



Growing in the Anglican Faith

**STUDENT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**2 WEEK CHRISTMAS CURRICULUM**

**TEACHERS' GUIDE**

*Imprimatur: + William Bower, SSC, Episcopus,*

*Diocese of the Eastern United States*

## Anglican Christmas 1 & 2 Curriculum

This Anglican Christmas lesson supports teachers in guiding students in Grades 3–8 through the sacred celebration of the Nativity of our Lord. Christmas invites us to rejoice in the mystery of the Incarnation—God the Son taking on human flesh for our salvation.

This curriculum offers a simple but rich structure for presenting the Christmas story with clarity, reverence, and joyful engagement. Lessons are Scripture-centered (NKJV), easy to adapt, and designed to help students understand both the biblical narrative and the meaning of Christmas within the Anglican tradition.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Weekly Scripture reading (NKJV)
- Story summary for teacher presentation
- Discussion questions for Grades 3–5 and Grades 6–8
- Weekly memory verse with age adaptations
- Optional crafts with complete instructions
- Journaling or reflection prompts for older students.

### TEACHING NOTES:

- Begin with the Opening Routine found at the front of the curriculum.
- Read the Scripture beforehand, have the students read the noted scriptures in class (if you have older students – ask for volunteers to read), and retell the story in their own words (with teacher's assistance).
- Guide students to reflect on the meaning of the Lessons.
- Encourage reverence, wonder, and joyful participation.
- Close each class with prayer and review of the memory verse.

Christmas is a season of joy and promise. As you teach, invite students to consider how Christ's birth reveals God's love and how we respond to this gift in our daily lives. May this lesson deepen their faith and help them celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

For questions or support in using this Anglican Lesson Plan, please contact: Linda Simmen — Christian Education & Curriculum Development • [stpatricksresources@gmail.com](mailto:stpatricksresources@gmail.com) • (321) 222-3947.

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# CHRISTMAS 1 & 2 Sunday School Teacher Guide

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Grades 3rd–8th | Imprimatur: + *William Bower, SSC, Episcopus, Diocese of the Eastern United States, Anglican Catholic Church*

## TEACHER PREPARATION

Before teaching the week's lesson, teachers need to read the Lesson Scripture so that they can tell the story and lead the discussion. Use an NKJV Bible or the same Bible version used in class.

## OPENING ROUTINE

### 1. Pledge of Allegiance

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

### 2. The Lord's Prayer (Anglican Version)

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen.

### 3. Opening Prayer (Anglican)

Heavenly Father, we gather today with open hearts and minds to learn about your love and grace, as revealed through your Son, Jesus Christ. Open our ears to hear your word, guide our understanding, and fill our hearts with the Holy Spirit, that we may grow in faith and live as your children. Amen.

## CLOSING ROUTINE

### 1. Have students clean up all projects and put everything away.

### 2. Closing Prayer (Anglican)

Heavenly Father,

We thank You for the time we've spent together learning about Your love and grace. Thank You for the lessons we've heard, the stories we've shared, and the friendship we've built today. Help us to carry these lessons with us, and may we continue to grow in faith, hope, and love.

Bless each of these students, their families, and our church community. Guide us through the week ahead and help us to live out the teachings of Your Word in all that we do. As we leave this place, may Your peace go with us. Keep us safe, and may we always remember to walk in the light of Your love. We ask this in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

## **OVERVIEW OF THE CHRISTMAS I AND CHRISTMAS II SEASONS**

The Christmas Season in the Anglican tradition is not just one day — it extends for twelve days, beginning on Christmas Eve and running through Epiphany (January 6). Within this joyful stretch, the Church observes Christmas I (the First Sunday after Christmas) and Christmas II (the Second Sunday after Christmas, when it occurs). These Sundays help the Church continue celebrating the mystery of the Incarnation — *God made man in Jesus Christ*.

Throughout Christmas I and II, the emphasis remains on joy, light, incarnation, and the glory of Christ's birth, reminding us that the miracle of Christmas continues far beyond December 25th.

