



Diocese of Athabasca

Sunday School Lesson Plan – Sunday, December 28, 2025

Here's a **Sunday School Lesson Plan** for young children (ages 4–8) and some activities for older children using the **Revised Common Lectionary readings** for **December 28, 2025 – First Sunday after Christmas (Year A)**. Bible Verses: Is 63:7-9; Ps 148; Heb 2:10-18; Mt 2:13-23; Preface of Christmas

Sunday School Lesson Plan

First Sunday after Christmas – December 28, 2025 (Year A)

Lectionary Readings:

- **Isaiah 63:7–9**
 - **Psalms 148**
 - **Hebrews 2:10–18**
 - **Matthew 2:13–23**
- Preface:** Christmas

Lesson Title:

 *“God Keeps Us Safe”*

Theme / Big Idea:

God loves and protects His children—just as He protected baby Jesus.

Lesson Focus for Kids:

Even when things are scary or confusing, God is always with us and takes care of us.

Scripture Readings – Kid-Friendly Language

Isaiah 63:7–9

“I will tell about God’s kindness and all the good things He has done! God has always loved His people and saved them.”

Psalm 148

“Everything God made—sun, moon, stars, animals, people—praise the Lord!”

Hebrews 2:10–18

“Jesus became like us so He could help us. He understands what it’s like to be human.”

Matthew 2:13–23

An angel told Joseph in a dream to take Mary and baby Jesus to Egypt because King Herod wanted to hurt Jesus. Joseph listened and took his family to safety. Later, when it was safe, they came back home to Nazareth.

Welcome & Opening Prayer / Circle Time

Gathering Idea:

Have the children sit in a circle. Light a small battery candle and say:

“The light reminds us that Jesus is the Light of the World.”

Opening Prayer:

“Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be with us. Thank You for keeping us safe and loving us always. Help us to listen to You and follow You like Joseph did. Amen.”

Circle Chat Prompt:

Ask: “When have you felt safe because someone took care of you?”

Memory Verse:

“The Lord is good to all; He has compassion on all He has made.” — *Psalms 145:9*

(You can write this on a poster with a picture of sunshine and hearts.)

Bible Story Time

Story Summary (Teacher Paraphrase):

After Jesus was born, an angel came to Joseph in a dream. The angel warned him that King Herod wanted to hurt baby Jesus. Joseph quickly took Mary and Jesus and went to Egypt. God protected them there. Later, when the danger was over, the angel told Joseph they could go home. They went to a new town called Nazareth, where Jesus grew up.

Discussion Prompts:

- Who warned Joseph? (An angel)
 - What did Joseph do? (He listened and obeyed God)
 - How did God keep Jesus safe?
 - How does God keep us safe today?
-

Craft / Activity:

Angel of Protection Mobile

Supplies:

- White paper or doilies
- String/yarn
- Crayons/markers
- Scissors and glue

Instructions:

1. Cut out angel shapes (or use a template).
 2. Decorate with “God protects me” written across the bottom.
 3. Attach string to hang the angel from a stick or hanger.
 4. Hang at home as a reminder that God is watching over us.
-

Another Craft / Activity:

Craft: *“God Protects Us” Heart Door Hanger*

Materials:

- Paper hearts
- Crayons/markers
- Ribbon or yarn
- Hole punch

Instructions:

1. Cut out a large heart.
2. Write: “God Watches Over Me” in the middle.
3. Decorate with stars, stickers, or drawings.
4. Punch hole at top and add ribbon to hang.

Game: “Follow the Angel!”

How to Play:

One child is the “angel,” others are “Joseph and Mary.” The angel leads them around obstacles (chairs, tables) to “Egypt.”

Then switch roles.

→ Emphasize listening and following directions—like Joseph listened to God’s angel.

Song Suggestions:

- *“Away in a Manger”*
 - *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*
 - *“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”*
 - *“Jesus Loves Me”*
 - *“Go Tell It on the Mountain”*
-

Snack Suggestions:

- **Animal Crackers** (remind of God’s creation praising Him – Psalm 148)
 - **Star-shaped cookies** (symbol of the Christmas story)
 - **Apple slices and cheese cubes** (safe, simple snack)
-

Wrap Up & Reflection:

Sit in a circle again.

Ask:

- “What did we learn about God today?”
- “How did God protect Jesus?”
- “How does God care for you?”
- “When do you feel safe?”
- “Who takes care of you?”
- “God is always with you, just like He was with Jesus.”

