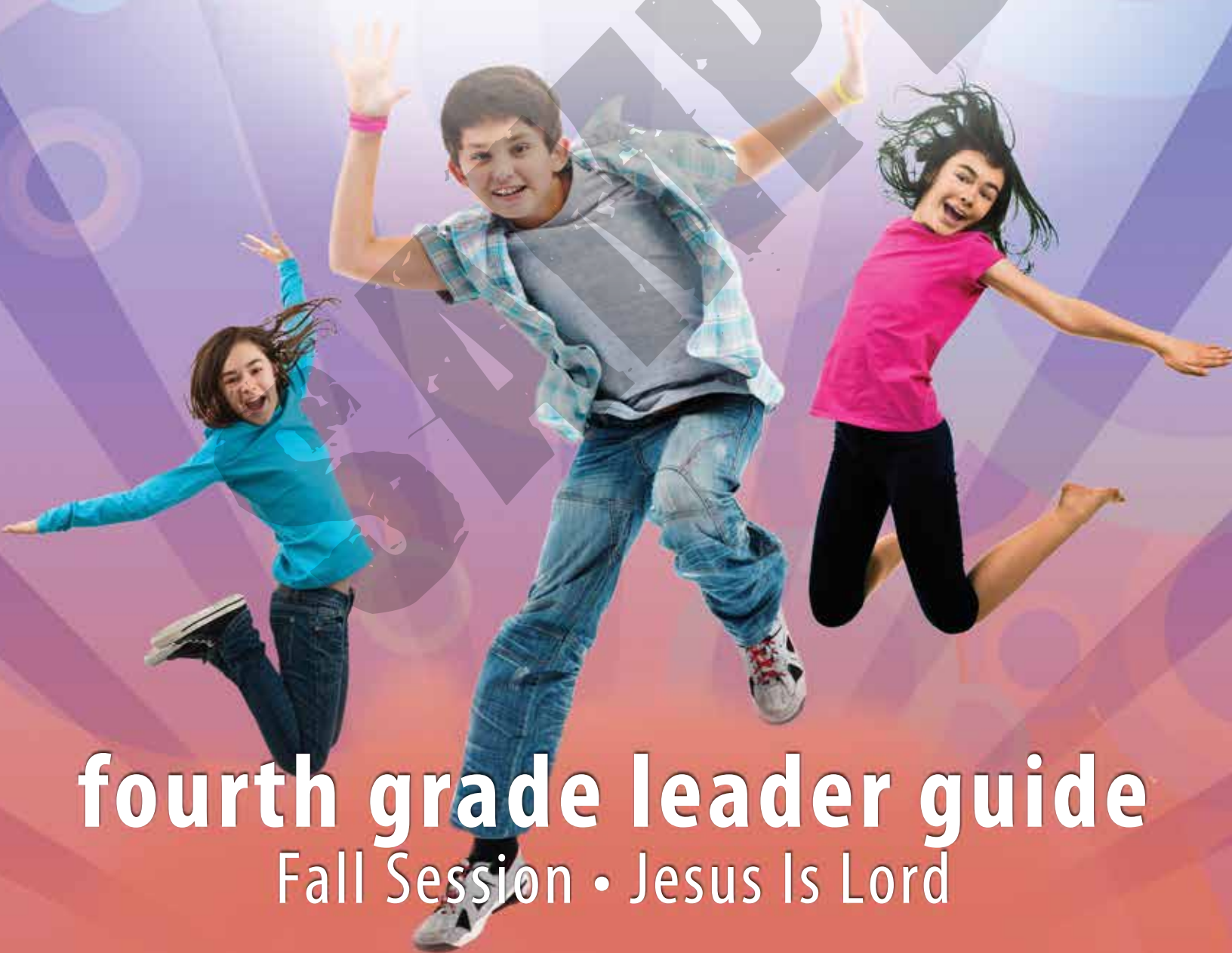


# NEHEMIAH KIDS™

Nehemiah 1:11



**fourth grade leader guide**  
Fall Session • Jesus Is Lord

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NEHEMIAH KIDS: Fourth Grade Leader Guide  
Fall Session: Jesus Is Lord

Revised 2013

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“...confess  
with your mouth,  
‘Jesus  
is  
Lord.’”

