



# Advent 3: Birthplace of the King

Lesson Aim: To understand why Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

## THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Came to Us

## THE WORD

Bible Story: Luke 2:4-7

What He has done: God chose Bethlehem as the birthplace of King Jesus.

Key Verse: Luke 2:7

## THE WAY

Christ Connection: 1 Samuel 16:1

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign for ever and ever."

"KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS." Revelation 11:15b; 19:16b

Unit 10: The King Who Came To Us			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
48	Advent 1: Announcing the King, Luke 1:28-33, 37-38	God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary to announce the coming of Jesus as King.	To know we can bring the message to others.
49	Advent 2: Naming the King, Matthew 1:17-21	God sent the angel to Joseph.	To know Jesus came to save His people from their sins.
50	Advent 3: Birthplace of the King, Luke 2:4-7	God chose Bethlehem as the birthplace of King Jesus.	To understand why Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
51	Advent 4: Worshiping the King, Luke 2:8-20	God led the shepherds to see and worship King Jesus.	To spread the word and praise God as the shepherds did.
52	Recognizing the King: The Magi and Herod Matthew 2:1-3, 7-15	God led the Magi to Jesus.	To recognize God's presence and leading in our lives.

## TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Micah 5:2. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for sending Your Son to Bethlehem and to the whole world. 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	<b>Meet &amp; Greet</b>	None
		<b>Game:</b> Bethlehem Travel Corners	Tape, four signs titled as follows: Nazareth, Bethlehem, Inn, Stable
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Advent wreath (See GOT TIME?) <b>Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "King of Kings" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "I Bring You Good News" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "Angels We Have Heard On High," "What Child Is This," "Away in a Manger," "Joy to the World," "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "We Three Kings" <b>Additional Song Collection Suggestions:</b> Worship Jamz Christmas—Worship Jamz Shout Praises Kids Christmas—Integrity Media
		<b>Advent Scripture Reading:</b> Luke 2:7	Bible
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	Lesson 50 King City Chronicles script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Read the Word:</b> Luke 2:4-7	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Discuss the Word</b>	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		<b>Christ Connection:</b> 1 Samuel 16:1	
		<b>Golden Bowl</b>	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	<b>Final Five Minutes</b>	Treasure Treat—Piece of hay, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "King of Kings," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Snack:</b> Stable Snack	Animal-shaped cookies, shredded coconut, frosting
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> King Connections	Twelve standard-size sheets of paper, one marker or crayon
	Up to 10	<b>Craft:</b> Manger Ornament	White felt, wood slotted clothespin, white ribbon, marker, cardboard tube (each tube can be used for two crafts), raffia or straw, hole punch, gold chenille pipe cleaner, glue
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Crown Toss	Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse poster, two scepters (stick or tube decorated with foil or paint), two crowns (toy or paper)
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Royal Musical Chairs	One chair per child, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "King of Kings," CD player
	Up to 5	<b>Bible Timeline Review</b>	Date with story title or name printed on card

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



## Getting started

# THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.  
**Meet & Greet Question: Where were you born?**

### **GAME: BETHLEHEM TRAVEL CORNERS**

**Purpose:** This version of Four Corners familiarizes children with places connected to the birth of Jesus.

**Supplies:** Tape, four signs titled as follows: Nazareth, Bethlehem, Inn, Stable

**Prepare:** Post one of the four signs in each of the four corners of the play area.

**Today, we will discover that Mary and Joseph traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem where Jesus was born. Before we find out more about the story, let's pretend we are traveling with Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Point out the four corners of your room as places where Mary and Joseph had traveled: Nazareth, Bethlehem, the Inn, and the Stable.
2. Choose two children to be Mary and Joseph.
3. Choose a Caller to stand in the middle of the room to count aloud to 10 with eyes closed.
4. All the children, except Mary and Joseph, rush to stand in a corner before the Caller says, "10."
5. After the Caller counts to ten, Mary and Joseph travel together to stand in a corner.
6. The Caller keeps his or her eyes closed and calls out a corner name.
7. All of children in that corner sit down and are out of the game. However, if the Caller calls the corner Mary and Joseph have chosen, children in that corner may stay in for another round.
8. Play until only one child (in addition to Mary and Joseph) remain in the game.

**Option:** Instead of counting to ten, the Caller may recite the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse, you may start and stop the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song, or ask children who have been eliminated from the game to sing a verse of a Christmas song.



