

Guiding and Protecting

Big Idea: Jesus is my God who protects me.

Memory Verse

"For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways" (Psalm 91:11).

Word of the Week

"Protect" - Protect means to keep someone or something safe from danger. God wants to keep you safe! He has given His angels the very special job of protecting you every day.

This week's lesson

is based on **Luke 2:22-38;** **Matthew 2:19-23;** and *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 59-67.

Sunday

God's Protection

Mary looked at little Jesus as He played. She couldn't stop thinking about everything that had happened.

She would never forget the angel who had told her that she would give birth to the promised Savior! If she closed her eyes, she could still imagine the angel's face and shining glow.

Her tummy had grown big with Baby Jesus inside. She remembered the long, bumpy donkey ride to Bethlehem and the sad feeling of having no place to stay.

Mary smiled as she remembered the animal stable and then what it was like to hold Baby Jesus for the first time. He was the best gift in the whole world!

She thought about the excited shepherds who told them about an angel choir. Then, of course, there was the moving star, and the Wise Men who followed it. So much had happened!

Mary knew that God had been very busy keeping their little family safe through it all.

Who else had been keeping Jesus safe? Read **Psalm**

91:11. This promise is for you too! Maybe the next time you are scared or worried, you can read or say this verse. Never forget that God's big, strong angels are protecting you, just as they protected Baby Jesus.

I Wonder

» Can you think of a time that God and His angels kept you safe from danger or being hurt?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for His angels, who are busy protecting you each day.

Mission Challenge

Draw a picture of five people in your community who do jobs to help others. Cut out the pictures. Pray for these people each day this week.



Monday

A Jealous King

King Herod stomped up and down the palace hall with an angry scowl. Where were the Wise Men?

He thought about the day the Wise Men had arrived in Jerusalem. What a surprise it had been. Herod had invited the men to his palace, and they had asked him, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?" (Matthew 2:2).

Even now Herod grew angry at the thought of this question. There was only one king in this land, and his name was King Herod! How dare anybody even think that there could be a king other than Herod. No! No baby king would ever take *his* throne!

Herod grinned wickedly as he remembered how he had tricked the Wise Men. Hiding his anger, he had told them, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also" (Matthew 2:8).

King Herod didn't really want to worship Jesus. It was a trap! He wanted to find this baby King and get rid of Him. (Oh, no!)

But now many days had passed, and the Wise Men had not returned. King Herod frowned. Where were they? Surely they had found the baby King by now.

What had happened to the Wise Men? Read **Matthew 2:12**.

I Wonder

» Why do you think God warned the Wise Men not to go back to Herod?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that He is wiser and stronger than anyone or anything.

Do

Make a crown. With the help from parents, write Jesus' name on the crown and decorate it together. Display it in your window at home for others to see. Finish by thanking Jesus that He is the only true king.

Memory Verse

Parent Faith Talk

Share a time you believe that God's angels protected you from danger or injury.





Tuesday

A Warning Dream

One night, as Mary, Joseph, and little Jesus fell fast asleep under their warm blankets, something happened. Joseph had a dream. In the dream an angel talked to him. The angel said, “Get up! Take the child and His mother and escape to Egypt. Herod will start looking for the child to kill Him” (Matthew 2:13, ICB).

Joseph sat up in bed. He quietly looked around the dark room where Mary and little Jesus lay sleeping. This dream was no ordinary dream. No, this was a message from God. God was trying to protect them. He wanted to keep them safe from wicked King Herod.

Joseph woke Mary up. With urgent whispers he explained the dream. As quiet as mice, they collected their things. Then they picked up sleepy Jesus and hurried down the road. They must get far away from evil King Herod.

Fast Fact

Giraffes sleep only for about four minutes at a time and need only about four hours of sleep a day. That’s not much sleep at all! You need at least 10 hours of sleep every night.

How would they know when it was safe to return home? Read the last part of **Matthew 2:13**.

God would look after them! They didn’t need to worry, because God and His angels would protect them as they traveled. He would keep them safe in a new country. Even in the middle of the night, God was with them, because God “never rests or sleeps” (Psalm 121:4, ICB).

I Wonder

» Do you think Jesus was scared leaving town in such a hurry? Why?

Prayer Idea

Say or sing your memory verse (Psalm 91:11). Thank God for sending His angels to protect you.

Do

How fast can you pack something up? Time how quickly your family can pack up your toys, clothes, or the dishes.

Memory Verse

Wednesday

Where Is the Baby King?

Soldiers raced through the town of Bethlehem on their galloping horses. They banged on every door, searching, searching everywhere. King Herod was furious! He had ordered his soldiers to find the baby King. The soldiers looked in every home, searching for Jesus, who would be “two years old and under” (Matthew 2:16).

But Baby Jesus had already left Bethlehem. He was safely on the road with his parents, traveling to faraway Egypt. Isn't it amazing that God knew Herod's evil plan even before he did it? That is because God knew Herod's thoughts. God sees and knows everything.

Jesus wasn't alone on the trip. He had His parents and someone even stronger with Him. Who else was there? Read **Psalm 34:7**.