[Romans 10:9a]

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# Welcome to Nehemiah Kids!

Disciple Group Bible Study for Nehemiah Kids (N.K.) is a great opportunity to get to know the children in your group and build accountability. The materials in this book are designed to help you succeed as you plan for Bible study with your small group each week. These materials are very simple and should give you plenty to discuss and do during your Disciple Group time. The number one rule of teaching and being a discipler is to *surrender*. Surrender to God for His filling. He will empower you to model and exemplify Christ. He will also guide you as you lead your group in prayer and worship.

## Introduction: Jesus Is Lord

Get ready as you systematically study who Jesus is, what He did, and why He came into the world. The center of The Cross indicates the importance of venerating Jesus as Lord in your life. For the next eighteen weeks, you and your Disciple Group will be looking at different aspects of Jesus' life. This study, "Jesus Is Lord," will take you closer and closer to the Savior. Throughout God's Word, Jesus proclaimed His glory by showing that He is the Lord, Messiah, Savior, and He is God. Jesus provides a model for all believers. This Bible study will engage you, the teacher, and your N.K.s as you develop a theology of Jesus Christ. You will look at the life of Jesus from birth to death to resurrection. Through these weekly devotionals, your N.K.s will learn how to apply Jesus' ministry to their lives. The call of the Christian is to "deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow" Jesus (Luke 9:23). Deitrich Bonhoeffer affirms the Christian's call to discipleship: "Discipleship means adherence to Christ, and, because Christ is the object of that adherence, it must take the form of discipleship."<sup>1</sup> You are taking an amazing journey into the life of Jesus. Our prayer is that you will develop a mindset of Jesus as Lord and have an attitude such as that of Christ Jesus (Philippians 2:5).

At the end of this session, your group will have developed a personal quiet time of prayer and Bible study. The children will understand Lordship and begin to let Jesus be Lord of their lives each day. Your job will be to hold them accountable each week to ensure they are faithfully doing a daily quiet time and memorizing Scripture. Romans 12:1–2 says, "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living

<sup>1</sup> Deitrich Bonhoeffer, *The Cost of Discipleship* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1959), 59.

sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." You will begin to see dramatic changes as the children in your group begin to apply what they have learned. As they surrender their lives to Christ each day, they will be pleasing and acceptable before God. They will be transformed by the renewing of their minds through daily Bible study and Scripture memory. They will not realize it, but the Word of God will begin an inward change in their lives that others will notice.

## Developing a Christian Worldview

There are many beliefs in our world. These beliefs can be considered a person's worldview. A worldview is how a person determines what they believe about who they are as a person, their purpose for being here on Earth, what they believe to be truth, what they believe about family, and how they view the needs of the world around them.

For the Christian, our view of all these things is guided by what the Bible says. As Christians we look at things differently because we have a tool that guides us—God's Word. On sunny days, some people wear sunglasses to filter out the sun's rays. They find it easier to see with sunglasses on bright days. As we live in the world, we need to have a filter to help us determine what is right and wrong. It is like putting on sunglasses to block out the sun. So the believer takes up the Bible to block out those views that do not line up with God's Word. Parents need to have a Christian worldview and instill in their child a biblical perspective of the world.

"Parent Talk: Christian Worldview" is the Day 6 devotional for each week in the student devotional book. It is based on the admonition in Deuteronomy 6:6-7, "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." This section is designed to assist parents in helping their children apply what they are learning.

# The Cross

The Cross will be your tool to help your Disciple Group stay on track in their walk with God. It is a formula for spiritual growth as you and your students learn to put it into practice. God has a plan for every person's life. He desires a relationship with us. He has made this relationship possible through Jesus Christ. Some of your students will have already made the discovery while others may not have. Your responsibility as their Disciple Group leader is to continue pointing students to Christ—first for salvation, and second for them to experience the abundant life that Jesus promises (John 10:10).

Salvation is key, and from that point the journey begins. Then we have to constantly remember we must live a life that is totally and completely dependent upon and surrendered to Him. From there, we find direction for our lives through His Word. God's Word always points to God and His purpose for our lives. His Word is the road map for our lives. His Word is the instruction manual by which we put our lives together. It is our light through a dark world bent on destroying our lives, and it is our handbook for discipling children. We teach them to look at life through biblical eyes. They must learn to face life with the instruction manual in front of them. As we submit our lives to Him, we can find His will for our lives through His Word.