## **THE SAINTS' FEAST DAYS WITHIN THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS**

The Church also commemorates several significant feast days during this season — each adding depth and meaning to our Christmas worship:

December 26 – St. Stephen, Deacon and Martyr

The first Christian martyr, St. Stephen, reminds us that the joy of Christ's birth is paired with the call to faithful witness—even unto sacrifice.

December 27 – St. John the Apostle and Evangelist

St. John, “the disciple whom Jesus loved,” wrote the Gospel of deep divine love and the Epistles that proclaim, “*God is love*.”

December 28 – The Holy Innocents

We remember the children killed by Herod in his attempt to destroy the Christ Child—an important reminder that Jesus entered a world in need of rescue and redemption.

January 1 – The Circumcision of Jesus Christ

This feast marks Jesus' naming and circumcision on the eighth day, fulfilling the Law and beginning His earthly obedience that brings us salvation.

These feast days remind us that the Christmas Season is rich with both celebration and reflection, joy and solemn devotion.

## LITURGICAL COLORS

During Christmas I and Christmas II, the color of the altar and vestments are:

✧ White or Gold

These colors represent:

- Joy
- Purity
- Light
- The divinity of Christ

White and gold beautifully convey the radiant glory of the Incarnation.

## THE CRÈCHE (NATIVITY SCENE)

The Nativity Scene remains prominently displayed in the church throughout the entire Christmas Season, from Christmas Eve until Epiphany (January 6).

Keeping the crèche in place throughout this period reminds us:

- The Feast of the Nativity lasts *twelve full days*, not just one.
- The Magi have not yet arrived — their coming is honored on Epiphany.
- The mystery of the Incarnation is worthy of extended celebration and contemplation.

Many churches even move the wise men gradually closer to the manger during these weeks as a visual reminder of the journey and anticipation.

## THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS I AND II

These Sundays help the church:

- Continue proclaiming the wonder of Christ's birth.
- Reflect on how God entered our world in humility.
- Explore the "Word made flesh" through Scripture.
- Transition from the Nativity toward the revelation of Christ to the nations on Epiphany

They serve as a peaceful, joy-filled continuation of the greatest message ever told:

"And the Word was made **flesh and** dwelt among us."

# CHRISTMAS I — WEEK 1

Teachers: Begin class with the Opening Routine located at the front of this document.

## THE BIRTH OF JESUS ANNOUNCED TO JOSEPH

Scripture (NKJV Reference Only):

*Matthew 1:18–25*

### LESSON OVERVIEW FOR TEACHERS

This lesson focuses on Matthew 1:18–25, where Joseph learns through the angel that Mary will give birth to Jesus, the Savior. Joseph is called to trust God completely and obey even when the situation is confusing or difficult.

Students will learn:

- Jesus' birth is God's plan for salvation.
- Joseph shows courage, kindness, and obedience.
- God is faithful to His promises.
- Mary and Joseph both participated in God's great plan.
- Christmas celebrates God coming to be *with us*, Emmanuel.

### KEY TEACHING TIPS BY AGE GROUP

#### Grades 3–4

- Focus on Joseph's kindness and obedience.
- Keep explanations simple.
- Emphasize "Jesus is Emmanuel — God with us."

#### Grades 5–6

- Discuss Joseph's dilemma and how God helped him understand His plan.
- Explore how God keeps His promises.
- Invite questions and short written reflections.

#### Grades 7–8

- Discuss Matthew's emphasis on prophecy fulfillment.
- Explore themes of courage, righteousness, and God's intervention.
- Invite deeper thinking: *How would I respond if God asked me to do something difficult?*



## SCRIPTURE READING

Have a student or teacher read Matthew 1:18–25 (NKJV or the Bible used in class).

Key highlights for teachers to stress:

- Mary is expecting a child through the Holy Spirit
- Joseph is troubled and unsure what to do.
- The angel appears in a dream.
- Jesus is named by command of God.
- Prophecy: “They shall call His Name Emmanuel, God with us.”
- Joseph obeys immediately.

