

Lesson 1 / December 6, 2009

Fasten Your Seatbelt

for use as

STEP 1

Lesson 1 Focus:

Christ's birth was promised long ago.

Lesson 1 Bible Basis:

Micah 5:2; Isaiah 7:14;
9:6; John 8:56, 58

Your students will learn how Christ's birth was foretold through many prophecies in the Bible.

Supplies needed:

- a computer with Internet access (optional)

Our faith is based on fulfilled prophecies. There are at least 333 prophecies about Jesus in the Bible, and Jesus fulfilled them all. So what exactly is a prophecy? A prophecy is spoken or written communication from God, often but not always of a predictive nature. A true and reliable prophecy is 100 percent accurate. We have all kinds of people making predictions that don't come true and making promises that they cannot keep. The Bible warns us about false prophets, and there are plenty around us. Today, God communicates to us through His Word, but before Jesus, God spoke through prophets.

Lee Strobel, in his book *The Case for Christ*, gives a great example for the probability of just eight of the Old Testament prophecies being fulfilled in any one person. He says,

“Imagine the entire world covered with white tile that is one-and-a-half inches square—every bit of dry land on the planet—with a gold star painted on the bottom of just one of the tiles. Then picture a person being allowed to wander for a lifetime around all 7 continents. He would be permitted to bend down and pick up a single piece of tile. What are the odds it would be the one tile with the gold star on its reverse side? One chance in a hundred million—the same as 8 of the Old Testament prophecies coming true in any one person throughout history!”

Josh McDowell is a brilliant defender of the faith and teaches in a unique way. He begins by asking everyone to fasten their seatbelts and turn on their minds, because he has a lot of rich information and he speaks fast. Make sure your students are prepared to pay attention, or they will miss important points. Download and watch the following video:

[<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCXgh6oReSg>]

If your classroom does not have Internet access, go to the following website before class and print out a copy of the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled:

[<http://www.100prophecies.org/page2.htm>]

Read these prophecies to your class and then answer the following questions.

Lesson 1
Memory Verse

In the beginning was
the Word, and the
Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

—John 1:1

- ▶ What is your impression of the prophecies presented in the video (or from the list of prophecies read to the class)?
- ▶ Which prophecies stand out the most? Why?
- ▶ How do God's promises compare to the world's promises?

It is mind-boggling when we consider how many biblical prophecies have been fulfilled. Today we are going to search the Scripture for prophecies surrounding the birth of Jesus.

(Continue on to Steps 2 and 3 in your *Upper Elementary Teacher's Guide*; your Step 4 appears below.)

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Fasten Your Seatbelt

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STEP 4

Lesson 1 Focus:

Christ's birth was promised long ago.

Lesson 1 Bible Basis:

Micah 5:2; Isaiah 7:14;
9:6; John 8:56, 58

Supplies needed:

- index cards for each student
- pens or pencils

We are going to play a game called "Two Truths and a Lie." Give an example about yourself first. For example, "I bungee jumped when I was 17." "I was a spelling-bee champion when I was in 6th grade." "I love ham and marshmallow sandwiches." Have your students guess which items are true and which item is a lie.

Next, have your students think of two truths and one lie about themselves. Have each student write down their three items and put their name on the index card, not making any distinction between the truths and the lie. Collect the cards and mix them up. Have a student draw the first card and read the items. Continue reading the cards and guessing which item is the lie for each student.

In real life it is often difficult to distinguish between facts and fiction or truths and lies. We are told many things in the media that are half truths or outright lies.

Discuss:

- ▶ **What are some of the lies we get in the media?** (*If we buy a certain product, we will be popular, happy, etc.*)
- ▶ **What tools can we use to distinguish between truths and lies?** (*Biblical truth, logic, evidence, etc.*)
- ▶ **How do we know the Bible is true?** (*Historical evidence, fulfilled prophecy, archeological evidence, eyewitness accounts recorded in historical documents that have stood the test of time, etc.*)

Lies are like broken promises because we count on what we are told and then get hurt or disappointed when we find out the truth.

- ▶ **Do you remember a time when you were promised something important and it didn't work out? Describe what happened.**
- ▶ **What are promises that have been kept that you are thankful for?**

Lesson 1
Memory Verse

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the Word, and the
Word was with God,
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—John 1:1

Our faith is centered on promises that are kept and facts that are trustworthy. We can trust God's Word, and the more we study, the more we can back up our faith with facts. Let's make a commitment to continue to unravel the richness found in the Bible.

Close with prayer.

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