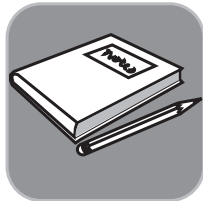


## WEEK 2

### *Reassured by an Angel*

#### Preparation:

Read Matthew 1:18-25 using the Bible study notes to help you.



#### Lesson Aim:

To show how God confirms that Jesus is the promised Saviour.

1:25

This makes it clear that Jesus' conception was due to activity of God and not man. The implication is that Joseph and Mary had a normal marriage relationship after the birth of Jesus (Matthew 13:55-56).

1:18

Betrothal/engagement was a binding agreement and could only be broken by divorce. Unfaithfulness during the period of betrothal was regarded as adultery.

1:19

There were 2 recognised ways of divorce - a) court action with its attendant publicity, b) giving a writ in the presence of 2 witnesses. Joseph chose the latter, tempering justice with mercy.

1:20

The angel of the Lord was a heavenly being sent by God to men as his personal spokesman/messenger, to give guidance and offer instructions. Do ensure that the children realise the high position of the angel and the importance of his message - the picture in their minds will be of girls dressed in long white dresses with gold wings and tinsel crowns!

1:21

Jesus is the Greek form of the Hebrew Joshua - 'The Lord saves'.

1:22-23 See Isaiah 7:14.



This is the first taught lesson of the series about heavenly messengers.

Start by sending a message down the line of children using Chinese whispers. Was that a good way to send a message? How else could they send a message to someone? They could write a letter, make a telephone call, send smoke signals, use Morse code, send a messenger. Pin up pictures to illustrate the different ways. Talk about the importance of sending a message that can be understood. In today's true story from the Bible we will find out about a man who did not know what to do for the best. Ask the children to listen carefully so that they can tell you the man's name, his problem and how God sent him a message.

At the end of the story go over the answers to the questions and teach the memory verse.

Pictures to illustrate ways of sending messages.

Visual aids



A home made advent calendar can be used for the series. The backing card/paper will need to be A1 size. Use 16 pictures - 4 for each week (see diagram). The covering of each picture is better removed completely, rather than folded back. The pictures can be different sizes.

Pictures for advent calendar:

1. Mary
2. Joseph
3. Angel
4. Open book - God with us (to bring out the prophecy)
5. Mary and Joseph on their way to Bethlehem
6. No room at the Inn
7. Baby in the manger
8. Shepherds in the field
9. Wise men and a star
10. Herod
11. Bethlehem
12. Gifts
13. Angel
14. Family escaping to Egypt
15. Mother crying
16. Return to Nazareth (small child rather than a baby)

Heavenly Messengers			
1	2	3	4
5	6	7	
8	9	10	
11	12	13	
14	15	16	



### 3-5s

Make a Christmas card. Photocopy page 11 on paper and page 12 on coloured card

Activities



for each child. Prior to the lesson fold page 12 in half with the Bible verse over the top of the doors on the front and the words on the back. Cut around the doors and fold them back along the dotted lines. Cut out the figures from page 11 and place in an envelope for each child. The children colour the figures and glue them onto the card. Mary, Joseph and the baby are placed inside the card and the star is glued above the doors on the outside. Write the child's name after 'from' on the back of the card.