God was doing everything needed to save Jesus' life so that one day Jesus could grow up to save you!



I Wonder

- » Can you think of something that God knows and that you don't know?
- » How is the verse in today's lesson (Psalm 34:7) like your memory verse?

Prayer Idea

Thank God that because He knows everything, He can keep us safe from danger.

Do

Draw a picture of something on a piece of paper while your family closes their eyes. Fold the picture up and ask each family member to guess what is drawn. We don't know everything, but God does! God knew exactly what you were going to draw even before you drew it.

Memory Verse



Thursday

Home Again!

“Get up!” Joseph heard the angel say in a dream. He had been hiding in Egypt with Mary and little Jesus for a long time. Jesus had grown so much.

The angel kept talking as Joseph listened carefully. “Take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel” (Matthew 2:20). Mary, Joseph, and Jesus could now go home!

The angel told Joseph that King Herod had died. They didn’t need to hide anymore.

Once again they packed their bags and loaded the donkey. But this time things were different. There was no need to sneak away quietly in the middle of the night. No, they could travel safely in the daytime under the bright sun.

Along the way God gave Joseph *another* dream. God would guide them and keep them safe. In the dream God told Joseph to go back to the place where Mary and Joseph had once lived. Where was that? Read **Matthew 2:23**.

So that is exactly what they did. Mary and Joseph were so thankful to God for guiding and protecting them. God had sent His angels to look after them wherever they went.

God will always look after you too! “For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways” (Psalm 91:11).

I Wonder

» What do you think Jesus might have done as they traveled toward Nazareth? I wonder what He might have seen along the way.

Prayer Idea

Thank God for His protection when you have traveled to other towns or cities.

Do

Draw a simple map from your home to church, and other places you regularly go. Wherever we are, God and His angels guide and protect us.

Memory Verse



Friday

Protectors

Llamas aren't often everyone's favorite animal, but they might be one of your new favorites—because llamas are super special!

Llamas are cousins to the camel. They have the same long neck, but no hump. Their soft, fluffy coat makes them look like a cuddly bedtime toy. And most of the time llamas are quite gentle and calm. Many even like to be petted!

But llamas aren't always cute and cuddly. Do you know what llamas do when they get grumpy at each other? They stick out their tongue. It's true! You might laugh at the thought, but if a llama pokes out its tongue, it's saying, "Don't mess with me! I'm not happy with you." So much llama drama!

But the really cool thing about llamas is how they protect their herd. Their herd might be a flock of sheep, goats, deer, or even chickens. But when a llama decides that an animal is part of his family, he will protect that animal no matter what.

If a fox comes looking for some dinner, watch out! Loving llamas will make a loud warning noise, run toward the fox, chase it, kick it, or spit at it. They never stop watching over and protecting their herd. What caring creatures!

God has adopted us into His family, and He promises to protect and keep us safe from danger too. He even sends His angels day and night to watch over you and "to keep you in all your ways" (Psalm 91:11).

I Wonder

- » Read **Psalm 91:4**. What other animals protect their family?
- » How does it make you feel, knowing God is your protector?

Prayer Idea

Thank God for caring so much about us that He wants to protect us from danger.

Memory Verse

Family Activity

Memory Box

Think about the different ways God protected Mary, Joseph, and Jesus in this week's story. Find something for the memory box that reminds you of God's protection.

For You, Parents

"Angels are ever present where they are most needed, with those who have the hardest battle with self to fight, and whose surroundings are the most discouraging"
(Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 440).

Angel Over Her Tent

"Tomorrow night let's pull Mrs. White's tent down while she's sleeping in it," a young man whispered with a grin to his friends.

It was camp meeting. People had come far and wide to hear Mrs. Ellen White speak about Jesus. Everyone was abuzz with excitement. Everyone, that is, except for a bunch of young troublemakers from a nearby town. They thought it was more interesting to throw stones at tents and cause trouble.

The camp guards were very worried. They heard about the troublemakers' plan to pull down Mrs. White's tent. Hurrying down to the police station, they asked if a policeman would come and guard her tent during the night. So that evening a tall, strong policeman arrived, ready to keep Mrs. White and her tent safe.

But Ellen White wasn't worried one bit about the mischief-makers. So many times in her life God had sent His big, strong angels to protect her from sickness and danger.

She knew God was watching over her. He was much bigger and stronger than any gang of mischief-makers.

That night, after preaching, Ellen White returned to her tent and went to sleep. Outside, the policeman began his job as watchman. But the troublemakers never showed up. By midnight the policeman yawned and looked around. Everything was quiet and still. Then the policeman saw something. He looked closely at Mrs. White's tent, and his eyes opened wide in surprise. There above her tent shone a bright beam of light. The policeman stared as the light turned into a glittering angel.

The policeman dropped to the ground, amazed. For a few minutes he watched the angel standing guard above Ellen White's tent; then he stood to his feet and walked away. His job was done! Mrs. White didn't need his help at all. Not when she had God's mighty angel protecting her.

God's angels are busy protecting you too! "For He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways" (Psalm 91:11).