## MEMORY VERSE (NKJV)

“They shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”

— *Matthew 1:23*

## KEY TRUTHS

- Jesus is Emmanuel — God with us.
- God keeps His promises.
- Joseph obeyed God even when things were confusing.
- Jesus’ birth was part of God’s plan of salvation.
- God is present with His people today, just as at Christmas.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Grades 3–4

1. How do you think Joseph felt before the angel came to him?
2. What message did the angel give to Joseph?
3. Why is the name “Emmanuel” important?
4. How can we obey God as Joseph did?

### Grades 5–6

1. Why was Joseph planning to quietly end the engagement with Mary?
2. How does this story show God’s love and protection?
3. What does this teach about trusting God when we don’t understand something?
4. How does Jesus being “God with us” change Christmas for us?

### Grades 7–8

1. What does Joseph’s reaction reveal about his character?
2. How does Matthew show that Jesus fulfills Old Testament prophecy?
3. Why was it important for Joseph to name Jesus?
4. What does “God with us” mean in your life today?

### CRAFT / ACTIVITY OPTIONS

Provide at least one simpler option for younger students and one deeper option for older students each week. You do not have to do all of these in one class—choose what best fits your group and time.

#### 1. “Emmanuel — God with Us” Ornament Craft

Students make a simple ornament with the name “Emmanuel.”

Materials:

- Cardstock circles
- Ribbon/yarn
- Gold/silver markers
- Hole punch
- Stickers (stars, nativity)

Steps (All Ages):

1. Write “Emmanuel — God with Us” on the front.
2. Decorate with stars or nativity symbols.
3. Add Bible reference: Matthew 1:23
4. Punch a hole & tie ribbon to hang.
5. Grade Adaptations

#### Grades 3–4:

1. Pre-written verse strip optional
2. Use stickers instead of hand-drawing details.
3. Sentence starter: *“Jesus is with me.”*

#### Grades 5–6:

1. Students add one place they want to remember God is with them (home, friends, school)
2. Add small nativity/star symbols.

**Grades 7–8:**

1. Add a back panel: *“How does it change my life that God is with me?”*
2. Students include full-verse reference and a short personal reflection.

**2. Angel Appearing to Joseph – Mini Scene**

*A simple image of Joseph sleeping & the angel appearing in a dream.*

Materials:

- Printed outline sheet
- Crayons/markers
- Optional cotton for “clouds”
- Glue sticks

Steps:

1. Color Joseph and the angel.
2. Add cotton around angel as clouds/light.
3. Label: “The angel told Joseph Jesus would be born.”

Grade Adaptations

**Grades 3–4:**

1. Teacher may pre-trace outlines
2. Scripted caption line to copy.

**Grades 5–6:**

1. Add speech bubble or scroll: *“Do not be afraid.”*
2. Simple background (Bethlehem or star)

**Grades 7–8:**

1. Add Scripture reference: Matthew 1:18–21
2. Reflection line at bottom:  
*How is God guiding me like He guided Joseph?*

### 3. Prophecy & Fulfillment Foldable (Older Emphasis but can scale down)

Connect Isaiah's prophecy → Matthew's fulfillment.

Materials:

- Cards: "Isaiah 7:14 / Matthew 1:23" •
- Scripture printouts •
- Markers

Steps:

1. Read both scriptures.
2. Match prophecy to fulfillment.
3. Create a foldable: Prophecy → Fulfillment.

#### Grade Adaptations

##### Grades 3–4:

- Teacher reads aloud; students glue matching cards.
- One-line takeaway: *"God keeps His promises."*

##### Grades 5–6:

- Students write a short summary in their own words.
- Add a small drawing of a manger/star.

##### Grades 7–8:

- Full foldable chart:
  - *What was promised?*
  - *How did God fulfill it?*

#### Why does it matter today?

### 4. Immanuel Candle – "God with Us"

Materials:

- Tea light/paper cup
- Tissue paper
- Glue
- Ribbon/yarn
- Verse strip

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- Gold/Silver pens

Steps (All Ages):

1. Wrap candle with tissue like stained glass.
2. Add ribbon or yarn.
3. Attach verse: “God with us.” — Matthew 1:23
4. Add prayers/people they want God near.

### Grade Adaptations

#### Grades 3–4:

Focus: *Jesus is near me.*

- Add star sticker + simple prayer.

