



Advent 4: Worshiping the King

Lesson Aim: To praise God for sending King Jesus to us.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Came to Us

THE WORD

Bible Story: Luke 2:8-20

What He has done: God led the shepherds to see and worship King Jesus.

THE WAY

Whisper Verse: "Sing praises to our King."

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son." John 3:16a

Unit 10: The King Who Came to Us			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
48	Advent 1: Announcing the King, Luke 1:26-33	God sent the angel Gabriel to Mary.	To know God sent His Son as our King.
49	Advent 2: Naming the King, Matthew 1:18, 20-21	God sent the angel to tell Joseph to name the baby Jesus.	To know Jesus is the name of God's Son, our King.
50	Advent 3: Birthplace of the King, Luke 2:1-7	God chose Bethlehem as the birthplace of King Jesus.	To know Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem.
51	Advent 4: Worshiping the King, Luke 2:8-20	God led the shepherds to see and worship King Jesus.	To praise God for sending King Jesus to us.
52	Giving to the King: The Wise Men, Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11	God showed baby Jesus to the wise men.	To explore ways to give our treasures to Jesus.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 145. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for sending Jesus. Let us all praise You as the shepherds did. Amen."

WHAT ABOUT SANTA? Many cultures incorporate the story of Saint Nicholas (Santa Claus) into their family traditions at Christmas. Many young children are very excited about this tradition. To honor all parents, our role as Bible teachers is not to address (validate or invalidate) their family traditions, but to redirect their focus to celebrate the gift of God's Son.



**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Treasure Chest	Treasure chest, stamp or sticker of a shepherd or sheep
		Whisper Verse	Sign language for "Sing praises to our King."
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: "His One and Only Son" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "It's Praise Time" "I Bring You Good News" "Give Thanks to the Lord" Additional Hymn Suggestions: "Away in a Manger," "Go Tell it on the Mountain," "O Come, All Ye Faithful," "What Can I Give Him" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Countdown Kids: 60 Christmas Carols For Kids! Great Christmas Songs For God's Kids
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	<i>The Adventures of Delbert and Lello</i> puppet script or storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 10, Lesson 51
THE WORD	Up to 10	Watch the Word: Luke 2:8-20	Teacher's Bible with bookmark at Luke 2:20 Visual: Shepherd's staff (walking cane) or candy cane shaped as a shepherd staff
THE WAY	Up to 25	Craft: Baby Jesus	Paper bag, moldable clay or paper cutout of baby Jesus, sturdy white paper, crayons or markers, tape, optional: hay or shredded paper, tape or glue
		Game: Let's Go to Bethlehem!	Baby doll wrapped in cloth in a box of straw, one or more toy sheep or a picture of sheep, optional: Bible times costumes
		Game: The Gift of Praise	Musical instrument (bell, drum, maraca, etc.)
		Snack: Birthday Treat	Traditional birthday dessert (cake or cupcakes), birthday candles
	Circle of Prayer	None	
Final 5	Final Five	Ponder, Pray & Play: Unit 10, Lesson 51 Color This Story: "The Shepherds Praised God"	
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Say & Do: Luke 2:8-20	None
	Up to 15	Game: Pin the Tail on the Sheep	Blindfold, large picture of a sheep without a tail, sturdy white paper, tape
	Up to 10	Game: Hop Around the World	Globe or picture of the world
	Up to 10	Game: Poster Pictogram	Five large sheets of paper, crayons or markers
		Craft: Advent Crown Wreath	See GOT TIME?
	Up to 10	Story Time	Any story about the events surrounding Jesus' birth

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Sing praises to our King

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 shepherd or sheep. **Let this sticker help you remember the shepherds praised God when Jesus was born. Today's Whisper Verse is "Sing praises to our King."** 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: "Sing praises to our King."

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

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

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| "Sing" | The right hand (fingers together, palm facing toward the body) sweeps back and forth repeatedly over the left arm from wrist to elbow in a rhythmic fashion like a metronome. |
| "praises" | The right index finger gently taps the lips and then both hands clap. This combines the signs for "truth" and "applaud" to create the sign for "praise." |
| "(to our) King." | Place the thumb between the pointer and index fingers of right hand to create the letter "K" hand shape. Bring the letter "K" 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:** "Sing praises to our King," Psalm 47:6. 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 King who came to us

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play "It's Praise Time!" as children move to that designated area.

