



Advent 1: Announcing the King

Lesson Aim: To know God sent His Son as our King.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The King Who Came to Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: Luke 1:26-33

What He Has Done: God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary.

THE WAY

"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son." John 3:16a

Unit 10: The King Who Came to Us			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
48	Advent 1: Announcing the King, Luke 1:26-33	God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary.	To know God sent His Son as our King.
49	Advent 2: Naming the King, Matthew 1:18, 20-21	God sent the angel to tell Joseph to name the baby Jesus.	To know Jesus is the name of God's Son, our King.
50	Advent 3: Birthplace of the King, Luke 2:1-7	God chose Bethlehem as the birthplace of King Jesus.	To know Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem.
51	Advent 4: Worshiping The King, Luke 2:8-20	God led the shepherds to see and worship King Jesus.	To praise God for sending King Jesus to us.
52	Giving to the King: The Wise Men, Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11	God showed baby Jesus to the wise men.	To know we can give our treasures to Jesus.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Lamentations 3:24-29. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the good news You bring us. Provide us with the quiet moments we need in order to prepare our hearts to worship You this Christmas. Amen."

WHAT ABOUT SANTA? Many cultures incorporate the story of Saint Nicholas (Santa Claus) into their family traditions at Christmas. Many young children are very excited about this tradition. To honor all parents, our role as Bible teachers is not to address (validate or invalidate) their family traditions, but to redirect their focus to celebrate the gift of God's Son.



THE WORSHIP THE WORD & THE WAY

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Welcome	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of an angel
		Coloring Center: Announcing the King	Coloring pages of Mary and the angel Gabriel, crayons or markers
		Play-Dough Center: For the Baby	Play-dough, Christmas cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		Dramatic Play Center: Baby Jesus	Baby doll, basket, baby blanket, items for a baby's care
		Nativity Center: Born in a Stable	Nativity set, Christmas praise music
	Up to 5	Prepare for Worship	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org. Additional Song Suggestions: "Away in a Manger" "Go Tell It on the Mountain" "Joy to the World" "Silent Night" Additional Supplies: Advent wreath (See GOT TIME?)	Praise music, optional: musical instruments Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song: "His One and Only Son" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "Give Thanks to the Lord" "I Bring You Good News" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 10, Lesson 48
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Luke 1:26-33	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Luke 1:26 Visual: Picture of the Bible story, gift bag or box, paper or toy crown
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Royal Trumpet	Paper cup, white or yellow sturdy paper, tape, crayons or markers, assorted craft decorations (e.g., feathers, jewels, felt or foam shapes, etc.), optional: yarn or string, hole punch
		Game: Your King Is Coming!	"Royal Trumpet" crafts, Christmas praise music
		Say & Do: Luke 1:26-33	Christmas praise music
		Snack: Tasty Trumpets	Horn or tube-shaped snack
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's: Unit 10, Lesson 48
GOT TIME?	Up to 15	Craft: Advent Crown Wreath	See craft for supplies.
	Up to 10	Game: Hop Around the World	Globe or picture of the world
	Up to 10	Game: I Bring You Good News!	None, optional: "Royal Trumpet" crafts
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about the events surrounding Jesus' birth

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



The King who came to us

THE WELCOME

WELCOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____. I'm glad you are here! Come open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure.** Child unlocks the Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of an angel. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of an angel remind you of the angel who told Mary that King Jesus was coming. Jesus is our King, too.**

Teacher's Note: These activity centers are designed to reinforce the lesson through hands-on learning experiences either individually or in small groups with the guidance of the teacher. Choose the Bible Activity Centers that best suit the children in your class. Set up the activity centers around the room before children arrive. Allow children to move freely among them.

COLORING CENTER: ANNOUNCING THE KING

SUPPLIES

Coloring pages of Mary and the angel Gabriel, crayons or markers

DO

Children color their picture as they talk about today's story.

TALK ABOUT

Today we're going to begin talking about Christmas. What do we celebrate on Christmas? (Jesus' birth.) **The woman in the picture is Jesus' mother. The angel Gabriel is telling her she will have a baby boy. That baby boy would be Jesus.**

PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: FOR THE BABY

SUPPLIES

Play-dough, Christmas cookie cutters, play-dough tools

DO

Children play with the play-dough while talking about babies. Encourage children to make gifts for baby Jesus with the play-dough.

TALK ABOUT

Talk with the children about some of the special Christmas cookie cutters that have been added to your play-dough supplies. **Christmas is all about a special baby. What is that baby's name?** (Jesus.) **Jesus was God's gift to us. What can we give to baby Jesus?** Encourage the children to make gifts for baby Jesus with the play-dough.

