



## Advent 4: Worshiping the King

Lesson Aim: To praise God for sending King Jesus to us.

### THE WORSHIP

**Who God Is:** The King Who Came to Us

### THE WORD

**Bible Story:** Luke 2:8-20

**What He Has Done:** God led the shepherds to see and worship King Jesus.

### 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 Psalm 145. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for sending Jesus. Let us all praise You as the shepherds did. 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>Welcome</b>	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a shepherd or sheep
		<b>Coloring Center:</b> Worshiping the King	Coloring pages of the shepherds worshiping baby Jesus, "His One And Only Son," crayons or markers
		<b>Play-Dough Center:</b> The Angels Praised Him	Play-dough, Christmas cookie cutters, play-dough tools
		<b>Game Center:</b> Christmas Symbols	(2) laminated 8 ½ X 11 pictures of baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, shepherd, angel, star
		<b>Nativity Center:</b> A Special Baby	Nativity set
	Up to 5	<b>Prepare for Worship</b>	None
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org. <b>Additional Song Suggestions:</b> "Away in a Manger" "Go Tell It on the Mountain" "Joy to the World" "Silent Night" <b>Additional Supplies:</b> Advent wreath (See GOT TIME?)	Praise music, optional: musical instruments <b>Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "His One and Only Son" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "Give Thanks to the Lord" "I Bring You Good News" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God"
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 10, Lesson 51
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Watch the Word:</b> Luke 2:8-20	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Luke 2:20 Visual: Picture of the Bible story, gift bag, toy sheep, optional: Christmas storybook
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> Baby Jesus	Paper bag, moldable clay or paper cutout of baby Jesus, sturdy white paper, crayons or markers, tape, optional: hay or shredded paper, tape or glue
		<b>Game:</b> Let's Go to Bethlehem!	Baby doll wrapped in cloth in a box of straw, one or more toy sheep or picture of sheep, optional: Bible-times costumes
		<b>Game:</b> Pin the Tail on the Sheep	Large picture of a sheep without a tail, white paper sheep tails, tape, blindfold
		<b>Snack:</b> Birthday Treat	Traditional birthday treat (cake, cupcakes), birthday candles, optional: matches
	Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Ponder, Pray & Play for 2-3's: Unit 10, Lesson 51
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Say &amp; Do:</b> Luke 2:8-20	None
	Up to 15	<b>Craft:</b> Advent Crown Wreath	See craft for supplies.
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Hop Around the World	Globe or picture of the world
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> I Bring You Good News!	None
	Up to 10	<b>Story Time</b>	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 a shepherd or sheep. **Let this stamp (or sticker) help you remember the shepherds praised God for sending baby Jesus.**

**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: WORSHIPING THE KING

### **SUPPLIES**

Coloring pages of the shepherds worshiping baby Jesus, "His One And Only Son," crayons or markers

### **DO**

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

### **TALK ABOUT**

**The shepherds were some of the first people to see the baby Jesus. Jesus was a very special baby because He was God's Son. The shepherds praised God for sending baby Jesus and we can, too. When we celebrate Christmas, we are praising God. Let's listen to our Bible Memory Verse Song while we color.** Play the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song and other Christmas music.

## PLAY-DOUGH CENTER: THE ANGELS PRAISED HIM

### **SUPPLIES**

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

### **DO**

Children play with the play-dough while talking about the angels sharing the good news with the shepherds. Encourage children to make angels with the play-dough.

### **TALK ABOUT**

**In our story today, an angel of the Lord tells shepherds that baby Jesus was born. We can praise God by telling others about Him. Let's practice that now.** Encourage the children to tell each other, **"Jesus is born."** You can add variety by having them say it in different ways: whispering, shouting, getting louder, getting softer, etc. **Who else can you tell that Jesus was born?** (Family, friends, etc.)

# THE WELCOME *continued...*

## GAME CENTER: CHRISTMAS SYMBOLS

### SUPPLIES

(2) laminated 8 ½ X 11 pictures of baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, shepherd, angel, star

### DO

Children lay the pictures face down on the floor or a table. Work with the children to find matches.

### TALK ABOUT

Before playing the game, lay one set of the pictures in front of you. Talk with the children about the different pictures and what they have to do with Christmas. **What other things do you think of when you think of Jesus' birth?** (Children respond.) **How do you celebrate Christmas with your family?**

## NATIVITY CENTER: A SPECIAL BABY

### SUPPLIES

Nativity set

### DO

Children add each piece to the nativity set as they help tell the story of Jesus' birth.

### TALK ABOUT

**Everyone was excited about Jesus' birth: Mary, Joseph, the angels, the shepherds, and the wise men. He was a very special baby.** As children add each person to the nativity set, ask them what the person might have thought or said when they saw the baby Jesus.