In preparation for the Lighting of the Christmas Candles, light the first three candles on the Advent Wreath.

It's Praise Time—our time to sing praise to the King who came to us. To praise Jesus is to tell Him how great He is and thank Him for what He has done. Jesus hears our praise. At Christmastime, your praise is like a birthday gift to King Jesus. That reminds me of our Whisper Verse today: "Sing praises to our King." Let's try it together. Review Whisper Verse together: "Sing praises to our King." Include sign language.



Let's give our offering to King Jesus and sing praises to Him for His great love. Sing: "His One and Only Son" 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. In the past three weeks we have lit Mary's Candle, Joseph's Candle, and the Bethlehem Candle. Today, we light the Shepherds' Candle to remember that the shepherds praised God for sending baby Jesus. Choose one child to assist in lighting the fourth of the four candles on the Advent Wreath.



Let's see what our friend Ranger Ryan knows about the shepherds and baby Jesus. Perform *The Adventures of Delbert and Lello* puppet script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 10, Lesson 51.



When Jesus was born, the angels filled the sky with praises to the King. Let's praise God as the angels did that night. Sing: "I Bring You Good News."

The shepherds praised God for all they heard and saw. They heard the angels sing and they saw the newborn King! Sing: "O Come, All Ye Faithful."

The shepherds spread the word to everyone about what the angel said. Sing: "Go Tell It on the Mountain."



The shepherds praised God

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 Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem. Today, we will find out what happened next! Handle Bible as a special treasure, leaving it open to Luke 2:20.

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 a shepherd's staff (walking cane) or a candy cane shaped as a shepherd's staff. Other visual options include the craft sample, Color This Story, or any related picture.

- The shepherds were out in the fields,
- Watching over their sheep at night.
- An angel of the Lord appeared;
- It was a surprising sight.

- "Don't be afraid," the angel said,
- "For I bring you good news.
- The baby you'll find in Bethlehem,
- Is the Savior born for you!"

- The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem.
- They found where the baby lay.
- They happily went back to their fields.
- They praised God along the way.



What did the shepherds do after they saw baby Jesus? (They returned to their fields praising God.) **Let's find our answer in the Bible.** Read Luke 2:20 from the teacher's Bible.

What are the ways we can praise King Jesus? (Pray, sing, give offerings, tell others about Jesus.) **Our Whisper Verse tells us one way to praise Him. Let's say it together: "Sing praises to our King."**

Include sign language or hand motions.



We can praise God

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: BABY JESUS

Purpose: To remind the children how the shepherds praised God.

Supplies: Paper bag, moldable clay or paper cutout of baby Jesus, sturdy white paper, crayons or markers, tape, optional: hay or shredded paper, tape or glue

Prepare: Cut off the top of a paper bag, leaving about 4 inches for a manger. From sturdy white paper, draw and cut out a 6-inch tall angel and a 6-inch shepherd. On a strip of 2-inch x 11-inch sturdy white paper, print: **"Praise King Jesus!" Luke 2:8-20**

Directions:

1. Mold a small baby Jesus from clay.
2. Place hay or shredded paper in the paper bag.
3. Lay baby Jesus in the paper bag on the hay.
4. Attach the **"Praise King Jesus!" Luke 2:8-20** strip of paper from one side of the paper bag to the other to make a handle.
5. Color the angel and the shepherd.
6. Attach the angel to one side of the bag and the shepherd to the other.

Craft Discussion:

- **Who was born in a manger on Christmas Day?** (Jesus.)
- **Who were the first people to hear that baby Jesus was born?** (The shepherds.)
- **Who told the shepherds that baby Jesus was born?** (The angel.)
- **Where did the shepherds go after they heard the good news?** (To the manger.)
- **What did the shepherds do on their way back to the fields?** (They praised God.)

