



Advent 3: The Promised Son Is Born

Lesson Aim: To know God keeps His promises.

THE WORSHIP

Who God Is: The God of Peace

THE WORD

Bible Story: Luke 2:4-7

What He Has Done: God fulfilled His promise for Jesus to be born in Bethlehem.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "It was time."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good." Psalm 118:1a

Unit 10: The Promised One			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
48	Advent 1: Isaiah Tells of the Promised Child, Isaiah 9:2-3, 6	God told Isaiah the promise of the coming child.	To know God promised to send His Son to us.
49	Advent 2: God's Promise to Mary, Luke 1:26-38	God promised Mary that she would give birth to His Son, Jesus.	To know Jesus is the Son of God.
50	Advent 3: The Promised Son Is Born, Luke 2:4-7	God fulfilled His promise for Jesus to be born in Bethlehem.	To know God keeps His promises.
51	Advent 4: Shepherds See God's Promised Son, Luke 2:8-20	God sent the angels to tell the shepherds about Jesus, the promised Savior.	To praise God as the shepherds did when they saw baby Jesus.
52	Wise Men Knew God's Promise, Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11	God sent the Wise Men to Bethlehem where they saw God's promises fulfilled.	To know promises from God are found in the Bible.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read 2 Peter 1:16-17. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for each prophecy that points us to You. Help us point the children to You this Christmas. Help us trust Your timing in their lives and in our own. 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	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a suitcase
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "It was time."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org. Additional Supplies: Advent wreath (See GOT TIME?)	Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Give Thanks to the Lord" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "His One and Only Son" "I Bring You Good News" "I Am with You" "Let Everything That Has Breath" "Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God" "The Lord Is Faithful" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Away in a Manger"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 10, Lesson 50
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Luke 2:4-7	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Luke 2:4-5 Visual: "Mary and Joseph" craft sample
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Joseph and Mary	2 small paper cups (uncoated), 2 craft sticks, sturdy paper (tan, light blue, dark blue and brown), ¼" wide white ribbon, brown felt, tape or glue, pen or marker, sticker or label
		Game: Let's Go to Bethlehem	Costumes for Joseph and Mary, baby doll wrapped in a blanket placed in a basket or box
		Game: Hey, Hey! Who Hid the Hay?	Hay (or raffia or shredded paper), baby doll wrapped in a blanket, basket or box
		Snack: Manger Hay	Shredded snack (wheat cereal or coconut flakes)
	Circle of Prayer	None	
	Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 10, Lesson 50 Color This Story: "The Promised Son Is Born"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Luke 2:4-7	None
	Up to 10	Game: Pass the Gift	Wrapped gift box (with removable lid), baby Jesus (doll or "Baby Jesus" craft sample), Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "Give Thanks to the Lord"
	Up to 10	Game: Shout It Out	Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "Give Thanks to the Lord"
	Up to 15	Craft: Advent Crown Wreath	See GOT TIME?
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about Jesus' birth

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



It was time **THE 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 suitcase. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a suitcase help you remember that Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem when it was time for baby Jesus to be born. Today's Whisper Verse is "It was time."** Teach the Whisper Verse in spoken language and in sign language below. **We call it the Whisper Verse so you can whisper it to others.***

SIGN LANGUAGE: "It was time."

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

Each time we say today's Whisper Verse, let's say it with three hand motions:

- "It"** Extend the pinky of the right hand while the rest of the fingers remain curled in a closed fist. Gently tap the tip of the pinky on the up-turned, open palm of the left hand.
- "was"** With the palm of the right hand facing back over the right shoulder, flip the wrist back as if tossing something over the shoulder.
- "time."** The index finger of the left hand taps the top of the wrist of the right arm as if pointing to the face of a wristwatch.

Allow children to enjoy free play until everyone has arrived. **Let's sing the "Clean Up Song" as we put toys away before Praise Time.** Praise any child who helps. Allow several minutes for clean up.

**"Clean Up Song": Clean up! Clean up! Everybody, everywhere!
Clean up! Clean up! Everybody do your share!**

Gather and seat children in Praise Time area.