We have the wonderful invitation in Jeremiah 33:3, "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know." First John 5:14–15 says, "This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him." Therefore, we can come boldly before the Lord in submission to Him, and He will answer our requests. This is how we have a personal relationship with Him.

The vertical part of The Cross represents our relationship with God. Jesus said: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment" (Matthew 22:37–38). The second part of our relationship with God becomes horizontal. "And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments" (Matthew 22:39–40). Looking at The Cross, we are called to "Tell Others" the wonderful Gospel message, and God has given us gifts for ministry. When we are doing all the parts of The Cross, we are living out a life of obedience to Christ.

# The Life of Obedience

## Parts of The Cross

- **The Center of The Cross—Jesus Is Lord:** Jesus Christ must be Lord of every area of the N.K.s' lives. They will learn to allow Him to live His life through them. (Galatians 2:20)
- **The Base of The Cross—Read the Bible:** In order to find God's will, they must read His Word daily. (Psalm 119:105)
- **The Top of The Cross—Talk With God:** Prayer is the open invitation to spend time talking with God each day. The children can talk with Him anytime and anywhere. (Jeremiah 33:3)
- **The Left Side of The Cross—Tell Others:** Jesus commands His followers to tell the world about His great love for them. The N.K.s will be challenged to share their faith daily. (Matthew 28:19-20)
- **The Right Side of The Cross—Gifts and Ministry:** The Holy Spirit has given gifts to every child of God, and the children are to use these gifts to serve God in the church and in the world. (Ephesians 2:10)
- **The Circle around The Cross—Life of Obedience:** The Lord Jesus calls believers to obey His leadership. In following the parts of The Cross, the N.K.s can accomplish His desires for their lives.



# Disciple Group Information

Each Disciple Group will consist of four or five children. Before going to your Disciple Group, go through the materials and become familiar with your studies. The Disciple Group Bible study will complement what your group studied the previous week. This Leader Guide is designed to provide you with Bible study aids and activities to help the students learn the biblical concepts you are teaching. You will most likely not have enough time to do everything presented here, so plan on using the materials that you believe will be most effective with your students. The following is a basic outline of each week's lesson:

**Lesson Topic:** In Fourth Grade: Fall Session, the children will learn about different aspects of Jesus' life each week. A definition of each week's lesson topic will appear at the beginning of the study.

**Learning Objective:** The Learning Objective is the desired outcome of each week's Disciple Group time. This identifies the goal your group should try to achieve each week.

**Memory Verse:** The N.K.s are given a memory verse to learn each week with their devotionals. One of the most important parts of Disciple Group time is reciting the memory verse. Take time each week during the Bible Study Review to make sure they have memorized their verse. You should also review the past weeks' verses so the children can always keep them in their hearts and minds.

**Spiritual Preparation:** These prayer suggestions are provided for you to pray about as you prepare for your Disciple Group time. They will guide you in the direction of personal preparation and how to pray specifically for the children in your group.



**Opening Prayer:** Begin your Disciple Group time with prayer. Pray on the armor of God first because you have an enemy that wants to frustrate and hinder your Bible study time together. God has provided the armor for your protection.

**The Armor of God** can be found in Ephesians 6:10-17. In order to teach your group the importance of the armor, each week have them all stand up before prayer time and visually put it on. For example: Belt of truth—Using their hands, have them pretend to put a belt around their waists. Breastplate of righteousness—They can act like they are sliding it over their heads and strapping it on. Sandals of peace—Have them sit down and “put on” their sandals. Complete the armor with the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit.

Starting with prayer will help you and your students get focused and prepared for Disciple Group time.



**Biblical Explanation:** The Biblical Explanation gives you a brief interpretation of Scripture and further insights for the Disciple Group time.



**Bible Story:** The Bible Story gives the children a biblical illustration of the concepts they are learning in each week's Bible study.



**Bible Study Review:** This section provides the students with the opportunity to quote their memory verse for the week, recite previous weeks' verses, and review the past week's devotionals that they did at home. The review questions are designed to evaluate learner comprehension. After asking these questions, you may find that your group lacks understanding in a particular area. If so, discuss the materials they did not understand.



