



Advent 4: Shepherds See God's Promised Son

Lesson Aim: To praise God as the shepherds did
 when they saw baby Jesus.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The God of Peace

THE WORD

Bible Story: Luke 2:8-20

What He has done: God sent the angels to tell the shepherds about Jesus, the promised Savior.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "Praise the Lord."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

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

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE (Challenge Verse for older children)

"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 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 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 just 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. 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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Prophets & Promises Unit 10, Lesson 51 ~ Adapted for Children with Disabilities



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Picture Schedule Cards	Cards with picture illustrating the activities: WELCOME, WORSHIP, BIBLE, CRAFT, PRAYER, SNACK, GAMES, COLORING, GOING HOME. Envelope labeled FINISHED. Optional: To display schedule, use Velcro to attach laminated Picture Schedule cards to a felt board.
		Treasure Chest	Stamp or sticker of a shepherd or sheep
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Praise the Lord."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	Advent wreath (See GOT TIME?) Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song: "Give Thanks to the Lord" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "It's Praise Time!" "I Bring You Good News," "His One and Only Son," "The Lord Is Faithful," "Let Everything That Has Breath," "I Am with You" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Away in a Manger"
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Prophets & Promises Lesson 51 Delbert & Lello
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Luke 2:8-20	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Luke 2:16 Visual: "Heavenly Host and Shepherds" craft Flannel board/figures: Angel, shepherds, sheep, baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph Clay or play-dough option: Sheep
THE WAY:	Up to 25	Craft: Heavenly Host and Shepherds	See craft.
		Circle of Prayer or Lord's Prayer	Lord's Prayer word and picture book
		Snack: Shepherds' Sheep	Marshmallows or cotton candy
		Unit 10 Games: Sand Search	Bin or container of clean sand, toy angel, piece of hay (straw or raffia), figures from a nativity scene or laminated pictures: Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, shepherd, and Wise Men
		Thumbs Up or Thumbs Down	None, optional: hand puppet or finger puppets
		Bible Verse Blanket Ball	Blanket or tablecloth, ball or balloon
		Pass the Gift	Wrapped gift box (removable lid), baby Jesus doll, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song, CD player
		Follow The Star	Baby doll wrapped in cloth, flashlight, sturdy yellow paper, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song, CD player
		Freeze Dance	Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song, CD player
		Scenes from The Love Sub	The Love Sub scripts 48, 49. 51
		Bonus Craft: Advent Crown Wreath	See craft.
		Act it Out	Bible times clothing or stick puppets of Mary, Joseph, angel, shepherds, Wise Men, and a baby doll as baby Jesus
	Final 5	Final Five	Daily Way (Adaptation): Unit 10, Lesson 51 Color This Story: "Shepherds See God's Promised Son"

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Praise the Lord

THE WELCOME

PICTURE SCHEDULE: WELCOME TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Welcome each child as they arrive. **Hello _____.** I'm glad you are here! Come and see what we are going to do today. Point to each card on the Picture Schedule board. Today, we will **WELCOME** everyone. We will read the **BIBLE** story and make a **CRAFT**. We will have **PRAYER** time and eat a **SNACK**. We will play **GAMES** and enjoy **COLORING** a picture about today's story.

Open the Treasure Chest to find today's treasure. Child unlocks Treasure Chest to receive a stamp or sticker of a shepherd (or sheep). **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a shepherd (or sheep) help you remember the angel and shepherds praised the Lord because Jesus had been born. Today's Whisper Verse is "Praise the Lord."** 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: "Praise the Lord."

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

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

- "Praise"** The right index finger gently taps the lips and then both hands clap. These signs for "truth" and "applaud," create the sign for "praise."
- "(the) Lord."** Extend thumb and index finger of right hand to create an "L" shape. Bring "L" shape diagonal across chest from the left shoulder to the right hip as a royal sash.

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:** "Praise the Lord," Psalm 147:1. 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

PICTURE SCHEDULE: WORSHIP TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the WELCOME picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Welcome Time. Now, we will have our Worship Time.**

Children may worship in a large group with other classes or in a quiet room with a worship CD or DVD.

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, play "It's Praise Time!" as children move to a designated place for praise songs, offering, and the worship illustration. Children who are nonverbal may enjoy participating in the music by playing children's percussion instruments such as maracas, jingle bells, wood blocks, or small tambourines. Children who are sensitive to sound may prefer to wear noise reduction headphones.



