



# Advent 4: Shepherds See the Promised One

**Lesson Aim:** To understand believers have the promised peace through faith in Jesus.

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God is:** The God of Peace

## THE WORD

**Bible Story:** Luke 2:4-18; Hebrews 11:6; John 14:27

**What He has done:** God sent His Son to bring peace.

**Key Verse:** Luke 2:14

## THE WAY

**Christ Connection:** Micah 5:2-5a

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulders: and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

Unit 10: The Promised One			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
48	Advent 1: Isaiah and the Prince of Peace, Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; 25:8; 53:5	God gave Isaiah prophecies about Jesus' birth, death, and resurrection.	To know Jesus fulfilled Isaiah's prophecies.
49	Advent 2: God's Promise to Mary, Luke 1:26-38	God promised Mary she would give birth to His Son Jesus.	To know we can trust God to keep His promises because nothing is impossible with God.
50	Advent 3: John the Baptist, Luke 1:16-17, 41, 76-79; 3:12-16; John 1:29	God sent John the Baptist to point others to the promised Savior.	To challenge children to repent and point others to Jesus.
51	Advent 4: Shepherds See the Promised One, Luke 2:4-18; Hebrews 11:6; John 14:27	God sent His Son to bring peace.	To understand believers have the promised peace through faith in Jesus.
52	The Story of God and His People, Jeremiah 24:7; 2 Chronicles 7:14	God gave us the Bible to tell the story of God and His people.	To understand the Bible is the story of God and His people.

## TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Ephesians 2:14-18. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the peace You brought us through Jesus. Fill us with Your Spirit that we might truly celebrate and praise You as the heavenly host and shepherds did. Amen."

**WHAT ABOUT SANTA?** Many cultures incorporate the story of Saint Nicholas (Santa Claus) into their family traditions at Christmas. 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	<b>Meet &amp; Greet</b>	None
		<b>Game:</b> Spread the News	Four sheets of paper, tape
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Advent wreath <b>Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "For Unto Us" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "I Bring You Good News" "For God So Loved the World" "King of Kings" "At the Name of Jesus" "You Will Seek Me" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "Joy to the World" "Away in a Manger" <b>Additional Song Collection Suggestions:</b> Worship Jamz Christmas by Worship Jamz Shout Praises Kids Christmas by Integrity Media
		<b>Advent Scripture Reading:</b> Luke 2:11-14	Bible
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	Lesson 51 The Love Sub script or storybook
		<b>Read the Word:</b> Luke 2:4-18; Hebrews 11:6; John 14:27	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters
		Christ Connection: Micah 5:2-5a	
		<b>Golden Bowl</b>	
	Final 5	<b>Final Five Minutes</b>	Treasure Treats—Peace on Earth ornament or magnet, W's, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "For Unto Us," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Snack:</b> Christmas Cupcakes	Christmas cupcakes, optional: Christmas decorations, balloons, and streamers
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Share the Story	None
	Up to 15	<b>Craft:</b> Peace on Earth Wreath	Sturdy paper (green, blue, yellow, brown, tan, and black), yarn (black, brown, or yellow), hole punch, crayons or markers, scissors, glue
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Appearing Angel	Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse poster, dry erase or poster board, marker
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Toss-A-Verse	Large ball (inflatable beach ball, rubber ball, etc.), permanent marker
	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: What is your favorite Christmas hymn or praise song?**

### **GAME: SPREAD THE NEWS**

**Purpose:** Children will play a variation of Four Corners as they learn the story of Jesus' birth is for everyone in the world.

**Supplies:** Four sheets of paper, tape

**Prepare:** Write the name of a different country on each sheet of paper. Post one of the four signs in each of the four corners of the play area.

**Today, we will be reading about the announcement of the birth of Jesus. God sends an angel to tell the shepherds about Jesus' birth. He also sends the heavenly host, which is the army of heaven, to sing praises to God for sending His Son to bring peace on earth. The angel's message about Jesus' birth is for everyone in the world. Let's play a game where you can pretend the angel is telling people around the world that Jesus has been born.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Pick one child to be the Angel to stand with his or her eyes closed in the center of the play area.
2. As the Angel counts aloud to ten, the remaining children each silently choose a country and stand in that corner.
3. The Angel calls out the name of one of the four countries.
4. The Angel opens his or her eyes.
5. The children in that corner of the country that was called join the Angel in the center. The center is called the Shepherds' Field.
6. Play again. The remaining children may choose another country or stay in the same one.
7. Repeat steps 2-6 until everyone is standing in the Shepherds' Field.
8. If time remains, let another child be the Angel and play again.

