



# GOD PROTECTED JESUS

Preschool-K • #NT4 • December 22, 2024

## Concept

God takes care of His children.

## Goal

Children will learn that God gave Jesus parents to protect Him so He could grow up and do God's work. They will be encouraged to thank God that He has given them families to take care of them so they, too, can grow up to do God's work.

## Passage

Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Key Verse: "God will protect you from evil." Psalm 121:7

## Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p><b>Activity Station:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 or 3 hand puppets</li> <li>• Drawing paper, 1/child</li> <li>• Markers/Crayons</li> </ul> <p><b>Lesson:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The Praise Bible, Mack Thomas</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Intro/Learning Activity #3:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Laminated magnet-backed pictures:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Herod</li> <li>◦ Joseph</li> <li>◦ Mary &amp; Jesus on a donkey</li> <li>◦ Angel</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Learning Activity #1:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction paper die-cut paper doll strip of three people, 1/child</li> <li>• Various colors of cardstock printed w/hearts w/key verse, 1 sheet/child</li> <li>• Scraps of construction paper</li> <li>• Ribbon</li> <li>• Glue sticks</li> <li>• Markers/Crayons</li> <li>• Scissors</li> </ul>

### \*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the shaded areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

# Background Information/Teacher Helps

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"Jesus came to earth and became fully man. God Himself entered the human race as a baby who was born in Bethlehem. He did not make just a momentary appearance, but actually became flesh as we are, subjecting Himself to time and space, experiencing human conditions, living as a man who experienced the normal physical and intellectual development of human beings. Luke 2:40 tells us that He "continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom . . ." He laid aside His glory, voluntarily restraining His power, accepting all of the physical and spiritual conditions of life on earth--physical and emotional pain, spiritual temptation, hardship, isolation, hostility, ill-treatment, misunderstanding and finally, death...

"Jesus' divine identity as God, His character, wisdom, purity, and motives remained perfectly intact, but He voluntarily relinquished the independent use of His divine attributes and His extra-dimensional capacities. He accepted all the needs, weaknesses, desires, sufferings and trials of human life apart from sin (or sinning)."[1]

As with each of us, Jesus was subject to all the dangers and evil inherent in a fallen world. God had work for Jesus to do and protected Jesus from evil so He could grow up and do God's work. Through the agency of human parents, Mary and Joseph, God protected His Son through childhood. In the same way, He gave each of us parents to protect us so that we can grow up and do His work.

[1] "Christology," Xenos Christian Fellowship Christian Principles, 1994-95: Unit #1, Week #10.

## Set Up

The week before class – Read the lesson and pray for the Spirit to give you a burden for what He wants to teach the children.

## Incorporation Lg. Group

### Activity Station:

- **Puppets**
  - **Instructions:** Use the puppets to role play situations with the children in which one puppet protects or takes care of another.
- **Baby Care**
  - **Instructions:** As children arrive ask them what kind of care a baby needs. Have them draw pictures of what a baby needs and share the pictures with each other. Some suggestions: binkie, mommy, daddy, bed, food, house, blanket, diapers, etc.

## Introduction Lg. Group

### Rhyme – Clippety Clop

- **Instructions:** Use the laminated figures to illustrate this rhyme as you say it with the children. Have the children pretend to ride on a donkey, bouncing up and down.

Clippety Clop

Clippety Clop

This family is on the run

Clippety Clop

Clippety Clop

God takes care of His children

You all have someone to help keep you safe—a mommy or daddy, grandma, grandpa or maybe a babysitter. Grown-ups take care of you, make your meals and make sure your car seats are fastened. (Or suggest other ways caregivers keep children safe.)

Today we're going to talk about how God took care of Jesus when He was a little boy. God is Jesus' father, and He wanted to keep Jesus safe because He loves Jesus just like your parents love you! God takes care of all His children, even mommies and daddies.

### "The Wise Men"

**Instructions:** Read the story on pages 242-252 of The Praise Bible. After you are finished with the story, follow with the gospel message and prayer below.

Jesus grew up and His special work was to teach people that God loves everyone and wants us to be His children. We aren't God's children because we make bad choices called sin. We sin when we disobey our parents or hurt our friends. Jesus never made bad choices. He never sinned, not even once.

## Lesson Lg. Group

**Lesson  
Lg. Group  
Continued**

But He died on the cross to take the punishment for our sin so we can be God's children. We become His children when we tell Him we are sorry for our bad choices and tell Him we want to be His child.

Let's pray and thank God that He protected Jesus so He could grow up to teach us that God loves everyone and wants us to be His children. Let's thank Jesus that He was willing to die on the cross so we can be God's children. He wants you and me and everyone to be His children.

**Transition**

Let's make a craft to remind us that God gave us families to keep us safe so we can grow up to do God's work. God protects all His children, even adults like your mommies and daddies.