It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the God of Peace. God gave us peace when He gave us His Son Jesus. After the angel told the shepherds baby Jesus was born, the sky filled with the heavenly host, the army of heaven. They praised the Lord saying, "Glory to God in the highest!" and "Peace on earth." Let's sing about that good news. Sing: "I Bring You Good News."

The angel, the heavenly host, and the shepherds all praised the Lord. We can praise Him, too. Our Whisper Verse says, "Praise the Lord." Review the Whisper Verse together: "Praise the Lord." Include sign language. Sing: "Let Everything That Has Breath." Include the Whisper Verse sign language when singing the lyrics, "Praise the Lord."

We praise the Lord because of who He is. We thank Him because of what He has done for us. Let's thank Him now by giving Him our offering. Sing: Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "Give Thanks to the Lord" while collecting the offering.



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. Today, we light the Shepherds' Candle to remember the shepherds praised the Lord for sending baby Jesus as He had promised. Choose a child to assist in lighting the four purple candles on the Advent Wreath.



Let's see if our friends Delbert and Lello know what the shepherds did when they heard the good news about baby Jesus. Perform The Adventures of Delbert and Lello puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 10, Lesson 51.*



When the shepherds saw baby Jesus, they praised the Lord. Let's praise Him now with a favorite Christmas hymn. Sing: "Away in a Manger" or a favorite Christmas hymn.

* May substitute Lesson 51 The Love Sub script or storybook.



The host and shepherds praised the Lord

THE WORD

PICTURE SCHEDULE: BIBLE TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the WORSHIP picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Worship Time. Now, we will have our Bible Time.**

Last time, we learned baby Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Today, we will hear how God sent an angel to tell the shepherds the good news of baby Jesus' birth. Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Luke 2:16.

WATCH THE WORD: LUKE 2:8-20

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 "Heavenly Host and Shepherds" craft sample. Have children assist by placing Bible Story figures on a flannel board. Other visual options include Color This Story or a related picture. Optional: To help children focus, have them create a sheep from clay or play dough as they listen.

- **An angel announced to the shepherds,**
- **"Fear not, I bring good news.**
- **The baby you'll find in Bethlehem,**
- **Is the Savior born for you!"**

- **The shepherds saw the heavenly host;**
- **Heaven's army in the sky.**
- **The heavenly host said, "Peace on earth"**
- **And "Glory to God on high!"**

- **The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem**
- **To see the baby born to save us.**
- **All the way home they praised the Lord,**
- **Who kept the promise that He gave us.**



Where did the shepherds find baby Jesus? (Lying in the manger.) Let's find our answer in the Bible. Read Luke 2:16 from the teacher's Bible.

Who did the heavenly host and the shepherds praise? (The Lord.) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together: "Praise the Lord." Include sign language or hand motions.



Praising God for sending His Son

THE WAY

PICTURE SCHEDULE: CRAFT TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the BIBLE picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Bible Time. Now, it is Craft Time.**

CRAFT: HEAVENLY HOST AND SHEPHERDS

Purpose: To remind children that God sent the angel to announce Jesus' birth to the shepherds.

Supplies: 2 small paper cups (uncoated), 2 craft sticks, sturdy paper (tan, gray, white), brown felt, black pipe cleaner, 3 cotton balls, gold or silver glitter, glue, pen or marker, 2 stickers or labels

Prepare: Cut a slit in the bottom of each cup large enough for the craft stick to fit through it. On one sticker or label, print: **The Shepherds See God's Promised Son. Luke 2:8-20.** On another sticker or label, print: **The Heavenly Host Say, "Glory to God!" Luke 2:8-20**

For the heavenly host: From sturdy white paper, cut three 2-inch circles and three 4-inch triangles for heads and bodies.

For the shepherd: From sturdy tan paper, cut a 2-inch diameter circle for his head. From sturdy gray paper, cut a 4-inch triangle for his robe. From brown felt, cut a 3-inch x ½-inch strip for a belt. Cut a black pipe cleaner in half.

Teacher Tip #1: This craft is the fourth 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 the heavenly host:

1. Draw the face of a heavenly host on each white circle.
2. Glue a white circle to the top of each of the three robes (triangles).
3. Overlap and glue the three robes so the three figures are attached, standing side-by-side.
4. Spread glue on the robes and sprinkle with a little glitter.
5. Glue cotton balls to the bottom of the robes.
6. Glue the figure on a craft stick. Insert the craft stick in one of the two cups.
7. Attach the **The Heavenly Host Say, "Glory to God!" Luke 2:8-20** label to the cup.

