

# LESSON PLAN

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Lesson Number: 120

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Level: Grades 4-6

Text/Story: **A LETTER FROM DAD**  
 Matt 1:21; 2:1-15; John 16:27

Main idea: God really loves us! He gave His best, His son Jesus so that we might have eternal life.

Key Verse: John 3:16

Time	Activity	Description
	Pre-Lesson Activity Broken Heart Puzzle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut a large red heart from red paper</li> <li>• Cut the heart up in pieces, puzzle style (as many as possible)</li> <li>• When the class comes in, tell them about your broken heart that needs fixing and ask students to put the pieces together</li> <li>• Tell them the lesson will be the best love story in the world</li> </ul>
	Lesson Pantomime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Materials: costumes (bathrobes, scarves, etc.), fake beards, props</li> <li>• Act out the story of Christ's birth as a whole class</li> <li>• Assign the part of the narrator and parts (i.e., Mary, Joseph, Herod, wisemen, etc.)</li> <li>• As the story in Matthew 2 is narrated, each character will act out his/her part</li> <li>• Rehearse and do a run</li> <li>• Option: Record on video tape or invite a primary class to the performance</li> </ul>
	Post-Lesson Activity 1 Crafts	<p>Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• decorate plain Christmas shaped cookies with icing and sprinkles</li> <li>• Christmas ornaments</li> <li>• create own Christmas cards with a Christian message</li> </ul>

Time	Activity	Description
	Post-Lesson Activity 2  Quiz Game	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Divide class into teams</li><li>• Ask each side a question from the Quiz sheet</li><li>• If answer is correct, the team gets a point; team that has the most points at the end wins</li><li>• Option: Wrap up a bag of Christmas candies/favours in many layers of newspapers or scrap paper/fabric and each team gets to unwrap a layer if it answers correctly; the team that gets to the bag of candies first gets first picks</li></ul>

## Christmas Quiz Questions (Based on Matt. 2:1-23)



1. Where was Jesus born?
2. Who ruled Judaea at the time Jesus was born?
3. Where did the wise men come from?
4. Why did the wise men come to Jerusalem?
5. How many wise men were there?
6. What did Herod tell the wise men to do when he heard that Christ will be born?
7. What were 3 of the presents the wise men brought to Jesus?
8. What did God tell the wise men to do?
9. Where did Joseph take Mary and Jesus when God warned him about Herod?
10. What did Herod do when he heard that the wise men had gone home?
11. When did Joseph take his family back home?
12. Which city did Joseph and Mary settle when they returned to Israel?



## LESSON PLAN

**TITLE:** A Letter From Dad/God's Love

**TEXT:** Matthew 1:21; 2:1-15; John 16:27

**MAIN IDEA:** When God sent Jesus, he sent the very best that He had, because of His great love for us. God's love is the driving force of His actions throughout history, and is the heart of our Christian faith. This love is the key to the relationship between God and man.

**OPENER:** Ask the students how they would feel if someone asked them to give away the best thing that they have. Would they do it? Why or why not? If they gave away their best thing, and the recipient rejected it, how would they feel? Explain to them that God's gift to us is Jesus, the very best that he has. (See short story, "Heaven's Best")

or

Bring a catalog from a toy store or a major department store to class. Have the kids go through it, cutting out the best things they can find in the catalog. Explain to them that all of these things will wear out and lose their newness, but that God's gift of Jesus will never grow old, wear out, or lose value. Jesus' love is the best gift one could possibly get for Christmas, or at any other time.

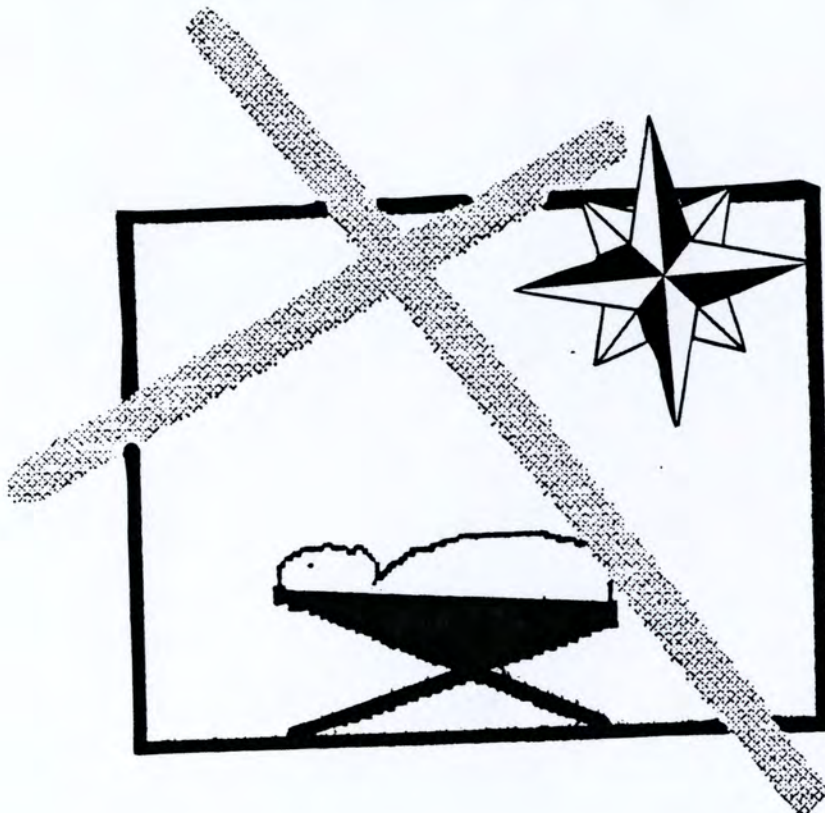
**LESSON:** Tell the story, using a shadow box and silhouettes of the main characters. (see **shadow box idea page**.) Emphasize that God's love, and His gift of Jesus is for all people every where. The wisemen were not Jewish but they looked diligently for Jesus, and when they found him they rejoiced. Have you ever considered what they might have felt in their hearts when they realized that they had found God's special gift? The Bible says they rejoiced with exceeding great joy!