Grades 5–6:

- Add inner note: “*Jesus be with me in...*”
- Optional path line (home–school–friends)

Grades 7–8:

- Full verse strip + reflection written inside cup.
- Symbol choices: path, star, road, manger
- Reflection: *Where do I need to remember God is with me?*

### 5. Reflection Journaling (Grades 7–8 Only)

Scripture: *Matthew 1:23 — “God with us.”*

Prompt:

What does “God with us” mean in my daily life?

Writing Guidance:

5–7 sentences minimum

Include one place I feel God close.

Include one place where I struggle to remember His presence.

**COLORING PAGE**



# JOSEPH'S DREAM

**Complete Closing Routine**

## CHRISTMAS 2 – WEEK 2

### GOD GUIDES AND PROTECTS HIS PEOPLE, CALLING THEM TO TRUST AND OBEY—EVEN WHEN THE PATH IS UNCERTAIN.

Scripture (NKJV Reference Only):

*Matthew 2:13–23*

### LESSON OVERVIEW FOR TEACHERS

This lesson explores Matthew 2:13–23, when Joseph receives a dream from God instructing him to take Mary and Jesus and flee to Egypt.

Students will learn:

- God’s protection
- Listening to God
- Joseph’s courage and obedience
- Fulfillment of prophecy
- God’s presence in scary moments

### TEACHING TIPS BY AGE GROUP

#### Grades 3–4:

- Focus on God’s protection and Joseph listening to God.
- Use simple language.
- Hands-on activities and shorter discussions.

#### Grades 5–6:

- Discuss trusting God when unsure.
- Introduce prophecy fulfillment.
- Encourage deeper questions.

#### Grades 7–8:

- Explore leadership, obedience, and biblical themes.
- Reflect on discernment and God’s guidance today.

## SCRIPTURE READING:

Read or summarize Matthew 2:13–23

- An angel appears to Joseph in a dream, warning him that King Herod plans to harm Jesus.
- Joseph obeys immediately and takes Mary and Jesus to Egypt to keep them safe.
- The Holy Family remains in Egypt until Herod dies, fulfilling God’s promise spoken through the prophets.
- Herod orders the killing of young children in Bethlehem, bringing great sorrow to the region.
- After Herod’s death, an angel again guides Joseph in a dream to return to Israel.
- Joseph is warned once more and settles his family in Nazareth, where Jesus grows up.

## MEMORY VERSE

*“The Lord will keep you from all harm — He will watch over your life.” — Psalm 121:7*

Shorter option for Grades 3–4:

*“The Lord will watch over you.” Psalm 121:7*

## KEY TRUTHS

- God protects His people.
- Joseph obeyed God quickly.
- Jesus fulfilled God’s promises.
- God guides us through Scripture, prayer, and the Holy Spirit.
- God is with us during fear or uncertainty.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

**Grades 3–4:**

1. Why did the angel appear to Joseph?
2. What did Joseph do when he woke up?
3. How does God keep you safe?

**Grades 5–6:**

1. Why was immediate obedience important?
2. How does this story show God fulfilling promises?
3. When have you had to trust God?

**Grades 7–8:**

1. What does Joseph teach us about faithful leadership?



2. How does this connect to Israel's history?
3. How can we discern God's guidance today?

## **CRAFT & ACTIVITY OPTIONS**

Provide one activity for younger students and one for older students or choose based on available time.

### **1. "Follow God's Guidance" Compass Craft**

A visual reminder that God guides us, like He guided Joseph.

#### **Materials (per student)**

- 1 circle of cardstock (about 4–5 inches wide)
- 1 smaller circle of cardstock or paper (about 2–3 inches wide)
- 1 paper arrow (cut from cardstock)
- 1 brad (paper fastener)
- Markers or colored pencils
- Pencil
- Optional: stickers (stars, crosses, etc.)

#### **Teacher Prep**

- Pre-cut large and small circles OR trace circles and let older students cut them.
- Pre-cut arrow shapes (simple long triangle or arrow) for younger grades.
- Pre-poke a small hole in the center of each circle and arrow (easier for brads).

#### **Age Adaptations**

##### **Grades 3–4:**

- Pre-cut shapes; copy words from board; simple symbols like stars/footprints; one phrase: "God guides me."

