

Shepherds and Angels See the Promise of Peace Fulfilled

Lesson Aim: To know Jesus brought peace just as God had promised.

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 2:4-18

What He has done: God sent His Son to bring peace.

Key Verse: Luke 2:14

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Micah 5:2-5a

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given:
and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

For your own encouragement this week, read Ephesians 2:14-18. Please join us in praying this week's Teacher's Prayer: "Thank you Lord, for the peace You brought us through Jesus. Fill us with Your Spirit that we might truly celebrate and praise You as the heavenly host and shepherds did. Amen."

PREPARE

Highlight in your Bible:

- ☐ Luke 2:4-18
- ☐ Micah 5:2-5a

Read:

- ☐ Teacher's Guide
- ☐ At-A-Glance

TEACHER TIP

Complete THE WORSHIP, THE WORD, and THE WAY. 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.

Resources: The additional resources referred to in this lesson and supplemental materials are available at www.childrensministrywarehouse.net. To be a resource yourself, click on the Teacher's Blog tab to share your ideas with teachers worldwide.

PRESET

THE WELCOME

- ☐ Getting Started—Blindfold

THE WORSHIP

- ☐ Advent Scripture Reading—Luke 2:11-14
- ☐ Bible Memory Verse Song—"For Unto Us"
- ☐ Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony: Table or stand, wreath of greenery with four candles, center candle, matches, Bible
- ☐ Other related music
- ☐ Worship Illustration or Storybook Lesson 51

THE WORD

- ☐ Golden Bowl—pencils & note cards
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ Timeline—The Birth of Jesus (Circa 0 A.D.)
- ☐ Map—Bethlehem, Israel
- ☐ Conceal the Bible Story and Christ Connection Scripture references to be unveiled during THE WORD and THE WAY.

THE WAY

- ☐ Daily Way Lesson 51
- ☐ Treasure Treat—PEACE ON EARTH ornament or magnet

GOT TIME?

Christmas cupcakes, drinks, napkins, plates, cups, green, blue, yellow, brown, tan, and black sturdy paper, black, brown, and yellow yarn, hole punch, markers or crayons, scissors, glue or tape, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse poster, chalkboard and chalk, or dry erase board and marker, or large paper and pencil, large ball, permanent marker



1. THE WELCOME

(10 minutes)

Getting Started

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's
Meet & Greet Question: What's your favorite Christmas or praise song?

GAME: SPREAD THE NEWS

PURPOSE: Children will play a variation of Four Corners as they learn the story of Jesus' birth is for everyone in the world.

SUPPLIES: Blindfold

SAY> Today we will be reading about the announcement of the birth of Jesus. In part of the story, God sends an angel to tell the shepherds about Jesus' birth. He also sends the heavenly host, which is the army of heaven, to sing praises to God for sending His Son to bring peace on earth. The angel's message about Jesus' birth is for everyone in the world. Let's play a game where you can pretend the angel is telling people who live in other countries that Jesus has been born.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Name four corners in your play area after four different countries.
2. Pick one child to be the Angel to stand blindfolded in the center of the play area.
3. As the Angel counts aloud to ten, the remaining children each silently choose a country and stand in that corner.
4. The Angel calls out the name of one of the four countries.
5. The children in that country's corner leave their country to join the Angel in the center. The center is called the Shepherds' Field.
6. Play again. Remaining children may choose another country or stay in the same one.
7. Repeat steps 3-6 until everyone is standing in the Shepherds' Field.
8. If time remains, let another child be the Angel and play again.

SAY> After the angel's announcement, the shepherds saw the heavenly host, which is the army of heaven, singing praises to God for sending His Son to bring peace on earth. Let's read the story of Jesus' birth and discover more about the peace that Jesus brings us.



2. THE WORSHIP

(15 minutes)

Worship Theme: The God of Peace

Today we worship the God of Peace. Jesus brings peace between God and all who believe in Jesus. He brings peace between all people who believe in Jesus. He gives our hearts the peace that comes from knowing God loves us and keeps His promises. Jesus is called the Prince of Peace.