**The Cross:** The Cross reminds the children each week of how we relate to God and to others in living a life of obedience to the Lord. This section will explain how each week's lesson applies to The Cross.



**Object Lesson:** Some children are visual learners. The Object Lessons are provided to further enhance learning and help give children a better grasp of biblical principles.



**Learning Activity:** These activities give the children a hands-on activity that will reinforce the message of each week's lesson. It will give them a practical way to apply the lesson to their lives and encourage them to “live it out” when they leave Disciple Group time. If the children do not understand how to apply the lesson to their daily lives, they will not have learned effectively.

**P.R.A.Y.:** The P.R.A.Y. acrostic is a reminder of how to pray daily and in small group time. You want to help children develop a daily prayer time beginning with praise and thanksgiving (P), followed by confession and repentance of sin (R). Teach your N.K.s to ask, or make their requests known to God (A). The most important part of the Christian life is SURRENDER, or yield (Y). This is key to their personal growth and gives them a daily reminder of who is in control. The prayer guides relate to each week's lesson and are provided as prayer starters. You, the leader, might say the prayer guide, then each N.K. can say a related prayer. You might want to sit in a circle and pray around the circle. Lead the group in praise and thanksgiving, then move into confession of sin. Next, have them tell God their needs. End prayer time with them yielding and surrendering their lives to God. It is important for you to allow the Holy Spirit to guide each child as they pray.

Make a copy of the P.R.A.Y. acrostic cards on page 10, cut them apart, and give each card to a child. When it is time to do each type of prayer, have the child with that card hold it so that everyone can see. This will help remind each child how you are praying at the time.



**Leader Notes & N.K. Prayer Requests:** This section is provided as a place for you to write down any thoughts or ideas you may have as you study and prepare for Disciple Group time each week. You can also write down any prayer requests your N.K.s share with you when you make your weekly phone calls.

# P.R.A.Y. Acrostic Cards

Copy these cards onto cardstock and cut out to use during your Disciple Group prayer time.

<p><b>Praise and Thanksgiving</b></p>	<p><b>Repent and Confess</b></p>
<p><b>Ask</b></p>	<p><b>Yield and Surrender</b></p>

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# Weekly Memory Verses

The following are the weekly memory verses that the N.K.s will be learning. It is important that you also learn the memory verses. As leaders, we want to be examples for our students, and we should be faithful in Scripture memory ourselves.

**Week One**—“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” (Isaiah 7:14)

**Week Two**—“‘But what about you?’ he asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’ Peter answered, ‘You are the Christ.’” (Mark 8:29)

**Week Three**—“God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” (2 Corinthians 5:21)

**Week Four**—“Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses.” (Luke 5:15)

**Week Five**—“When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority.” (Matthew 7:28-29a)

**Week Six**—“But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law.” (Galatians 4:4)

**Week Seven**—“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)

**Week Eight**—“In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.” (Ephesians 1:7)

**Week Nine**—“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies.’” (John 11:25)

**Week Ten**—“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.” (Revelation 22:13)

**Week Eleven**—“Every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:11)

**Week Twelve**—“This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:11b)

**Week Thirteen**—“If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.” (Luke 9:23)

**Week Fourteen**—“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” (Mark 10:14b)

**Week Fifteen**—“But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” (Matthew 9:6a)

**Week Sixteen**—“The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all.” (Psalm 103:19)

**Week Seventeen**—“Such a high priest meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens.” (Hebrews 7:26)

**Week Eighteen**—“I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.” (John 12:46)

# WEEK 1

## The Prophesied Messiah



### Opening Prayer

1. Begin your Disciple Group meeting with a time of prayer.
2. Have your N.K.s stand up and pray on the armor of God piece-by-piece. (They can turn to **page 8** in their devotional books to see the pieces of armor. Remind them of the importance of praying on the armor every day as they begin their daily quiet time.)
3. Ask the students in your group to share their prayer requests and praises, then have each child pray for the person on their right.
4. End the prayer time by asking the Lord to help the N.K.s listen and learn during Disciple Group today.



