

# Bible Lessons at a Glance

## LESSON 1: The Surprising Journey— *Born in the Likeness of Men*

**MAIN THEME:** *In the most wonderful and surprising journey ever taken, God the Son purposed with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit to leave the glories of Heaven to become a little baby in this broken world to rescue sinful people.*



### Theme Verse: *Philippians 2:9-11*

*Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

## OVERVIEW OF THE WEEK

Onward and upward, backpackers! This week at Upward Bound we will follow our Lead Guide Jesus as he shows us that the way up is actually down. Following the trail of Philippians 2, we'll learn of Jesus' surprising birth, humble childhood, obedient life, painful death, glorious resurrection and joy-filled ascension. We will explore this great paradox of the Christian life, that the path to honor is actually a path of humility. We will learn why Jesus is exalted and honored above all. And together we will more deeply discover the greatness of our Savior Jesus who willingly gave up His position and privilege to rescue us from sin and death to restore us to unbroken fellowship with Himself.

**STORY SUMMARY:** **The greatest journey ever made was the one God took in becoming man. Because fallen man was utterly incapable of returning to God, God came to us. Jesus left the Courts of Heaven & forever took on human form to accomplish our salvation.**

**Character:** Gabriel the Angel

**Alternate Character:** Zechariah or Elizabeth, the parents of John the Baptist

**Scripture:** Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-7

**Related Scripture:** Luke 2:8-40; Matthew 1:18-25, 2:16-18; Philippians 2:5-11

### STORY OUTLINE:

#### 🌿 Introduction

- Each person is on an Earthly Bound or Upward Bound Journey.
- Jesus made the most difficult and surprising Upward Bound Journey possible when he left the glories of Heaven to become a human in this broken world.
- Jesus did this to rescue sinful people and make their Upward Bound Journey possible.

#### 🌿 The Reason Jesus Made the Surprising Journey: The Fall

- God created the world good.
- Adam and Eve lived in loving relationship with God, each other, and the world.
- Adam and Eve disbelieved God and disobeyed Him.
- Their sin ruined everything, and they could not fix it.

#### 🌿 God already had a plan to rescue His people.

- Before Adam and Eve sinned, and even before Creation, God had already decided to save people from their sin and Satan's power.
- God the Father would send His son,

Jesus, to become man so that he could take the punishment and death humans deserved because of sin. Jesus would live a completely righteous life in the place of humans.

- When Jesus took on a human body, He was changed forever. He will always be God and man.

#### 🌿 Gabriel is sent to Mary to announce Jesus' birth.

- Gabriel tells Mary to not be afraid because God is pleased with her.
- He also tells her that she would be the mother of God's son, and she was to name Him Jesus.
- "Jesus" means "God saves" because Jesus will save His people from their sins.

#### 🌿 Jesus is born in humble circumstances.

- Mary becomes pregnant.
- She travels to Bethlehem with her betrothed husband, Joseph.
- There is no room in the inns so she gives birth to him in a place that also houses animals.
- King Herod, a cruel Roman governor, hears of Jesus' birth and kills all of the baby boys in the area.

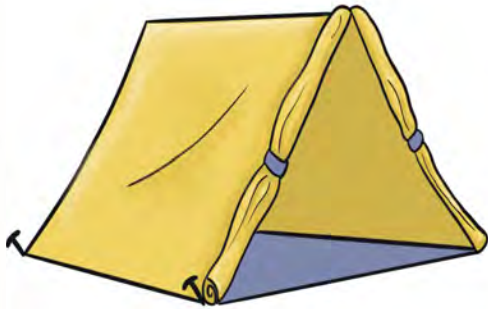
#### 🌿 Application:

- Everyone is on a journey. You are either Earthly Bound toward Hell or Upward Bound to Heaven and being a part of God's family.
- If you believe that Jesus took his surprising journey of becoming a man for you, then you are Upward Bound.

## LESSON 2: The Humbling Journey—*The Form of a Servant*

**MAIN THEME:** *Jesus had one driving purpose in his life: to do the will of his Heavenly Father. He humbly lived every moment of every day loving and learning to obey God his Father, and loving and serving the people around Him, even as a child!*

**STORY SUMMARY:** **Mary, the mother of Jesus, tells the children of Jesus' life of humble obedience as she recounts stories from Jesus' growing up beginning with his visit to the Temple at age 12.**



**Character:** Mary, the mother of Jesus

**Alternate Character:** Joseph, Jesus' earthly father

**Scripture:** Luke 2:39-52

**Related Scripture:** Hebrews 3:17-18, 5:7-8; Philippians 2:5-11

### STORY OUTLINE:

#### Review:

- Gabriel told Mary that God had chosen her to be Jesus' mother.
- Everyone is either Upward Bound or Earthly Bound.
- It is only possible for us to be Upward Bound because of Jesus' life and death.

#### Jesus' family traveled to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover.

- Jewish people celebrated Passover to remember how God had rescued them from being slaves in Egypt and to remind them how God would save them from sin.