Directions for the shepherd:

1. Draw the shepherd's face and hair on the tan head. Glue it to the top of the gray robe (triangle).
2. Glue the felt belt onto the shepherd's robe.
3. Bend the pipe cleaner into a shepherd's staff with a hook on the end. Glue it to the robe.
4. Glue the figure on a craft stick. Insert the shepherd's craft stick in the other cup.
5. Attach the **The Shepherds See God's Promised Son. Luke 2:8-20** label to the cup.

Craft Discussion:

- **The heavenly host is the army of heaven. When they appeared to the shepherds, who did they praise?** (God.)
- **What did the shepherds do on their way home after seeing baby Jesus?** (They praised God.) **That's our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse together with the hand motions.

THE WAY *continued...*



CIRCLE OF PRAYER/THE LORD'S PRAYER

PICTURE SCHEDULE: PRAYER TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the CRAFT picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Craft Time. Now, it is Prayer Time.**

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 every name). We pray for our families and friends. Thank You for teaching us how to love one another. Amen. You may add the Lord's Prayer with the word picture book.

PICTURE SCHEDULE: SNACK TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the PRAYER picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Prayer Time. Now, it is Snack Time.**

Teacher Tip: It is important to keep a record of all dietary restrictions and allergies accessible. Some parents may prefer to bring their child's snack. Depending on the dietary needs of your classroom, you may determine it is best to omit snack time completely.

SNACK: SHEPHERDS' SHEEP

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while discussing how the angel, heavenly host, and shepherds' responded to Jesus' birth with praise.

Snack Suggestion: Marshmallows or cotton candy

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.
 - **Our snack makes me think of fluffy sheep. The shepherds were watching their sheep when the angel came.**
 - **Who did the angel say had been born?** (Jesus.)
 - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: "Praise the Lord."
 - **The heavenly host is the army of heaven. Who did the heavenly host praise?** (The Lord God.) **Everyone in heaven was happy baby Jesus had been born.**
 - **The shepherds praised the Lord after they saw baby Jesus. Can you praise the Lord?** (Yes!)

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS)

UNIT 10 GAME OPTIONS

Play one or more of the activities below until the last five minutes of class then proceed to Final Five.

PICTURE SCHEDULE: GAMES TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > **GAMES** > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the SNACK picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Snack Time. Now, is our time to play Games.**

GAME: SAND SEARCH

Purpose: This sand sifting activity soothes children. The items in the bin can be used to introduce the Bible stories or the Unit 10 Worship Attribute: The God of Peace.

Supplies: Bin or container of clean sand, toy angel, piece of hay (straw or raffia), figures from a nativity scene or laminated pictures: Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, shepherd, and Wise Men

Prepare: Place all items beneath the surface of the sand.

Directions:

1. Children take turns reaching into the sand in search of the objects.
2. Teacher and children discuss each object as it is located.
3. When all the objects have been located, display them on a tabletop or on the surface of the sand.
4. Children feel each item as the teacher explains their connection to the Unit 10 Bible stories. The toy angel reminds us of the angel who brought good news to Mary and later to the shepherds. The piece of hay reminds us Jesus was born in a manger. Each nativity scene figure reminds us of the people in the Christmas story.

GAME: THUMBS UP OR THUMBS DOWN?

Purpose: This nonverbal true-false game helps children master the Bible story or the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: None, optional: hand puppet or finger puppets

Directions:

1. Teacher or puppet retells today's Bible story or Bible Memory Verse, pausing after each phrase to say, "Thumbs up or thumbs down."
 - If retelling the Bible story, read it in phrases. For some phrases, state accurate descriptions. For other phrases, replace the truth with silly facts. For example, say, "**Jesus was born in a palace. Thumbs up or thumbs down?**" Children respond with thumbs down. "**Jesus was born in a manger. Thumbs up or thumbs down?**" Children respond with thumbs up.
 - If reviewing the Bible Memory Verse, read it in phrases. For some phrases, read it correctly. For other phrases, replace a word with a word that makes no sense. For example, say, "**Give thanks to the Lord, for He is angry. Thumbs up or thumbs down?**" Children respond with thumbs down. "**Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. Thumbs up or thumbs down?**" Children respond with thumbs up.