**After the angel's announcement, the shepherds saw the heavenly host, which is the army of heaven, singing praises to God for sending His Son to bring peace on earth. Let's read the story of Jesus' birth and discover more about the peace Jesus brings us.**



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 music as children move to the designated area.

Before worship, light the first three candles on the Advent wreath.



**Today, we worship the God of Peace. Jesus brings peace between God and all who believe in Him. He gives our hearts the peace that comes from knowing God loves us and keeps His promises. Jesus is called the Prince of Peace.**

After the angel announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds, they saw the sky fill with the heavenly host who praised God for giving peace on earth to those who please Him. The way we please God is to believe in His Son Jesus. Let's pray many people will hear about Jesus just as the shepherds did, and believe in Him. We want everyone to know the peace that comes from believing in Jesus. Sing: "I Bring You Good News" as the offering is collected.



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

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

**At Christmastime, we get our hearts ready to celebrate the coming of Jesus by lighting the candles on the Advent Wreath. Advent means coming—the coming of Jesus. The Advent season helps get our hearts ready to celebrate Christmas. Our Advent Wreath is round; it has no end, just as God's love for us has no end.**

Each candle on the Advent Wreath stands for one of the four Sundays before Christmas. Today, we light the fourth candle of Advent: The Peace Candle. As we light the Peace Candle, think about the ways Jesus brought us peace. By giving His life to take away our sins, Jesus made a way for us to be at peace with God. Through the unity of His Holy Spirit, all who believe in Jesus have peace with one another. Choose a child to light the fourth candle now.



**As you look at the candlelight, listen to the good news the angel gave the shepherds on the night Jesus was born. Read Luke 2:11-14.**



Sing Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song: "For Unto Us" as the offering is collected. Sing: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" and have the children think about how we can celebrate and share the good news about the Savior who brought peace to earth. You may also choose to sing songs that focus on the birth of Jesus.



Perform The Love Sub script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 10, Lesson 51.



The heavenly host proclaims peace

## 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 Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, prepared the way for Jesus to come to the world. Today, we will hear what happened when an angel made a special announcement to a group of shepherds. Who knows what the shepherds heard and saw?** (Children respond.)

If a Bible Timeline is available, point to The Birth of Jesus (Circa 1 A.D.). For a Bible Timeline Review activity, see the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

**Jesus was born in Bethlehem.** If a map is available, point to Bethlehem, Israel. **We are going to read the Christmas story. Who already knows the story of Jesus' birth?** (Children respond.) **Listen carefully to see if you learn something new as we read the story from the Bible.**



**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 2:4-18; Hebrews 11:6; John 14:27. **First, we will find Luke 2:14. 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 2:14.**

**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 2:4-18.

**The heavenly host praised God for the peace that Jesus would bring between God and those on earth who please Him. Now, let's discover the key needed to please God.** Read Hebrews 11:6.

**After Jesus grew up, He spoke about the peace that He brings.** Read John 14:27.



Being at peace with God

## THE WAY

**What did the heavenly host say when they praised God?** ("Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests.") **The heavenly host spoke about peace on earth for a certain group of people: all those on whom God's favor rests. What do you think it means to have God's favor rest on you?** (God is pleased with you.) **What is the key we need to completely please God?** (Faith.) **The Bible shows us God is fully pleased with anyone from any family, race, or nation who believes in His Son Jesus.**

**Peace means there is no fighting or disagreements. What kind of peace do you think Jesus brings?** (Children respond.) **Jesus brings three kinds of peace.**

- **Upward Peace:** Jesus brings peace between God and us. **What does it mean to have peace between God and us?** (Children respond.) **When we sin, we do wrong in God's eyes; we are fighting against doing things His way. When we believe in His Son, our sins are forgiven and God is pleased with us. This is the most important kind of peace.**
- **Inward Peace:** Jesus brings us an inner peace. He gives our minds the peace that comes from knowing God loves and forgives us.
- **Outward Peace:** Jesus brings peace among all who believe in Him. **The Apostle Paul explained there can now be peace between Jews and Gentiles because Jesus has united all who believe in Him. That same explanation is true today; all who believe in Jesus are united.**

**Jesus did not come to bring all wars to an immediate end but to bring an everlasting peace. Why do you think the heavenly host celebrated this peace?** (Children respond.) **If you want to be at peace with God, you can ask Him to give you the faith to believe in His Son Jesus as your Savior and Lord. Watch for the unique ways God shows Himself to you to give you that faith and peace with Him. How can you help others find peace with God and with one another?** (Tell them about Jesus. Pray for them. Show them His loving kindness. Care for their needs.)