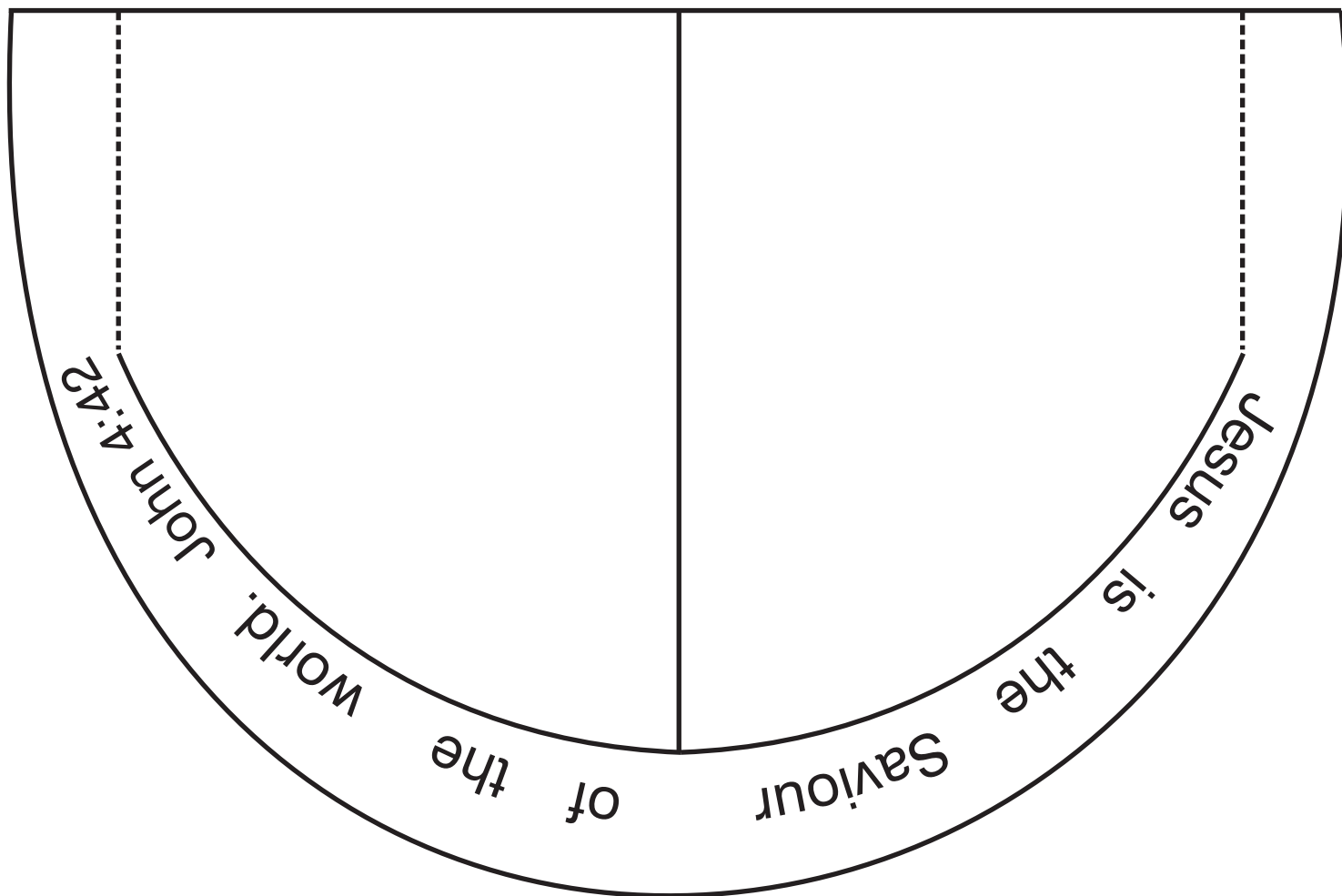
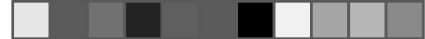
### 5-7s

Photocopy pages 13 and 14 for each child. Prior to the lesson cut out the wheel from page 13 and the hatched areas from page 14. The children colour the picture and the figures on the wheel. Attach the wheel behind the picture using a split pin paper fastener at X. Turn the wheel to tell the story. The sequence is blank, angel, Mary and Joseph, blank.

