

Three Christmas Lessons that Include Crafts for Christmas Tree Ornaments

LESSON 1

Preparing for Christmas:

Wrap a box full of treats and the craft in several layers of gift wrap or Newspaper. Each layer has a section of the chapter on it. Cut out portions from Luke chapter one introducing John the Baptist and as you wrap the box, tape a portion of the story beginning with the end, so that it's read in order as you open the gift. (See the separate pdf for suggested abbreviated verses regarding John's birth.)

Play "hot potato" where the gift is passed from person to person, and the person who has it when the Christmas music stops reads the portion of verse on the box. Then, that person unwraps that layer. (optional--have a layer be newspaper for "good news!") Continue so that each student gets at least one turn to read and unwrap the gift. This will take several layers, so be prepared for it to take awhile. (It also takes awhile to wrap the box--and remember to wrap from the end of the verses to the beginning verse!)

Point out that as much as we have been waiting for the gift to be revealed, the people of Israel have been waiting for the Messiah, the Christ...and now, John is just the one to prepare the way for the Christ. Yet, he is necessary. LORD, prepare our hearts for your coming.

The following craft and snack for this lesson should be inside the gift box.

Lesson 1: "Good News" Newspaper Craft (John The Baptist's Birth)

1. Depending upon the age and ability of the children, either cut out hearts ahead of time or else have them trace and cut out hearts. These can be brown construction paper, but I had some paper with rocks on it, so I used that to show the hardness of our hearts (and Zachariah's unbelieving heart) and the necessity of the LORD to prepare us for His coming.
2. Print the following verse onto labels to decorate the back of the hearts: **"The angel answered and said to him, 'I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.'" (Lu 1:19 NAS95)**
3. Cut out newspaper hearts for the front of the heart and write "Good News"
4. Decorate the front with markers, stickers or other embellishments.
5. Using a hole punch, add string to make this into a tree ornament.
6. Add the ornaments to the Christmas Tree.

As they work, read from the end of chapter 1 in Luke--starting in verse 67, Zacharias's account.



The angel answered and said to him,
"I am Gabriel, who stands in the
presence of God, and I have
been sent to speak to you and to
bring you this good news."
(Luke 1:19)



Lesson 2: Create a two-sided chain with the following scriptures

Show the prophecy in the Old Testament and the fulfillment in the New Testament

DIRECTIONS:

1. Print the verses on two-toned construction paper (see separate pdfs) OR print on white paper, and let them add patterns to decorate each side of the paper. (NOTE: Check the direction your printer prints to make sure that it prints correctly.)
2. Read each of the verses and notice that Matthew is quoting Isaiah--showing the fulfilled prophecy.
3. Cut along the dotted lines and loop and staple the strips to make a chain.
4. Because the Old and New Testament verses are so similar, you can reverse the colors to create a pattern or do all one color and maintain the integrity of the verse(s). (Note that some strips are blank on one side to account for the variance between the Old and New Testament verses.)
5. Connect the chains together and then use the contrasting loop to chain all of the chains together.
6. Decorate with the finished chains.

1st set of scriptures:

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel." (Isa 7:14 NAS95)

"BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, **"GOD WITH US."** (Mt 1:23 NAS95)

2nd set of scriptures:

"But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity." (Mic 5:2 NAS95)

"AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL." (Mt 2:6 NAS95)

3rd set of scriptures:

"But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed." (Isa 53:5 NAS95)

“and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.” (1Pe 2:24 NAS95)

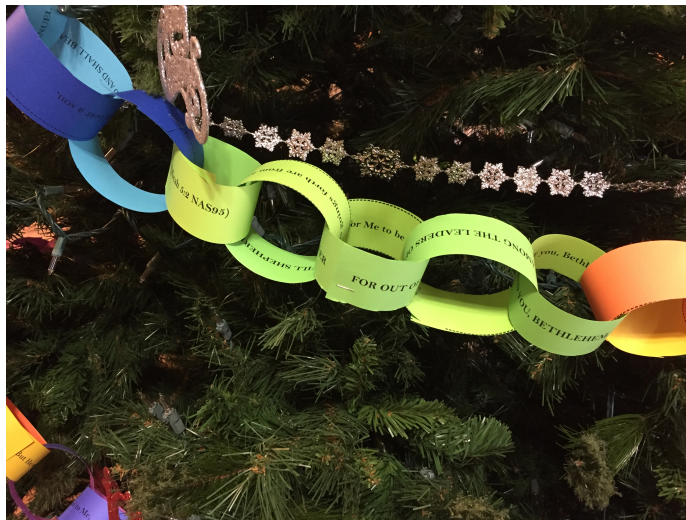
4th set of scriptures:

“I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.’” (Ps 2:7 NAS95)

“And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers,” “that God has fulfilled this *promise* to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, ‘YOU ARE MY SON; TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.’” (Ac 13:32-33 NAS95)

Contrasting loop (we used a metallic color so that it would stand out):

“Oh, that we may know Him!” (We hand wrote it, because the size wouldn’t fit in the printer.)



Point out that seeing the fulfillment of the prophesy in the New Testament isn't the goal. To actually KNOW Jesus Christ is the goal. Consequently, we connect all of the prophecies with the accounts in the New Testament in the hope of knowing Him Who is the fulfillment of all.

Lesson 3: 2-sided “Good News Shoe” with jingle bell laces

Read Matthew 2:1-12 of the three wise men who traveled to find Jesus, the King of the Jews and Herod who pretended that he also wanted to find Jesus. For Herod, Jesus was NOT good news. For Herod, Jesus was a threat to his kingdom and his government.

Review last week’s lesson, and suggest that as we know Him and His life, we will automatically receive and share the Good News.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Give each student a two-sided shoe
2. Color with crayon, marker or colored pencil.
3. Fold the paper at the heel of the shoe so that it is two-sided showing the Old Testament verse on one side and the New Testament quote on the other.
4. Using a jingle bell on a cord as a lace, have them lace their shoes.
5. Decorate with the finished Good New Shoes.

“How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"” (Ro 10:15 NAS95)

“How lovely on the mountains Are the feet of him who brings good news, Who announces peace And brings good news of happiness, Who announces salvation, *And* says to Zion, "Your God reigns!"” (Isa 52:7 NAS95)

Pray that we would receive and share the good news!