**Learning  
Activity#1  
Lg. Group**

**Craft – Paper People**

**Instructions:** Give each child a strip of 3 paper people and a cardstock sheet w/printed heart. Glue the people to the cardstock. Use the provided materials to dress two people to each represent an adult God has given to protect the child. Make the third person themselves. Color a background on the cardstock paper that reminds them of a time these people protected them.

**Transition**

Let's get into our small groups to talk and pray.

**Learning  
Activity#2  
Sm. Groups**

Today we're talking about how God protected Jesus and wants to protect us, too. Sometimes God uses our parents to take care of us.

- How did God take care of baby Jesus?
- Did God use Mary and Joseph to protect Jesus?
- How does God take care of all of His children?
- Can you think of times when your parents protect you?

Let's thank God that He takes care of His children so we can grow up like Jesus and do God's work.

**Learning  
Activity#3  
Lg. Group**

**God Protected Jesus**

**Instructions:** Tell the story to the children and have them put the laminated pictures on the white board as you tell it.

When Jesus was born some people knew he was a very special baby. A really mean king named Herod was one person who knew Jesus was special. He didn't want Jesus to grow up and be king because he was the king. He sent his soldiers to find Jesus to kill him!

## Learning Activity #3 Continued

Do you think God knew what Herod was up to? Of course! God knows everything. God was always watching over Jesus, just as he watches over all of you!! The Bible tells us that God takes care of His children. God took care of Jesus. He kept Jesus safe.

One night an angel of God went to talk to Joseph, Jesus' daddy here on earth. The angel had a message from God. He said to Joseph, "Get up! Take Mary and Jesus and go to a place called Egypt (teacher's helper should trace the route from Bethlehem to Egypt on the atlas map). Stay there until I tell you to come back. It's not safe here. King Herod wants to kill Jesus!" Joseph woke up, and he woke Mary and Jesus. They quickly gathered the things they would need for the trip and put them on their donkey. It was still night when they started traveling to Egypt, and they had to be very quiet – shhh! – so they wouldn't wake the neighbors. They did not want anyone to know where they were going. Let's say our rhyme again together:

Clippety Clop  
Clippety Clop  
The angel told Joseph to GO  
Clippety Clop  
Clippety Clop  
He gathered his family and so...  
Clippety Clop  
Clippety Clop  
This family is on the run  
Clippety Clop  
Clippety Clop  
God takes care of His children

Clippety clop, clippety clop, they walked all night long and finally arrived in Egypt. They knew they would be safe in Egypt because this was where God told them to go. Mary and Joseph knew that "God will protect you from evil." They stayed in Egypt until God's angel said, "Get up! It's safe. The mean king Herod has died. You can go back to the land of Israel now." Do you think Joseph trusted God's angel? Did he obey? Yes! Joseph did what the angel said, and clippety clop, clippety clop, they started walking back to Israel.

They were on their way to Bethlehem when the angel told Joseph that Herod's mean son had just become king! Oh no!!! The angel said that Bethlehem still wasn't safe so they were to go to another city, Nazareth instead. This was where God wanted Jesus to grow up, and so He did.

## OUR PARENTS PROTECT US

### Bible Guy Skit – #NT4

**Bible Guy:** Hi, I'm Bible Guy. Mrs. Bible Guy and I were cleaning out our attic yesterday and we found a lot of things from when we were kids.

**Mrs. Bible Guy:** They helped us remember some things we did... and some things our parents wouldn't let us do.

**Bible Guy** (with swimming prop): These made me remember the time my brothers and I were swimming in the Sea of Galilee. They went out where it was deep and I wanted to go, too, but my dad told me I was too little. I was really mad because it seemed like he never let me do the fun things they were allowed to do. Have you ever felt that way at the pool or something? But now I understand that he was keeping me safe because I didn't know how to swim.

**Mrs. Bible Guy** (with sheet): This reminded me of the time my friends and I were going to jump off the roof and use this as a parachute. Doesn't that sound like fun? Our parents made us come down so we never did get to see if the parachutes worked. We were very disappointed. But now I know that a sheet wouldn't work as a parachute. We could have really hurt ourselves. Our parents protected us.

**Bible Guy** (with vase): This is the vase I got at the market with my mom. I remember that day because I really got in trouble. Someone I didn't know asked me if they could buy me a treat so I went with them. I wasn't that far away from my mom and I really wanted that treat. I couldn't understand why my mom was so upset. She made me stay inside the whole of the next day. She said it was to teach me never to go anywhere with anyone I don't know, even if they seem really nice or want to get me something I really want. Now I'm glad she taught me that. It shows me that she loves me.

**Mrs. Bible Guy:** Do you ever feel like your parents are always saying "no?" Do you wonder why they tell you not to do things sometimes?

**Bible Guy:** While we were looking at all this stuff, we learned something about God. We learned that God gave us parents to keep us safe. The Bible says that God wants us to obey our parents so that things go well with us and we can live a long time. We need to obey our parents because that is one way God protects us. He uses our parents.

**Mrs. Bible Guy:** We are very thankful for our parents and thankful to God for giving them to us... which reminds me, we're supposed to be at my mother's for lunch. We better be going!