



# Advent 4: Worshiping the King

**Lesson Aim:** To spread the word and praise God as the shepherds did.

## 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.

**Key Verse:** Luke 2:20

## THE WAY

**Christ Connection:** Psalm 145:4-5

## 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: Simeon and Anna, Luke 2:25-33, 36-38	God showed baby Jesus to Simeon and Anna.	To see that the Holy Spirit helps us know 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.

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Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Shepherd Race	Three paper signs labeled "Manger," three paper signs labeled "Field," six chairs or boxes
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
		Advent Scripture Reading: Luke 2:20	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 51 King City Chronicles script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Luke 2:8-20	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster
		Christ Connection: Psalm 145:4-5	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
GOT TIME?	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—Candy Cane, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "King of Kings," CD player
	Up to 10	Snack: Christmas Birthday Cupcakes	Traditional birthday dessert such as cake or cupcakes, birthday candles, matches
	Up to 10	Game: Keep Up the Praise	One inflated, non-helium balloon per group of 4-6 children
	Up to 10	Game: Disappearing Angel	Dry erase board with marker and eraser, or poster board and pencil
	Up to 10	Craft: Shepherd's Staff Ornament	Multicolored beads, chenille pipe cleaners
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: 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	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Royal Musical Chairs	One chair per child, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "King of Kings," CD player
	Up to 5	Bible Timeline Review	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: What is your favorite way to celebrate Christmas?**

### **GAME: SHEPHERD RACE**

**Purpose:** To introduce the story of the shepherds' response to the angel's good news.

**Supplies:** Three paper signs labeled "Manger," three paper signs labeled "Field," six chairs or boxes

**Today, we will learn about the shepherds who hurried to the Bethlehem manger and then returned to their field. In this game, each pair of shepherds stands back-to-back and moves together, racing to the manger and returning to their field. The winner is the first team to have its last pair of shepherds return to the field.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Line up 3 chairs approximately 3 feet apart. Attach one "Field" sign to each chair.
2. On the opposite side of room, line up 3 more chairs approximately 3 feet apart and directly across from the three "Field" chairs. Attach one "Manger" sign to each chair.
3. Divide children into 3 teams to stand behind each "Field" chair.
4. Each team divides into pairs.
5. The first pair from each team stands back-to-back, linking elbows.
6. One player faces the "Field" while the other player faces the "Manger."
7. On your signal, pairs race to touch the "Manger" and return to the "Field."
8. Pairs must remain back-to-back linking elbows throughout the race, or they must begin again.
9. Pairs return to the "Field" to tag the next pair of shepherds.
10. The first team to have its last pair of shepherds return to the field is the winner.

**Option:** To increase difficulty, on their return from the manger, each pair must hop joyfully. For added interest, create obstacles such as boxes or chairs that pairs must go around.



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 the Advent Candle Lighting, light the first three candles on the Advent Wreath.



**We worship the King who came to us. He came from heaven, so heaven's angels announced His birth. They worshiped God saying, "Glory to God in the Highest." Let's worship Him now by giving our offering and singing the words the angels said that night.** Sing: "I Bring You Good News" or "Angels We Have Heard on High" as the offering is collected.



### **Advent Candle Lighting Ceremony: The Shepherds' Candle**

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

**Advent means coming—the coming of Jesus. The Advent season helps get our hearts ready to celebrate Christmas, the time 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 that Jesus is the King of kings.**

**Today, we light the fourth candle of Advent: The Shepherds' Candle. The shepherds were in the field when an angel appeared and told them Jesus was born. Then, the sky filled with an army of angels all praising God. When the shepherds found baby Jesus, they spread the word about the angel's good news. Everyone was amazed. Choose a child to light the fourth candle now.**



**As you look at the candlelight, listen to what the shepherds did on their way back to their field.** Read Luke 2:20.



Perform King City Chronicles script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 10, Lesson 51.



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



The shepherds praise God

## 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 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: "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 that even though baby Jesus deserved a royal birthplace, He was born in a manger in the small town of Bethlehem.** If a map is available, point out Bethlehem, Israel. 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. **Let's read what happened right after baby Jesus was born.**



**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 reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Luke 2:8-20.

**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.** Read Luke 2:8-20.



## Praising God **THE WAY**

**Where were the shepherds when they heard the angel that night?** (In the fields.) **What were they doing?** (Watching over their flocks of sheep.) **The angel said the good news was for all people. Listen as I read the good news.** Reread Luke 2:11. **Where did the angel say the shepherds would find this baby?** (Wrapped in cloths, lying in a manger in Bethlehem.)

**Who suddenly appeared with the angel?** (The heavenly host.) **The heavenly host is heaven's army. They said, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests."** That means they were giving God the highest credit and praise, and saying there would be peace to those who please God. **What did the shepherds do when the angel and the heavenly host went into heaven?** (They hurried off to find baby Jesus.) **What would you have done if you had just heard and seen the angel and the heavenly host?** (Children respond.)