THE WAY *continued...*

GAME: LET'S GO TO BETHLEHEM!

Purpose: To remember the shepherds' response by acting it out.

Supplies: Baby doll wrapped in cloth in a box of straw, one or more toy sheep or a picture of sheep, optional: Bible times costumes (Shepherd and angel clothing and headdresses can be made from fabric, sheets, or pillowcases. Provide a shawl for Mary and a robe for Joseph.)

Let's imagine we are the shepherds that were there on the night Jesus was born.

Directions:

1. Place the baby doll in the manger on one end of the play area.
2. Place the toy sheep or picture of sheep at the opposite end.
3. Choose two children as Mary and Joseph. Dress them in their costumes and sit them with the baby doll in the manger.
4. Choose one child to be the angel. The remaining children are the shepherds. Dress them in their costumes and place them near the sheep.
5. The angel says, **"Baby Jesus is born!"**
6. The shepherds say, **"Let's go to Bethlehem!"**
7. The shepherds hold hands and walk as quickly as possible to the manger.
8. The shepherds say, **"The angel told us about Jesus!"**
9. Mary and Joseph applaud. Mary picks up baby Jesus to show Him to the shepherds.
10. The shepherds hold hands and return to their sheep chanting, **"Praise God! Praise God!"**
11. Switch roles and play again. Optional: Have the shepherds get faster and more excited each time.

GAME: THE GIFT OF PRAISE

Purpose: Children offer a birthday gift of music to King Jesus.

Supplies: Musical instrument (bell, drum, maraca, etc.)

Teacher Tip: As a health precaution, avoid wind instruments where children share the mouthpiece.

To praise God is to tell Him how great He is and to thank Him for the things He has done. At Christmastime, your praise is like a birthday gift to Jesus.

Directions:

1. **The shepherds praised God for giving King Jesus to the world. What would you like to praise God for?** Discuss things for which the children will give praise to King Jesus.
2. **You will each have a turn to play a musical instrument and sing your praises to God.** Demonstrate by singing, **"I praise God for my family"** to the tune of "Happy Birthday to You" or another familiar tune.
3. Give the musical instrument to the first child to play as he or she sings, **"I praise God for _____."**
4. Continue playing until each child has a turn.

THE WAY *continued...*

SNACK: BIRTHDAY TREAT

Purpose: Children celebrate Christmas as Jesus' birthday.

Snack Suggestion: Traditional birthday dessert (cake or cupcakes), birthday candles

Directions:

1. Serve 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.
 - **Today, we are celebrating Christmas by having a birthday party. Whose birthday do we celebrate each Christmas?** (Jesus' birthday.)
 - **Let's sing happy Birthday to Jesus!** Sing: "Happy Birthday to You" or another birthday song.
 - **What is your favorite thing to do at birthday parties?** (Open gifts, eat cake, play games, etc.)
 - **How did the shepherds celebrate after they saw baby Jesus?** (They praised God.)
 - **What can we sing to celebrate the birth of Jesus?** (Christmas hymns, praise songs.)
 - **Our Whisper Verse tells us the answer. Let's say it together!** Everyone says and signs the Whisper Verse, "Sing praises to our King."



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 "Baby Jesus" craft. Tell someone how the shepherds hurried to the manger when the angel told them about baby Jesus.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY: Distribute Ponder, Pray & Play cards, if available. **Show this card to your family. Talk about the way the shepherds praised God when they saw baby Jesus.**

COLOR THIS STORY: "The Shepherds Praised God." Discuss the Bible story and play Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse Song, "His One and Only Son," as children color.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SAY & DO: LUKE 2:8-20

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.

- **The shepherds were out in the fields,** (Point to a corner.)
- **Watching over their sheep at night.** (Use hands as binoculars.)
- **An angel of the Lord appeared;** (Point to heaven.)
- **It was a surprising sight.** (Place hands on cheeks as if surprised.)

- **“Don’t be afraid,” the angel said,** (Shake head no.)
- **“For I bring you 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 hurried to Bethlehem.** (Run in place.)
- **They found where the baby lay.** (Pretend to rock baby in arms.)
- **They happily went back to their fields.** (Walk in place.)
- **They praised God along the way.** (Clap hands in praise.)

