TREE OF PROMISE

Memory Verse: ***"Before the world began, there was the Word. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning."*** ***John 1:1-2 (ICB)***

Big Idea: ***God's Promise: In the Flesh***

Bible Story: ***Jesus is KING | Matthew 1***

Gear Up - Arrival

Greet children as they enter the classroom. Mark them present using your iPad and/or paper roster.

Opening Activities: Engage with the kids in your room as they play and interact with designated games and activities as time allows. Use this opportunity to ask kids about their week, discuss their interests, and encourage them to connect with one another!

Memory Verse Game – Memory Motions

What you'll need: No supplies needed
How to Play:

- Encourage the kids to help make up an action or hand motion for each key word or phrase in this month's memory verse.
- Practice the verse together using the motions as cues.
- Repeat several times until everyone can say it smoothly with the actions and without looking at the memory verse poster.

Bible Time – Match the Promise

What you'll need: create cards with the following names and phrases
How to play:

- Kids match each promise with the person who received that promise from God.
- **Bible Figure –** Abraham, David, Joseph
- **Promises –**
  - "Your family will bless the whole world."
  - "A king will come from your family."
  - "Don't be afraid—this child is from God."
- **Literacy skill:** Seeing fulfillment of Old Testament promises in the New Testament narrative.

Get-To-Know-You Game – Let's Roll the Dice

What you'll need: dice
How to Play:

- Gather your kids and have them sit in a circle.
- Give one die to one kid in the group.
- Have that kid roll the dice.
- Next have them answer the icebreaker question that correspond with the number they rolled (listed below).
- Repeat until each child has had a turn.

  1 - What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?
  2 - What is your favorite restaurant?
  3 - What is your favorite movie/TV show?
  4 - If you could eat only one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?
  5 - Where is your favorite place to visit?
  6 - What is your favorite color?

Gear Up - Welcome – 5 minutes

Begin 10 minutes after the service time starts (Ex. 9:40 at the 9:30 experience).

Gather kids together in a space where they can see the TV.
Take a moment to **welcome** the kids to KXP and let them know how glad you are that they are here!

PRAY FIRST! We want to model this for our kids. Take a moment to pray for the time together and for the kids in your room.

Lesson Introduction – 5 minutes

Share the Lesson Intro with the class before starting the **KXP lesson video**. Challenge them to listen and pay attention during the Bible Story.

Say: *"Welcome to KXP and a brand-new month! It's December already! You know what holiday is right around the corner, don't you? You are so right – Christmas! The thing that makes Christmas – Christmas-is the joy of Jesus!*

We have been learning about the promises of God. God is a promise keeper! He kept His Word to many people in order that we might be saved from separation from Him. God has had a plan from the moment Adam and Eve chose to sin. Humans would need to be rescued. God's promises became flesh in the form of a tiny baby, born in a barn, and laid in a manger.

That's our Big Idea for this month – ***Jesus is God's promise in the flesh.*** *We are going to read together from the Bible and look at the family tree of Jesus. We will learn how Jesus is the King of Kings. Here is the part in our series, Tree of Promise, where we can see the big picture.* ***Isaiah chapter 11, verse 1 says "A branch will grow from a stump of a tree that was cut down. So a new king will come from the family of Jesse."*** *Jesus is that branch and He is the new king."*

Play the KXP lesson video in your classroom.

Bible Story – 10 minutes

Leaders, please read the Bible story below before Sunday to prepare for discussion.

Jesus is KING | Matthew 1

Let's jump into the New Testament in the book of Matthew. Matthew chapter 1 tells us about **Jesus' family tree** and all the people who were part of His family long before He was born. It starts with **Abraham**, the man God promised to bless with many generations in his family. Then came Isaac and Jacob. Remember them? I hope so! ***Verse 6 tells us "Jesse was the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon."*** We read in Isaiah 11:1 that "a new king would come from the family of Jesse." Scripture has come true!

There were many generations after **King David** in the family tree. And God kept His promises to them all. We finally come to Joseph. Now this is not the same Joseph that we studied who had a coat of many colors and saved his people from starving to death during the famine. This Joseph lived many, many years after the Joseph with the colorful coat.

Verse 16 in Matthew chapter 1 says "Joseph was the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus. Jesus is called the Christ." Joseph became Jesus' earthly father. This shows that Jesus came from a long line of people God had chosen and loved. Jesus' family tree was really BIG!

Then, the true story tells us how **Jesus was born**. A young woman named **Mary** was engaged to a man named **Joseph**. Yep! The same Joseph we just learned about. Mary found out she was going to have a baby — and this baby was special. The baby was from the **Holy Spirit**, not from any man!

