

JESUS

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISE



JESUS

MONTHLY PREPARATION GUIDE

UNIT 12-PRE-K

For the next several weeks, we will celebrate the Advent Season. Advent is the time when the Church stops to remember what it was like to wait for the coming Messiah. Each Sunday, we will look at a theme or word that helps us understand the meaning of Christmas

WEEK 1

LESSON MATERIALS: Puzzle Piece (1 per class), Branches (5-7 per child), Mason Jars or Small Vases (1 per child), *Jesse Tree Ornaments Activity Pages* (1 set per child), Cardstock, Scissors, Hole Punchers, Yarn or Ribbon (28 - 6" pieces per child), Crayons or Markers, Plastic Storage Bags (1 gallon size per child), *Jesse Tree Parent Guide Activity Page* (1 per child)

WEEK 2

LESSON MATERIALS: Phone and Speaker, Puzzle Piece (1 per class), *Pre-K Name Game Cards Activity Page* (1 set), *Prince of Peace Activity Page* (1 per child), Construction Paper (1 per child), Glue, Scissors, Markers or Crayons, Decorations (stickers, pom poms, etc.)

WEEK 3

LESSON MATERIALS: Puzzle Piece (1 per class), Candy Bars or Other Small Gifts (1 per child), Gift Wrap, Tape, Scissors, Baby Doll, Small Box (for baby doll), Small Blanket, Props and Costume Pieces for Bible Characters, *Scripture Verses Activity Page*, Shoe Boxes (1 per child), *Nativity Characters Activity Page*, Cardstock (1 per child), Crayons or Markers, Scissors, Glue, Additional Decorating Items (straw/hay, star stickers, construction paper, etc.)

WEEK 4

LESSON MATERIALS: Puzzle Piece (1 per class), Various Obstacle Course Materials, Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh Gift Props, Popsicle Sticks (5 per child), Craft Glue, Crayons or Markers, Ribbon or Yarn (6" per child), Additional Decorating Items (glitter, gems, stickers, etc.)

HOPE OF THE PROPHETS

BIBLE PASSAGE

Isaiah 11:1-3a (ICB)

BIG IDEA

God always keeps His promises.

FOCUS VERSE

“She will give birth to a son. You will name the son Jesus. Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21 (ICB)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Branches | Mason Jars or Small Vases | Yarn or Ribbon | *Jesse Tree Ornament* Printouts | Scissors | Envelopes | Hole Punchers | Crayons or Markers | Parent Guide |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What is your favorite Christmas song? (Offer a few suggestions.)
- Would you rather make a gingerbread house or bake Christmas cookies?

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Say, “This month we will learn what it was like when God’s people were waiting for Jesus to come. They waited a long time, and although they were excited for Him to arrive, sometimes they wondered if it would ever really happen. We now celebrate this time of waiting, and we call it ‘Advent.’ Let’s sing and remember how amazing it must have been for those who had been waiting to finally see Jesus! **God always keeps his promises.**”



WE RECOMMEND THE SONGS “YES AND AMEN” BY CHRIS TOMLIN AND “OH, COME ALL YE FAITHFUL” BY LIFETREE KIDS FOR THIS UNIT. BOTH ARE AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE.COM.

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Say, “The Advent season is all about anticipation and expectation. Just like the faithful believers in Ancient Israel hoped and waited for the Messiah to come and make everything right, we now wait for Jesus to return.”

SAMPLE PRAYER: “Heavenly Father, thank You for this special season. It is filled with joy and hope because You kept Your promise. Thank You for sending us Jesus. Help us remember that we should always remember the hope You bring us. Amen.”

REVIEW – 5 MINUTES**MATERIALS:** | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, “For the next five weeks, we will celebrate the Advent Season. Advent is a time when we stop and remember what it must have been like to wait for Jesus. Just as you can feel yourself getting more and more excited the closer it gets to Christmas, we want to use these next few weeks to think about how it must have been for the people of ancient Israel who were waiting for Jesus to save them.

“Each Sunday of Advent, we will look at a word that helps us understand the meaning of Christmas. Some churches have a wreath and light a candle each Sunday; we will use our puzzle pieces to help us fit together all that we are celebrating this season. As we add these pieces to our wall, let’s remember this month’s Big Idea: **God always keeps His promises.** This week’s puzzle piece is ‘HOPE.’” Have a child put the puzzle piece on the wall.

TRANSITION: Say, “Do you know what time it is? Game time! Game time!”

ENGAGE – 10 MINUTES**MATERIALS:** | Small Branches |

IF YOUR CHURCH IS LOCATED IN A WOODED AREA, HAVE THE CHILDREN GO OUTSIDE AND GATHER A BUNCH OF SMALL BRANCHES. IF NOT, GATHER MATERIALS AHEAD OF TIME AND SPREAD THEM OUT FOR CHILDREN TO COLLECT.