After the angel announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds, they saw the sky fill with the heavenly host who praised God for giving peace on earth to those who please God. The way we please God is to believe in His Son, Jesus. Let's pray that many people will hear about Jesus just as the shepherds did, and believe in Him. We want everyone to know the peace that comes from believing in Jesus. (Sing: "I Bring You Good News" as the offering is collected.)

***Teacher Tip:** At this point in the lesson, you may choose to conduct the Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony located on the next page. It includes the reading of Luke 2:11-14.

Worship Elements:

- Designate a special corner or area for worship.
- Select songs that focus on the birth of Christ
- Advent Candle Light Ceremony: The Candle of Peace
- Advent Scripture Reading: Luke 2:11-14
- Lead a prayer to bless the offering: collect offering
- Perform Worship Illustration or read Storybook:
 - Prophets & Promises Unit 10, Lesson 51

Unit 10 Song Suggestions:

Sheet music and recordings available at www.childrensministrywarehouse.net.

- Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song: "For Unto Us"
- "I Bring You Good News"
- "For God So Loved The World"
- "At The Name Of Jesus"
- "Search Me, O God"
- "You Will Seek Me"

Unit 10 Hymn Suggestions:

- "Angels We Have Heard On High"
- "Away In A Manger"

Unit 10 Song Collection Suggestions:

- Worship Jamz Christmas—Worship Jamz
- Shout Praises Kids Christmas

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG



"For Unto Us"

Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

(Verse)

For unto us a child is born,
unto us a Son is given,
unto us a Son is given,
unto us a Son is given.
And the government shall be
upon His shoulder.

(Chorus)

And His name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor,
the Mighty God,
the Everlasting Father,
the Prince of Peace,
the Prince of Peace,
the Prince of Peace,
the Prince of Peace.

(Repeat Verse)

(Repeat Chorus)

For unto us a child is born,
For unto us a child is born,
For unto us a child is born,
unto us...

Sheet music and recordings available at www.childrensministrywarehouse.net.

THE WORSHIP *continued...*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Advent Week 3: The Candle of Peace

Participants: Adult leader, one or two children to light candle and read

Supplies: Table or stand with wreath of greenery with four candles placed in wreath, one white candle (the Christ Candle) in the center of the wreath, matches, Bible open to Luke 2:11-14

Prep Steps: None

SAY> Advent means coming—the coming of Jesus. The Advent season helps get our hearts ready to celebrate Christmas. Our Advent Wreath is round; it has no end just as God's love for us has no end.

SAY> Each candle on the Advent Wreath stands for one of the four Sundays before Christmas. The center candle is called the Christ Candle. We will light the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve when we join with many families to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

SAY> Today as we light the fourth candle of Advent, the Candle of Peace, think about the ways Jesus brought us peace. By giving His life to take away our sins, Jesus made a way for us to be at peace with God. And through the unity of His Holy Spirit, all who believe in Jesus have peace between one another. (Child lights the fourth candle.)

SAY> As you look at the candlelight, listen to the good news the angel gave the shepherds on the night Jesus was born. (Child or Leader reads Luke 2:11-14 from the Bible.)

Luke 2:11-14

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests."

***Teacher Tip:** Close the Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony with song or prayer.

Song suggestion: Sing one verse of "Hark The Herald Angels Sing" and have the children think about the way we can celebrate and share the good news about the Savior who brought peace to earth.



3. THE WORD

(5 minutes)

The heavenly host rejoice about peace.

Transition: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write their name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant. (Read Class Covenant.)

CLASS COVENANT

I will keep my  on my teacher,
my  in control,
my s on God's Word;
knowing God is my goal.

BIBLE TIMELINE

If a Bible Timeline is available, point to the Birth of Jesus (Circa 0 A.D.). This segment of the Bible Timeline covering Prophets & Promises Units 7-10 spans from Circa 870 B.C through the birth of Christ (Circa 0 A.D.). For Bible Timeline Review information, see GOT TIME?

Last time we learned that Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, prepared the way for Jesus to come to the world. Today we will hear what happened when the angel announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds. Who knows what the shepherds heard and saw? (Respond.)

