

# UNEXPECTED

~~PRESENTS~~  
*Presence*



# WEEK 2

## BIBLE STORY

Joseph Receives an Unexpected Visit

*Matthew 1:18-24 NLT*

## TODAY'S TAKEAWAY

When the unexpected happens, we have a choice to make.

## SERIES VERSE

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

*Isaiah 9:6 KJV*

## WEEKLY VERSE

You can make plans, but the Lord's purpose will prevail.

*Proverbs 19:21 NLT*



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## *Game: Pass the Presents*

### SUPPLIES

- Wrapping paper (at least three different patterns)
- Small boxes
- Toys/candy
- Tape
- Christmas music (prepared)

### SETUP

- Place the toys/candy in the small boxes. You will need to wrap some of the presents only once, some twice, and some three times. You can wrap them as many times as you like. Every time you add a new layer, change the type of wrapping paper you are using. Make sure you don't tape the layers of wrapping paper together. You can wrap as many presents as you like. If your group is larger, you will need multiple presents per round; plan on breaking the group up into smaller groups.

### HOW TO PLAY

1. Everyone can play.
2. If your group is smaller (under ten kids), have them stay together in one group for this game and form a circle. If you have a larger group, break them up into small groups and have each group form a circle.
3. Give each group one present for each round.
4. When the music starts, each group should begin passing their present around the circle. When the music stops, whoever is holding the present can unwrap only one layer of wrapping paper.
5. If that was the last layer of wrapping paper, they may keep the gift; if not, start the music up again and begin passing it around the circle.
6. Keep playing each round until the kids unwrap every layer of wrapping paper.

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## Message

### SUPPLIES

- A Bible in your preferred version (this curriculum uses the NLT version primarily)
- Angel wings and a halo
- A pillow
- Two toys or candy bars that most kids would like (don't purchase candy with nuts to avoid potential allergic reactions)
- Two "bad" presents (socks, soap, toothpaste, etc.)
- Wrapping paper or gift bags

### SETUP

- Wrap up the toys/candy bars and bad presents in wrapping paper or gift bags.

### INTRODUCTION

Last week we started our "Unexpected Presence" Series with Mary receiving an unexpected visit from an angel with some shocking news. The angel reminded Mary of something very important. Can anyone remember what the angel reminded Mary of? **Allow kids to respond.** Gabriel reminded her that God was with her. We learned that God is with all of us, all the time, no matter what happens. This week we are going to read about another unexpected visit to someone very close to Mary. Can you guess who that might be? **Allow kids to respond.** That's right, Joseph. Joseph and Mary were not quite married yet, and Jesus had not been born when Joseph received

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a very unexpected visit.

## BIBLE STORY

Open up your Bibles and turn with me to Matthew 1:18-24 to find out more about this second unexpected visit.

***Allow time for the kids to turn to Matthew 1:18-24.***

In Matthew chapter 1, we see that God sent an angel to Joseph as well. Now, we don't know if it was the same angel who visited Mary from last week, but we only have one costume. I need two volunteers to come up and play our angel and Joseph.

***Put the halo and wings on the kid playing the angel.*** We do know that the angel came to Joseph in a dream. ***Have Joseph lay down with his head on the pillow and pretend to be sleeping.*** The angel said to him, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for He will save his people from their sins." The Bible tell us that all of this occurred to fulfill the Lord's message through his prophet: "Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" So, Joseph woke up from his dream (***have Joseph get up***), and he did as the angel of the Lord commanded and took Mary as his wife. Let's give Joseph a hand. ***Lead kids in applauding Joseph and have him find a seat.***

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## LIFE APPLICATION/OBJECT LESSON

When Joseph found out about Jesus being born, at first, he didn't even want to marry Mary. He thought it would be easier for everyone if he just ran away from the whole situation. However, after the angel visited him, he changed his mind and did what he was supposed to do. He had a choice to make. He could have chosen to run away, but he chose the right way in the end. I need a volunteer to come up and help me. **Choose a volunteer to come up.** I'm going to give you the choice between two of these presents. You can choose either one. One has a present you will like and the other one, not so much. **Allow the kid to choose between one of the good presents and one of the bad presents.** Great! Now, I need one more volunteer to come up and choose between my other two presents. Choose another kid to come up and choose between the other two presents. **Have both of the kids open their presents and react to if they chose a good or bad present. Allow them to have a seat.**

We all have many choices to make every day. Sometimes they are easy to make, other times we may feel like we are guessing like in our object lesson today. We don't have to feel like we are guessing our way through life if we have God on our side. When we ask Jesus into our lives, he sends us the Holy Spirit to live inside of us. The Holy Spirit will speak to us through little nudges and feelings sometimes. We might have a choice to make and you just know that you shouldn't do something, you can just feel it. That's the Holy Spirit guiding you to make the right choice. We have to listen to His guidance just like Joseph listened to the angel's command and did what he told him to do. Let's pray and ask God to guide us to make the right choices when we face unexpected situations.

**Optional: Offer a prayer of salvation for any kids who have not accepted Jesus into their lives.**

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## *Review Questions*

1. What is the name of our series?

Answer: Unexpected Presence

2. Who was unexpectedly visited in today's Bible Story?

Answer: Joseph

3. Who visited Joseph?

Answer: an angel

4. What is Today's Takeaway?

Answer: When the unexpected happens, we have a choice to make.

5. Where is our theme verse found in the Bible?

Answer: Isaiah 9:6

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## *Discussion Questions*

1. Have you ever received an unexpected present? Was it good or bad?
2. Have you ever been in a position where you had to make a choice and it was easier to run away than to deal with it? What did you do?
3. How would you react if God sent an angel to visit you?
4. Have you ever felt that nudge or feeling from the Holy Spirit that you should or shouldn't do something before? Did you listen to it or ignore it and do your own thing?
5. Optional: Look up these verses and discuss them as a group. - Proverbs 19:21, 1 Corinthians 10:13, Matthew 7:13-14



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## *Group Game: Alphabet Presents*

### SUPPLIES

- Small pieces of paper
- A bucket or container (1 per small group)
- Pads of paper or small dry erase boards (2 per small group)
- Markers (2 per small group)

### SETUP

- Write each letter of the alphabet on a small piece of paper. Fold it up and put it in the bucket/container. Make a set for each small group.

### HOW TO PLAY

1. Choose two kids to play in each round.
2. For each round, the leader will pull a letter out of the bucket and the kids will have to race to see who can write the name of a present starting with that letter.
3. Keep playing choosing two new kids to play in each round.