##### **Grades 5–6:**

- Add N–S–E–W letters; write short Psalm 121:7 line on top; add simple arrows or star path.

##### **Grades 7–8:**

- Full compass with directions; add reflection line on back:
  - "Where do I need God's guidance?"; connect Joseph's obedience to choices today.

#### **Step-by-Step Instructions**

1. Introduce the idea: God guided Joseph; God guides us.
2. Write keywords: "Trust – Obey – Pray – Listen – God Guides Me."
3. Decorate background with rays/stars, leaving center clear.
4. Label directions (optional older): N–S–E–W to show God guides everywhere.

5. Add a verse: “The Lord will keep you from all harm. – Psalm 121:7”
6. Assemble: small circle → arrow → brad through center.
7. Spin & reflect: “God, help me to (trust/obey/listen/pray).”
8. Closing: Joseph followed God’s direction; we can too.

## **2. Holy Family Travel Map**

Helps students see the real places involved in Jesus’ early life.

### **Materials (per student)**

- Simple printed map (Bethlehem, Egypt, Nazareth labeled)
- Pencils
- Markers or colored pencils
- Ruler (optional)
- Optional: stickers (stars, footprints, arrows)

### **Teacher Prep**

- Print a simple map: Bethlehem, Egypt, Nazareth.
- For younger students: keep it large and uncluttered.

### **Age Adaptations**

#### **Grades 3–4:**

- Label places only; draw star at Bethlehem and footprints to Egypt; write “God was with them.”

#### **Grades 5–6:**

- Add arrows and color-coded paths (blue escape / red return); word bank: trust, danger, journey.

#### **Grades 7–8:**

- Add scale or distance note; symbols for danger/travel; reflection: “Where is God leading me in my life?”

### **Step-by-Step Instructions**

1. Introduce journey: Bethlehem → Egypt → Nazareth.
2. Label places.
3. Star at Bethlehem.
4. Blue line: Escape to Egypt.
5. Red line: Return to Nazareth.
6. Add symbols (footprints, arrows, tent, star).
7. Extension by grade level.
8. Closing: God was with the Holy Family every step.

### **3. Prophecy & Fulfillment Matching Activity**

Especially good for 5th–8th graders.

#### **Materials**

- Index cards or cardstock rectangles
- Two colors (Prophecy / Fulfillment)
- Pens/markers
- Envelope or paper clip (optional)

#### **Teacher Prep**

- Write short verses or paraphrases on cards.

#### **Age Adaptations**

##### **Grades 3–4:**

- Teacher reads cards; copy or glue matches; takeaway: “God keeps His promises.

##### **Grades 5–6:**

- Sort OT vs. NT; glue into foldable chart; sentence starters: God promised / Jesus fulfilled.

##### **Grades 7–8:**

- 3-column chart (prophecy / fulfillment / why it matters); discussion: God’s plan vs. coincidence.

#### **Step-by-Step Instructions**

1. Introduce prophecy & fulfillment.
2. Divide cards.
3. Sort into OT and NT.
4. Match pairs.
5. Check matches aloud.
6. Discussion (older).
7. Optional foldable chart.

### **4. Journaling Reflection (Older Students – 6th–8th)**

More of a spiritual practice activity than a craft.

#### **Materials**

- Journals or lined paper
- Pens or pencils
- Optional: decorative tape or borders

#### **Teacher Prep**

- Write 1–2 prompts on the board.

**Age Adaptations**

- Grades 3–4: (Optional alternate activity) Draw themselves with Jesus near; dictate a sentence: “God is with me.”
- Grades 5–6: One paragraph (3–5 sentences); prompt: “How can I listen to God like Joseph?”
- Grades 7–8: Full reflection (5–7 sentences); prompt: “Where do I struggle to trust God’s guidance?”

**Step-by-Step Instructions**

1. Quiet space / candle.
2. Read prompt aloud.
3. Silent writing.
4. Optional sharing.
5. Closing reminder: Joseph listened; we ask God to help us do the same.

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## JESUS' JOURNEY TO EGYPT

Complete Closing Routine