <input type="checkbox"/> newspapers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> nails and hammers <input type="checkbox"/> black spray paint <input type="checkbox"/> candles <input type="checkbox"/> quart jars <input type="checkbox"/> ingredients for brownies (see station) <input type="checkbox"/> fabric <input type="checkbox"/> ribbon <input type="checkbox"/> printed directions (see station) <input type="checkbox"/> Samaritan's Purse information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> adult-sized shoe boxes <input type="checkbox"/> wrapping paper <input type="checkbox"/> tape <input type="checkbox"/> black paper <input type="checkbox"/> sharpened pencils <input type="checkbox"/> glue <input type="checkbox"/> flashlights <input type="checkbox"/> pinking shears <input type="checkbox"/> rulers <input type="checkbox"/> clay <input type="checkbox"/> items for box (see station)
<p>Bibles <i>The Legend of the Poinsettia</i>, by Tomie dePaola <i>The Legend of Old Befana</i>, by Tomie dePaola Christmas Around the World CD "We Three Kings" lyrics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> red poinsettia plant <input type="checkbox"/> paper <input type="checkbox"/> markers <input type="checkbox"/> cinnamon <input type="checkbox"/> applesauce <input type="checkbox"/> glue <input type="checkbox"/> bowl, spoon <input type="checkbox"/> waxed paper <input type="checkbox"/> rolling pin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> star cookie cutter <input type="checkbox"/> drinking straw <input type="checkbox"/> cooling rack <input type="checkbox"/> ribbon <input type="checkbox"/> Bible-times costumes <input type="checkbox"/> paper towel tube <input type="checkbox"/> bag of coins <input type="checkbox"/> frankincense, myrrh <input type="checkbox"/> globe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> white plastic garbage bags <input type="checkbox"/> crepe paper streamers <input type="checkbox"/> glitter, glue, feathers, sequins <input type="checkbox"/> gold foil paper star <input type="checkbox"/> colored construction paper or posterboard
<p>Bible <i>The Nativity Story</i> DVD Starlight Escape™ from <i>The Storykeepers Collection</i> DVD or VHS <i>How the Grinch Stole Christmas</i> (Dr. Seuss's version) video or DVD <i>How the Grinch Stole Christmas</i> DVD (Jim Carrey version) <i>Nicholas: The Boy Who Became Santa</i> video</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> television <input type="checkbox"/> VCR <input type="checkbox"/> DVD player <input type="checkbox"/> video recorder <input type="checkbox"/> chalk <input type="checkbox"/> colored construction paper or posterboard <input type="checkbox"/> gold foil paper star <input type="checkbox"/> black marker 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> tape <input type="checkbox"/> paper/pencils <input type="checkbox"/> newsprint and markers or chalkboard and chalk 	

RESOURCES

These resources
may be ordered through
Cokesbury (800-672-1789)
and other Christian bookstores
or online through
www.cokesbury.com
(unless noted otherwise).

Storytelling Resources

- ❑ 9780399216923 **The Legend of the Poinsettia**, by Tomie dePaola. \$17.99.
- ❑ 9780152438173 **The Legend of Old Befana**, by Tomie dePaola. \$7.00.
- ❑ 9780745930688 **The Children's Bible in 365 Stories**, by Mary Batchelor. \$19.99.

Music Resources

- ❑ **Christmas Around the World** (compact disc, 9780687074136, \$10.50).
- ❑ **Christmas Around the World sheet music**
- ❑ **Christmas Around the World lyric transparencies**

Computer Resources

- ❑ 705381321798 **Kid Pix Deluxe 4** CD-ROM. \$25.00.
- ❑ **Word-processing software**. Available at your local computer store.
- ❑ **Card-making software**. Available at your local computer store.
- ❑ X514743 **Fluffy and God's Amazing Christmas Adventure** CD-ROM. \$25.00.
- ❑ **The Play & Learn Children's Bible** CD-ROM. \$15.00. Order from www.sundaysoftware.com.

- ❑ X513909 **SFW Crosswords and Word Search** CD-ROMs (set contains **Crossword Studio: Bible Edition** CD-ROM). \$28.00. (Or use other crossword software.)

Video Resources

- ❑ **"Starlight Escape" from The Story Keeper's Collection** (DVD or VHS). Check your church library or public library.
- ❑ X532560 **Nicholas: The Boy Who Became Santa** (DVD) by CCC of America. \$14.99.
- ❑ **How the Grinch Stole Christmas** (Dr. Seuss cartoon version; available from video rental stores or public libraries).
- ❑ 9780783261119 **How the Grinch Stole Christmas** (Jim Carrey version) (DVD). \$19.99.
- ❑ 9780780656703 **The Nativity Story** (DVD). \$14.96.

(Prices subject to change without prior notice.)

Resources are constantly changing and going out of print. Websites are also constantly changing. Although all websites were checked at the time this unit was developed, you should double-check each site to verify that it is still live and that it is still appropriate for children before using it in an activity.

Go to **www.powerxpress.com** for any updated information and alternative activities.