FOR ME! FOR YOU!
A Christmas Lesson or Program

By Lorella Rouster, developed for Every Child Ministries with African audiences in mind

Note: This lesson or program is designed to be presented by a team for a large group and requires minimal preparation. Essentials are one really good and expressive reader, and some preparation with bringing the visuals out at the right time and showing them effectively.

Giant-sized visuals should be prepared ahead of time (one picture filling a whole posterboard) and cut out, as appropriate. These will be shown by team members during the program. If this is not feasible, team members may act out the parts with appropriate actions, or involve the students as a group in acting out parts of the lesson. This lesson works well when translated line for line. If visuals are not feasible, parts of the Bible story may be acted out by the group.

Beginning the Lesson:
One member of the team will step forward and ask each question thoughtfully, holding a huge ? No response is expected--the questions are designed to provoke thought. However, if a child does answer, simply affirm his response and move on quickly.
When each question is presented, the presenter pauses as if really pondering the question, then passes the ? to the next participant and steps back.

- If you were very, very rich, if you had everything you wanted and lots of it, would you leave all those riches to become poor? Why would anyone DO that?

- If you lived in a wonderful, beautiful home, would you leave that beautiful home to live in a simple village hut? Why would anyone DO that?

- If you lived happily with your father who loved you so much, would you leave your father to go and live with people who did not love you? Why would anyone DO that?

- If you lived in a place where you had many servants to do whatever you wanted, would you leave that place to go and live where you had to do everything yourself? Why would anyone DO that?

If you lived in a place where everyone loved you and constantly kept saying good things about you, would you leave that place to go and live with people who laughed at you? Why would anyone DO that?

Transition to the Bible Lesson:
(Sixth person steps forward showing a giant figure of Jesus.)
I know someone who DID do all of those things, FOR ME, AND FOR YOU. His name was Jesus Christ, and He was God's only special Son. We celebrate His birth at Christmas. ✪

(Seventh person steps forward, Bible in hand.)
Let's see what the Bible says about Jesus. (Take Bible in hand, open book.) Let's see how He was born. (Step to the side, but stay in view with Bible open.)
Long, long ago, before the earth was made, Jesus lived with His Father in Heaven. He was God's own Son, and He was truly God.
He lived forever and ever. He was God, so He never had a beginning. He always was. He was eternal.
Jesus loved His Father, and His Father loved Him. Everything was happy between them.

With His Father, Jesus created spirits called angels. ✪
These spirits worshipped Him constantly. They were always telling Jesus how much they loved Him and how good He was. They said something like, "Jesus, You're so good! You're so good!" continuously.
All the angels Jesus had created served Him. They were always there to do whatever He told them to do. Oh, it was a wonderful place where Jesus lived in heaven!

Then Jesus created our world. He spoke and told things to appear. ✪ And they did.

He made the first man, Adam, and our first mother, Eve.✪

Jesus created everything good, but one of the angels named Lucifer decided not to worship Jesus. ✪ He tried to get the other angels to worship him instead. What an awful sin that was! Why should they worship Lucifer? He was not the One who created them! It was awful to try to steal God's honor and glory when He was not the Creator.

Every Child Ministries

God was not pleased, so He sacked Lucifer from heaven. ✪ Lucifer was cast down to earth. Some of the other angels also followed him. Lucifer and his rebel angel spirits had become God's enemy.

After God created the first man and woman ✪, Lucifer went into the body of a snake. ✪ He lied to the woman. He got her to doubt God. He led her to disobey God, and she led her husband to also disobey. SIN had entered into the world. How awful! The man and the woman felt so ashamed!

All of us children of Adam and Eve have also disobeyed God. ✪ We have all done things God does not like--lying, stealing, fighting, killing, disobeying parents, forgetting about God who made us. Now we all feel guilty and ashamed.

We needed a sacrifice so that God would not be angry with us. But we needed more than the blood of cows and chickens and sheep. ✪ We needed a perfect sacrifice. We needed a Saviour so that we could be forgiven.

On earth there was no perfect sacrifice. The blood of animals was not enough, and every person who ever lived has sinned. No one was ever close to perfect.
God knew we would have this terrible problem. And He loved us. He loved us so much that in the very beginning, He planned a way for us to be forgiven. In all the Universe, there was only One who could be our perfect sacrifice, and so God planned to give Him. He planned to give His One and Only perfect Son--for you, for me. ✪

Yes, this Son was the very One who had lived with God forever--His perfect, special, unique Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. This is how the Bible says it happened:
One day, God sent one of his good, faithful angels named Gabriel down to earth with a very special message. (Luke 2:26 ff) ✪
Gabriel took God's message to a young virgin girl named Mary. She was planning to marry a godly young man named Joseph, but they had never made love.
The angel greeted Mary and told her she was highly favored by God.
Mary didn't know what to think. What was the angel talking about?

The angel told her she would conceive and give birth to a baby boy. ✪ She was to call that baby "Jesus." The name means, "Savior".

Repeat with rhythm--

Call Him Jesus--He'll be the Savior.

This baby would be great--the Son of God--the Savior who was promised long ago. He would rule FOREVER!

Make big circling motions and repeat—
Forever! Forever!

But Mary was confused. It takes a father to make a baby. She knew she had never been with a man in that way--that even Joseph. ✪ Then how would she have a baby?

The angel answered that question. He said the Holy Spirit of God would come on her. She would not conceive a baby by man's power, but by God's. ✪ The Holy child that would be born from her would be the very Son of God!
Yes, this is impossible with men, but the angel reminded Mary that "with God nothing shall be impossible."

So Mary accepted God's wonderful plan. She simply said, "I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as God has said."
At that very moment, something wonderful happened. Jesus, God's Son, who lived forever in heaven, left His home in heaven. He entered into Mary's womb and began to grow there as a tiny baby. ✪ GOD'S SON became a baby!
Jesus grew in Mary's womb for 9 months just like other babies do. But He was not like any other baby. He was God's Son who became a baby so that one day, He could become the perfect sacrifice to pay for all the wrong things we have done. The angel told Joseph what was happening, too, and he took Mary to be his wife. But even though they were married, Joseph still did not make love to Mary until after baby Jesus was born.

When it was almost time for Mary to give birth, the ruler in their country made a law that everyone had to go to his home village to pay his taxes. ✪

The city was full of people. There was no room in any hotel.

The only place Mary and Joseph could find to rest was in the barn with the animals. ✪ There, in that simple, humble place, the Lord Jesus was born. He left His home in heaven and was born in a barn--for you, for me!

www.teachingforafrica.com

Every Child
Ministries

Mary did not have nice baby clothes. She wrapped him in clean rags to keep Him warm.   (show rags, wrap around baby doll)✪

Jesus who was rich, became poor so that He could become our Savior, our perfect sacrifice.
As Jesus grew up, he never once sinned. He always did right. He always did what pleased His Father in heaven. ✪

Jesus healed many sick people and taught many wonderful things. He always went about doing good.✪

But some people were jealous of Him. They put Him on the cross and killed Him. ✪ He suffered and died just as God had planned long ago, as the only perfect sacrifice for our sins. Since He died, we can be forgiven.

Jesus did not stay dead. After three days, He rose from the dead. ✪ Many people saw Him alive. After 40 days, He went back to His Father in Heaven. His job on earth was finished.

Jesus left heaven to become our Savior. ✪ He did it for me. He did it for you. Will you welcome Him as your Savior and Lord? Will you let Him forgive your sins? Will you let Him give you a new life and make you a child of God? ✪