



# Wise Men Knew God's Promise

Lesson Aim: To know promises from God  
are found in the Bible.

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God Is:** The God of Peace

## THE WORD

**Bible Story:** Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

**What He Has Done:** God sent the Wise Men to Bethlehem where they saw God's promises fulfilled.

## THE WAY

**Whisper Verse:** "God promised."

## 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 Psalm 70:4. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for the stories and promises You have given us throughout the Bible. Give us the passion, wisdom, and curiosity of the Wise Men to look for the fulfillment of Your promises. Amen."

**WHAT ABOUT SANTA?** Many cultures incorporate the story of Saint Nicholas (Santa Claus) into their family traditions at Christmas. Young children are often 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	<b>Treasure Chest</b>	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a jewel
		<b>Whisper Verse</b>	Sign language for "God promised."
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org.	<b>Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "Give Thanks to the Lord" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "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" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestions:</b> "Away in a Manger"
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 10, Lesson 52
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Watch the Word:</b> Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Matthew 2:9 Visual: "Wise Men" craft sample
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Craft:</b> Wise Men	2 small paper cups (uncoated), 2 craft sticks, sturdy paper (brown, red, green, purple, yellow), 3 jewel stickers or sequins, glue, pen or marker, sticker or label
		<b>Game:</b> Follow the Star	Baby doll wrapped in cloth, flashlight
		<b>Game:</b> Gifts for King Jesus	Treasure chest (or decorated gift box)
		<b>Snack:</b> The Star	Star-shaped or yellow-colored snack
		<b>Circle of Prayer</b>	None
	Final 5	<b>Final Five</b>	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 10, Lesson 52 Color This Story: "The Wise Men Followed the Star to Find Baby Jesus"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Say &amp; Do:</b> Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11	None
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> 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	<b>Game:</b> Shout It Out	Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song "Give Thanks to the Lord"
	Up to 10	<b>Story Time</b>	Any story about God's promises

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



God promised

## 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 jewel. **Let this stamp (or sticker) of a jewel help you remember the Wise Men brought their expensive treasures to baby Jesus. A star led them to baby Jesus, just as God had promised. Today's Whisper Verse is "God promised."** 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: "God promised."**

(For visual demonstrations, see [www.signingsavvy.com](http://www.signingsavvy.com).)

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

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| <b>"God"</b>       | The right hand begins in front of the face, then is lowered and slightly raised in front of the face with palm facing left and all five fingers together. |
| <b>"promised."</b> | The index finger of the right hand gently taps the lips. Then, the right palm taps the thumb side of the left closed fist.                                |

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:** "God promised," Acts 13:32b. 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. In the Bible, God promised to send baby Jesus to bring us peace in our hearts. God promised a special star would shine when the greatest king was born. Baby Jesus was that king and God kept His promise! That reminds me of today's Whisper Verse “God promised.” Let's say it together now.** Review the Whisper Verse together: “Got promised.” Include sign language.



**The Wise Men brought their best gifts to baby Jesus. Today, many of us brought our offering as a gift for Jesus. Let's give our offering now as we think about the way the Wise Men must have felt when they gave their gifts to baby Jesus.** Sing “His One and Only Son” while collecting the offering.

**Another gift we can bring to Jesus is our praise. To give praise to Jesus is to tell Him how great He is.** Sing: “Let Everything That Has Breath.”



**Let's see if Delbert and Lello know about the Wise Men who knew God's promises!** Perform The Adventures of Delbert and Lello puppet script or read storybook: Prophets & Promises Unit 10, Lesson 52.



**The Wise Men knew that, in the Bible, God promised people would see a special star when the greatest king was born. The Wise Men wanted to see this king and give Him gifts, so they followed the star until it stopped over the place where baby Jesus was in Bethlehem. God kept His promise to send King Jesus to us. We can find more of God's promises in the Bible. God keeps all His promises.** Sing: Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song “Give Thanks to the Lord” and “The Lord Is Faithful.”



The Wise Men followed the star

## 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 sent an angel to tell the shepherds baby Jesus was born. Today, we will hear how the Wise Men saw God keeps His promises. We find God's promises in the Bible. Handle the Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Matthew 2:9.

### **WATCH THE WORD: MATTHEW 2:1-2, 9-11**

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 "Wise Men" craft sample. Other visual options include Color This Story or any related picture.

- In the Bible, God promised to send a great king.
- So, Wise Men looked for the light God would bring.
- When they saw a very bright star,
- They packed their gifts and traveled far.
  
- To Bethlehem, it led their way.
- It stopped at the place where Jesus stayed.
- The wise men, they were full of joy.
- They bowed down and worshiped the baby boy.
  
- Their treasures to Jesus they did bring.
- They brought Him gifts fit for a king.
- Incense, myrrh, and gold they gave,
- For He was the King who came to save.



**What did the Wise Men follow to find baby Jesus? (A star.) Let's find our answer in the Bible.** Read Matthew 2:9 from the teacher's Bible.