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

GAME: BIBLE VERSE BLANKET BALL

Purpose: Children catch a ball in a blanket to remember the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Blanket or tablecloth, ball or balloon

Optional: For a new option, have children take turns completing this statement as the ball or balloon is tossed in the air: "Thank You, God, for _____." For a more challenging game, practice the Unit 10 Bible Memory Challenge Verse (Isaiah 9:6). Phrases for the Challenge Verse may be divided as follows: "For unto us/ a child is born/ unto us a Son is given/ and the government shall be upon His shoulders/ and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor/ The Mighty God/ The Everlasting Father/ The Prince of Peace."

Let's use this blanket to toss the ball in the air. When the ball lands on the blanket, we will say a part of the Bible Memory Verse (Psalm 118a): "Give thanks/ to the Lord/ For He/ is good."

Directions:

1. Children stand in a circle holding the edges of the blanket.
2. Place a ball or balloon in the center of the blanket.
3. Together, the children quickly raise the blanket to toss the ball or balloon into the air.
4. As the ball lands, lead children in saying a phrase of the Bible Memory Verse. Phrases can be divided as follows: "Give thanks /to the Lord /for He /is good."
5. Play several times.

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," CD player

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.

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

GAME: FOLLOW THE STAR

Purpose: Children pretend to be the Wise Men and follow the star to find the promise King, baby Jesus.

Supplies: Baby doll wrapped in cloth, flashlight, sturdy yellow paper, Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "Give Thanks to the Lord," CD player

Prepare: From sturdy yellow paper, cut the shape of a star large enough to cut a hole in the middle to insert the flashlight through the star. Hide the doll in the play area where children can easily find it.

The Wise Men knew God promised there would be a special star shining when He sent the greatest king. Let's pretend we are the Wise Men searching for the newborn King. Are you ready to follow the star? (Children respond.)

Directions:

1. Turn on the flashlight. Turn off the other lights in the room.
2. Play the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "Give Thanks to the Lord" while you play the game.
3. Hold the flashlight as the star and walk around the play area in a random pattern.
4. Children follow the star.
5. Finally stop and shine the star over the place where you have hidden the doll.
6. Wait for children to find the doll.
7. **We found baby Jesus! He is our King. God kept His promise!**
8. Lead the children in saying and signing the Whisper Verse: **"God promised."**
9. Play again, as time allows.

GAME: FREEZE DANCE

Purpose: To practice the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song.

Supplies: Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "Give Thanks to the Lord" or "For Unto Us," CD player

To practice our Bible Memory Verse Song, let's play Freeze Dance. When you hear the music stop, be sure to stop and freeze.

Directions:

1. Children dance as the Bible Memory Verse Song is played.
2. Have a helper periodically pause the music.
3. When the music stops, everyone "freezes" (stops in place and doesn't move). When the helper restarts the music, the children begin dancing again.
4. Play as long as you like.

GAME: SCENES FROM THE LOVE SUB

Purpose: To learn applications of the Unit 10 Bible stories, older children act out The Love Sub script.

Supplies: The Love Sub scripts for Lessons 48, 49, and 51

Directions:

1. Choose the script that corresponds with today's Bible story.
2. Assign each child a character name and improvise so all the children can be their favorite character, a new character, or just take turns being the same character.
3. Act it out!

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

BONUS 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: Cut candle shapes from sturdy gold or yellow paper. Color the flames red or orange. Attach the candles to the crown with tape. Or, use battery operated candles.

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

GAME: ACT IT OUT

Purpose: To help learn the Unit 10 stories, children act them out in costumes or with stick puppets.

Supplies: Bible times clothing or pictures of the following characters attached to craft sticks:

Optional: Children can wear costumes and act out the story or children can hold craft sticks with the story characters. You may choose one or more stories.

Directions: With each phrase, teacher says phrase and acts it out with hand motions, then repeats the same phrase and motions with the children.

ISAIAH TELLS OF THE PROMISED CHILD

- **There once was a man named Isaiah,** (Hold up one finger.)
- **Who lived in the days of old.** (Clasp hands.)
- **God gave Him a promise.** (Point both index fingers to heaven.)
- **Here is what he was told:** (Cup hand around ear to listen.)

- **God will give His only Son,** (Point both index fingers to heaven.)
- **To this world one day.** (Point both index fingers to ground.)
- **He will bring them life and light.** (Point both index fingers to heaven.)
- **This is what they will say:** (Cup hands around mouth to speak.)

