



Are We True Believers?

Objectives:

- Emphasize
- Talk about

Reinforces Principle of:

- Testimony of Jesus

Each lesson contains 5 activities:

(Choose the activities that fit your family's schedule.
Additional resources are provided as extra time may be available.)

Reverence Time: Song, prayer, scripture and video clip

Lesson Time: Lesson summary and points to ponder

Story Time: Story

Activity Time: Object lesson or activity

Treat Time: Prayer, theme related recipe & music video



Reverence Time

Approximate Time: 5 minutes

Sing Together: Children's Songbook #36 "Samuel Tells of the Baby Jesus" If you wish to have an online music file to accompany you visit:
<https://www.lds.org/music/library/childrens-songbook/samuel-tells-of-the-baby-jesus>

Prayer:

Scripture Time: 3 Nephi 1:19-21

19. And it came to pass that there was no darkness in all that night, but it was as light as though it was mid-day. And it came to pass that the sun did rise in the morning again, according to its proper order; and they knew that it was the day that the Lord should be born, because of the sign which had been given.

20. And it had come to pass, yea, all things, every whit, according to the words of the prophets.

21. And it came to pass also that a new star did appear, according to the word.

Video Clip: Watch a clip (21:06 - 23:43) from *Samuel and the Sign* (The Animated Book of Mormon) in the Living Scriptures Streaming Library



Lesson Time

Approximate Time: 30 minutes

Lesson Summary:

(For younger children, it may be helpful to summarize the following ideas):

The prophets testify of Jesus Christ's birth, life, atonement and return.

Samuel the Lamanite testified of Jesus Christ and prophesied of His birth. Some of the people believed him and repented, but there were many who did not. "In those days as in ours, some naysayers, called anti-Christ, convinced others that there was no need for a Savior and His Atonement. When Samuel's prophecy was finally fulfilled and there was a day and a night and a day, as if it were one day,' (Helaman 14:4) what joy must have filled the hearts of those who had believed in the prophets! ...Those who believed on the words of the prophets recognized the Savior throughout His life and ministry and were blessed to follow Him." *Robert D. Hales, Ensign, Nov 2004 © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

Do modern-day prophets continue to testify of Jesus Christ, as ancient prophets did? (Yes.)

"As we commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ two millennia ago, we offer our testimony of the reality of His matchless life and the infinite virtue of His great atoning sacrifice. None other has had so profound an influence upon all who have lived and will yet live upon the earth..." *The Living Christ: The Testimony of the Apostles © 2000 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

Non-believers in Christ are called "anti-Christ." What are the believers called? (Christians.)

"And those who did belong to the church were faithful; yea, all those who were true believers in Christ took upon them, gladly, the name of Christ, or Christians as they were called, because of their belief in Christ who should come." (Alma 46:15.)

How would you explain to a member of another Christian faith that "Mormons" are Christian? (Discuss ideas.)

In Oct. 2007 General Conference, Elder Ballard explained it this way, "We believe that Jesus Christ is our personal Savior, and we try to model our lives after Him and His teachings. We commemorate Christ's atoning sacrifice in our Sunday worship services, similar to taking communion in other churches. ...Joseph Smith taught that Jesus Christ is the core of our belief, and everything else is an appendage to it (see Elders' Journal, July 1838, 44). The name of the Church is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints." *M. Russell Ballard, General Conference Oct. 2007 © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

Even while facing death, the Christians waited faithfully for the sign Samuel had given them of the Savior's birth. We have also been given signs to watch for as we wait for Christ's return.

What can we do to show we are faithful Christians as we wait and watch for the signs of the second coming of Jesus Christ? (Discuss ideas.)

**Points to
Ponder:**

What holiday do Christians celebrate to commemorate the birth of Jesus Christ? (Christmas.)

Why do we give gifts at Christmas time? (Discuss ideas.)

“Wise men journeyed from the East to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. ...When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. (Matt. 2:2, 10–11.) Since that time, the spirit of giving gifts has been present in the mind of each Christian as he or she commemorates the Christmas season.” *Thomas S. Monson, Ensign, Dec 1998 © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

The wise men brought the savior gifts. As true Christians, what gifts can we give our Savior? (Discuss ideas. [You might include: Giving to the poor, sharing the gospel with non-members, keeping sacrament covenants/promises, trying to be like Jesus in all we do, etc.]

What gift has the Savior given us? (Discuss ideas.)

“For it was the Savior Himself who set the supreme example of giving. He permitted His life to be sacrificed so that everyone, no matter who they are, will have an opportunity to return to our Heavenly Father if they live good lives and are obedient to Jesus' teachings. What a magnificent and generous gift!” *First Presidency, Friend, Dec. 1978 © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

Quote:

“Through the Holy Spirit of Truth, may we all know “the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom [He has] sent.” (John 17:3.) Then may we live Their teachings and be true Christians in deed, as well as in word.” Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, General Conference, Oct. 2007 © 2007 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.



Story Time

Approximate Time: 1 minute

“Finally, the last present is wrapped!” Mother exclaimed as she taped the red bow to the present she had been wrapping for Grandpa.

“This one's for Brice, here's one for Scott, this ones for Grandma...” Ten-year-old Brenda said out loud as she re-arranged the packages in little piles, according to who they were for. “Wow, this is going to be the best Christmas ever!” Brenda excitedly exclaimed.