Encourage each child to share one thing they’re thankful for.

Closing Prayer:

“Thank You, God, for keeping us safe and loving us every day. Help us to remember that You are always with us. Amen.”

Take Home Idea:

Give each child a small paper heart with the words:

“God loves and protects me—just like He did for Jesus!”

Encourage them to put it by their bed as a reminder.



Teacher Notes:

- Keep the tone gentle and calm after the excitement of Christmas.
- Focus on **God's care and love** rather than fear or danger.
- Use soft music or a candle during prayer time to create a peaceful space.
- Optional: include a nativity set for retelling the story visually.

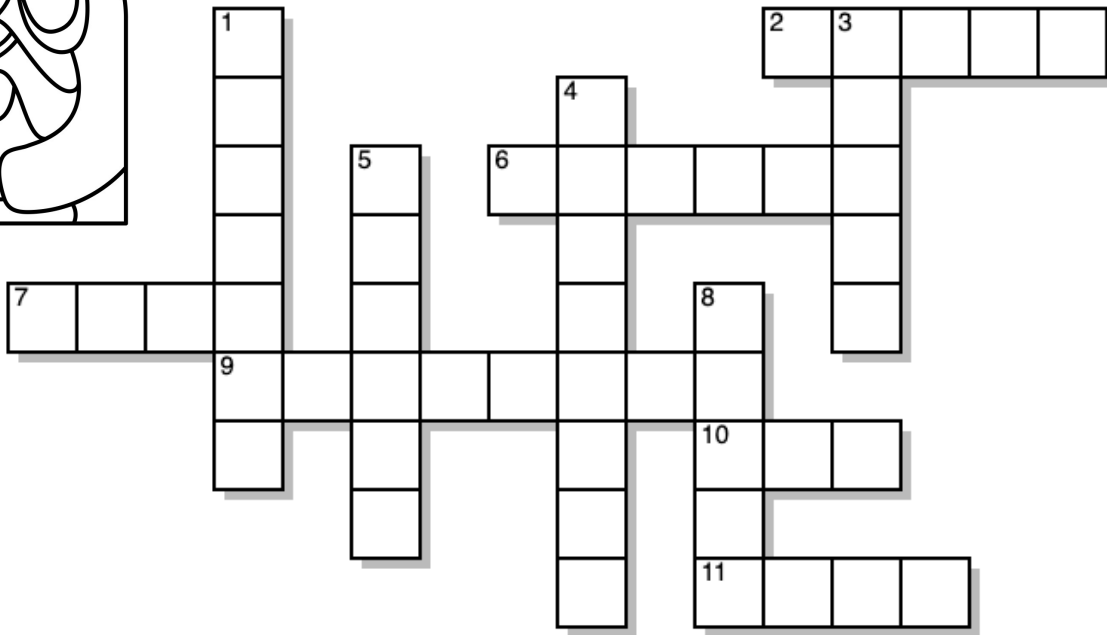
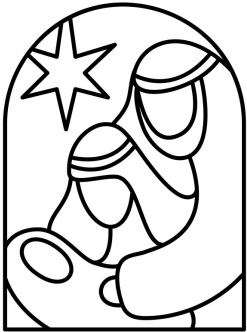
God Keeps Us Safe

First Sunday after Christmas



God Keeps Us Safe

First Sunday after Christmas



ACROSS

- 2 God's son
- 6 Security
- 7 Residence
- 9 Youngsters
- 10 Everyone's father
- 11 Cherish

DOWN

- 1 Safeguard
- 3 Land of the pyramids
- 4 Where Jesus grew up
- 5 Household
- 8 Cherub

God Keeps Us Safe

First Sunday after Christmas

T R M T G G J J M N R N
C K S U S E J H N M V W
E L D D W P S Y O Q Y N
T Q B T D A L B H M E Q
O G O D F I E T M R E B
R E M E M V E R D Z W X
P G T A O R R L J N L K
L Y F L A L I R J E J N
B P B Z D H R D G N T K
M T A L C N L N X P D R
D N K Z L N A R N Q Y T