#### When Passover was over, Jesus' family began the journey back to Nazareth.

- Mary and Joseph noticed that Jesus was missing at the end of the first day of travel.
- They returned to Jerusalem in search of Jesus.

#### On the third day, Mary and Joseph found Jesus in the Temple.

- Jesus was listening to and talking with the teachers.
- Mary asked Jesus how He could do this to them.
- Jesus told her that He must be about His Father's business.
- Mary was reminded of Jesus'

special purpose: to obey the Father completely.

- To be the Savior, Jesus had to be completely faithful and obedient no matter how much He suffered.

#### Jesus went back to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph.

- He lived humbly and obediently with his family until He was 30.
- He loved the Bible and memorized it.
- He learned to be a carpenter from Joseph.
- Jesus never sinned.

#### Application:

- Living a sinless life was not easy for Jesus.
- Jesus lived a humble obedient life for the Father's glory and because He loved you.
- What should we do?
  - Trust Jesus to be your Savior!
  - If you have trusted Jesus to be your Savior, ask the Holy Spirit to help you follow Jesus and become more and more like Him.

## LESSON 3: The Obedient Journey—*Humbled Himself by Being Obedient*

**MAIN THEME:** *In all Jesus did, God the Father was fully pleased with Him. Jesus never, ever sinned or gave in to Satan's temptations. Because of his settled purpose to do the will of the Father, his having fed on the Word of God throughout his life, and his complete dependence on the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was able to be fully obedient.*

**STORY SUMMARY:** **Gil the Gecko continues the story of Jesus' Upward Bound journey telling of His baptism in the Jordan River and His agonizing temptation in the desert showing that in every situation even under the most difficult of circumstances, Jesus was completely obedient through the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.**

**Character:** Gilead the Gecko, "Gil"

**Alternate Character:** (none)

**Scripture:** Luke 3:21-23, 4:1-15

**Related Scripture:** Matthew 4:1-11; James 4:7; 1 Corinthians 10:12-13; Philippians 2:5-11

### STORY OUTLINE:

#### Review:

- Mary was Jesus' mother.
- Jesus humbly obeyed and served those around Him even as a child.

#### John the Baptist was preaching and baptizing by the Jordan River.

- He preached that people were full of sin and needed to be sorry and ask God's forgiveness.
- He baptized people in the river

to show that they wanted God to wash away their sin.

- He also preached that the Savior of the world was coming to wash away people's sin.

### 🍁 **Jesus asked John to baptize Him.**

- Jesus did not have any sin, but He needed to be baptized to live a completely obedient life.
- John declared that Jesus was the Savior of the world.
- The Holy Spirit came in the form of a dove to strengthen Jesus, and the Father declared that He was pleased with Jesus.

### 🍁 **Jesus went to the desert alone.**

- He sat, walked, and prayed for 40 days.
- He did not have food or water.

### 🍁 **While Jesus was weak, Satan tempted Jesus three times.**

- Satan tempted Jesus to turn stones into bread: use His power to take care of His own needs instead of depending on His Father
  - *Jesus said:* People need to do what God tells them more than food and water.
- Satan took Jesus to a high cliff and offered Him all the kingdoms of the world if Jesus would worship him: get what you want by loving something more than God.
  - *Jesus said:* Worship and serve God only.
- Satan took Jesus to the top of the Temple and told Him to throw Himself down so that the angels would catch Him: go the easy way and show off your power.
  - *Jesus said:* Do not put the Lord your God to the test.

- Jesus suffered under these temptations, but He obeyed the Father so that He could live a perfect life to save us.

### 🍁 **Application:**

- Satan tries to tempt you every day:
  - You can't trust God to provide.
  - Love other things more than God.
  - Take the easy way out and assume God will forgive you.
- You don't have the power on your own to say no to Satan.
  - You can only have victory over Satan and sin by asking God to forgive your sins and believing that Jesus lived and died in your place.
  - Then through the Holy Spirit, God gives you the Word of God, prayer, and His power to resist the devil.

## LESSON 4: The Painful Journey—*Obedient to Death on a Cross*

**MAIN THEME:** *Jesus' complete obedience to the Father and selfless love for us led him to the Cross where he took our sins on Himself and died the painful death we deserved.*

**STORY SUMMARY:** **Simon of Cyrene shares a moving account of Jesus' death and his own role in the dramatic events.**

**Character:** Simon of Cyrene

**Alternate Character:** Alexandra, the wife of Simon of Cyrene

**Scripture:** Luke 22:47-Luke 23

**Related Scripture:** Matthew 27: 32-56; John 19:16-37; Philippians 2:5-11

### **STORY OUTLINE:**

#### 🍁 **Review:**

- Jesus' surprising decision to become a man
- How Jesus lived humbly as a child and learned obedience
- How Jesus remained obedient even in the face of great temptation

#### 🍁 **Simon of Cyrene, North Africa (Libya) had heard of Jesus.**

- Jesus healed sick people, made the blind see, and even brought people back to life.
- Jesus told people about His

Father and their need to repent.