The shepherds listened to the good news from the angel. You have listened as we read that same good news today. They went to find the Savior for themselves. Where can you go to find the truth about Jesus? (The Bible.) When they arrived at the manger, the shepherds discovered everything the angel said about Jesus was true! They spread the word about what they had been told. How can you spread the word about Jesus? (Children respond.) Choose a child to describe in his or her own words what the shepherds saw and heard that night. On the way back to their fields, the shepherds praised God for all they had heard and seen. You can be like the shepherds. On your way home, you can praise God for all you have learned about Jesus today.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

## **CHRIST CONNECTION**

When Jesus was born, the angel, the heavenly host, the shepherds, and Mary all worshiped God in the following different ways. The heavenly host spoke of His glorious majesty by saying, "Glory to God in the highest." The angel and the shepherds told of His mighty acts. They proclaimed His deeds. Mary meditated on His wonderful works—that means she pondered them in her heart. One thousand years before that happened, David described those same ways of worship. As we read what David said, raise your hand each time you hear one of the ways that the angel, heavenly host, shepherds, or Mary worshiped Jesus.



**Everyone, place your Bible on your lap.** Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Psalm 145:4-5. **Let's find this scripture.** Read Psalm 145:4-5, pausing after each phrase to allow time for children to recognize similarities in worship style between David, the angel, heavenly host, shepherds, and Mary.

If time allows, play KEEP UP THE PRAISE located in the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

# 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 candy cane shaped like a shepherd's staff. Tell your family how the shepherds reacted to the good news.

**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 51 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 the shepherds running to see baby Jesus in the 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: CHRISTMAS BIRTHDAY CUPCAKES**

**Purpose:** Children celebrate Jesus' birthday with a traditional birthday dessert.

**Snack Suggestion:** Traditional birthday dessert such as cake or cupcakes, birthday candles, matches

**What did the shepherds hear and see in the field that night?** (An angel told them about the birth of Jesus. The sky filled with angels praising God.) **What did the shepherds do after they saw baby Jesus in the manger?** (They told everyone what the angel had said about Him. They went back to their fields praising God.) **Let's celebrate Jesus' birthday with a birthday cake (or cupcakes).**

**Directions:**

1. Serve the birthday dessert and drinks.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Teacher lights the birthday candles while everyone sings a birthday song to Jesus.
4. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What is your favorite way to celebrate your birthday?"**

### **GAME: KEEP UP THE PRAISE**

**Purpose:** Children see how long they can keep the balloon in the air by bopping it upward each time someone gives a specific praise.

**Supplies:** One inflated, non-helium balloon (or inflatable ball) per group of 4-8 children. Have extra balloons available in case a balloon pops.

**The shepherds praised God for all they had seen and heard. Each of us has seen and heard things God has done in our lives. Let's take turns praising Him for those things as we bop the balloon in the air and call out our praises.**

**Directions:**

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. First child completes the sentence, **"I praise God for \_\_\_\_\_,"** and bops the balloon up.
3. Before the balloon touches the floor, the next child on the left must complete the sentence, **"I praise God for \_\_\_\_\_,"** and bops the balloon up. The balloon cannot be bopped until the child has completed the sentence.
4. Teacher counts number of bops. Continue around the circle, bopping the balloon with each sentence of praise until the balloon touches the floor.
5. When the balloon touches the floor, children can play again and try to raise their praise number. If you have more than one group, see which group can keep the balloon in the air the longest.



# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **GAME: DISAPPEARING ANGEL**

**Purpose:** This party game encourages conversations about the angels in the shepherds' field.

**Supplies:** Dry erase board with marker and eraser, or poster board and pencil

**After the army of heaven's angels praised God, they disappeared. Let's watch our angel disappear as we spell out the words from the Christmas story.** (Use words such as manger, angel, glory, peace, earth, Bethlehem, Joseph, Savior, Mary, etc.)

### **Directions:**

1. Draw an angel on the board or paper. Include details such as fingers, hair, face, feet, etc.
2. One child thinks of a secret word related to the Christmas story and whispers it to the teacher.
3. Under the angel, the teacher draws a line for each letter in the secret word.
4. The remaining children take turns guessing the letters in the secret word.
5. Each time a letter is guessed, the child who chose the word erases one part of the angel. The teacher writes the letter on the appropriate line.
6. Continue until the word is guessed or the angel "disappears."
7. If time allows, repeat the game with a new secret word.

## **CRAFT: SHEPHERD'S STAFF ORNAMENT**

**Purpose:** Children create a shepherd's staff ornament to remember how the shepherds spread the word and praised God for the birth of the Savior.

**Supplies:** Multicolored craft beads, chenille pipe cleaners

**Today, we will make an ornament to remind us of the shepherds who praised God and spread the word about the birth of Jesus. Choose each bead to stand for one thing you praise God for. Make one for yourself and one to give to a friend. Tell your friend how the shepherds spread the word and praised God about the birth of baby Jesus.**

### **Directions:**

1. Put the end of the pipe cleaner through one bead.
2. Turn the end of the pipe cleaner around the bead and twist.
3. String the next bead to cover the sharp end of the pipe cleaner.
4. String beads to cover the remainder of the pipe cleaner.
5. Bend the beaded pipe cleaner into the shape of the shepherd's staff.
6. Turn the end around the final bead and twist.
7. Tuck the end into the previous bead to cover the sharp end.
8. Hang as an ornament in your home.
9. Make a second shepherd's staff ornament for a friend. Tell them the good news of Jesus' birth.

# 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.) What did the shepherds do after they saw baby Jesus in the manger? (They told everyone what the angel had said about Him. They went back to their fields praising God.)

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.