



— BECAUSE OF BETHLEHEM —



Student Curriculum

Grades 4-12

How to Use This Curriculum

AGE RANGE

This curriculum is designed for use with students in upper elementary (grades 4–6), junior high, and high school. Some adjustments are recommended for younger students where appropriate.

LARGE GROUP/SMALL GROUP

The *Because of Bethlehem* student curriculum is designed to be experienced in a group setting such as a Sunday school class, youth group, or any small group gathering. To ensure everyone has enough time to participate in discussions, it is recommended that groups larger than 10 students break up into smaller groups of 4 to 6 students for the discussion sections. The lesson plan indicates which activities are suitable for the large group, when to split into discussion groups of 4 to 6 students, and suggested activities for pairs of students.

SMALL GROUP FACILITATION

If your group breaks up into smaller discussion groups, it is recommended that each group have an adult facilitator who is responsible to read instructions and questions aloud and monitor discussions, prompting students to respond and ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to participate. The facilitator keeps track of time during discussions and activities, and guides the group to rejoin the large group at the right time.

USING THE *BECAUSE OF BETHLEHEM* BOOK

Readings for each lesson have been adapted from *Because of Bethlehem*. Students in junior high and high school need a copy of *Because of Bethlehem* to read at home following the meetings. Students in elementary school do not need to read the book on their own—readings in class will be sufficient to engage in the lesson. Be sure to reference the book where indicated to reinforce the value of the book and to encourage students to read the book for themselves.

USING THE BIBLE

Students should be encouraged to bring their own Bibles and read from them during the lesson. Materials lists include Bibles for situations where classroom Bibles are usually provided; offer enough Bibles for students to share among two or three. As a backup and cross-reference, the text of the Scripture being studied is included in the Student Handouts, usually from the International Children’s Bible version.

TIMING

The time notations indicate the *suggested* times for each activity and the following discussion. For example:

TELL YOUR STORY: CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS (10 MINUTES)

Adhering to the suggested times will enable you to complete each session in 50 minutes. If you have a longer meeting, you may wish to allow more time for discussion and activities.

LIST OF MATERIALS

It is important to prepare and assemble the materials for each session ahead of time. The following materials list is a summary of items needed. See the lesson plans for specific details about which materials are needed for each activity, and for zero budget options.

SPECIAL NOTE: *Allow extra time prior to Lesson Three to collect the materials for the prayer stations.*

Materials Needed for Lessons 1-4

- Copies of the lesson plan (1 per facilitator)
- Student Handouts (1 per student)
- Read a Story Script (1 copy per reader)
- Bibles (optional if students provide their own Bibles)
- *Because of Bethlehem* book (optional)
- Pens (1 per student)
- Flip chart and marker (1 per group for Lessons 1 and 3)

Materials Needed for Prayer Stations in Lesson 3

Rest Stops (for all students)

- Quiet instrumental version of “We Three Kings” and a device to play it on
- Poster board to make several signs
- Crown (Burger King crown, or a gold costume crown)
- Towel
- Blank sheets of paper (2 per student)
- 2 cameras, or students’ smart phones
- Fragrance such as scented candle or incense. See Lesson 3 for additional information.
- Scented oil or lotion
- Highlighter pens (not yellow), or dry erase markers

Rest Stops (optional for younger students)

- Map
- Bulletin board and pushpins (or tape if bulletin board is not available)
- Cutouts of cars and lightbulbs (use templates provided)
- Scissors (optional)

- Lamp with no shade (floor lamp or table lamp)
- String of white Christmas lights
- Clips or clothespins or large paperclips
- Tea lights (1 per student) (battery-powered or wax candles)
- Lighter (if necessary)

Additional Materials Needed for Lesson 4

- Glitter, sequins, stickers, markers, and glue
- Scissors (1 per group)
- 5-inch lengths of string (1 per student)

Because of Bethlehem Study Guide
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