God
Children
Jesus
Love
Angel

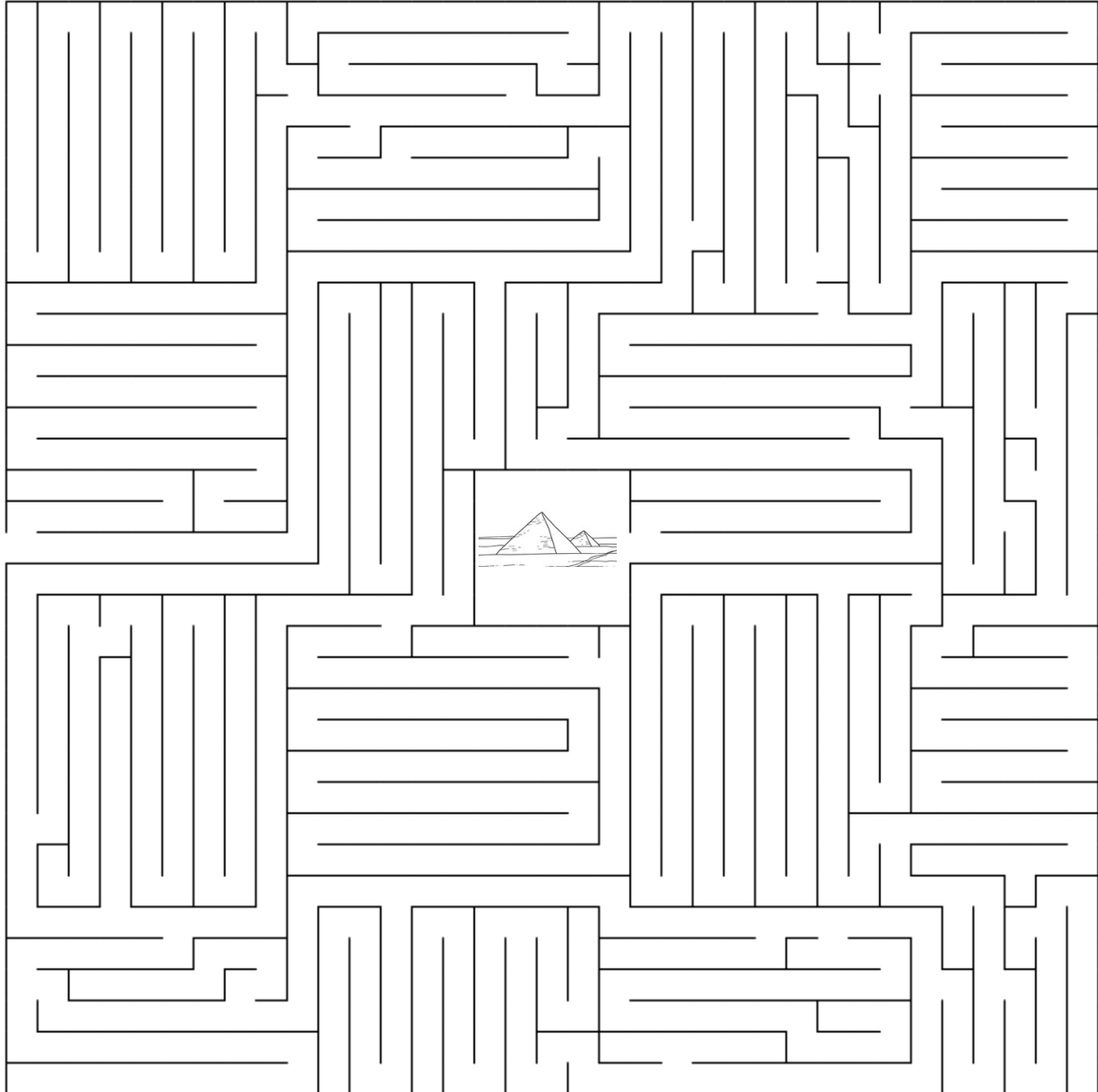
Egypt
Home
Safety
Family
Nazareth
Protect



God Keeps Us Safe

First Sunday after Christmas

Help Joseph, Mary and Jesus get to Egypt.



God Keeps Us Safe

First Sunday after Christmas

Can you find 10 differences between the two pictures?



Crossword Key

Across

- 2. Jesus
- 6. Safety
- 7. Home
- 9. Children
- 10. God

Down

- 1. Protect
- 3. Egypt
- 4. Nazareth
- 5. Family
- 8. Angel

Spot-the-Difference – Key

- 1. Missing leaf on palm tree
- 2. Mary's eyes
- 3. Donkey's nostril
- 4. Donkey's tail
- 5. Joseph's feet
- 6. Missing window in building
- 7. Sun & Cloud in sky
- 8. Length of Joseph's walking stick
- 9. Jesus' eyes
- 10. Grass by the tree