

Lesson 50

Advent of the Promised One

Ages 4-5

Unit 10: The God of Peace

(Preschool-Kindergarten)

The Promised Son is Born

Lesson Aim: To know Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem when it was time for baby Jesus to be born.

PROPHETS AND PROMISES PART 2

THE WORSHIP, THE WORD & THE WAY

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God of Peace

THE WORD

Bible Story: Luke 2:4-7

What He has done: God fulfilled His promise for Jesus to be born in Bethlehem.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "It was time."

Unit 10 Memory Verse: Psalm 118:1a
"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good."

TEACHER ENRICHMENT For your own encouragement this week, read 2 Peter 1:16-17.

Teacher Prayer: "Thank you Lord, for each prophecy that points us to You. Help us point the children to You this Christmas. Help us trust Your timing in their lives and in our own. Amen."

TEACHER'S PREP

- ☐ Familiarize yourself with Luke 2:4-7.
- ☐ Read Teacher's Guide and At-A-Glance.

TEACHER TIP

Complete THE WORSHIP, THE WORD, THE WAY and Circle of Prayer. If time allows, choose a GOT TIME? activity or create your own activity to illustrate the Bible Story, the Aim or the Bible Memory Verse.

PRESET

THE WELCOME

- ☐ Treasure Chest: Stamp or sticker of suitcase

THE WORSHIP

- ☐ Advent Wreath: Evergreen wreath with four candles on inner rim and one candle in center
- ☐ Bible Memory Verse Song: "Give Thanks To The Lord" and related music
- ☐ Puppet Script or Storybook Lesson 50

THE WORD

- ☐ Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Luke 2:4-5
- ☐ Watch the Word visual: Mary and Joseph craft sample from Craft Connection

THE WAY

- ☐ Craft Supplies: Small paper cups, wood ice cream spoons or Popsicle sticks, tan, light blue, dark blue and brown sturdy paper, white ribbon, brown felt, glue or tape, pen or marker, sticker or label
- ☐ Game Supplies: Costumes for Joseph and Mary, two chairs, hay, box
- ☐ Snack: Shredded snack (wheat cereal or coconut flakes snack) and drink
- ☐ Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 10, Lesson 50

GOT TIME?

- ☐ Game Supplies: Wrapped box (removable lid), Baby Jesus, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song
- ☐ Color This Story: "The Promised Son is Born"
- ☐ Story Time: Any story about Jesus' birth



1. THE WELCOME

(Pre-service until class begins)

"It was time."

SAY> (As each child enters classroom) **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** (Child unlocks Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a suitcase.) **Let this sticker of a suitcase help you remember that Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem when it was time for baby Jesus to be born. Today's Whisper Verse is "It was time."** (Teach Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below.) **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others. ***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "It was time."

(For visual demonstrations, see commtechlab.msu.edu/Sites/aslweb/browser.htm)

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with two hand motions:

"It" Extend the pinky of the right hand while the rest of the fingers remain curled in a closed fist. Gently tap the tip of the pinky on the up-turned, open palm of the left hand.

"was" With the palm of the right hand facing back over the right shoulder, flip the wrist back as if tossing something over the shoulder.

"time." The index finger of the left hand taps the top of the wrist of the right arm as if pointing to the face of a wristwatch.

SAY> (After all have arrived) **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** (Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.)

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

(Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.)

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "It was time" from Luke 1:57a. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



2. THE WORSHIP: Praise Time!

(15 minutes)

Worship The God of Peace

***Teacher Tip:** Play "It's Praise Time!" as children move to the place for praise songs, offering and puppet sketch. These activities help children identify time set aside for worship. Below are song suggestions to direct focus during Praise Time.

SAY > It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the God of Peace. God brings peace and calmness to our hearts because we know He loves us. He loves us so much when the time was right, He gave His only Son for us. That's why our Whisper Verse says, "It was time." Let's say it together now. (Review Whisper Verse together: "It was time." Include sign language.)

SAY > God has given us a time for everything. Let's use this time to give our offering and celebrate the gift God gave us when He gave us Jesus. (Sing: "His One And Only Son" while collecting the offering.)

(Advent Wreath) **THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES: The Bethlehem Candle**

SAY > We light the Christmas candles to get our hearts ready to celebrate Christmas. Today, we light the Bethlehem Candle to remember that when it was time for baby Jesus to be born, Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem. (Choose a child to assist in lighting three of the four purple candles on the Advent Wreath.)