THE WELCOME *continued...*

DRAMATIC PLAY CENTER: BABY JESUS

SUPPLIES

Baby doll, basket, baby blanket, items for a baby's care

DO

Children take turns caring for the baby doll.

TALK ABOUT

Mary was Jesus' mother. Let's take care of our baby like Mary would have taken care of baby Jesus. What do babies need? (Food, bottle, sleep, love, etc.)

NATIVITY CENTER: BORN IN A STABLE

SUPPLIES

Nativity set, Christmas praise music

DO

Play Christmas praise music while the children play with the nativity set.

TALK ABOUT

Have the children identify each of the characters in the nativity set.

Who was Jesus' Mom? (Mary.) **Dad?** (Joseph.)

Who came to see baby Jesus? (Shepherds, wise men.)

Who told the shepherds baby Jesus had been born? (The angel.)

Baby Jesus was born in a stable. A stable is like a barn; it would be full of animals. What animals do you see here? What other animals might you find in a stable? Ask the children what noises the different animals make. Ask what their favorite animal is.

PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

It's time for Praise Time. Let's sing a "Clean Up Song" as we put things away. Praise children as they help clean.

**Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SIGN LANGUAGE

(For visual demonstrations, see www.signingsavvy.com)

"God

Open right hand (fingers together and palm facing left) moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.

**so loved
the world**

Fists closed, both arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.

Both W-handshapes (Extend middle three fingers, touch pinky to thumb) circle around each other.

**that He gave His
one and only Son."**

(gave) With thumb touching the fingers, the hand moves forward away from body.
(Son) The closed fist touches the forehead, then the hand opens as it comes down and is cradled in the opposite arm (palm open).

John 3:16a

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

Adding sign language or motions to the Bible Memory Verse helps children recall what they are learning.



The King who came to us

THE WORSHIP

Supplies: Christmas praise music, optional: musical instruments, Advent wreath (Consider battery powered candles for safety purposes. Other options are suggested in the GOT TIME? Advent Crown Wreath craft.)

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" as children move to that designated area.



Today, we begin a celebration of a very special birthday. Do you know whose birthday we are celebrating? (Jesus' birthday.) **Let's pray.** Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus. Today, we celebrate the birth of Your Son and our King. Amen.**



Let's thank God for sending His Son Jesus to us. Sing: "Give Thanks to the Lord." **We can give our offering to King Jesus and celebrate the day He came to us.** Sing: "I Bring You Good News" while collecting the offering.



The Lighting of the Christmas Candles: Mary's Candle

Advent Wreath: 4 candles set in a wreath

We light the Christmas candles to get our hearts ready to celebrate Christmas. Today, we light Mary's Candle to remember that God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary. Gabriel told Mary that she would get to be King Jesus' mother. Choose one child to assist in lighting the first of the four purple candles on the Advent Wreath.



Let's see if our friend Delbert has heard the good news Mary heard from the angel Gabriel. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 10, Lesson 48.



We have a new Bible Memory Verse today. Our verse tells us how much God loves us. I'll say the verse once and then, we will say it together. Practice a few times together.

"God

so loved
the world

that He gave His

one and only Son."

John 3:16a

Open right hand (fingers together and palm facing left) moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.

Fists closed, both arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest. Both W-handshapes (Extend middle three fingers, touch pinky to thumb) circle around each other.

(gave) With the thumb touching the fingers, the hand moves forward away from the body.

(Son) The closed fist touches the forehead, then the hand opens as it comes down and is cradled in the opposite arm (palm open).

Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.



The good news is God loved us so much, He sent His one and only Son, King Jesus, to us! Sing: "His One and Only Son."



Gabriel and Mary

THE WORD

Supplies: Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Luke 1:26; picture of the Bible story, gift bag or box, paper or toy crown

Before we begin our Bible Time, let's say our Classroom Promise with the motions.

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.

Let's reach deep in our pockets and pull out our listening ears. Reach in your pocket and cup your hands behind your ears as if listening.

What do you do to celebrate your birthday? (Children respond.) **Giving and receiving gifts is one way we celebrate birthdays. I brought a gift with me today.** Show the gift bag to the children. **In it is something that reminds me of our story today.** Pull the crown out of the bag and show it to the children. **I brought a crown because we are going to learn about the birthday of a very special baby. Do you know who that baby is?** (Jesus.) **That's right and God sent Jesus to be our King. Let's find out how God shared the good news with Jesus' mother, Mary.** Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Luke 1:26.



WATCH THE WORD: LUKE 1:26-33

Read the story below or retell the passage in your own words. To illustrate the story, show a picture of the Bible story from a children's Bible, the coloring page, or other source.