- **For unto us a child is born;** (Palm facing down, pat the air, as if patting a child's head.)
- **To us a Son is given.** (Pretend to cradle a baby in your arms.)
- **His name will be the Prince of Peace,** (Hold heart.)
- **And the Mighty God of heaven.** (Flex arm muscles.)

GOD'S PROMISE TO MARY

- **The angel Gabriel came to Mary,** (Point to heaven.)
- **And said, "Do not be afraid,** (Shake head no.)
- **For the Lord is pleased with you!** (Thumbs up.)
- **Here is the promise He made:** (Cup hand around ear.)

- **You will have a baby boy.** (Pretend to hold a baby.)
- **Name Him Jesus when He is born.** (Point to baby in your arms.)
- **Jesus is the Son of God;** (Point to heaven.)
- **He'll be King forevermore!"** (Pretend to place crown on head.)

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*

THE PROMISED SON IS BORN

- **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.)

SHEPHERDS SEE GOD'S PROMISED SON

- **An angel announced to the shepherds,** (Cup hands around mouth.)
- **"Fear not, I bring 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 saw the heavenly host;** (Use hands as binoculars.)
- **Heaven's army in the sky.** (Point across the sky.)
- **The heavenly host said, "Peace on earth."** (Fold hands in prayer.)
- **And "Glory to God on high!"** (Point to heaven.)

- **The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem,** (Run in place.)
- **To see the baby born to save us.** (Pretend to rock baby in arms.)
- **All the way home they praised the Lord,** (Raise hands in praise.)
- **Who kept the promise that He gave us!** (Point to heaven.)

WISE MEN KNEW GOD'S PROMISE

- **In the Bible, God promised to send a great king.** (Pretend to open a book.)
- **So, Wise Men looked for the light God would bring.** (Pretend to use binoculars.)
- **When they saw a very bright star,** (Point to the sky.)
- **They packed their gifts and traveled far.** (Walk in place.)

- **To Bethlehem, it led their way.** (Walk in place.)
- **It stopped at the place where Jesus stayed.** (Stop walking.)
- **The Wise Men, they were full of joy.** (Clap hands.)
- **They bowed down and worshiped the baby boy.** (Bow head and fold hands in prayer.)

- **Their treasures to Jesus they did bring.** (Hide imaginary treasure in hand.)
- **They brought Him gifts fit for a king.** (Open hand to show treasure.)
- **Incense, myrrh, and gold they gave,** (Make gesture of giving.)
- **For He was the King who came to save.** (Point up to heaven.)

THE WAY (GAME OPTIONS) *continued...*



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

PICTURE SCHEDULE: COLORING TIME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the GAMES picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Game Time. Now, is our time for coloring the picture of today's story.**

COMPLETED CRAFT: Take home your "Heavenly Host and Shepherd" craft. Tell someone the same news the angel told the shepherds—Jesus has been born!

DAILY WAY (ADAPTATION FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES): Distribute this version of the Daily Way, if available. **Show the Daily Way to your family. Talk about how the heavenly host and shepherds praised the Lord because Jesus had been born.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "The Shepherds See God's Promised Son." Discuss the Bible story and play the Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "Give Thanks to the Lord" or "For Unto Us" as the children color.

As coloring is completed or parents arrive:

PICTURE SCHEDULE: GOING HOME

WELCOME > WORSHIP > BIBLE > CRAFT > PRAYER > SNACK > GAMES > COLORING > GOING HOME

Choose a child to remove the COLORING picture card and place it in the FINISHED envelope. **We have finished our Coloring Time. Now, it is time for Going Home.**

THE DAILY WAY

Unit 10, Lesson 51—Advent 4: Shepherds See God's Promised Son

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 fourth candle as the Shepherds' Candle and read Luke 2:8-20. Talk about the message the angel brought the shepherds. When the heavenly host (heaven's army) appeared in the sky, what did they do? What did the shepherds do after they saw baby Jesus?

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, we praise You for sending Your Son at Christmas. Help us remember His birth is the reason we celebrate Christmas. Amen."

PLAY! "Birthday Party!" Christmas is Jesus' birthday, so plan a party with your family. Enjoy your family's favorite way to celebrate a birthday. As your gift to Jesus, gather food, blankets, or clothes to give to people in need. Tell them Jesus loves them.

Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse:

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

Unit 10 Bible Memory Challenge 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 will be called Wonderful Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)