Application: You and I can thank God that He loved us and sent His Son Jesus to take the punishment for sin. If you know that you have done things wrong that make God sad you can (1) Tell God you are sorry for the wrong things you have done. (2) Thank God for sending Jesus to take the punishment for your sin. (3) Tell God you want Him to save you from the punishment of sin too. The Bible says, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved (Acts 16:31)."

If you want to talk to God today about your sin problem and want me to help you, I will be sitting right over there while the boys and girls play a game. You can come and talk to me.

Song: Jesus Loves Me

CEF Good News – Great Joy for Preschoolers

Up Rules, Prayer, Song

Good News – Great Joy Cheer

My God is So Great

Teaching on God: God is wonderful. He loves you and me very much (use first person). He is the One who created the heavens and the earth! He created you! The Bible says, "God loves you with an everlasting love," Jeremiah 31:3.

Memory Verse (See notes)

Lesson Intro: I have good news for you! Today if you follow the up rules, you will get some Christmas Stickers you can put on the angels you made! The Bible tells about 3x an angel delivered good news about God's Son Jesus! Let's count to three! (1, 2, 3!)

(Picture NGJ-1) Hold up number one finger**,** First, the angel appeared to Mary with good news! (*You can put your finger down*.) Mary was surprised to see an angel. Can you show me your surprised face?

(Open your Bible) The angel said, "You will have a Son and you will call His name Jesus," Luke 1:31-32).

What would she name her son? (let children respond) Jesus!

Hold up a word strip with the letters: JESUS. Let's spell his name together: J-E-S-U-S spells Jesus!

Cheer: Good News! Great Joy!

(No Picture, You can fold NGJ-1 in half and only show the angel) Hold up number two finger! Number two, God wanted someone else to know the good news too! You can put your fingers down. His name was Joseph. Joseph would be Mary's husband. He would help Mary care for baby Jesus.

Joseph was sleeping one night. Can you pretend like you are sleeping? The angel came to Joseph in a dream! The angel said, “Mary will have a son, you will name Him Jesus, He will save the people from their sins,” (Matthew 1:20-21). (Note: Two children can role play this scene.)

(Sin Picture) Do you know what sin is? (Teach children sign language for sin by bending pointer finger in and twirling hands). Sin is choosing our selfish way instead of God’s good way. What is this child doing in this picture? Talk about why the child’s action is a sin. Sin makes God sad but all people are born with this problem. Because God is only good, He must punish sin. God was sending Jesus to save you and me from the punishment of sin.

Why did God send His Son Jesus? To save the people from the punishment of sin.

Cheer: Good News- Great Joy!

(NGJ- 3, skip picture NGJ-2) Ask with enthusiasm, Guess what happened? It was just like the angel said, Mary had a baby and Mary and Joseph named the baby, Jesus!

Song: (JESUS was His name O)

Review: Have children Hold up 1 finger, one, an angel shared the good news of Jesus to Mary. Hold up 2 fingers, two, and angel told the good news to Joseph. Hold up 3 fingers, three, the angel would tell the good news to shepherds! Shepherds are people who care for sheep.

(NGJ-4): Shepherds were taking care of their sheep at night when the angel appeared to the shepherds. They were afraid! Can you show me your scared face? (Make scared face).

Open Bible, The angel said, “Don’t be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy! Today, the Savior, Christ the Lord is born for you!” (Luke 2:10-12)

Cheer: Good News! Great Joy!

Song: John 3:16 Song, Let’s sing our John 3:16 song.

(**Role Play**: Have a baby Jesus wrapped in clothe. Children can take turns rocking baby Jesus as you sing the song. A volunteer can help with this activity passing the doll from one child to the next.)

(NGJ-5) Point to baby Jesus on picture, Jesus came as a little baby but he came to be our Savior from the punishment of sin.

Point to the cross on picture, Jesus would grow up and become a man. He would die on a cross to take the punishment for yours sins and mine.

Point to the empty tomb on picture, He was buried in a tomb that looked like this. He was there 3 days. One the third day He came back alive.

Have children stand up and say 1 Corinthians 15:3b-4 with you using hand motions.

NGJ-6: Suddenly the shepherds saw lots and lots of angels singing and praising God!

NGJ-7: The shepherds hurried to go see baby Jesus and it was just as the angels told them. The shepherds thanked God for baby Jesus.

NGJ-8: After the shepherds visited baby Jesus, guess what they did? Just like the angels, they went and told others the Good News! They had great Joy!

Cheer: Good News! Great Joy!