



**BIG IDEA** 

We can worship Jesus.

# THE BIBLE

The Wise Men and Shepherds: Luke 2:8-20; Matthew 2:1-12; (Luke 4:5-8)

## MUSIC | Celebrate and Worship

**NSTRUCTIONS:** Show or play some songs for worship time. It's time for Christmas Songs! Try something like: <u>Joy to the World (Unspeakable Joy)</u>, <u>O, Come All Ye Faithful</u>, <u>Light of the</u> <u>World</u>

## ACTIVITY | We Heart It

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a piece of paper and tell them to cut it into a heart shape (you may need to help your younger students). Tell them to write or draw on the paper something or someone they love. Then, string up all the hearts together to hang up in the room.
  - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Have some hearts already cut out for those children who struggle with cutting skills. Have a few hearts already traced on the paper, and assist children in cutting on the lines. You may have a child who benefits from using adaptive scissors.
- Have you ever loved something or someone so much that you just couldn't keep that love to yourself? You just had to tell someone else?
- Sometimes, we just can't keep in something that makes us so happy!

## **QUESTION** | What is Worship?

- What do you think worship means?
- Usually we think of worship as singing songs to God and coming to church. But did you know that we can worship God in other ways, too?
- Worship is to love God so deeply that our actions show how much we love God. We worship anytime we choose to live our lives for God. By loving God and loving other people, we are doing our part to tell others about Jesus! Being kind and loving is an act of worship to God.

MAIN EVENT | WEEK 3 ELEMENTARY LESSON

 What are some other ways we can worship God in our daily lives outside of church?

#### THE BIG IDEA | We can worship Jesus.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write action words on a piece of paper, such as, "EAT," "SMELL," "SPIN," "TICKLE," and finally, "WORSHIP." Tell the kids to choose which word fills in the blank (We can \_\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus) best for our Big Idea.
  - **PRETEEN HACK:** Instead of providing these words, have students play a round of hangman or wheel of fortune to see if students can guess the word, or entire Big Idea, based on clues.
- Today's Big Idea: We can worship Jesus!

## VIDEO | Main Event, Episode 3

• INSTRUCTIONS: Play this week's teaching video.

## SCRIPTURE | Luke 2:8-20; Matthew 2:1-12

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the Bible passages and read it to or with your kids.
  - **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** Provide actual figurines for children with special needs to manipulate these will bring life to the Bible story. You can have sheep, the wise men, the shepherds, a star, Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus etc.
- The great thing about worshiping Jesus is the wonder! We have an opportunity to look to God and learn so much just by expressing our thankfulness for this life and everything God has given us. Before Jesus was born, there were people who were asked to be the very first to worship God!
- Can you imagine what that must have been like?
- Well, the shepherds, who were approached by an angel giving them this news, were afraid. Jesus was talked about for hundreds of years before being born, and the shepherds could hardly believe they were being asked to be a part of this story. But they weren't the only ones who came to worship Jesus!
- Magi, better known as wise men, saw an unusual star and followed it. They knew that it meant that a king was born, so they were wondering what this child would be like, and also decided to bring gifts for the baby.
- The shepherds and wise men adored Jesus and were full of wonder. Jesus' birth was so special because Jesus was the son of God! Finally, Jesus was born and the celebration could begin!

#### DISCUSSION

- Why do you think the shepherds were afraid when the angel appeared to them?
- What news did the angels bring the shepherds?
- How did the wise men know about Jesus?
- Read Luke 4:8. What can we do to worship Jesus in our everyday life?
- How do you think it felt to see Jesus as a baby?
- Why do you think God chose shepherds and wise men to be the first to worship Jesus?
- What are some things that distract us from worshipping Jesus?



## ACTIVITY | Shepherd Boy Craft & Wise Men Color Sheet INSTRUCTIONS:

- Print the craft, color, and cut out. Then bring the sides together to form a cone shape so that he can stand up. Tape or glue.
- Print the color sheet and color!

#### PRAYER

 Dear God, we want to worship You! Help us to focus on you no matter what distractions come our way and to never stop being in wonder about just how good You are!

#### MEMORY VERSE | The Best Gift

• **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write the memory verse and put it in large frame. Then wrap it, complete with ribbons or bows and encourage the kids to unwrap it together. You could make it a challenge by wrapping the large frame in multiple layers of wrapping paper and each kid has to unwrap one layer at a time. Once unwrapped, have all the kids recite the verse together.





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wise men still seek Him