SAY > Let's see if our friends Delbert and Lello know about Mary and Joseph's trip to Bethlehem. (Read Chapter 50, Volume 10 from The Adventures of Delbert and Lello or interact with puppets according to Lesson 50, Unit 10 Delbert & Lello puppet script.)

SAY > God was good to Mary and Joseph. He helped them get to Bethlehem. He gave them a place for baby Jesus to be born. God is good to us, too. He gave His Son, Jesus to us! That is the good news of Christmas. (Sing: "I Bring You Good News" and "Give Thanks To The Lord.")

ASK > Imagine what it would have been like to be Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem watching baby Jesus sleep in the manger bed. It must have been so wonderful. (Sing: "Away In A Manger" or a favorite traditional Christmas hymn.)

Unit 10 Praise Time song suggestions

Sheet music and recordings available at www.childrensministrywarehouse.net

"Give Thanks To The Lord"

"It's Praise Time!"

"I Bring You Good News"

"His One And Only Son"

"Let Everything That Has Breath"

"The Lord Is Faithful"

"I Am With You"

Traditional Hymn

"Away In A Manger"



3. THE WORD

(10 minutes)

The promised Son was born in Bethlehem.

SAY> Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our **CLASSROOM PROMISE**.

CLASSROOM PROMISE

SAY TOGETHER> With my eyes on my teacher; (Point to eyes.)
My mouth quiet as can be, (Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.)
I will listen to hear, (Cup hand around ear.)
How God loves you and me. (Hug self, point to others and then self.)

SAY> Last time we learned that God promised Mary that she would be the mother of baby Jesus. Today we'll hear how Jesus was born in Bethlehem. (Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Luke 2:5.)



WATCH THE WORD: LUKE 2:4-7

Read poem below or retell passage in your own words using points of poem as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display the Mary and Joseph craft sample from Craft Connection. Other visual options include Color This Story, a picture or story cards.

- Joseph and Mary went on a trip;
- They traveled to Bethlehem.
- When it was time for the baby to be born,
- There was no room for them in the inn.

- So Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
- Mary wrapped Him in swaddling clothes.
- She lay Him down in a manger of hay,
- For it was the place God chose.

ASK> Who traveled to Bethlehem? (Joseph and Mary.) Let's find our answer in the Bible. (Read Luke 2:4-5 from teacher's Bible.)

ASK> When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, it was a very special time. It was time for baby Jesus to be born. That's our Whisper Verse! Let's say it together: "It was time." (Include sign language or hand motions.)



4. THE WAY

(20 minutes)

God kept His promise to send His Son.

Invite the children to circle area or centers for THE WAY: Bible Story application. Craft and games can be presented at the same time in centers, or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.



CRAFT: JOSEPH AND MARY

The Promised Son is Born. Luke 2:4-7

Purpose: To create the third set of figures in a five-week series of Nativity set characters to remind the children that God kept His promise for Jesus to be born in Bethlehem.

☑ Supplies needed per child:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Two small paper cups (uncoated) | <input type="checkbox"/> White ribbon (1/4-inches wide) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Two wood ice cream spoons or popsicle sticks | <input type="checkbox"/> Brown felt |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tan, light blue, dark blue and brown sturdy paper | <input type="checkbox"/> Glue or tape |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Pen or marker |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Sticker or label |

☑ Prep Steps: (Prepared before class)

☐ To make Mary:

- Cut: 2-inch diameter tan paper circle for her head, 3-inch diameter light blue circle for her hair, 4-inch dark blue triangle for her dress, and a 2-inch length of ribbon for her headband.
- Draw Mary's face on the tan circle and glue it to the top of her dark blue triangle dress.
- Trim 1/3 off of the light blue circle. With the cut edge as the bottom of her hair, glue the circle behind her head to resemble a halo. Attach the white ribbon as a headband.

☐ To make Joseph:

- Cut: 2-inch diameter tan paper circle for his head, 4-inch dark blue triangle for his robe, 3-inch strip of brown felt for his belt, and a 1/2-inch felt triangle for his beard.
- Draw Joseph's face and hair on the tan head and glue to top of his dark blue triangle robe.

☐ Glue each figure onto separate wooden sticks.

☐ On the sticker or label, pre-print or write:

The Promised Son is Born

Luke 2:4-7

☐ Poke a hole in the bottom of each paper cup.