(If map is available, point to Bethlehem, Israel.) **Today we are going to read the Christmas story. Who already knows the story of the birth of Jesus? (Respond.) It is a famous story. Listen carefully to see if you can learn something new as we read the story from the Bible.**



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others. (Hand out spare Bibles.) **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain.** (Or secret door, secret window, etc. Child unveils Bible Story Scripture reference: Luke 2:4-18.)

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to His Word today. Who'd like to pray that for us? (Child prays aloud.) Be seated. (Read Luke 2:4-18.)



4. THE WAY

(13 minutes)

Jesus brings peace to all who please God.

What did the heavenly host say when they praised God? ("Glory to God in the highest." "On earth peace to men on whom His favor rests.") **Many people remember the words, "Peace on earth," but it is important to understand exactly what the heavenly host said about peace on earth. They spoke about peace on earth for a certain group of people: all those on whom God's favor rests. To have God's favor rest on you means God is pleased with you. What do you think pleases God the most? (Respond.)**

God loves to see us obey rules and do good deeds and love one another. But we cannot completely please God by doing those things. The Bible says without faith, it is impossible to please God. (Read Hebrews 11:6.) The Bible shows us God is fully pleased with anyone from any family, race or nation who believes in His Son, Jesus.

Peace means there is no fighting or disagreeing. Jesus brings three different kinds of peace.

Upward Peace: Jesus brings peace between God and us. When we sin, we do wrong in God's eyes. We are fighting against doing things God's way. When we believe in His Son, our sins are forgiven and God is pleased with us. That is the most important kind of peace.

Inward Peace: Jesus brings us an inner peace. He gives our minds the peace that comes from knowing God loves and forgives us.

Outward Peace: Jesus brings peace among all who believe in Him. Believers are united through Him.

Jesus did not come to bring all wars to an immediate end, but to bring an everlasting peace. How can you help others find peace with God and with one another? (Tell them about Jesus. Pray for them. Show them His loving kindness. Helping them with the things they are worried about such as food, clothing, shelter, or other problems.)

What did the shepherds do after they heard the news? (Respond.) **The shepherds ran to find Jesus and spread the word about Him. How does the Bible say the people reacted when they heard the news from the shepherds?** (They were amazed.) **How can you be like the shepherds?** (Tell others about Jesus.) **How would you explain the peace God gives to all who believe in Jesus?** (Lead discussion using explanation of peace above.)

CHRIST CONNECTION

Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament and Us

700 years before the heavenly host praised God for bringing peace, Michah spoke about that peace. Let's see how many prophecies about Jesus we can find in these words from the prophet Michah.



Everyone place your Bible on your laps. (Choose a child to unveil Christ Connection Scripture reference: Micah 5:2-5a.) **Let's find this verse.** (Read Micah 5:2-5a.)

In one of Michah's prophecies, he points to Jesus as our peace. Only Jesus can give our hearts us true, everlasting peace.

THE WAY *continued...*

GOLDEN BOWL

Revelation 5:8

The Golden Bowl contains names of classmates, a local church leader and a child in another nation.

The Bible says that our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. So I'm going to lift each one of you up to God's throne out loud as you pray for each person silently. Then we'll pray out loud the Lord's Prayer. (Matthew 6:9-13.) Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say out loud and the ones hidden in our hearts.

First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____ (read names in Golden Bowl).

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

TREASURE TREAT



Today, your Treasure Treat is a PEACE ON EARTH ornament (or magnet.) Take it home, show it to your family and explain the meaning of the heavenly host's words: "On earth, peace to all on whom God's favor rests."

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE



Did anyone bring in their completed Daily Way from last time? (Praise or reward those who returned Daily Way; collect in basket.) Take home this week's Daily Way. (Distribute Lesson 51 Daily Way 5-day Bible study.) Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Return it and place it in our class basket. When we fill the basket, we'll celebrate with a class surprise!

OFFERING OF ART



Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Peace on earth!" The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering to the teacher for display.

PRAYER REQUESTS



As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write individual requests in your teacher's prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG



Play the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



5. GOT TIME?

If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.



