

GLENVIEW NEW CHURCH SUNDAY MORNING PROGRAM
Primary Lessons: Phase 1 – Lesson 3
The Birth of the Lord (Luke 1:26-28,31; 2:4-16,20)

NOTE: This Sunday School lesson has been adapted for this issue of New Church Vineyard Magazine, omitting some discussion ideas and the lengthy mobile project. The full version can be found in the issue on the Glory of the Lord (published December 2002).

I. Underlying Ideas for the Teacher

- A. The Lord was born at night when it was dark, representing the ignorance at the time.
- B. If the Lord had not come into the world, mankind would have destroyed itself.

II. Story Circle

A. Introduction

- 1. Do you remember how Zacharias found out that he and Elizabeth were going to have a baby whom they would name John? (The angel Gabriel came to Zacharias and told him.)
- 2. In our story today, the angel Gabriel brings the same kind of news to someone else.

B. Tell/Read the Story

- 1. Read aloud Luke 1:26-28,31; 2:4-16,20.
- 2. You may need to explain the following as you're reading:
 - a. Swaddling cloths (not "clothes"): strips of cloth wrapped around an infant (See attached project description for more details.)
 - b. Inn: like a motel— a place you can stay and sleep when you're away from home
 - c. Manger: wooden box for holding food for animals such as cows, donkeys, sheep
 - d. Multitude of the heavenly host: a huge crowd of angels

C. Ideas to Discuss

- 1. Who came to Mary and told her that she was going to have a baby? (The angel Gabriel)
- 2. What was she supposed to name the baby? (Jesus)
- 3. Who came with Mary to Bethlehem to be registered? (Joseph)
- 4. Why did Mary have to lay her baby in a manger? (Because there was no room for them in the inn)
- 5. Who else heard the news that the Lord was born? (The shepherds)
- 6. Who told them? (An angel of the Lord)

Primary Sunday School Lessons: Phase 1 – Lesson 3

7. After the angels went away, what did the shepherds decide to do? (To go to Bethlehem and see Jesus)
8. While the shepherds returned to their fields, what did they do along the way? (Glorified and praised God for everything they had heard and seen)

D. Further Ideas

1. The Lord had to come into the world to teach people how to be good so they could go to heaven.
2. Only a few people were ready to hear that the Lord was born. The shepherds were ready because they were kind and good, so they welcomed the angel's news.
3. When we are selfish, we have no room in our hearts for the Lord, just as there was no room for Him at the inn.
4. On the first Christmas day, the Lord gave us the greatest gift of all. Can you guess what it was? (Himself!)

III. Enrichment Activities

A. Music

1. "Away in a manger," *Hymnal* #206.
2. "Children, can you truly tell," *Hymnal* #201.
3. "O come, little children," *Hymnal* #203.

B. Activities: FLANNEL BOARD

1. Give felt pieces (lambs, shepherds, Mary, Joseph, donkey, manger, baby Jesus, stable animals) to children and have them add their pieces to the flannel board at "the appropriate time as you tell/read the story.

C. Project

1. Stained Glass Window
 - a. **Oiled.** After children color the attached picture with water-base felt markers, the teacher can rub it with vegetable oil. (Good to lay the picture on a stack of newspaper while oiling.) Try not to oil any closer to the edges than necessary. The oiled picture is then mounted on a poster board or construction paper frame.
 - b. **Framed.** To make the frame: Begin with a 9 X 12 piece (red, blue, or purple). On the back, draw lines 1" from all 4 sides. Cut out this center rectangle using a utility knife or single edge razor blade. (Save it for some other project.) Lay the oiled picture face down against the back of the frame, and tape the edges of the picture to the back of the frame.