**Who kept His promise to send baby Jesus? (God.) Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer.** Let's say it together: "God promised." 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: WISE MEN**

**Purpose:** To remember God sent Wise Men to baby Jesus to see the promises of the Bible fulfilled.

**Supplies:** 2 small paper cups (uncoated), 2 craft sticks, sturdy paper (brown, red, green, purple, yellow), 3 jewel stickers or sequins, 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. From sturdy brown paper, cut three 2-inch circles for the heads of the three Wise Men. Cut a 4-inch triangle from red, green, and purple sturdy paper for robes. From sturdy yellow paper, cut a large star. On a sticker or label, print: **The Wise Men Knew the Promise. Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11**

**Optional:** Give each child 3 crown shapes or stickers to give each Wise Man a crown. Give each child a shiny star sticker to add to the yellow paper star or decorate the star with glitter.

**Teacher Tip #1:** This craft is the last in a set of five crafts appearing in Lessons 48-52. Together, they will create a Nativity scene for each child.

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

#### **Directions for the Wise Men:**

1. Draw the face of a Wise Man on each circle.
2. Glue a 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. Attach a jewel to each robe.
5. Tape the figure on a craft stick. Insert the craft stick into the slit on the bottom of the cup.
6. Attach the **The Wise Men Knew the Promise. Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11** label to the cup.

#### **Directions for the star:**

1. Tape the star on a craft stick. Insert the craft stick into the slit on the bottom of the cup.

#### **Craft Discussion:**

- **Who promised to send Jesus as our King?** (God.)
- **That sounds like our Whisper Verse! Let's say it with our motions right now!** Say the Whisper Verse, "God promised." Include hand motions.
- **Where can we read about the promises of God?** (The Bible.)
- **Long ago, God promised to send a special star when the greatest king was born. Jesus was the greatest king.**
- **Who followed the special star to find baby Jesus?** (The Wise Men.) **Hold your star shape high overhead. Have your Wise Men follow the star!**
- **What did the Wise Men give baby Jesus?** (Gifts.)

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **GAME: FOLLOW THE STAR**

**Purpose:** Children pretend to be the Wise Men following the star to find baby Jesus, the promised King.

**Supplies:** Baby doll wrapped in cloth, flashlight

**Prepare:** Hide the doll in the play area where children can easily find it.

**Option:** Instead of a flashlight, cut out a giant paper star for children to follow.

**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. Follow the star!**

### **Directions:**

1. Turn on the flashlight. Turn off the remaining lights in the room.
2. Hold the flashlight over your head as the star and walk around the play area in a random pattern. Children follow behind you.
3. Stop and shine the flashlight over the place where you have hidden the doll. Wait for the children to find it.
4. **We found baby Jesus! He is our King. God kept His promise!**
5. Children say and sign Whisper Verse: **"God promised."**
6. Play again, as time allows.

## **GAME: GIFTS FOR KING JESUS**

**Purpose:** Children will show thanks to God for keeping His promise to send Jesus by considering what gifts they would have given if they were the Wise Men.

**Supplies:** Treasure chest (or decorated gift box)

**Who did God promise to send? (Jesus.) The Wise Men knew Jesus was the King. They brought special gifts for Him. Let's talk about what gifts we can give baby Jesus.**

### **Directions:**

1. Children sit in a circle.
2. Give the treasure chest to one child in the circle.
3. **What gift would you give to baby Jesus?** Child describes his or her gift, opens the treasure chest, and pretends to put a gift inside before passing the chest to the next child in the circle.
4. Play until all the children have put a pretend gift in the treasure chest for Jesus.
5. **Optional:** End by singing a favorite Christmas song or hymn about Jesus' birth.

# THE WAY *continued...*

## **SNACK: THE STAR**

**Purpose:** Children will eat a snack while discussing God's promises.

**Snack Suggestion:** Star-shaped or yellow-colored snack

**Our snack reminds me of the star the Wise Men followed in our story.**

### **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.
  - **Who promised to send baby Jesus?** (God.)
  - **Who remembers our Whisper Verse?** Choose a child to demonstrate the motions to the Whisper Verse: "God promised."
  - **Did God keep His promise to send Jesus?** (Yes.)
  - **Where did the Wise Men read God's promise about the special star people would see when the greatest king was born?** (In the Bible.)
  - **Where can we find God's promises?** (The Bible.)
  - **Does God always keep His promises?** (Yes.)



## **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 "Wise Men" craft. Tell someone the Wise Men followed the star to find baby Jesus. They knew the special star meant the greatest king was born.

**PONDER, PRAY & PLAY:** Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about how the Wise Men followed the special star to find baby Jesus.**

**COLOR THIS STORY:** "The Wise Men Followed the Star to Find Baby Jesus." 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: MATTHEW 2:1-2, 9-11

**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.

- **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.)



### 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.



## **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 God's promises.

### **PONDER, PRAY & PLAY**

Unit 10, Lesson 52: Wise Men Knew God's Promises

**PONDER!** Read Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11 with your family. Who were the Wise Men (the Magi) looking for? God promised to send a special star when the greatest king was born. Jesus is that King. What did the Wise Men follow to find Jesus? What did they do when they found Him? What did they give Him?

**PRAY!** Pray this prayer each day this week: "Lord, thank You for sending Jesus to be born as our King and for always keeping Your promises. Amen."

**PLAY!** "Follow the Star!" Use a baby doll or picture of a baby for baby Jesus. Choose one person to hide baby Jesus. That person shines a flashlight as the star and leads everyone (the Wise Men) to find the baby. Take turns. When you are done, talk about how God kept His promise to send Jesus.

### **Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse:**

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