SNACK, GAME AND CRAFT

SNACK: CHRISTMAS CUPCAKES

PURPOSE: Children will eat a snack and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

SUPPLIES: Christmas cupcakes, drinks, napkins, plates, cups

ASK> Whose birth did we learn about today? (Jesus' birth.) Let's celebrate Jesus' birthday with some Christmas cake. As we eat, let's talk about how your family celebrates Christmas.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Distribute the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack. Sing a popular birthday song to Jesus.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"How do you celebrate Christmas?"**

Option: Decorate the play area with Christmas themed balloons and steamers.

GAME: SHARE THE STORY

PURPOSE: Children will play the traditional telephone-style game to retell the Christmas story in preparation for telling the story to others in the future.

SUPPLIES: None

ASK> Why was Jesus born? (To bring peace.) Who praised God for bringing peace to earth? (The heavenly host.) **God wants everyone in the world to know why He sent Jesus to us. Let's practice sharing some facts of this Bible story, and then you can retell the Christmas story to your family and friends.**

DIRECTIONS:

1. Sit with the children in a circle.
2. Whisper the first story summary phrase from the list below to the child on your right. Only whisper the phrase one time.
3. That child then whispers the phrase one time to the child on his or her right.
4. Children continue whispering the phrase around the circle until it reaches the last child.
5. That child says the message aloud. If the message is incorrect, announce the correct version.
6. Play again; each time starting with a new child and using a new phrase.
 - **Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem.**
 - **There was no room for them in the inn.**
 - **Jesus was born and placed in a manger.**
 - **The angel told the shepherds Jesus had been born.**
 - **The heavenly host praised God.**
 - **The shepherds went to see baby Jesus.**
 - **Jesus came to bring peace.**

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: PEACE ON EARTH WREATH

PURPOSE: To create a wreath to remind children of believers across world who know the peace Jesus brings.

SUPPLIES: Green, blue, yellow, brown, tan, and black sturdy paper, black, brown, and yellow yarn, hole punch, markers or crayons, scissors, glue or tape

PREPARE: To create the wreath base, cut sturdy green paper in a 10-inch diameter circle, 1-inch thick. From sturdy brown paper, cut five 2-inch diameter circles. From sturdy tan paper, cut five 2-inch diameter circles. From sturdy blue paper, cut one 3-inch diameter circle. From sturdy brown paper, cut a cross 10-inches long and 10-inches wide, 1-inch thick. Cut any color yarn in to a 12-inch length. Punch a hole in the top of the wreath base and tie yarn to create a hanger. Write where children can see to copy:

Peace on Earth

Luke 2:4-18

ASK **≥** **Why did God send Jesus to earth?** (To bring peace.) **What did the angel do?** (Announce Jesus' birth to the shepherds.) **Who did the angel say the good news of Jesus' birth was for?** (All people.) **God sent Jesus to bring peace to all people in the world who believe in Him. What are the three kinds of peace believing in Jesus brings?** (Upward: Peace between God and us. Inward: Peace of mind that God loves and forgives us. Outward: Peace among all believers.) **Let's make a wreath to help us remember Jesus brings peace on earth to all who believe in Him.**

DIRECTIONS:

1. Draw faces and glue pieces of yarn as hair on the ten 2-inch paper circles.
2. Lightly draw land shapes (as continents) on the blue circle to represent the earth.
3. Write "Peace On Earth" across the blue circle.
4. Center the paper cross over the green ring and glue the each end of the cross onto the ring.
5. Glue the blue circle over center of the cross.
6. Glue the ten faces onto the green wreath all the way around the blue circle.

***Teacher Tip:** For older children, provide scissors and have them follow the PREPARE instructions before assembling the wreath

Option: Substitute craft foam for sturdy paper and yarn.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

GAME: APPEARING ANGEL

PURPOSE: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse: Isaiah 9:6.