***Today's Whisper Verse:** "It was time," Luke 1:57a. The Whisper Verse is a tool to help the children learn a major point in the lesson. It is coupled with sign language or hand motions as a memory aid. The verse is not necessarily chosen from today's Bible story.



The God of Peace

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 “Praise Time: Love the Lord Your God” as children move to that designated area.

It’s Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the God of Peace. God brings peace and calmness to our hearts because we know He loves us. He loves us so much that when the time was right, He kept His promise and gave His only Son for us. That’s why our Whisper Verse says, “It was time.” Let’s say it together. Review the Whisper Verse together: “It was time.” Include sign language.



God has given us a time for everything. Let’s use this time to give our offering and celebrate the good gift God gave us when He gave us Jesus. Sing: “Give Thanks to the Lord” while collecting the offering.



The Lighting of the Christmas Candles: The Bethlehem 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 the Bethlehem Candle to remember that when it was time for baby Jesus to be born, Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem. Choose a child to assist in lighting the first three of the four purple candles on the Advent Wreath.



Let’s see if our friends Delbert and Lello know about Mary and Joseph’s trip to Bethlehem. Perform The Adventures of Delbert and Lello puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 10, Lesson 50.



God is good; He keeps all His promises. He was good to Mary and Joseph. He helped them get to Bethlehem. He gave them a place for baby Jesus to be born. He kept His promise and gave Mary her son, the baby Jesus. Sing: “The Lord Is Faithful.” **God is good to us; He gave His Son Jesus to us, too! That is the good news of Christmas.** Sing: “I Bring You Good News.”

Imagine what it would have been like to be Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem watching baby Jesus sleeping in the manger bed. It must have been wonderful. Sing: “Away in a Manger” or a favorite traditional Christmas hymn.



Jesus was born in Bethlehem

THE WORD

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.

Last time, we learned God promised Mary that she would be the mother of baby Jesus. Today, we will hear how God kept that promise when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Luke 2:4-5.

WATCH THE WORD: LUKE 2:4-7

Read the points below or retell the passage in your own words using the points below as a general guide. To illustrate the story, display the "Mary and Joseph" craft sample. Other visual options include Color This Story or any related picture.

- **Joseph and Mary went on a trip;**
- **They traveled to Bethlehem.**
- **When it was time for the baby to be born,**
- **There was no room at the inn for them.**

- **So, Jesus was born in Bethlehem.**
- **Mary wrapped Him in swaddling clothes.**
- **She lay Him down in a manger of hay,**
- **For that was the place God chose.**



Who traveled to Bethlehem? (Joseph and Mary.) Let's find our answer in the Bible.

Read Luke 2:4-5 from the teacher's Bible.

When Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem, it was a very special time. It was time for God to keep His promise that baby Jesus would be born. That's our Whisper Verse! Let's say it together: "It was time." Include sign language or hand motions.



God keeps His promises

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: JOSEPH AND MARY

Purpose: To remind the children that God kept His promise for Jesus to be born in Bethlehem.

Supplies: 2 small paper cups (uncoated), 2 craft sticks, sturdy paper (tan, light blue, dark blue, and brown), ¼" wide white ribbon, brown felt, tape or glue, pen or marker, sticker or label

Prepare: Cut a slit in the bottom of each cup large enough for the craft stick to fit through it. On a sticker or label, print: **Jesus Was Born in a Manger. Luke 2:4-7**

For Mary:

- From sturdy tan paper, cut a 2-inch diameter circle for her head.
- From sturdy light blue paper, cut a 3-inch diameter circle for her head covering. Trim off 1/3.
- From sturdy dark blue paper, cut a 4-inch triangle for her dress.
- Cut a 2-inch length of ribbon for her headband.

For Joseph:

- From sturdy tan paper, cut a 2-inch diameter circle for his head.
- From sturdy dark blue paper, cut a 4-inch triangle for his robe.
- From brown felt, cut a 3-inch strip for his belt and a ½-inch triangle for his beard.

Teacher Tip #1: This craft is the third in a set of five crafts appearing in Lessons 48-52. Together, they will create a Nativity scene for each child. Remind the children to keep their crafts in a special place. In the coming weeks, they will add other people from Christmas story.