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## 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](http://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 will hear how the shepherds praised God when Jesus was born. We can praise God with our prayers. Let's pray right now.** Have the children bow their heads and close their eyes. **Dear God, we praise You for sending Your Son Jesus to earth. Help us remember to praise You every day. Amen.**



**Let's give our offering to King Jesus and sing praises to Him for His great love. Sing:** "Give Thanks to the Lord" while collecting the offering. **At Christmastime, your praise is like a birthday gift to Jesus.** Sing: "Joy to the World."



### The Lighting of the Christmas Candles: The Shepherds' Candle

Advent Wreath: 4 candles set in a wreath

**We light the Christmas candles to get our hearts ready to celebrate Christmas. In the past three weeks we have lit Mary's Candle, Joseph's Candle, and the Bethlehem Candle. Today, we light the Shepherds' Candle to remember that the shepherds praised God for sending baby Jesus.** Choose one child to assist in lighting the fourth of the four candles on the Advent Wreath.



**Let's see what our friend Ranger Ryan knows about the shepherds and baby Jesus.** Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 10, Lesson 51.



**God sent His Son Jesus to earth because He loved us. We can praise God by remembering His words. Let's say our Bible Memory Verse together.** Practice together.

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



**All of heaven and earth praised God the night Jesus was born. We can praise Him, too.** Sing: "His One and Only Son."



The shepherds praised God

## THE WORD

**Supplies:** Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Luke 2:20, picture of the Bible story, gift bag, toy sheep, optional: Christmas storybook

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

<b>With my eyes on my teacher;</b>	Point to eyes.
<b>My mouth quiet as can be,</b>	Place index finger over mouth as quiet sign.
<b>I will listen to hear,</b>	Cup hand around ear.
<b>How God loves you and me.</b>	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.

**Last time, we learned baby Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem. Let's see if our Christmas bag will give us a hint as to what happened next.** Open the bag and remove the toy sheep. **What's this?** (A sheep.) **What does a sheep say?** (Baa.) **Who takes care of sheep?** (Shepherds.) **The night Jesus was born, there were shepherds watching their sheep nearby. Let's listen to the story of the shepherds.** Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Luke 2:20.



### **WATCH THE WORD: LUKE 2:8-20**

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.

**Optional:** Read a Christmas storybook.

- **The shepherds were out in the fields,**
- **Watching over their sheep at night.**
- **An angel of the Lord appeared;**
- **It was a surprising sight.**
  
- **"Don't be afraid," the angel said,**
- **"For I bring you good news.**
- **The baby you'll find in Bethlehem,**
- **Is the Savior born for you!"**
  
- **The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem.**
- **They found where the baby lay.**
- **They happily went back to their fields.**
- **They praised God along the way.**

**What did the shepherds do after they saw baby Jesus?** (They praised God.) **What are some ways we can praise King Jesus?** (Pray, sing, give offerings, tell others about Jesus.)



We can praise God

## 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: BABY JESUS**

**Purpose:** To remind the children how the shepherds praised God.

**Supplies:** Paper bag, moldable clay or paper cutout of baby Jesus, sturdy white paper, crayons or markers, tape, optional: hay or shredded paper, tape or glue

**Prepare:** Cut off the top of a paper bag, leaving about 4 inches for a manger. From sturdy white paper, draw and cut out a 6-inch tall angel and a 6-inch shepherd. On a strip of 2-inch x 11-inch sturdy white paper, print:

**Praise King Jesus!**

**Luke 2:8-20**

**Adaptation for Ages 2-3:** This craft was developed for ages 4-5. To adapt the craft for younger children, you may choose to simplify or pre-make portions of the craft. Some possible adaptations for this craft are to pre-attach the handle or to give the children pre-colored cut-outs of the angel and shepherd.

#### **Directions:**

1. Mold a small baby Jesus from clay.
2. Place hay or shredded paper in the paper bag.
3. Lay baby Jesus in the paper bag on the hay.
4. Attach the **Praise King Jesus! Luke 2:8-20** strip of paper from one side of the paper bag to the other to make a handle.
5. Color the angel and the shepherd.
6. Attach the angel to one side of the bag and the shepherd to the other or leave them unattached so children can act out the story.

#### **Craft Discussion:**

- **Who was born in a manger on Christmas Day?** (Jesus.)
- **Who were the first people to hear that baby Jesus was born?** (The shepherds.)
- **Who told the shepherds that baby Jesus was born?** (The angel.)
- **Where did the shepherds go after they heard the good news?** (To the manger.)
- **What did the shepherds do on their way back to the fields?** (They praised God.)