Four-year-old Jenny looked up from the picture she was coloring of baby Jesus in the manger. “Mommy, did you forget someone?” she asked.

Mother looked down at her long list of names. “No. Everyone's name is crossed off,” she answered. “Thank goodness, I've been wrapping for weeks now!”

Brenda picked up a childishly wrapped present. “It says, From: Jenny,' but who's it to?” she asked.

Jenny smiled proudly, “Daddy helped me wrap all my presents, but that one. I wrapped it all by myself.”

“I can tell,” Brenda drawled.

Jenny's face turned red at her sister's sarcasm. “I know how to write *my* name, but I didn't know how to write *His*!” she whispered.

Mother gave Brenda the “that wasn't very nice” look, before putting her hand on Jenny's shoulder. “Whose name sweetie?” she asked.

Jenny pointed to the picture she was coloring.

“Jesus?”

Jenny nodded her head and then looked over at Brenda, “It *is* His birthday, you know!”

Brenda jumped up from where she was sitting and gave her little sister a big hug. “Oh, Jenny. I'm so sorry I hurt your feelings,” she apologized. “Of course, it's His birthday! And you're the only one sweet enough to remember to give Him a present.”

Jenny smiled. “There's really nothing in the box. It's in here,” she whispered while pointing to her heart. “But the present will help me remember what I'm giving Him!”

by Margie Nauta Lee © 2018 Living Scriptures, Inc.



Activity Time

What you need:

A copy of the “Our Gifts for Jesus” activity (artwork included with this lesson) , scissors, glue, card stock or poster board and pen or pencil.

Preparation:

1. Print out the artwork.
2. Glue artwork to card stock or poster board.
3. Cut out artwork (set presents aside).
4. Glue matching fence pieces together, right sides out. Glue stable together, right sides out. Assemble Nativity scene by inserting “B” taps into “A” slots and “D” tabs into “C” slots.
5. Place “Nativity” family into Stable by sliding tabs on sides of Mary and Joseph over the top of the bottom fence rails.
6. Glue or tape star and sheep on stable.

Activity:

1. Display the “Nativity Scene.”
2. Ask: What is Christmas? (It is a holiday to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.)
3. Ask: Who foretold the birth of Christ? (Prophets of old, such as Isaiah, Samuel the Lamanite, Micah, Nephi, and Alma.)
4. Ask: What do they call those who believe in Jesus Christ? (Christians.)
5. Ask: Are we Christians? (Yes.)
6. Ask: Why do we give gifts at Christmas time? (Discuss ideas.)
7. Ask: Do all gifts cost money? (Discuss ideas. Conclude with the idea that the best gifts are gifts of obedience and service.)
8. Ask: What gifts has Jesus Christ given us? (Discuss ideas.)
9. Explain: Because we are true believers in Jesus Christ we should give Him gifts to show Him that we love Him: gifts of service, obedience and sharing His gospel.
10. Play Game:



- A. Place the “gifts” in a pile to the side of the Nativity scene.
- B. Take turns choosing a gift and then telling what you will give to Jesus (help children to be specific; such as inviting a non-member friend to primary, paying a full tithe, visiting an elderly neighbor or the sick, obeying parents, sharing your toys, caroling to neighbors, etc.)
- C. Write the answer on the back of the gift and place it in front of the manger.
- D. Encourage family members to work hard to give these gifts to our Savior, not just at Christmas time, but throughout their lives. They will then be prepared as they faithfully watch for the signs of Jesus' return, like the Christians who waited for the “sign” Samuel the Lamanite had given them.









Treat Time

Approximate Time: 35 minutes

Prep Time: 25 minutes

Cook Time: 10 seconds per cake

Cool Time: 1 minute

Fattigmann Bakkles (Poor Man's Cakes)

Cakes:

1 egg
3 egg yolks
1/4 cup heavy cream
4 teaspoons white sugar
1 tablespoon melted butter
1/4 teaspoon ground cardamom
(may substitute nutmeg or cinnamon)
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
Lard for frying (may substitute oil or shortening)



Icing:

3 tablespoons softened butter
1 tablespoons shortening
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 1/2 cups powdered sugar
1 1/2 tablespoons milk
Food coloring

Cake Dough: Beat egg and egg yolks together in large bowl. Stir in the cream, sugar, melted butter and cardamom (nutmeg or cinnamon). Mix in flour to make a soft dough. On a floured cloth, roll the dough out to 1/8-inch thickness.

Icing: In a mixing bowl, cream butter, shortening and vanilla. Beat in powdered sugar and milk to achieve desired consistency. Divide into two bowls; tint one red and one green.

Treat Time: Let children cut into 2x2 inch square shapes. Heat lard (oil or shortening) in deep skillet to 365 degrees F. Have an adult carefully place a few squares at a time into the hot oil. Cook until the cakes return to the surface and then turn over to finish cooking until lightly golden (about 10 seconds). Drain on brown paper or paper towel. When cool (about 1 minute), decorate with icing.

(This Norwegian recipe dates back over a 100 years [we added the icing]. “Fattigmann Bakkles” means “Poor Man's Cakes.” They were called this because they contain ingredients that everyone could afford. This treat is to help us remember that *everyone* can afford to give the gifts of “obedience” and “sharing the gospel” to Jesus.)

Closing Prayer and blessing on the food.