Teacher Tip #2: To save time, pre-attach the heads on the bodies and the craft sticks on the bodies.

Directions for Mary:

1. With the cut edge of the light blue circle at the bottom, glue it behind Mary's head.
2. Attach the white ribbon as a headband.
3. Draw Mary's face on the tan circle and glue it to the top of her dark blue triangle dress.
4. Glue the figure on a craft stick.
5. Insert Mary's craft stick in one of the two cups so she stands up.
6. Attach the label to the cup.

Directions for Joseph:

1. Glue Joseph's beard onto the bottom of his face.
2. Glue his belt across the middle of his robe.
3. Draw Joseph's face and hair on the tan head and glue it to the top of his dark blue triangle robe.
4. Glue the figure on a craft stick.
5. Insert Joseph's craft stick in the other cup so he stands up.

Craft Discussion:

- **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions.
- **What was it time for?** (Baby Jesus to be born.)
- **Where was baby Jesus born?** (In a manger in Bethlehem.)
- **Who traveled to Bethlehem when it was time for Jesus to be born?** (Joseph and Mary.)

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: LET'S GO TO BETHLEHEM!

Purpose: Children will pretend to travel to Bethlehem and look for a room for Baby Jesus.

Supplies: Costumes for Joseph and Mary, baby doll wrapped in a blanket placed in a basket or box

Teacher Tip: For costumes, use robes, towels, or cut holes for a child's head and arms in pillowcases or simply drape a length of cloth over their shoulders. For a belt, tie a rope around the waist.

Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem. While they were there, it was time for Jesus to be born. Let's see if Mary and Joseph can find a place to stay.

Directions:

1. Place the basket with the baby doll, at one end of the play area.
2. Choose two children to be Mary and Joseph. Dress Mary and Joseph in costumes.
3. Place the remaining children as innkeepers at various locations around the room. Have them face the wall.
4. Mary and Joseph walk together to each innkeeper and gently tap the innkeeper's back, as if knocking on the door. When the innkeeper turns around, Mary and Joseph say and sign the Whisper Verse, **"It was time."**
5. Each innkeeper replies by shaking his or her head and saying, **"No room."** He or she then sits down and silently points to the manger.
6. When all the innkeepers are seated, Mary and Joseph go sit by the baby Jesus.
7. Choose two other children to be Mary and Joseph and play again.

GAME: HEY, HEY! WHO HID THE HAY?

Purpose: Children will search for hidden hay as they think about the location of Jesus' birth.

Supplies: Hay (or raffia or shredded paper), baby doll wrapped in a blanket, basket or box

It was time for baby Jesus to be born. Was there room for Mary and Joseph at the inn? (No.) Mary and Joseph used a manger for Jesus' bed. A manger is a box that holds food for animals. Let's pretend you are Mary or Joseph looking for soft hay to put in the manger.

Directions:

1. Choose a child to be Mary or Joseph. The child closes his or her eyes while you hide a handful of hay.
2. Once the hay is hidden, the other children clap and chant, **"Hey-hey-hey, who hid the hay?"**
3. The child opens his or her eyes and searches for the hay.
4. Help Mary/Joseph find the hay by saying, **"You're getting warmer."** when he or she gets closer to the hay and, **"You're getting colder."** when the child moves away from the hay.
5. Say, **"Hey-hey-hey, you found the hay!"** when the child finds the hay.
6. The child places the hay in the box to begin creating a soft bed for baby Jesus.
8. Play until each child has a turn finding the hay.
9. Choose one of the children to place baby Jesus in the basket (or box).

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: MANGER HAY

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while discussing Mary and Joseph's trip to Bethlehem.

Snack Suggestion: Shredded snack (wheat cereal or coconut flakes)

Directions:

1. Serve the 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.
 - **When baby Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph placed Him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn. A manger is a box used to hold food for animals. Some animals eat hay. Let's eat a snack that looks like hay!**
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: "It was time."
 - **When it was time for baby Jesus to be born, Mary and Joseph took a trip. Where did they go?** (Bethlehem.)
 - **Have you ever taken a trip? Where did you go?** (Children respond.)