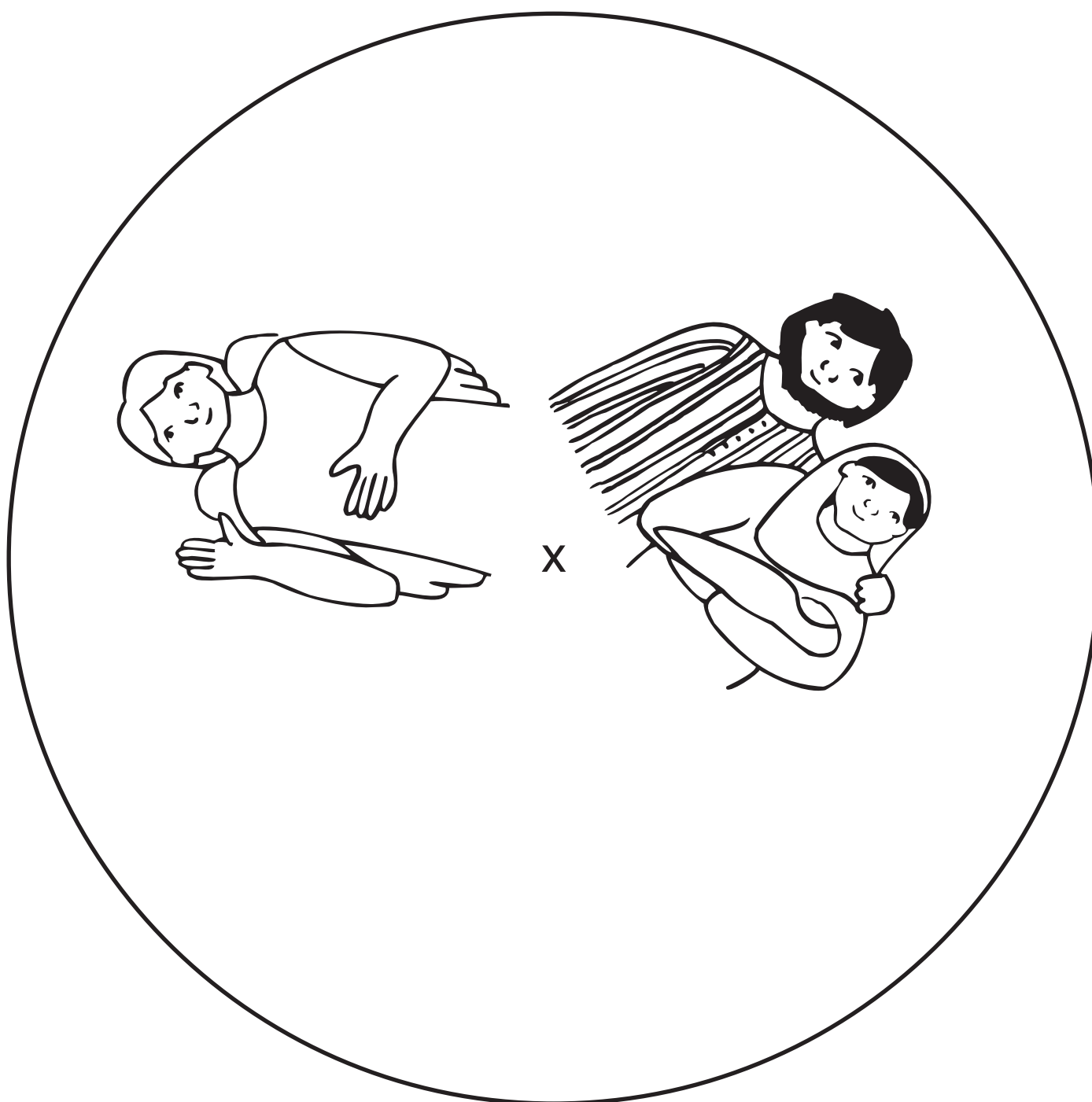
### 7-9s

Make a Christmas card. Follow the instructions for the 3-5s, but the children can cut out their own figures from page 11.

Activities / 3-5s and 7-9s



Happy Christmas  
with love  
from



We know that Jesus really is the Saviour of the world.

John 4:42