### Biblical Explanation

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14). The birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ can only be called miracles. The details of Jesus’ life before He was even born were prophesied more than a thousand years before His birth. Jesus was the eternal One sent by God to redeem the world. The name Immanuel means “God with us.” He was God in the form of man, perfect in every way. Bill Bright says, “Jesus Christ is the subject of more than 300 Old Testament prophecies. His birth 2,000 years ago and events of His life were foretold by many prophets spanning a period of 1,500 years. History confirms that even the smallest detail happened just as predicted. These prophets confirmed beyond a doubt that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and Savior of the World.”<sup>2</sup>

The life of Christ was foretold in Scripture. Jesus was God in the flesh who came in authority, power, and with a purpose to redeem the world through His death on the cross and His resurrection. God promised Jesus’ coming through many prophets. Through the fulfillment of this promise, He proves that His Word can be trusted and that Jesus truly is the Messiah, the Son of God.

<sup>2</sup> Bill Bright, *Children’s Discipleship Series, Book 1, Beginning the Christian Adventure* (Orlando, FL: Newlife Publishing, 2002), 28.

### BIBLICAL PREDICTIONS AND FULFILLMENT<sup>3</sup>

Event	Old Testament Prophecy	Fulfillment in Jesus
His birth	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18, 22-23
His birthplace	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1, 4-6
His childhood in Egypt	Hosea 11:1	Matthew 2:14-15
The purpose for His death	Isaiah 53:4-6	2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 2:24
His betrayal	Zechariah 11:12-13, 13:6	Matthew 26:14-16, 27:3-10
His crucifixion	Psalm 22	Matthew 27
His resurrection	Psalm 16:9-10	Acts 2:31



### Bible Story

In telling the story of Jesus’ birth, you will include prophecies from men of God who foretold events that would take place with the coming Savior. Below are points to highlight when telling the story. Prophecies that were recorded many years before the story happened are labeled “**PROPHECY.**” Because this story is taken from many different passages in the Bible, the Biblical references are listed so that you can study the passages on your own before presenting them to the children.

- (Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25) Around 4 BC, an angel came to Mary, a young virgin who had never married, and explained to her that she would give birth to a very special baby—this baby would be both completely human and completely God and was to be called Jesus.
- Jesus would become a great ruler and have an everlasting kingdom.
- (Isaiah 7:14) **PROPHECY:** Around 700 BC (approximately 700 years before our story), God gave a special message to His prophet Isaiah. Part of the message was a prophecy, meaning it was about things that would happen in the future. This prophecy was about the Savior that God would send to the world—His Son Jesus. One thing God told Isaiah was that this special One would be born of a young virgin lady. God also indicated that the Savior would be completely God and completely human. These things are impossible for humans to make happen, but God made them happen just as He said He would!
- (Matthew 2:1-11) Around the time Jesus was born, there were some people who lived far away who noticed a unique star in the sky. They were called Magi—they studied stars.
- They realized that this special star meant that a great King had been born (the “King of the Jews”), so they followed the star to find Him and worship Him.
- When they got to Jerusalem, they went to see King Herod to ask where the King was born.
- King Herod called his advisers to figure it out. They looked in ancient books of the Bible and found that the King of the Jews was to be born in Bethlehem.
- Sure enough, the Magi found Jesus in Bethlehem.

<sup>3</sup> Bright, 28.



### The Cross

Explain the importance of The Cross:

- The center of The Cross is “Jesus Is Lord.” The prophesied Messiah was Jesus Christ, who is now your Lord and Savior.
- The base of The Cross is “Read the Bible.” It is important for you to read in God’s Word the prophecies about Jesus and the fulfillment of those prophecies.
- The top of The Cross is “Talk With God.” The prophets foretold the coming of Jesus Christ. Give thanks to Him in prayer each day for coming to save you from your sins.
- The left side of The Cross is “Tell Others.” Sharing with others the prophecies about Jesus and the ways in which those prophecies came true is one way to lead others to accept Jesus as Lord of their lives.
- The right side of The Cross is “Gifts and Ministry.” Because Jesus wants others to know Him as Lord and Savior, He has equipped you with gifts to serve others for Him in special ways.
- The circle around The Cross represents a “Life of Obedience.” Living out each part of The Cross is evidence of your obedience to Jesus Christ and His commands.