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **GAME: LET'S GO TO BETHLEHEM!**

**Purpose:** To remember the shepherds' response by acting it out.

**Supplies:** Baby doll wrapped in cloth in a box of straw, one or more toy sheep or picture of sheep, optional: Bible-times costumes (Shepherds' clothing and headdresses can be made from fabric, sheets, or pillowcases. Use twine as a tie for waist and headdress. Provide a shawl for Mary and a robe for Joseph.)

**Let's imagine we are the shepherds there on the night that Jesus was born.**

### **Directions:**

1. Choose two children as Mary and Joseph. They sit near the baby doll in the manger in a far corner of the play area.
2. Choose one child to be the angel standing in opposite corner of the play area with the sheep.
3. Remaining children are shepherds. They sit in the same corner with the sheep and the angel.
4. The angel says, "**Baby Jesus is born!**"
5. The shepherds say, "**Let's go to Bethlehem!**"
6. The shepherds hold hands and walk as quickly as possible to the manger.
7. The shepherds say, "**The angel told us about Jesus!**"
8. Mary and Joseph are amazed and applaud. Mary picks up baby Jesus to show the shepherds.
9. The shepherds hold hands and return to their sheep chanting, "**Praise God! Praise God!**"
10. Switch roles and play again.

## **GAME: PIN THE TAIL ON THE SHEEP**

**Purpose:** In this version of the game, "Pin the Tail on the Donkey," children celebrate Jesus' birthday.

**Supplies:** Large picture of a sheep without a tail, white paper sheep tails, tape, blindfold

**Prepare:** Place the sheep picture on a wall.

**What were the shepherds doing when the angel appeared to them in the fields?** (They were looking after their sheep.) **Let's celebrate Jesus birthday with the party game, "Pin the Tail on the Sheep!" We can pretend that we are the shepherds and one of our sheep has lost its tail!**

### **Directions:**

1. Children play one at a time.
2. Blindfold one of the children or have the child close his or her eyes.
3. Briefly turn the child in a circle.
4. Remove the blindfold.
5. Have the child try to place their paper sheep tail on the end of the sheep.
6. Teacher tapes a sheep tail in the place chosen by the child.
7. Continue to play until all of the children have taken their turn.
8. The winner is the child who placed his or her sheep tail closest to the end of the sheep.



# THE WAY *continued...*

## **SNACK: BIRTHDAY TREAT**

**Purpose:** Children celebrate Christmas as Jesus' birthday.

**Snack Suggestion:** Traditional birthday treat (cake, cupcakes), birthday candles, optional: matches

### **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.
  - **Today, we are celebrating Christmas by having a birthday party. Whose birthday do we celebrate each Christmas?** (Jesus' birthday.)
  - **Let's sing happy Birthday to Jesus!** Sing: "Happy Birthday to You" or another birthday song.
  - **What is your favorite thing to do at birthday parties?** (Open gifts, eat cake, play games, sing "Happy Birthday," etc.)
  - **How did the shepherds celebrate after they saw baby Jesus?** (They praised God.) **We can praise God, too!**



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.

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

### **SAY & DO: LUKE 2:8-20**

**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.

- **The shepherds were out in the fields,** (Point to a corner.)
- **Watching over their sheep at night.** (Use hands as binoculars.)
- **An angel of the Lord appeared;** (Point to heaven.)
- **It was a surprising sight.** (Place hands on cheeks as if surprised.)
  
- **"Don't be afraid," the angel said,** (Shake head as no.)
- **"For I bring you good news.** (Point to self.)
- **The baby you'll find in Bethlehem,** (Point to opposite corner.)
- **Is the Savior born for you!"** (Point to each other.)
  
- **The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem.** (Run in place.)
- **They found where the baby lay.** (Pretend to rock baby in arms.)
- **They happily went back to their fields.** (Walk in place.)
- **They praised God along the way.** (Clap hands in praise.)

### **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.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## 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.

### GAME: I BRING YOU GOOD NEWS!

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

**Supplies:** None

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.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## 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 51 - Advent 4: Worshiping the King

**PONDER!** Gather your family to light the Shepherds' Candle, the fourth candle on your Advent Crown Wreath. (Create 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.) Read Luke 2:8-20 and sing "Joy to the World."

**PRAY!** Pray this prayer each day this week: "Thank You, God, for sending King Jesus to us. Help us praise You as the shepherds did that night. Amen."

**PLAY!** Have a birthday party for Jesus. Make a cake and play party games. Sing "Happy Birthday to You" to Jesus who is now in heaven watching over us. Talk about each person's favorite way to praise God.

#### BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

<b>"God</b>	Open right hand (fingers together and palm facing left) moves upward and then down the center of the face with fingers facing up.
<b>so loved</b>	Fists closed, both arms move to the body and cross in front of the chest.
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