### **APPLICATION:**

- 1.) Have a celebration with your class, celebrating God's love, and His gift of Jesus.
- 2.) Have your students make Christmas cards that tell the recipient the story of God's love.
- 3.) Ask a friend to dress up as a wiseman and come to your classroom at a pre-arranged time. Allow the students to interview the wiseman. (For question ideas, see **Interview With a Wiseman**.)
- 4.) Since God gave us His best when gave us Jesus, have the class come up with an idea for giving their best to someone else. This might be an ongoing class or department project that the students could work on for a few minutes each Sunday. Some examples: bring cookies and cheer to the local nursing home, put together a care package for a needy family or for the kids at a local youth shelter, or put on a skit for the pre-school department.

## HEAVEN'S BEST

Have you ever wondered what it must have been like in Heaven when it was decided that Jesus was to go to Earth to live and die for our sins? Just imagine, God knows that a price must be paid for our sin. He knows that either we must die, or a perfect, sinless sacrifice must be made to replace us. He loves us so much that He wants the very best for us, so He begins to search through all of Heaven and Earth to try to find this perfect sacrifice. As he looks, His eyes light upon His son, His only son, and he realizes that this son, Jesus, is the best that Heaven can offer. Upon this realization a choice must be made. Should He allow Jesus to be sacrificed for us? Jesus, God's perfect son, for you and I, what kind of trade off is that? Yet, He chose us. God knew that Jesus would be born in a stable. He knew that he would live 33 short years, and die an extremely painful and humiliating death on a cross, but he chose to send him anyway. God loved us enough to send his very best.



## SHADOW BOX

To make a shadow box you will need:

- 1 medium sized picture frame (1'x1.5' works nicely)
- enough light weight, white or off-white fabric to cover the frame. (for a night scene you might try experimenting with a lightweight blue fabric.)
- a staple gun or glue gun
- a heavy duty flashlight or lamp. (A clamp-on, adjustable desk lamp works well for this.)
- two coat hangers (optional)

Staple or glue the fabric around the inside of the frame so that the opening is covered with fabric. Make a stand out of the coat hangers by taking them apart and reshaping them into two matching triangles that attach to the sides of the frame. (I was able to do this using one coat hanger, cut in half.) Place the flashlight or lamp behind the shadow box so that it shines through the front, making a screen for your silhouettes.

To use your shadow box, you can tape the silhouettes to the back side of the screen with clear tape. Just take them off and re-attach them to the screen as needed. You might also try turning them into finger puppets or popsicle stick puppets.

The sample silhouettes on the next few pages are for the story of the wisemen. They work best when cut out of black construction paper. You might want to put red or orange tissue paper in the Myrrh jar, and yellow tissue paper in the star.







## WORD SEARCH

In the wordfind below, draw a box around the words that help to describe what *love is*. Draw a circle around the words that help to describe what *love is not*.

Love is — PATIENT, KIND, REJOICES IN THE TRUTH, PROTECTS,  
TRUSTS, HOPES, PERSEVERES

Love is not — ENVIOUS, BOASTFUL, PROUD, RUDE, SELF-SEEKING,  
EASILY ANGERED, KEEPING A RECORD OF WRONGS,  
DELIGHTING IN EVIL.

LOVE

A	L	U	Q	E	N	V	I	O	U	S	T	J	Y	D
K	E	E	P	I	N	G	A	R	E	C	O	R	D	E
X	B	A	Q	N	O	F	W	R	O	N	G	S	B	L
P	O	S	D	Z	R	O	D	K	I	N	D	C	E	I
K	A	I	R	L	H	B	F	M	R	T	X	E	Z	G
T	S	L	P	S	A	O	D	A	N	B	W	A	C	H
W	T	Y	Q	V	J	B	P	E	K	I	C	R	Q	T
P	F	A	M	S	O	L	I	E	S	S	L	O	K	I
R	U	N	K	T	U	T	Q	X	S	N	V	E	H	N
O	L	G	Q	I	A	D	J	U	H	C	H	H	I	G
T	P	E	J	P	R	O	U	D	L	T	T	W	G	I
E	I	R	P	G	U	Z	T	F	N	U	R	Y	N	N
C	H	E	X	R	N	S	Y	I	R	Z	U	D	I	E
T	T	D	G	H	O	H	S	T	M	B	S	C	K	V
S	T	E	M	Z	R	E	V	Y	B	I	T	G	E	I
Y	F	S	W	U	C	V	C	H	N	E	S	D	E	L
R	U	D	E	I	M	G	J	T	F	O	M	S	S	L
U	R	L	O	K	N	E	F	X	S	B	O	A	F	E
X	U	J	P	E	R	S	E	V	E	R	E	S	L	N
K	E	D	E	Y	S	O	F	P	G	F	Q	O	E	V
R	W	V	L	E	P	B	Q	Y	C	O	R	L	S	W

LOVE

LOVE

LOVE

## INTERVIEW WITH A WISEMAN

You are a newspaper reporter and a wiseman has just entered your office.

It's your job to interview him for tomorrows  
SPECIAL EDITION.

Write down your questions and answers in the space below.

Here are some sample questions to get you started:

1. Why were you and your companions looking for a special star?
2. How did you know that the star you saw was the star you were looking for?
3. How did you feel when you saw Jesus?