- (Micah 5:2) **PROPHECY:** Just as God had given a special message about the Savior to His prophet Isaiah, He also gave a message about the Savior to His prophet Micah about the same time. God made it clear to Micah that the Savior would be born in the city of Bethlehem. Seven hundred years later, God fulfilled that prophecy when the Savior, Jesus, was born in Bethlehem!
- (Matthew 2:11-15) After the Magi worshipped Jesus, they were warned in a dream not to let King Herod know where Jesus was because King Herod wanted to kill Jesus.
- Jesus' earthly father, Joseph, also had a dream in which an angel told him to take Mary and Jesus to Egypt because King Herod was planning to kill Jesus.
- So, Joseph went to live in Egypt with Mary and Jesus until King Herod died.
- (Hosea 11:1) **PROPHECY:** Around the same time as Isaiah and Micah, God gave the prophet Hosea a message about Jesus as well. God told Hosea, "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son." God fulfilled this prophecy when Jesus was taken to Egypt as a child and then taken out of Egypt a few years later to live in Israel.

This story highlighted three prophecies about Jesus the Savior, but there are actually many more prophecies about Jesus recorded in the Bible. They all came true in Jesus' life hundreds of years after the prophecies were written down. What an awesome God we have who has made it clear to us that Jesus is the Savior and Lord!

 Bible Study Review

1. Review and discuss the Lesson Topic definition of *propheesied* (above) as it applies to Jesus.
2. Have the N.K.s in your group recite this past week's memory verse and explain what this verse means to them.
3. Ask the following review questions:
  - Why is it important to know about the prophecies concerning Jesus?
  - Where does the Bible say that Jesus was to be born?
  - Does anyone know of any other prophecies about Jesus that came true?
  - Why did Jesus come to Earth?
  - If Jesus is God, should we make Him our Lord and Savior?

 Object Lesson

Take a globe, some Bible pictures, and a wristwatch or clock to Disciple Group. Show the Bible pictures to your N.K.s. Talk about how God has been present in our world since Bible times; in fact, ever since the beginning of time. Explain that the same God who created the world in the beginning is with us even TODAY! Show the globe to the children. Talk about how God is with us no matter where we go. When we go on vacation, He is there. He is also with the people on the other side of the world. Let the N.K.s look at the wristwatch or clock. Explain that time is not a factor with God. He does not get old, nor does He ever get tired of being with us. His promises are true, and He always keeps His promises. When God says He is going to do something, He will do it. He is with us.

Close your Disciple Group meeting with a time of prayer.

Hand out the P.R.A.Y. acrostic cards to different children in your group. Ask each student to hold up their card when it is time to pray that type of prayer. Leader, start the prayer time with these prayer guides. Encourage each child to pray.

**P**—Praise and thanksgiving

Praise God for speaking to His people through the prophets and foretelling the coming of Jesus, the Messiah.

**R**—Repent and confess

Ask the Lord to forgive you for living for yourself instead of for Him.

**A**—Ask

Ask God to reveal the truth of Jesus Christ to you each and every day.

**Y**—Yield and surrender

Surrender yourself to the Lord and let Him have His way in your life today.

You, as the leader, should close the prayer time to bring focus and a good ending to your time of prayer.

 Learning Activity

Play a matching game based on the chart of "Biblical Predictions and Fulfillment" earlier in this chapter. On a piece of posterboard, draw the chart from page 13 but leave blank the Scripture references under the columns "Old Testament Prophecy" and "Fulfillment in Jesus." On separate pieces of paper, write the Scripture references listed on the chart. Make sure each piece of paper with a Scripture reference is the right size to fit where it belongs on the chart. Put rolled up pieces of tape in each blank space on the posterboard where the N.K.s can attach their pieces of paper. Divide your group into two teams for a race and give each child a Scripture reference (or you could do this as a big group and let all the students race at once). When you say "Go," the children are to look up their Scripture reference in their Bible to determine where the reference belongs on the chart. You can give this hint: All Old Testament references will be placed somewhere in the column, "Old Testament Prophecy," while all the New Testament references are to be placed in the column, "Fulfillment in Jesus." Each child on the team or in the group should look up a passage on their own, determine where it belongs on the chart, and place it on that part of the chart. Play again until all the Scriptures are on the chart.

 Leader Notes & N.K. Prayer Requests

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