**What did the shepherds do after they heard the news?** (Children respond.) **The shepherds ran to find Jesus and spread the word about Him. How does the Bible say the people reacted when they heard the news from the shepherds?** (They were amazed.) **How can you be like the shepherds?** (Tell others about Jesus.) **How would you explain the peace God gives to all who believe in Jesus?** (Children respond.) If time allows, read Ephesians 2:12-14 and discuss peace.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament, and Us

## CHRIST CONNECTION

**700 years before the heavenly host praised God for bringing peace, Micah spoke of peace. Let's see how many prophecies about Jesus we can find in the prophet Micah's words.**



**FIND IT FIRST** > **Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Micah 5:2-5a. Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it. Read Micah 5:2-5a.**

**In one of Micah's prophecies, he points to Jesus as our peace. Only Jesus can give our hearts true, everlasting peace with God. If you have that inner peace with God, how does it affect your choices and your relationships?** (Children respond.)

# 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 Peace on Earth ornament (or magnet). Take it home, show it to your family, and explain the meaning of the words of the heavenly host: "... on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

**W<sup>3</sup>:** Take home today's W<sup>3</sup> Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W<sup>3</sup> Journal Entry #51. Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

**OFFERING OF ART:** Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Peace on earth!"

**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, "For Unto Us," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## GOT TIME?

### **SNACK: CHRISTMAS CUPCAKES**

**Purpose:** Children will eat a snack and celebrate the birth of Jesus.

**Snack Suggestion:** Christmas cupcakes, optional: Christmas decorations, balloons, and streamers

**Optional:** Decorate the room with Christmas decorations, balloons, and streamers.

**Whose birth did we learn about today?** (Jesus' birth.) **Let's celebrate Jesus' birthday with some Christmas cake. As we eat, let's talk about how your family celebrates Christmas.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Distribute the snack and drink.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Sing a popular birthday song to Jesus.
4. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"How do you celebrate Christmas?"**

### **GAME: SHARE THE STORY**

**Purpose:** In preparation for telling the story to others, children will play the traditional telephone game to retell the Christmas story.

**Supplies:** None

**Why was Jesus born?** (To bring peace.) **Who praised God for bringing peace to earth?** (The heavenly host.) **God wants everyone in the world to know why He sent Jesus to us. Let's practice sharing some facts of this Bible story. Later, you can tell the Christmas story to your family and friends.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Sit with the children in a circle.
2. Whisper the first phrase from the list below to the child on your right. Only whisper the phrase one time.
  - **Joseph and Mary went to Bethlehem.**
  - **There was no room for them in the inn.**
  - **Jesus was born and placed in a manger.**
  - **The angel told the shepherds Jesus had been born.**
  - **The heavenly host praised God.**
  - **The shepherds went to see baby Jesus.**
  - **Jesus came to bring peace.**
3. That child then whispers the phrase one time to the child on his or her right.
4. Children continue whispering the phrase around the circle until it reaches the last child.
5. That child says the message aloud. Part of the fun is how the message may have changed as it goes around the circle. If the message is incorrect, announce the correct version.
6. Play again. Each time, start with a new child and use a new phrase.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **CRAFT: PEACE ON EARTH WREATH**

**Purpose:** To create a wreath to remind children of believers across the world who know the peace Jesus brings.

**Supplies:** Sturdy paper (green, blue, yellow, brown, tan, and black), yarn (black, brown, or yellow and any color), hole punch, crayons or markers, scissors, glue

**Prepare:** From sturdy green paper, cut a 1 1/2-inch thick 9-inch diameter circle for a wreath. From sturdy tan paper, cut five 2-inch diameter circles. From sturdy blue paper, cut one 3-inch diameter circle. From sturdy brown paper, cut five 2-inch diameter circles and a 9-inch x 3-inch cross that is about 1-inch thick. Cut a 12-inch length of any color yarn. Punch a hole in the top of the wreath. Thread and tie the yarn through the hole to create a hanger. Write where children can see to copy:

**Peace on Earth  
(Luke 2:4-18)**

**Teacher Tip:** If you have more time or older children, you may choose to do some of the "Prepare" steps in class.

**Option:** Substitute craft foam for sturdy paper.

**Why did God send Jesus to earth?** (To bring peace.) **What did the angel do?** (Announced Jesus' birth to the shepherds.) **Who did the angel say the good news of Jesus' birth was for?** (All people.) **God sent Jesus to bring peace to all people who believe in Him. What are the three kinds of peace believing in Jesus brings?** (Upward: Peace between God and us. Inward: Peace of mind that God loves and forgives us. Outward: Peace among all believers.) **Let's make a wreath to help us remember Jesus brings peace on earth to all who believe in Him.**