Joseph was kind and didn't want to embarrass Mary, but he wasn't sure what to do. Then an **angel** came to him in a dream and said in ***verses 20 and 21, "Joseph, descendant of David, don't be afraid to take Mary as your wife. The baby in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son. You will name the son Jesus. Give Him that name because He will save His people from their sins."*** When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel told him. He married Mary, and when the baby was born, he named Him **Jesus**.

This happened just like God promised long ago — that a **virgin would have a baby**, and His name would be **Immanuel**, which means **'God with us.'** Jesus was God in the flesh, and He came to be with us and live like us.

Our new memory verse says **"*Before the world began, there was the Word. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.*" *John 1:1-2*** Can you try something with me? Let's read this verse again and every time you see **"the Word"** let's switch it for **"Jesus."** Got it? Read with me. **"*Before the world began, there was Jesus. Jesus was with God, and Jesus was God. He was with God in the beginning.*"**

Wow! Jesus has always been! Just like God and the Holy Spirit have always been! Jesus truly is Immanuel – God with us. Jesus came from a large family tree just as it was promised. Jesus was a king like no other king. He wasn't born in a palace. He didn't wear a gold crown or sit on a throne. He did not order people around or sleep in a large bed. Jesus' kingdom is upside down. His mission was to save people who were lost and far from God. He was born in a barn filled with animals. His crown was made of thorns. He loved and cared for people. He slept on the hard ground with his closest friends. I want to know, love, and follow that kind of king – King Jesus!

Lesson Recap –15 minutes

After the video has ended, **share the Lesson Conclusion** with the class.
Say: *"Our new memory verse says* **"*Before the world began, there was the Word. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.*" *John 1:1-2***

Can you try something with me? Let's read this verse again and every time you see ***"the Word"*** *let's switch it for* ***"Jesus."*** *Got it? Read with me.* **"*Before the world began, there was Jesus. Jesus was with God, and Jesus was God. He was with God in the beginning.*"** *Wow! Jesus has always been! Just like God and the Holy Spirit have always been! Jesus truly is Immanuel – God with us.*

Jesus came from a large family tree just as it was promised. Jesus was a king like no other king. He wasn't born in a palace. He didn't wear a gold crown or sit on a throne. He did not order people around or sleep in a large bed.

Jesus' kingdom is upside down. His mission was to save people who were lost and far from God. He was born in a barn filled with animals. His crown was made of thorns. He loved and cared for people. He slept on the hard ground with his closest friends. I want to know, love, and follow that kind of king – King Jesus! Thanks for being here today for this really important part of Jesus' story."

Discuss the following questions with your class. *(This can be done in a large or small group setting.)*

- Do you recognize any names in Jesus' family tree?
- What did the angel tell Joseph in his dream?
- What name did the angel tell Joseph to give the baby?

Deep Dive Questions

Why do you think it's important to know where Jesus came from?
How does it make you feel to know Jesus had real family members just like us?
Why do you think God chose Mary and Joseph to be Jesus' parents on earth?
What can we learn from Joseph about obeying even when we don't understand everything?

Direct the kids to the **Memory Verse** and **Big Idea** posters in your room. Have your class read them together out loud. Celebrate the kids for paying attention and listening well!

Close in Prayer – 3 to 5 minutes

Ask the kids in your room to share any **prayer requests** they have. Give them a moment to **fill out prayer cards** or **choose a prayer prompt** to take home. Then **pray over them**!

- **P**RAISE - *Open with adoration.*
- **R**EPENT - *Recall and connect the Big Idea from the Bible Story to yourself and the kids.*
- **A**SK - *Petition the Lord on the kids' behalf.*
- **Y**IELD - *Close by giving thanks to God for His perfect plan.*

Live It Out – 5 to 8 minutes | **Angel Message Foldable**

What you'll need: paper, markers, scissors

Leaders: God encouraged Joseph through a dream. An angel told Joseph to trust God.

- Fold a paper into thirds.
- On the outside write: **"Joseph was afraid…"**
- Open the first flap: **"But an angel came!"** (Kids draw the angel.)
- Open the next flap: **"Do not be afraid. Jesus will save His people."**
- Last part: Draw Joseph obeying.

*This can be adapted for older kids. **Leaders** can ask the following questions, and kids can write their responses on the folded flaps.

Why do you think it's important to know where Jesus came from?
Why do you think God chose Mary and Joseph to be Jesus' parents on earth?
What can we learn from Joseph about obeying even when we don't understand everything?

Leave No Trace – End of the Hour

- As parents arrive to pick up children, have the **kids work together to clean up** the classroom.
- **Thank them** for coming and **encourage them to invite a friend** and come back next week!
- Children can **finish opening activities** while waiting on their parents.