Directions for children:

1. Glue Joseph's beard onto the bottom of his face and his belt across the middle of his robe.
2. Attach the label to one of the upside-down cups.
3. Put the stick attached to Mary through the hole in the cup so she can stand up.
4. Put the stick attached to Joseph through the hold in the other cup so he can stand up.

Craft Discussion:

- **Who remember our Whisper Verse? Let's say it with our motions right now!** (Say Whisper Verse together with hand motions.)
- **What was it time for?** (Baby Jesus to be born.)
- **Who traveled to Bethlehem when it was time for baby Jesus to be born?** (Joseph and Mary.)

THE WAY continued...



GAME: LET'S GO TO BETHLEHEM!

"It was time."

Purpose: Children will pretend to travel to Bethlehem and look for a room for Baby Jesus.

☑ Supplies:

- ☐ Costumes for Joseph and Mary
- ☐ Two chairs placed back-to-back as a manger

ASK> Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem. While they were there, it was time for Jesus to be born. Let's see if Mary and Joseph can find a place for Jesus to be born.

Directions:

1. Choose two children to be Mary and Joseph. Mary and Joseph put on costumes.
2. Place remaining children as innkeepers facing the wall at various locations around the room.
3. Mary and Joseph walk together to each innkeeper, gently tap the innkeeper's back as if knocking on the door. When the innkeeper turns around, Mary and Joseph say the Whisper Verse, **"It was time."** (Include hand motions.)
4. Each innkeeper replies by shaking his or her head and saying, **"No room."** That innkeeper then sits down and silently points to the manger.
5. When all the innkeepers are seated, Mary and Joseph go sit by the manger.
6. Choose two other children to be Mary and Joseph and play again.

***Teacher Tip:** Use robes, towels, or cut arm and head holes in pillowcases for costumes. Tie ropes as belts around the waists.



GAME: HEY, HEY, HEY! WHO HID THE HAY?

"It was time."

Purpose: Children will search for hidden hay as they think about the location of Jesus' birth.

☑ Supplies:

- ☐ Hay (or raffia or shredded paper)
- ☐ Box

SAY> It was time for baby Jesus to be born. Was there room for Mary and Joseph at the inn? (No.) Mary and Joseph used a manger as His bed. A manger is a box that holds food for animals. Let's pretend you are Mary or Joseph looking for soft hay to put in the manger.

Directions:

1. Choose a child to be Mary or Joseph. Child closes his or her eyes while you hide a handful of hay.
2. Once the hay is hidden, children clap hands and chant, **"Hey-hey-hey, who hid the hay?"**
3. The child opens his or her eyes and searches for the hay.
4. Help the child find the hay by saying, "You're getting warmer" when he or she is getting closer to the hay and, "You're getting colder" when child moves away from the hay.
5. **SAY> "Hey-hey-hey, you found the hay!"** when child finds the hay.
6. The child places the hay in the box to begin creating a soft bed for baby Jesus.
7. Hide a handful of hay for each child to find.

THE WAY continued...



SNACK: MANGER HAY

"It was time."

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while discussing Mary and Joseph's trip to Bethlehem.

Snack Suggestion: Shredded snack (wheat cereal or coconut flakes snack) and drink

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **SAY** > **Let's sing the "Blessing Song."** (Sing to the tune of "Frere Jacques" or other familiar tune.)

God our Father, God our Father. Once again, once again.

Thank you for our blessings. Thank you for our blessings. Amen. Amen.

3. Lead discussion below while children enjoy their snack.
 - **When baby Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph placed Him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn. A manger is a box used to hold food for animals, like straw or hay. Let's eat a snack that looks like hay!**
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** (Choose a child to demonstrate motions to Whisper Verse: "It was time.")
 - **When it was time for baby Jesus to be born, Mary and Joseph took a trip. Where did they go?** (Bethlehem.)
 - **Have you ever taken a trip? Where did you go?** (Children respond.)



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

SAY > God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

PRAY > Dear God, thank you for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for _____, _____, _____, (read every name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank you for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



FINAL FIVE MINUTES

When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

COMPLETED CRAFT

Take home your "Joseph and Mary" craft. Tell someone that Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem when it was time for Jesus to be born.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

(Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards if available.) **Show this card to your family. Talk about how baby Jesus' bed was a manger because there was no room in the inn.**

SING

Sing Bible Memory Verse Song: "Give Thanks To The Lord" or other Praise Time! songs.