GAME: PIN THE TAIL ON THE SHEEP

Purpose: In this version of the game, “Pin the Tail on the Donkey,” children celebrate Jesus’ birthday.

Supplies: Blindfold, large picture of a sheep without a tail, sturdy white paper, tape

Prepare: From sturdy white paper, cut the shape of a sheep’s tail for each child. Mark the correct tail location on the picture with an “X” as a target. Place the sheep picture on a wall.

What were the shepherds doing when the angel appeared to them in the fields? (They were looking after their sheep.) **Let’s celebrate Jesus birthday with the party game, “Pin the Tail on the Sheep!”**

Directions:

1. Write the first child’s name on a tail and give it to the child.
2. Blindfold the child.
3. Briefly spin the blindfolded child in a circle.
4. The blindfolded child tries to place their paper sheep’s tail on the end of the sheep.
5. Teacher tapes the tail in the place chosen by the child.
6. Continue to play until each child has a turn.
7. The winner is the child who places his or her sheep tail closest to the “X.”

GOT TIME? *continued...*

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 King Jesus. Each week we light a new candle. Our Advent wreath is in the shape of a crown to remind us Jesus is the King of kings. The circle shape of the crown which has no beginning and no end reminds us of the promise of a never ending life forever with God.

Directions:

1. Decorate the circle (crown) 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...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

“God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son.” John 3:16a

GAME: HOP AROUND THE WORLD

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

Supplies: Globe or picture of the world

Our Bible Memory Verse says, “God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son.” Who is God’s one and only Son? (King Jesus.) God loves everyone in the world very much! That’s why He gave King Jesus to everyone! Let’s hop around the world as we say our Bible Memory Verse.

Directions:

1. Place the globe or picture of the world in the center of the play area.
2. Have children stand in a circle around the world, then turn to face in one direction.
3. Say the Bible Memory Verse. On each word, children hop one time in the same direction.
4. Continue hopping around the world until you finish the Bible Memory Verse.
5. Have children turn around to play again, hopping on the other foot in the opposite direction.

GAME: POSTER PICTOGRAM

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

Supplies: Five large sheets of paper, crayons or markers

Prepare: Draw each one of the following symbols below on a separate sheet of paper.

- Cross (God)
- Heart (so loved)
- Globe (the world)
- Gift (that He gave)
- Baby in manger (His one and only Son.)

Optional: Each week of this unit, let the children decorate one of the posters.

Directions:

1. Mix the order of the symbols. Choose five children and give one symbol to each child.
2. **These pictures will help us learn our Bible Memory Verse. Let’s put them in order. The first word in our Bible Memory Verse is “God.” Which picture goes with the word “God”?** (Cross.) **Which picture goes with the word “loved”?** (Heart.) **Which picture goes with “world”?** (Globe.) **Which picture goes with the word “gave”?** (Gift.) **Which picture goes with the words “His one and only Son”?** (Baby in manger.)
3. Use the symbols to repeat the Bible Memory Verse together.

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 the events surrounding Jesus' birth.

PONDER, PRAY & PLAY

Unit 10, Lesson 51 - Advent 4: Worshiping the King

PONDER! Gather your family to light the Shepherds' Candle, the fourth candle on your Advent Crown Wreath. (To create an Advent Crown Wreath, use gold foil to make a crown. Place four candles in holders around the inner rim. Place a fifth candle as the "Christ Candle" in a holder in the center.) Read Luke 2:8-20.

PRAY! Pray this prayer each day this week: "Thank You, God, for sending King Jesus to us on Christmas Day. Help us praise You as the shepherds did the night You were born. Amen."

PLAY! Make a birthday cake or special birthday snack. Invite friends and family to a Christmas birthday party. Play party games. Sing "Happy Birthday to You" to Jesus who is now in heaven watching over everyone. As you celebrate, talk about each person's favorite way to praise God.

Unit 10 Bible Memory Verse: John 3:16a

"God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son."