

Glenview New Church Sunday Morning Program
Preschool Lessons, Phase 2 – Lesson 15
Flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15)

Theme: Christmas-Herod

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The Lord's coming was the most important thing that ever happened.
- B. The Lord came into the world to teach people how to be good and to show us who He is and what He is like.
- C. Many people were evil, and few remembered how to be good. If the Lord had not come into the world, mankind would have destroyed itself.
- D. King Herod represents the love of self.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduction

- 1. The Lord was born on earth a long time ago. He came to teach people how to be good. Why? Because people forgot how to be good, and many of the people were being very bad.
- 2. One man who was very wicked was King Herod. He was King of the Jews. When the Lord was born, people thought He would be the new king, because He is the King of heaven and earth. So Herod wanted to kill the baby Lord. He hated him.
- 3. Do you remember the story of the wise men? Do you remember how they followed a special star to Jerusalem looking for the baby Lord? Then they asked King Herod where they could find the baby. Herod sent them to Bethlehem, and the wise men found the baby Lord and gave Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Herod asked the wise men to tell him where the baby Lord was. He pretended that he wanted to come and worship the Lord. He really wanted to kill Him! But an angel told the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod. And Herod was very angry when they didn't come back.
- 4. Today we are going to learn how the baby Lord was hidden from Herod. Let's read the story from the Word.

B. Tell/Read the Story

- 1. Tell the story of the escape to Egypt, Matthew 2:13-15.

Preschool Sunday School Lessons: Phase 2 – Lesson 15

C. Ideas to Discuss

1. Where was the baby Lord born? (In Bethlehem) Who was the Lord's mother? (Mary)
2. Who was Mary's husband? (Joseph. But remember Joseph was not the Lord's father.)
3. Who followed the star to find the baby Lord? (The wise men)
4. Who was the king when the Lord was born? (Herod)
5. Why did Herod want to kill the baby Lord? (Because he thought the Lord would be king instead of him.)
6. An angel appeared to the wise men and warned them not to tell Herod where to find the baby Lord. But Herod knew that the Lord was in Bethlehem. So the Lord couldn't stay in Bethlehem.
7. Who appeared to Joseph in a dream? (An angel) What did the angel tell Joseph to do? (Take the young child and His mother to Egypt and stay there until the angel tells him to come back.)
8. Did Joseph take the baby Lord and His mother to Egypt? (yes) Did they travel during the day or night? (Night)
9. They stayed in Egypt until Herod died.

D. Further Ideas

1. The baby Lord came onto the earth so that He could grow up and teach people how to be good. People like Herod were so bad that they wanted to kill the baby Lord. They didn't want people to learn how to be good. But the angel told Joseph and Mary how to keep the Lord safe.
2. Herod was a selfish man. That means that he thought about himself instead of other people. Sometimes we are like Herod. We think about what we want. We don't care what other people want. We don't want to obey our parents. And we don't want to be nice to our brothers and sisters. When we are being like Herod, we should listen to the angel warning us about selfishness. We should run away from those selfish ideas. For a selfish person cannot go to live in heaven. And the Lord wants us all to go to heaven so we can be happy!

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "Away in a Manger," *Hymnal* #245.
2. "Father in heaven," *Hymnal* #152.

B. Activities

1. Let's have all the boys pretend to be Joseph sleeping at night. In a dream you see an angel warning you to take the baby Lord and His mother to Egypt!
2. Now the girls can pretend to be Mary holding the baby Lord. Listen as Joseph tells you that an angel warned him to take you far away from Herod the king. Quickly pack up some things to take with you!

Preschool Sunday School Lessons: Phase 2 – Lesson 15

3. Let's start the Journey to Egypt far, far away. It is nighttime. Don't let anyone see you leaving. We don't want Herod to follow us. Joseph walks leading the donkey. Mary carries the baby Lord. She can ride on the donkey when she is tired.
4. When you reach Egypt, you are safe from Herod the king. (Have the children sit down). You stay in Egypt until you hear that Herod is dead. Then you go back to your old home. And the Lord grows up and teaches people how to be kind and good!

C. Project - Mary and Joseph Take the Lord to Egypt

1. Materials Needed

- a. Black construction paper
- b. Oil pastels (or brightly colored scraps of paper)
- c. Text slip (or write the text on the page with silver or gold ink)
- d. Glue sticks
- e. Silver stars

2. Motivation

- a. It is very dark out. There are stars in the sky.
- b. Can you make a picture of Joseph and Mary traveling to Egypt to keep the Lord safe from Herod?

3. Procedure

- a. Children make Mary, Joseph and the baby Lord with oil pastels (or by tearing colored paper for a more abstract picture). Discuss how to show that the baby Lord is special by using glitter or white or yellow oil pastel around him.
- b. Put stars above them in the sky.
- c. Glue on text slip (unless the teacher has written it in silver or gold at the top of the page).

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Pictures of the baby Lord with Mary and Joseph.
- B. Pictures of the wise men visiting the Lord.
- C. Pictures of King Herod.
- D. Pictures of the flight to Egypt.

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's *Bible Study Notes*, Vol. 4, "The Visit of the Wise Men," pp. 257-272.
- B. *The Sower*, Vol. IV, "The Wise Men," pp. 17-21.