SUPPLIES: Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse poster, chalkboard and chalk, or dry erase board and marker or large piece of paper and pencil

PREPARE: Display the Bible Memory Verse poster

DIRECTIONS:

1. Choose one phrase from the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse from the list below.
2. Draw one line for each letter in the phrase. Include a blank space between each word.
3. Choose a volunteer to guess a letter. If the letter is found in the phrase, write it on every blank where it belongs. If the letter is not in the phrase, draw one part of an angel (such as a robe or a hand).
4. Choose another volunteer to guess a letter.
5. Continue playing until the children have guessed all of the letters and revealed the phrase or until the angel drawing is complete. (Robe, head, hands, feet, smile, eyes, nose, hair, etc.)
6. The goal is to complete the phrase before completing the angel drawing.
7. After the phrase is revealed, use the description below to explain that part of the verse.
8. If time allows, play again using another phrase. Use different phrases in each lesson of this unit.

Phrase

"For unto us a child is born"

"Unto us a Son is given"

"And the government shall be on His shoulders"

"And His name will be called"

"Wonderful Counselor"

"Mighty God"

"The Everlasting Father"

"The Prince of Peace"

Description

Jesus was born as a baby.

God sent His Son to earth to be our Savior.

Jesus will one day rule the world.

There are many names for God

The Holy Spirit will guide us to do things God's way.

God is so strong; He can do anything.

God is our heavenly Father.

Jesus gives us peace in our hearts.

GAME: TOSS-A-VERSE

PURPOSE: Children memorize the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse: Isaiah 9:6.

SUPPLIES: Large ball (inflatable beach ball, soccer ball, etc.), permanent marker

PREPARE: Write the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse on the ball.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. One child holds the ball and says the first word of the verse.
3. Child tosses the ball to another child who says the next word.
4. Children toss the ball to each other until they have completed the verse.
5. They can use the verse written on the ball to help them remember the words. Encourage children to learn the verse so they do not need to look at the words on the ball.

***Teacher Tip:** Large group? Divide into one or more teams. Have teams race against each other to complete the game first.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Review the recent Bible Stories studied to see the continuing story of God and His people. Hang the Bible Timeline on a wall or other visible location. Point to the Bible Timeline and ask the corresponding questions.

Malachi (Circa 430 B.C.)

Malachi was the last prophet to speak before the birth of Jesus. He gave the people God's message that they were robbing Him by not bringing their tithes and offerings to Him.

What is a tithe? (A tithe is ten percent of our money; God commands believers to give it to His church.) **God challenged the people to tithe and see how much God would bless them.**

400 Years of Silence (Circa 400-0 B.C.)

Malachi was the last Old Testament prophet to speak before the birth of Christ. This period is known as the 400 years of silence because there were no new prophecies. Over the previous 800 years, God's people had heard many prophecies from God's prophets, including Isaiah's prophecy about the coming of the Lord and what He would accomplish.

The Birth of Jesus (Circa 0 A.D.)

A.D. stands for Anno Domini, which means "the Year of our Lord." A.D. begins with Jesus' birth and continues until the end of time. Everything written in the law and the prophets led up to the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. God used the angels, Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Zechariah, John the Baptist, shepherds, and the heavenly host to fulfill the prophecies about the coming Savior. Sin separates each person from God. So God gave His only Son, Jesus so that whoever believes in Him will have life forever close with God.

How to create a Bible Timeline from Elijah to the Birth of Christ:

1. Print Lesson title or person's name with historical date (whenever available) on a card. Before each lesson, add that new card to the Bible Timeline.
2. Attach card to wall or clothesline in the following order:
Elijah (Circa 870-845 B.C.) > Elisha (Circa 845-800 B.C.) > Joel (Circa 830 B.C.) > Jonah (Circa 781 B.C.) > Amos (Circa 760 B.C.) > Isaiah (Circa 710 B.C.) > Micah (Circa 700 B.C.) > Zephaniah (Circa 630 B.C.) > Jeremiah (Circa 626 B.C.) > Habakkuk (Circa 603 B.C.) > Ezekiel (Circa 593 B.C.) > Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Circa 580 B.C.) > Daniel (Circa 580) > Haggai and Zechariah (Circa 530 B.C.) > Malachi (Circa 430 B.C.) > 400 Years of Silence (Circa 400-0 B.C.) > The Birth of Jesus (Circa 0 A.D.)