- **Gabriel the angel came to Mary one day.**
- **Mary wondered what he might say.**
- **Gabriel said, "Do not be afraid,**
- **God sent me to tell you good news today."**

- **"The Lord is very pleased with you.**
- **He will give you His Son; here's what to do.**
- **Name Him Jesus when He is born.**
- **He's the King who is coming to rule forevermore."**

Who sent Gabriel to tell Mary the good news? (God.) **Who did Gabriel say was coming to be Mary's baby?** (Jesus.) **Jesus was coming to be our King!**



Tell others the good news

THE WAY

Teacher Tip: Craft and games can be presented at the same time in different areas or one at a time depending on class size and teaching style.

CRAFT: ROYAL TRUMPET

Purpose: To remind the children that Gabriel told Mary the good news.

Supplies: Paper cup, white or yellow sturdy paper, tape, crayons or markers, craft decorations* (e.g., feathers, felt or foam shapes, etc.), optional: yarn or string, hole punch

Prepare: Cut out the bottom of a paper cup. From white or yellow sturdy paper, draw and cut out an angel and a crown small enough to tape to the sides of the cup. On the crown, print the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse:

"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son."

John 3:16a

Optional: To make a hanging ornament, cut a 7-inch length of yarn. Punch a hole near the edge of the cup. Thread the yarn through the hole and tie a knot to create a loop.

***Adaptation for Ages 2-3:** This craft has been adapted from the curriculum for ages 4-5. The suggested craft jewels have been removed as they are a potential choking hazard for young children. Some craft decorations that work well for this age are stickers, stampers, sturdy paper, tissue paper, wrapping paper, ribbon, yarn, pom-poms, cotton balls, foam shapes, small feathers, non-toxic glitter paint, or watercolor paints.

Directions:

1. Color and decorate the angel and crown.
2. Optional: Color the cup.
3. Tape the crown on one side of the cup and the angel on the other side.
4. Show the children how to use the cup as a trumpet. Practice saying the Bible Memory Verse or the Whisper Verse with their "Royal Trumpets."

Craft Discussion:

- **Who sent the angel to tell Mary the good news?** (God.)
- **What was the angel's name?** (Gabriel.)
- **Often when a king is coming, a trumpet sounds so everyone pays attention. You can use your royal trumpet to announce the coming of Jesus, our King.** Lead the children in using their trumpets to shout, **"King Jesus is coming!"**
- **Gabriel did not need a trumpet! Everyone paid attention when they saw an angel!**
- **Who did Gabriel say would be born?** (Jesus, God's Son.) **Who would be His mother?** (Mary.)
- **When do we celebrate King Jesus' birthday?** (Christmas.)
- **Gabriel told Mary that she would be the mother of Jesus, the coming King. Let's say our Whisper Verse with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with hand motions.
- **Who is our King?** (Jesus.)

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: YOUR KING IS COMING!

Purpose: Children will use their "Royal Trumpets" to practice telling others that Jesus is coming.

Supplies: "Royal Trumpet" crafts, Christmas praise music

Who is our King? (Jesus.) **The angel Gabriel told Mary that Jesus would be born. Let's use our royal trumpets to tell everyone the good news.**

Directions:

1. Play Christmas music while children march around the room with their Royal Trumpets.
2. Periodically stop the music and lead the children in using their Royal Trumpets to announce: **"King Jesus is coming!"**

SAY & DO: LUKE 1:26-33

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

Supplies: Christmas praise music

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.

- **Gabriel the angel came to Mary one day.** (Stand with fists on hips as a bold angel.)
- **Mary wondered what he might say.** (Hands on cheeks as if afraid.)
- **Gabriel said, "Do not be afraid,"** (Clasp hands gently.)
- **God sent me to tell you good news today.** (Point to heaven.)

- **"The Lord is very pleased with you.** (Thumbs up as sign of approval.)
- **He will give you His Son; here's what to do.** (Rock baby in arms.)
- **Name Him Jesus when He is born.** (Point, as if teaching.)
- **He's the King who is coming to rule forevermore."** (Clap.)

Finish with singing Christmas praise music. You may choose to sing one of the Christmas Bible Memory Verse Songs: "His One and Only Son," "I Bring You Good News," or "Give Thanks to the Lord."

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: TASTY TRUMPETS

Purpose: Children enjoy a horn-shaped snack to remind them to announce the news of Jesus' birth.