## The King who came to us

# THE WORSHIP

**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 music as children move to the designated area.

In preparation for Advent Candle Lighting, light the first two candles on the Advent Wreath.



**We worship the King who came to us. He deserved to be treated like a king, but instead Jesus left His throne and came to be born in a manger in the little town of Bethlehem. Today, Jesus is not a baby in a manger. Now He is the King of kings seated on His heavenly throne. Let's come before Him now with our offerings of money and praise.** Sing: "Away in a Manger" as the offering is collected.



### **Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony: The Bethlehem Candle**

Advent Wreath: 4 candles set in wreath of greenery with gold trim

**Advent means coming—the coming of Jesus. The Advent season helps get our hearts ready to celebrate Christmas, when King Jesus came to earth. Our Advent Wreath is round; it has no end, just as God's love for us has no end. It is decorated with gold to remind us Jesus is the King of kings.**

**Today, we light the third candle of Advent—the Bethlehem Candle. Instead of choosing a famous city like Jerusalem, Jesus chose the town of Bethlehem as His birthplace. Instead of a golden crib, baby Jesus slept in a lowly manger—a container for animal food like hay or straw. Jesus truly gave up everything He had to be born in Bethlehem for us. Choose a child to light the third candle now.**



**As you look at the candlelight, listen to what happened in Bethlehem that night.**

Read Luke 2:7.



Perform King City Chronicles script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 10, Lesson 50.



Sing Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song: "King of Kings." Sing other songs that celebrate the birth of Christ.



A Bethlehem manger

## THE WORD

**Teacher Tip:** 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 his or her 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: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."**

**Last time, we learned God sent an angel to Nazareth to speak to Joseph in a dream. The angel said to name Mary's baby Jesus. What did the angel say Jesus came to do?** (Save His people from their sins.)

**Today, we will read about the birth of baby Jesus.** If a Bible Timeline is available, point out Jesus on Earth (Circa 1-33 A.D.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the Got Time? segment of this lesson. **The Romans were counting everyone. Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem to sign up and be counted. Listen carefully to the reason why Mary and Joseph had to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem.** If a map is available, point out the distance between Nazareth and Bethlehem in Israel.



**Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you.** Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Luke 2:4-7. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Luke 2:7.**

**Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds to His Word today. Who would like to pray that for us?** Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

**As we listen, picture what happened in Bethlehem that night.** Read Luke 2:4-7.



A humble birthplace

## THE WAY

The Roman government declared that everyone under the Roman rule must go to their hometown to be counted. Joseph was related to King David whose hometown was Bethlehem. That's why Joseph and Mary had to travel to Bethlehem to be counted. The Bible doesn't say how Mary and Joseph traveled or how long a journey it was. It would have taken 3-7 days to walk or ride a donkey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Mary would have had to travel slowly because her baby was about to be born. Have you ever taken a long trip? (Children respond.)

**What happened while Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem?** (Baby Jesus was born.) **What did Mary do first?** (She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger.) **Why did she have to place Him in a manger?** (There was no room at the inn.)

**If you could choose the perfect place for baby Jesus to be born, what would it be like?** (Warm, clean, filled with toys, soft blankets, crib, etc.) **As God's Son, Jesus deserved to be born in a golden crib in the royal palace of an important city. Why do you think God chose a manger in the little town of Bethlehem for the birthplace of His Son?** (Children respond.) **Jesus gave up everything when He left His throne in heaven and came to earth to save us. His humble birthplace reminds us that every place and every person in the world is special and important to Jesus. He came to save us all.**



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

## CHRIST CONNECTION

God chose Bethlehem for the birthplace of the King of heaven and earth. One thousand years before Jesus was born, God chose another child from Bethlehem to one day be the king of Israel. Let's see where the Lord sent Samuel to find this new king that would replace King Saul.



**FIND IT FIRST** > Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: 1 Samuel 16:1. **Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it.** Read 1 Samuel 16:1.

Jesse and his sons were from Bethlehem. Which son became the king of Israel after King Saul? (David.) King David was born in Bethlehem. He had children and his children had children and their children had children. This continued for one thousand years until Joseph was born. Then, Joseph married Mary who became the mother of Jesus. That is how Jesus is related to King David.

If time allows, play the KING CONNECTIONS game located in the GOT TIME? segment of this guide.

# THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

## **GOLDEN BOWL**

**Teacher Tip:** Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

**Revelation 5:8 says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then, we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. 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 aloud 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.**



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## **FINAL FIVE MINUTES**

**TREASURE TREAT:** Today, your Treasure Treat is a piece of hay. Let it remind you of the humble way Jesus was born for us on the hay of a manger.

**DAILY WAY CHALLENGE:** Did anyone bring in their completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 50 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

**Teacher Tip:** Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

**OFFERING OF ART:** Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of Mary wrapping baby Jesus in cloths and laying Him in a manger.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG:** Play the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song, "King of Kings," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.





If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## GOT TIME?

### **SNACK: STABLE SNACK**

**Purpose:** Children will eat a snack while considering the birthplace of Jesus.

**Snack Suggestion:** Animal-shaped cookies, shredded coconut, frosting

**Where was Jesus born?** (In a manger in Bethlehem.) **Jesus is our King, but He was not born in a palace. Jesus' manger was in a stable or cave. He may have been surrounded by animals and lots of hay. Let's eat a snack of animal cookies and coconut "hay" as we think about the humble place where King Jesus was born.**

**Directions:**

1. Serve snack and drinks.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Children dip cookies in frosting then sprinkle coconut "hay" onto the frosted cookies.
4. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"When is your birthday?"**

### **GAME: KING CONNECTIONS**

**Purpose:** This matching game identifies points of connection between King David and King Jesus.

**Supplies:** Twelve standard-size sheets of paper

**Prepare:** Draw one of the six symbols below and its corresponding King David's Connection each on a separate sheet of paper. Then, draw one of the six symbols below and its corresponding King Jesus' Connection each on a separate sheet of paper.

**Large Class Option:** If you have a large class, make more than one set of cards.

<b><u>Symbol</u></b>	<b><u>King David's Connection</u></b>	<b><u>King Jesus' Connection</u></b>
Shepherd staff	He was a shepherd boy.	He is the Good Shepherd.
Bible	He wrote many Psalms in the Bible.	He is called the Living Word.
Heart	He loved God.	He loves His Father God and all people.
House	He was born in Bethlehem.	He was born in Bethlehem.
Crown	He was King of Israel.	He is King of heaven and earth.
Trophy	He defeated Goliath.	He defeated death.

**When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, He was a baby and God at the same time! When He grew up, He was a man and God at the same time. As a man, there were ways Jesus was just like King David and ways He was very different. In this matching game, we will connect facts about King David with facts about King Jesus.**

**Directions:**

1. Have the children sit in a circle.
2. Shuffle and lay the twelve cards face down on the floor in the center of the circle.
3. Choose a child to flip over two cards.
  - If the symbols match, leave them face up. Discuss the connection between the two.
  - If the symbols do not match, the child turns both cards back over.
4. The child to the right takes the next turn.
5. Continue playing until all the cards have been matched.



# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **CRAFT: MANGER ORNAMENT**

**Purpose:** Children create a manger ornament to remember Jesus' humble birthplace.

**Supplies:** White felt, wood slotted clothespin, white ribbon, marker, cardboard tube (each tube can be used for two crafts), raffia or straw, hole punch, gold chenille pipe cleaner, glue

**Prepare:** From white felt, cut a 4-inch square for Jesus' blanket. Cut a 6-inch piece of white ribbon.

**Option:** If wood slotted clothespins are not available, use small wooden spoons, half of a craft stick, or use a wooden bead as the head and 2 cotton balls for the body.

**Today, we will make an ornament to remind us Jesus was born in a lowly manger. Each time you see it, remember how Jesus left His throne in heaven and gave up everything to come to earth to save us.**

### **Directions:**

1. Lay clothespin diagonally across a 4-inch felt square.
2. Wrap felt around the clothespin and tie it with ribbon to secure.
3. Draw baby Jesus' face, by drawing eyes and a mouth on the head of the clothespin.
4. To make a manger, cut the cardboard tube to be slightly longer than the clothespin. Cut the tube in half lengthwise. Use each tube to make two mangers.
5. Glue raffia or straw into the cardboard tube to fill the manger.
6. Place baby Jesus in the manger.
7. Punch one small hole in the center of both sides of the manger.
8. Attach and twist the ends of a gold pipe cleaner to the holes to arc over the manger as an ornament hanger.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ,  
and He will reign for ever and ever.”

“KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.” Revelation 11:15b; 19:16b

### **GAME: CROWN TOSS**

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

**Supplies:** Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse poster, two scepters (stick or tube decorated with foil or paint), two crowns (toy or paper)

**Who does the world belong to?** (God the Father and Jesus Christ.) **The world belongs to God because He made it. Jesus is our King who will reign forever. He is greater than any other king! Let’s practice our Bible Memory Verse by tossing crowns onto a king’s royal scepter.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Form two teams of equal number. Have each team stand in a line.
2. Give a scepter to the first child in each line. Have those two children stand about 10 feet away, facing their team and holding the scepter in front of them.
3. Give a crown to the next child in each line.
4. On your signal, the children in each line toss the crowns, aiming for the team’s scepter.
5. If a child gets the crown onto the scepter, the next child takes his or her turn. If a child misses the scepter, give him or her a second chance. If the child misses it a second time, the team must stop and say the Bible Memory Verse together before the next child’s turn.
6. Once a child has taken a turn, he or she sits behind the team line.
7. The goal is to be the first team to have all their players seated.

### **GAME: ROYAL MUSICAL CHAIRS**

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

**Supplies:** One chair per child, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song “King of Kings,” CD player

#### **Directions:**

1. Children say Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse together. Practice several times.
2. Begin with one less chair than the number of children. Place the chairs in two lines, back to back with the seats facing out. Have the children stand around the chairs.
3. Play the Bible Memory Verse Song as the children walk around the chairs.
4. When you stop the song, each child tries to sit in a seat. One child should be left standing.
5. The child left standing can stay in the game if he or she recites the Bible Memory Verse from memory. (You may choose to help if he or she has just begun to learn the verse.) If the child can not recite the Bible Memory Verse, he or she is out of the game. Remove one chair and play again. If the child can recite the Bible Memory Verse, leave all the chairs and play again.
6. Continue playing several rounds to give more children a chance to say the Bible Memory Verse.
7. Give special responsibilities to children who are out of the game, such as helping to remove chairs or starting and stopping the music.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Kings & Kingdoms Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Judges through Esther. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and what He has done.

**Nehemiah (Circa 430 B.C.) What did Nehemiah ask King Artaxerxes?** (He asked for permission to go rebuild Jerusalem's city wall.) **How did Nehemiah use the families of Jerusalem to rebuild the city wall?** (He gave each family a part of the wall to rebuild.) **What was Nehemiah's plan for defending the families against the enemy as they built the wall?** (He prayed and posted guards. He had the workers carry supplies in one hand and a weapon in the other.)

**Esther (Circa 470 B.C.) Who did King Xerxes, the king of Persia, choose as his queen?** (Esther.) **What did Mordecai ask Queen Esther to do?** (To ask the king to save God's people.) **How did the king show Queen Esther that it was safe for her to come and talk to him?** (He extended his scepter for her to touch.) **Did the king agree to Queen Esther's request?** (Yes.)

**Jesus on Earth (Circa 1–33 A.D.) After the days of Queen Esther had passed, God sent no messages to His people for 400 years. Then, when the time was right, He sent His angel to announce the birth of King Jesus to a teenage girl. What was her name?** (Mary.) **Then, God sent an angel to Joseph telling him to name the baby Jesus. What did the angel say Jesus would do?** (Jesus would "save His people from their sins.") **Where was baby Jesus born?** (In a manger in Bethlehem.)

How to create a Bible Timeline from Judges through Esther:

1. Print each scroll on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the timeline.
3. Before each lesson, add the scroll for that lesson to the Bible Timeline using the list below. Add the Unit 10 card for Kings & Kingdoms Lessons 48-52.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

Judges – Esther: Deborah (Circa 1350 B.C.) > Gideon (Circa 1250 B.C.) > Samson (Circa 1150 B.C.) > Ruth > Samuel (Circa 1100 B.C.) > Saul (Circa 1050 B.C.) > David (Circa 1020 B.C.) > Solomon (Circa 970 B.C.) > Josiah (Circa 640 B.C.) > Ezra (Circa 500 B.C.) > Esther (Circa 470 B.C.) > Nehemiah (Circa 430 B.C.)

Unit 10: Jesus on Earth (Circa 2 B.C.-33 A.D.)

**Teacher Tip:** To view Bible Timeline and lessons from Genesis through Joshua, see Year One, God of Wonders Lessons 22-47.