

ESCAPE TO EGYPT



TRANSITION/GROUP TIME

SNACK

1s–2s: Place the snack on the tables.

3s–5s: Choose children to help serve the snack. Ask a volunteer to pray.
Remind preschoolers to clean their snack areas.

MOVE TO GROUP TIME

1s–2s: Tell the Bible story as the children snack. Then allow the children to play in the room.

3s–5s: Lead the preschoolers to move like different types of transportation—cars, boats, planes, and so on.

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

ESCAPE TO EGYPT—BASED ON MATTHEW 2:13-23

- Tell the preschoolers that today's Bible story teaches us that God's plan cannot be stopped. Open your Bible to Matthew 2. Tell the Bible story.

SUMMARIZE THE BIBLE STORY

(Use words in **bold** for babies–2s; all words for 3s–5s.)

- **After Jesus was born, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream.** The angel told Joseph that King Herod wanted to hurt Jesus.
- **The angel told Joseph to take his family to Egypt. Joseph left quickly in the night with Mary and Jesus to go to Egypt.**
- King Herod was angry. He hurt all the baby boys in Bethlehem that were under two years old.
- Jesus and His family were safe in Egypt.
- Once Herod was no longer king, **an angel appeared to Joseph and told him it was safe to return to Israel.**
- **Joseph obeyed and took Mary and Jesus to live in a town called Nazareth.**

REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

- What did the angel tell Joseph?
- Where did Joseph take Mary and Jesus?
- Who appeared to Joseph after Herod was no longer king?

EMPHASIZE THE LIFE POINT

- State that God's plan cannot be stopped.

ROOM
YOUR TEACHING PARTNERS
DATE OF USE

LEVEL OF BIBLICAL LEARNING

Jesus is God's Son.

LIFE POINT

God's plan cannot be stopped.

UNIT VERSE

Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Matthew 2:1

WEEKLY VERSE

God's plan will happen.
Proverbs 19:21

SING TOGETHER

Sing to the tune of the chorus of “Jesus Loves Me”:

God’s plan will happen.

God’s plan will happen.

God’s plan will happen.

God’s plan cannot be stopped.

SAY THE BIBLE VERSE

Open a Bible to Proverbs 19:21. Mention that Proverbs is in the Old Testament of the Bible. Read aloud the verse. Lead the kids to repeat the verse several times.

PRAY

Invite the kids to state any prayer requests they have. Lead a few children to pray if they would like. Close the prayer by thanking God that His plans cannot be stopped.

BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Emphasize: God’s plan cannot be stopped.

1. **Make nighttime skies.** Provide black construction paper, chalk, and star stickers for the preschoolers to make nighttime sky pictures. Invite the kids to use the chalk to draw their own star shapes or add star stickers instead. **Tip:** Let the kids dip the chalk in water before drawing. Talk about what types of things they see in the sky at night. Remind the preschoolers that an angel spoke to Joseph in a dream. Tell that the angel told Joseph that King Herod wanted to hurt Jesus. Say that during the night, Joseph left with Mary and Jesus and traveled to Egypt.

Adapt for Babies–2s: Let the kids put star stickers on papers.

2. **Move in the dark.** Distribute child-safe flashlights. Caution the children to not shine the lights in anyone’s eyes. Retell the Bible story. Say that Mary, Joseph, and Jesus left in the night to move to Egypt. Turn off the room lights to make the room less bright, if possible. Encourage the children to move about the room using the flashlights. Thank God that Mary and Joseph followed God’s plan and kept Jesus safe.

Adapt for Babies–1s: Play peekaboo.

3. **Plan to paint.** Help the kids put on smocks.

Distribute paper, watercolors, paintbrushes, and small containers of water as you say: “We will paint today. What do you plan to paint?” Encourage the children to engage in a plan before they begin painting. Celebrate each child’s unique painting. Open the Bible and remind the kids that the Bible tells us that Mary and Joseph followed God’s plan and took Jesus to Egypt and then to Nazareth. Tell the kids that God’s plan cannot be stopped.

Adapt for Babies–2s: Play with pull toys.

4. **Pretend to travel.** Instruct the children to play out ways they could travel to Egypt. Call out travel-related action words such as drive, fly, walk, ride a donkey, ride in a cart, and paddle a canoe. Use both modern and ancient travel words. Ask the preschoolers if the action could be done today or in Jesus’ day. Remind the kids that Joseph, Mary, and Jesus traveled to Egypt so Jesus would be safe. Say that God’s plan cannot be stopped.

Adapt for Babies–2s: Play with transportation toys.

CLEAN UP

Guide the preschoolers to clean up their activities. Thank them for their work.

ROLL AND REVIEW

Gather the kids in a circle. Briefly review the Bible story. Roll a ball to a child in the circle. Invite him to answer a simple review question. Use questions such as, “Who was one person in today’s Bible story? What is one thing that happened in today’s Bible story? Where did today’s Bible story take place?” Assist with answers as needed. Roll the ball to different kids in the circle, guiding them to answer questions, too. Consider repeating the Life Point, Weekly Verse, or Level of Biblical Learning as time allows.

DISMISS

Help the kids gather their papers and belongings. Thank them for coming. Remind the parents to review the Bible story on the Kids Activity Page.