PLAY

Visit, play and review lesson until it is time to dismiss.

5. GOT TIME?

If time remains, choose from these activities which connect to the lesson.

GAME: SAY & DO LUKE 2:4-7

Purpose: This pantomime version of the Bible Story helps children remember the story details.

☒ **Supplies:** None

Directions: With each phrase, the teacher says the phrase and acts it out with hand motions; then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

- **Joseph and Mary went on a trip;** (Point far away.)
- **They traveled to Bethlehem.** (Walk in place.)
- **When it was time for the baby to be born,** (Point to imaginary wristwatch.)
- **There was no room for them in the inn.** (Shake head, "no.")

- **So Jesus was born in Bethlehem.** (Pretend to hold a baby.)
- **Mary wrapped Him in swaddling clothes.** (Pretend to wrap baby in cloths.)
- **She lay Him down in a manger of hay,** (Gently lower baby into imaginary manger.)
- **For it was the place God chose.** (Point to heaven.)



GAME: PASS THE GIFT

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good." Psalm 118:1a

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse.

☒ **Supplies:**

- ☐ Wrapped gift box (with removable lid)
- ☐ Baby Jesus (doll or Baby Jesus craft from Lesson 48 Craft Connection)
- ☐ Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song (Play recording or sing without accompaniment.)

☒ **Prep Step:** Place baby Jesus inside the box and close the box lid.

ASK> God gives you lots of things. He gives you food. He gives you people who love you very much. When someone gives something to you, what should you do? (Thank them.) Our Bible Memory Verse tells us we should thank God. It says, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good." What can you thank God for?

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle. Give the gift box to the first child.
2. **ASK> What is one thing you thankful for?** (Child responds.)
3. All children say together, **"Thank you, God!"**
4. Children pass the gift around the circle. While each child holds the gift, repeat steps 3 and 4.
5. After each child has had a turn to hold the box and thank God for something specific, **SAY> Let's see the biggest gift God has given to us.**
6. Choose one child to open the box and discover baby Jesus inside.
7. Sing the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song together as a celebration of thanks to God.

Got Time? continued...



GAME: SHOUT IT OUT

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good." Psalm 118:1a

Purpose: To help children memorize and review the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse.

☑ Supplies:

[] Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song (Play recording or sing without accompaniment.)

SAY> Our Bible Memory Verse tells us that God is good. He is good to you and me!

Directions:

1. Divide the children into two groups. Groups sit on opposite sides of the play area.
2. Help one group learn the first part of the verse: "Give thanks to the Lord..." Help the other group learn: "...for He is good."
3. Announce one way that God has been good to you. Point to each group in order. As you point to each group, they should jump up and shout out their part of the verse.
4. **ASK> Who wants to say one way that God has been good to you?**
5. Pick a volunteer to stand in between the two groups and answer the question.
6. Volunteer points to each group, who, in turn, stand and say their part of the verse.
7. Repeat steps 6-8 with each new volunteer who would like to take a turn.
8. Sing the Bible Memory Verse song. Challenge children to sing it as loud as they can.



FAMILIAR FAVORITES

COLOR THIS STORY

Coloring sheet: "The Promised Son is Born"

Discuss Bible Story and play Bible Memory Verse Song as children color.

STORY TIME

Gather the children and read a favorite story. This can be a Bible Story, a chapter from *The Adventures of Delbert & Lello*, or a story about Jesus' birth.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Review take-home Bible Study card.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 10, Lesson 50: The Promised Son is Born

PONDER! To celebrate the coming of Jesus, create a family Advent Wreath using a circle of greenery and four candles. Light the third candle as the Bethlehem Candle and read Luke 2:4-7. Talk about what Joseph and Mary did when it was time for Jesus to be born.

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank you for sending Your Son. We are so glad Jesus was born. We love to celebrate His birth at Christmas! Amen."

PLAY! Travel to Bethlehem! Choose two people to be Mary and Joseph. Everyone else is an innkeeper. The innkeepers pretend to hide behind closed doors by facing a wall. Mary and Joseph travel around the room. They gently knock on each innkeeper's back asking for a place to stay. Each innkeeper turns around and says, "No room!" then points Mary and Joseph to an imaginary manger.

Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse: Psalm 118:1a

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good."