Snack Suggestion: Horn or tube-shaped snack

Directions:

1. Serve snack and drink.
2. **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.
 - **Who told Mary that baby Jesus would be born?** (The angel Gabriel.)
 - **Who did Gabriel say would be our King?** (Jesus, God's Son)
 - **Let's tell each other King Jesus is coming.** Lead children in announcing **"King Jesus is coming!"** by speaking through their horn-shaped snacks.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

Gather children in a circle sitting or standing and practice the words and motions.

"God	Open right hand (fingers together and palm facing left) moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
so loved	Fists closed, both arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
the world	Both W-handshapes (Extend middle three fingers, touch pinky to thumb) circle around each other.
that He gave His	(gave) With the thumb touching the fingers, the hand moves forward away from the body.
one and only Son."	(Son) The closed fist touches the forehead, then the hand opens as it comes down and is cradled in the opposite arm (palm open).
John 3:16a	Hold hands open, as if holding a Bible.

PRAY

Let's pray together. Say a closing prayer with the children.

PLAY

Allow children to play with selected toys or centers or choose a book to read to them.

DISMISSAL

Have children take home their coloring page, craft, and a copy of the Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

CRAFT: ADVENT CROWN WREATH

Purpose: Children work together to create an Advent crown wreath.

Supplies: Poster board or sturdy paper, craft jewels or costume jewelry, gold paint (or gold foil, gold wrapping paper, etc.), four tall gold candles, four candleholders, one gold dinner plate or plate wrapped in gold foil or paper, stapler, glue

Prepare: Cut a 3-inch x 24-inch strip of poster board. Paint the poster board strip gold. Let it dry. Staple the ends to create a circle (crown) shape.

Teacher Tip: Create one wreath for the classroom or individual wreaths for children to take home. The directions for this wreath suggest four candles. Some wreaths add a fifth candle, "the Christ Candle" which is in the center of the wreath and lit on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.

Advent means coming. In the four weeks before Christmas, believers use an Advent wreath to celebrate the coming of King Jesus. Each week we light a new candle. Our Advent wreath is in the shape of a crown to remind us Jesus is the King of kings. The circle shape of the crown which has no beginning and no end reminds us of the promise of a never ending life forever with God.

Directions:

1. Decorate the circle (crown) with craft jewels or costume jewelry.
2. Place the crown on a gold dinner plate or plate wrapped in gold foil or paper.
3. Place the four gold candles in holders evenly along the inner rim of crown.

Optional Flameless Advent Crown Wreaths: (1) Cut candle shapes from sturdy gold or yellow paper. Color the flames red or orange. Attach the candles to the crown with tape. (2) Use battery operated candles.



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son." John 3:16a

GAME: HOP AROUND THE WORLD

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

Supplies: Globe or picture of the world

Our Bible Memory Verse says, "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son." Who is God's one and only Son? (King Jesus.) God loves everyone in the world very much! That's why He gave King Jesus to everyone! Let's hop around the world as we say our Bible Memory Verse.

Directions:

1. Place the globe or picture of the world in the center of the play area.
2. Have the children line up behind you.
3. As you say the Bible Memory Verse, lead the children in hopping around the globe or picture of the world.
4. Continue hopping around the world until you finish the Bible Memory Verse.
5. Play as often as you like. Allow the children to take turns leading the line.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS!

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

Supplies: None, optional: "Royal Trumpet" crafts

Optional: Children may use their "Royal Trumpet" crafts for trumpets this week.

Let's practice our Bible Memory Verse.

Directions:

1. Children stand or sit in a circle holding their closed hands to their mouths to make a "trumpet."
2. Have children repeat the verse after you: **"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son."**
3. Once the children are comfortable saying the verse, lead the children in saying the verse in different ways such as slowly, quickly, quietly, or loudly. You can also change whether they are sitting, standing, or slowly rising or sitting as they say the verse.
4. Play as often as you like.



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 the events surrounding Jesus' birth.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 10, Lesson 48 - Advent 1: Announcing the King

PONDER! Create an Advent Crown Wreath using gold foil for a crown. Place four candles in holders around the inner rim. Place a fifth candle as the Christ Candle in a center holder. Gather your family to light the first candle: Mary's Candle. Read Luke 1:26-33. Imagine how Mary felt when she heard the good news from Gabriel.

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus to be born. Thank You that Jesus is our King. Amen."

PLAY! Tell each other about baby Jesus. Hold your Royal Trumpet craft up to your mouth and say, "Your King is coming." Ask your family to say it back to you. Then, show them how to shout it and whisper it.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

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so loved	Fists closed, both arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
the world	Both W-handshapes (Extend middle three fingers, touch pinky to thumb) circle around each other.
that He gave His	(gave) With the thumb touching the fingers, the hand moves forward away from the body.
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