### **Directions:**

1. On the ten 2-inch paper circles, children draw faces and glue on pieces of yarn as hair.
2. Lightly draw land shapes (as continents) on the blue circle to represent the earth.
3. Write **Peace on Earth (Luke 2:4-18)** across the blue circle.
4. Center the paper cross over the wreath and glue.
5. Glue the earth (blue circle) over the center of the cross.
6. Glue the ten faces around the wreath.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulders: and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)

### **GAME: APPEARING ANGEL**

**Purpose:** Children learn the meaning of the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse: Isaiah 9:6.

**Supplies:** Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse poster, dry erase or poster board, marker

**Prepare:** Display the Bible Memory Verse poster.

#### **Directions:**

1. Choose one of the phrases below. On a dry erase or poster board, draw one line for each letter in the phrase. Include a blank space between each word.
2. Choose a child to guess a letter. If the letter is found in the phrase, write it on every blank where it belongs. If the letter is not in the phrase, draw one part of an angel (Robe, head, hands, feet, smile, eyes, nose, hair, etc.) on another part of the dry erase or poster board.
3. Choose another child to guess a letter.
4. Continue playing until the children have guessed the phrase or until the angel drawing is complete. The goal is to complete the phrase before the angel drawing is completed.
5. After the phrase is revealed, read its meaning below to explain that part of the verse.
6. If time allows, play again using another phrase. Use different phrases each time you play.

#### **Phrase and meaning**

"For unto us a child is born" (Jesus was born as a baby.)

"Unto us a Son is given" (God gave His Son to be our Savior.)

"And the government shall be on His shoulders" (Jesus will one day rule the world.)

"And His name will be called" (There are many names for God.)

"Wonderful Counselor" (The Holy Spirit guides us to do things God's way.)

"Mighty God" (God is so strong that He can do anything.)

"The Everlasting Father" (God is our heavenly Father forever.)

"The Prince of Peace" (Jesus gives us peace with God, and peace in our hearts.)

### **GAME: TOSS-A-VERSE**

**Purpose:** Children memorize the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse: Isaiah 9:6.

**Supplies:** Large ball (inflatable beach ball, soccer ball, etc.), permanent marker

**Prepare:** Write the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse on the ball.

#### **Directions:**

1. Children stand in a circle.
2. One child holds the ball and quickly says the first word of the verse. The child then tosses the ball to another child who says the next word.
3. Continue tossing the ball until the verse is completed.
4. Children may use the verse written on the ball to help them remember the words, but encourage them to learn the verse as they play.

**Option:** Divide into two or more teams. Have teams race against each other to complete the game first.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*



## BIBLE TIMELINE REVIEW

Prophets & Promises Part Two studies the miracles and stories of the Bible from Elijah through Malachi. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and He has done.

**Malachi (Circa 430 B.C.)** Malachi was the last prophet to speak before the birth of Jesus. He gave God's message that the people were robbing God by not bringing their tithes and offerings to Him. What is a tithe? (A tithe is giving one tenth of our riches to God's house.) God challenged the people to tithe and see how God would bless them.

**400 Years of Silence (Circa 400 B.C.-1 B.C.)** Malachi was the last Old Testament prophet to speak before the birth of Christ. This period is known as the 400 years of silence because there were no new prophecies. Over the previous 800 years, God's people had heard many prophecies from God's prophets, including Isaiah's prophecy about the coming of the Lord and what He would accomplish.

**The Birth of Jesus (Circa 1 A.D.)** A.D. stands for Anno Domini, which means "the Year of our Lord." A.D. begins with Jesus' birth and continues until the end of time. Everything written in the law and the prophets led up to the birth of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. God used the angels, Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, Zechariah, John the Baptist, shepherds, and the heavenly host to fulfill the prophecies about the coming Savior. Sin separates each person from God, so He gave His only Son Jesus as that Savior. Whoever believes in Him will be at peace with God and have life forever close with Him.

How to create a Bible Timeline from Elijah through Malachi:

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 cards for Prophets & Promises Lessons 48-52.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated scroll.

**Elijah – Malachi:** Elijah (Circa 870-845 B.C.) > Elisha (Circa 845-800 B.C.) > Joel (Circa 830 B.C.) > Jonah (Circa 781 B.C.) > Amos (Circa 760 B.C.) > Isaiah (Circa 710 B.C.) > Micah (Circa 700 B.C.) > Zephaniah (Circa 630 B.C.) > Jeremiah (Circa 626 B.C.) > Habakkuk (Circa 603 B.C.) > Ezekiel (Circa 593 B.C.) > Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Circa 580 B.C.) > Daniel (Circa 580 B.C.) > Haggai and Zechariah (Circa 530 B.C.) > Malachi (Circa 430 B.C.)

**Unit 10:** 400 Years of Silence (Circa 400-2 B.C.) > The Birth of Jesus (Circa 7-2 B.C.)