CIRCLE OF PRAYER

God made you and He cares for you. He loves to hear you pray with private words or words you say out loud. Let's fold our hands and close our eyes. As I lift up your name to God in heaven, I will lay my hand on your shoulder. Let's pray together.

Dear God, thank You for making us and loving us. We lift up to You a special prayer for ____, ____, ____ (say each name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Joseph and Mary" craft. Tell someone Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem when it was time for God to keep His promise that Jesus would be born.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how baby Jesus' bed was a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "The Promised Son Is Born." Discuss the Bible story and play the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Give Thanks to the Lord," as the children color.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: LUKE 2:4-7

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.

- **Joseph and Mary went on a trip;** (Point far away.)
- **They traveled to Bethlehem.** (Walk in place.)
- **When it was time for the baby to be born,** (Point to imaginary wristwatch.)
- **There was no room at the inn for them.** (Shake head no.)

- **So, Jesus was born in Bethlehem.** (Pretend to hold a baby.)
- **Mary wrapped Him in swaddling clothes.** (Pretend to wrap baby in cloths.)
- **She lay Him down in a manger of hay,** (Gently lower baby into imaginary manger.)
- **For that was the place God chose.** (Point to heaven.)



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.” Psalm 118:1a

GAME: SHOUT IT OUT

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

Supplies: Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song “Give Thanks to the Lord”

Our Bible Memory Verse tells us God is good. He is always good to you and me!

Directions:

1. Divide the children into two groups. Groups sit on opposite sides of the play area.
2. Teach one group the first part of the verse: **“Give thanks to the Lord...”** Teach the other group the second part: **“...for He is good.”**
3. Tell the children one way God has been good to you. Point to each group in order and lead them in jumping up and shouting their part of the verse.
4. Choose a child to stand and share one way God has been good to him or her. The child points to each group to stand and say their part of the verse.
5. Play until each child has a turn.
6. Finish by singing the Bible Memory Verse Song. Challenge children to sing it as loud as they can.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: PASS THE GIFT

Purpose: Children learn the meaning of the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Wrapped gift box (with removable lid), baby Jesus doll, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "Give Thanks to the Lord"

Prepare: Place baby Jesus inside the box and close the box lid.

God gives you lots of gifts. One of the things He gives you is people who love you very much. When someone gives something to you, what should you do? (Thank them.) Our Bible Memory Verse tells us we should thank God for the gifts and the people He has given us. It says, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good."

Directions:

1. Children sit in a circle. Give the gift box to one of the children.
2. **What is one thing you thank God for?** (Child responds.)
3. Lead all the children in saying, **"Thank you, God!"**
4. Children pass the gift around the circle. While each child holds the gift, repeat steps 2-3.
5. **Let's see the biggest gift God has given to us.**
6. Choose one child to open the box and discover baby Jesus inside.
7. Sing the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song together as a celebration of thanks to God.

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 Jesus. Each week we light a new candle. Our Advent wreath is in round; it has no beginning and no end. This reminds us of the promise of a never ending life forever with God.

Directions:

1. Decorate the circle 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...*



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 Jesus' birth.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 10, Lesson 50 - Advent 3: The Promised Son Is Born

PONDER! To celebrate the coming of Jesus, create a family Advent Wreath using a circle of greenery and four candles to stand for the four Sundays before Christmas. Light the third candle as the Bethlehem Candle and read Luke 2:4-7. Talk about what Joseph and Mary did when it was time for Jesus' birth.

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for sending Your Son. We are so glad Jesus was born. We love to celebrate His birth at Christmas! Amen."

PLAY! "Travel to Bethlehem!" Gather a doll and a box or basket for a manger. Choose two people for Mary and Joseph. Everyone else is an innkeeper. The innkeepers pretend to hide behind closed doors by facing a wall. Mary and Joseph travel around the room. They gently knock on each innkeeper's back asking for a place to stay. Each innkeeper turns around and says, "No room!" then points them to the manger. Mary and Joseph pretend to lay baby Jesus in the manger.

Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse:

"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good." Psalm 118:1a