Primary Sunday School Lessons: Phase 1 – Lesson 3

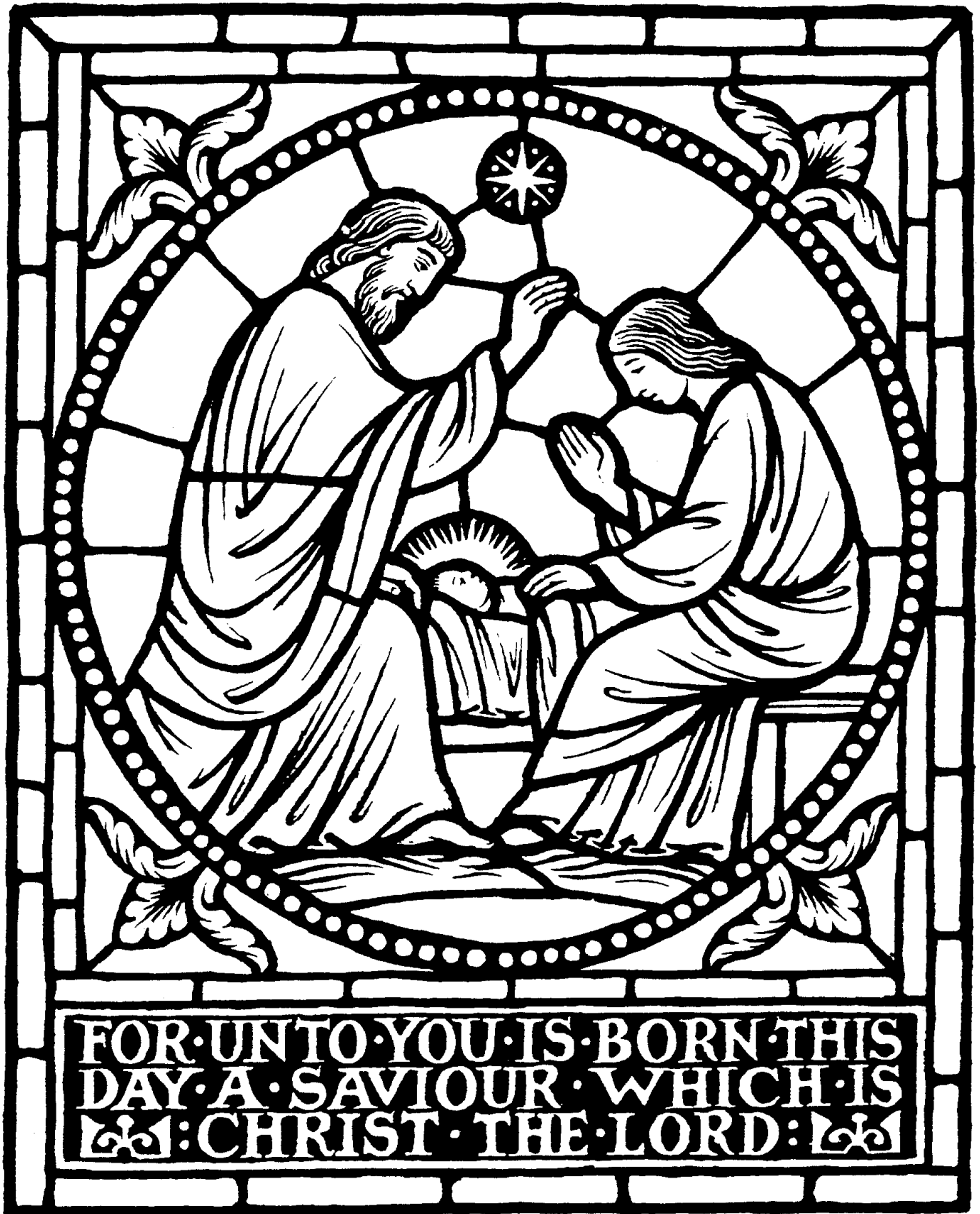
- b. *Mounted.* After children color the attached picture, use rubber cement to mount it on a 9X12 piece on construction paper (red, blue, or purple).
2. Baby in Swaddling Cloths– See project description in the *General Convention Sunday School Activity Book* (red volume) for lesson 125.

IV. Teaching Aids

- A. Flannel board with felt figures to illustrate story and/or nativity scene.
- B. Pictures of annunciation, nativity, shepherds receiving news from angel(s).

V. Further Reading for the Teacher

- A. Dole's *Bible Study Notes*, Vol. 5, "The Birth of the Lord" (Luke 2:1-20).
- B. "Christmas Prophecies," a talk by the Rt. Rev. Alfred Acton.



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