- Jesus claimed to be God.

#### 🍁 **Jerusalem was crowded with people for the Passover celebration.**

#### 🍁 **Simon heard terrible news.**

- Jesus had been arrested, put on trial, and sentenced to death.
- Jesus had done nothing to deserve this.
- The leaders were jealous of Jesus and hated Him because He was so good.

#### 🍁 **Simon heard the crowd as Jesus was being sent to execution.**

- People were yelling, laughing, and pointing at Jesus.
- Jesus was beaten and bloody. He wore a crown of thorns on His head and was dragging His cross through the streets.



- Roman soldiers grabbed Simon and forced him to help carry Jesus' cross.

#### 🍁 **At the hill called, "The Skull", Jesus was executed between two thieves.**

- Jesus did not struggle; He gave up His life freely.
- Jesus' hands and feet were nailed to the wooden cross, and a sign put over His head "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews."
- Jews and Romans mocked and yelled at Jesus.
- Jesus prayed for the forgiveness of those who crucified Him.
- One of the thieves being executed with Jesus put his faith in Him.

#### 🍁 **An earthquake shook the ground and it became dark.**

- Jesus cried out, "It is finished!" and died.

- Jesus had completed the work on earth God had given Him to do.

### 🍁 Application:

- Jesus was always Upward Bound in His life and His death to rescue you from sin, Satan, and death.
- We cannot be perfect like Jesus by

trying to be good.

- Have you ever gotten angry and hit someone?
- Have you ever snuck something without asking?
- Have you ever thought or said something mean?

- Have you ever lied?

- Only Lead Guide Jesus can make us Upward Bound.
- Jesus lived and died for us.
- He gives us His goodness as a present if we ask Him.



## LESSON 5: The Joy of the Journey—*God Has Highly Exalted Him*

**MAIN THEME:** *Jesus rose from the dead, conquering it forever, and returned to Heaven as the victorious God-man, where He reigns as King and Lord of all with the “name that is above every name” (Phil. 2:9).*

**STORY SUMMARY:** **Mary Magdalene joyfully tells of her life-changing discovery when she and the other women went to the tomb early on the third day after Jesus’ crucifixion and shares with Backpackers how they too can be Upward Bound with Jesus.**

**Character:** Mary Magdalene

**Alternate Character:** Peter the apostle

**Scripture:** Luke 24:1-12; Luke 24:50-53

**Related Scripture:** Hebrews 12:2; Philippians 2:5-11

### STORY OUTLINE:

#### 🍁 Review:

- Gabriel the angel told you how Jesus left the amazing glories of Heaven to become a little baby in this broken world.
- Jesus’ mother, Mary, told you how as He grew up, Jesus lived every moment of every day loving and obeying God His Father, and loving and serving the people around Him.
- Gil the Gecko told how Jesus never, ever sinned or gave in to Satan’s temptations.
- Simon of Cyrene told how Jesus took our sins on Himself and died an awful death on the cross.

#### 🍁 After Jesus died, he was laid in a tomb.

- Jesus’ body was wrapped in a large piece of fabric.
- Then it was laid in a tomb with a large stone rolled in front of the door.
- Mary Magdalene, the disciples, and the other followers of Jesus were sad and confused after His death.



#### 🍁 Early on the third morning, Mary and the other women decided to prepare Jesus’ body for burial..

- They were worried about rolling the stone away.
- When they got to the tomb, the stone was already rolled away.
- The women entered the tomb only to find that Jesus’ body was gone and the large piece of fabric was neatly folded where it had been.

#### 🍁 Two angels appeared to the women.

- They told the women that Jesus had risen from the dead just as He had told them.
- The women ran to tell the disciples the good news, but they did not believe right away.

#### 🍁 For 40 days, Jesus came and went among his followers.

- This showed them that Jesus was really alive.
- His followers also learned that while Jesus’ body was different, His kindness and love were the same.

#### 🍁 Jesus ascended to heaven while His disciples watched.

- Jesus had fought the battle against sin, death, and Satan, and had won!

- All of Heaven rejoiced and hailed Him as the Great King and Mighty Victor.
- At this moment, Jesus is sitting at the right hand of God praying for us.
- One day He will come back as the Mighty King over the New Heavens and the New Earth to be with those who love and believe in Him forever!

#### 🍁 Application:

- Are you Upward Bound or Earthly Bound?
  - Bible says that everyone is full of sin.
  - The only way to please God and go to Heaven is to be without sin.
  - Jesus lived the perfect life for us because He loved us.
- How do you become Upward Bound?
  - Believe that you are a sinner who needs Jesus’ perfect life and death.
  - Believe that Jesus lived the perfect life for you and died in your place.
  - Tell God, and He will give you salvation through faith in Jesus!
- Christian life is not easy, but we have help and joy along the way.
  - God gives us His Word, prayer, and the friendship and power of His Holy Spirit.
  - Through Jesus, one day you will reach the Summit and be with Him forever!