Say, “Today, in God’s Word, we will hear about a special tree branch. So first, we’re going to go collect branches that we will use for a later activity. Let’s go!”

Take the children on a walk outside to either gather their own sticks or collect the ones you left for them. God tells us about Himself in His Word and in His world. As you walk and gather sticks and branches with the children, ask them questions like:

- What is something you see that God made?
- How does it make you feel to know that God created all that we see outside?
- Do you like summer or winter better? Why?

ALTERNATE ACTIVITY: You will still need to provide branches for the craft if you choose this activity. If you cannot go outside for today’s activity, play “Christmas Tree Tag.” Choose 2-3 taggers and have them begin on one side of the room. Yell “Tree Tag!” to start. If a player is tagged, they immediately turn into a Christmas Tree (standing with feet apart and arms up with hands together above head). For a player to be untagged, another player must pretend to be a gift and go under the tree (crawl between their legs).

TRANSITION: Say, “You picked up a lot of sticks! I think you are going to really like the activity we will do later, but first, let’s listen and learn about how God always keeps His promises.”

LEARN – 10 MINUTES

Say, “The theme for this week is ‘HOPE.’ Hope means believing something will happen. What are some things you hope will happen? [Wait for responses.] Great!

“Today, we will hear about a man named Isaiah who was a prophet. Prophets often helped their king. God also spoke special messages to prophets that He wanted them to share with others. Now, there was a lot of fighting going on when Isaiah lived. The people were afraid and sad. They felt like their lives would never be happy again. However, God spoke to Isaiah and told him to give them words of hope. God reminded them that He was sending a perfect King – a King who would rescue them. Let’s read some of those words that God spoke to Isaiah now.” Read Isaiah 11:1-3a (ICB).

¹ A branch will grow from a stump of a tree that was cut down. So a new king will come from the family of Jesse.[a]

² The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon that king. The Spirit gives him wisdom, understanding, guidance and power. And the Spirit teaches him to know and respect the Lord. ³ This king will be glad to obey the Lord.

Reread verse 1 and ask, “Do you know who Jesse is? [Wait for responses.] Jesse was the father of King David! Remember, God promised to create a never-ending kingdom through King David. Even though things looked bad and the people were afraid and sad, God sent Isaiah to give them a message. The Lord had not forgotten them. He was sending them a King because **God always keeps His promises.**”

TRANSITION: Say, “God never leaves His people. Sometimes we can’t see Him working, but He is always with us, and He always does what He says He will do. God is the perfect truth-teller and promise-keeper. He is faithful. Now, let’s spend a few minutes talking about these words I read from Isaiah.”

DISCUSS – 10 MINUTES

Say, “Are you ready to talk about the story?”

1. Who is the new King? (Reread verse 1.)

Response: Jesus is the King!

2. Why did God’s people need to hear these words from Isaiah?

Response: They had waited for God to send His King for a long time. They were sad and worried. God wanted to remind them that He had not forgotten them.

3. What do you think makes a good king?

Response: Answers will vary.

4. What does God’s Word say this King (Jesus) will be like?

Response: Answers will vary, but refer the children back to verses 2-3.

5. What have you learned about God from today’s lesson?

Response: **God always keeps His promises.** God is trustworthy. God loves His people. God never forgets us, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, “Isn’t it neat to see how Jesus is the answer to God’s promise? This lesson helps us remember that God had a great plan [Jesus] to save us from the very beginning.”

RESPOND — 20 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Sticks | Mason Jars or Small Vases (1 per child) | Yarn or Ribbon | *Jesse Tree Ornament* Printout (1 per child) | Scissors (1 per child) | Envelopes (1 per child) | Hole Punchers | Crayons or Markers | Parent Guide (downloadable) |

Say, “When we read Isaiah 11, we are reminded that **God always keeps His promise!** You did a great job gathering sticks for our activity. Now, we are going to use them to make a Jesse Tree. Each of you will take your own tree home, and each night during Advent, you can hang a new ornament on your tree and read about how **God always keeps His promises!**”

INSTRUCTIONS:

Making the Ornaments:

1. Give each child a copy of the *Jesse Tree Ornament* Printouts, an envelope, and scissors.
2. Allow time for children to color as many ornaments as they can. Then, help them cut out at least the first ornament.
3. Punch a hole at the top of the ornament. Then, string a piece of yarn or ribbon through the hole so the ornament can hang on one of the branches.
4. Place all cut ornaments into the children’s envelopes. (Put their names on the envelopes.)

Assembling the Tree:

1. Provide each child with 5 to 7 sticks and one jar or vase. Place the sticks in the container.
2. Optional: Decorate the base with paint, ribbon, or stickers.
3. Help the children hang their first ornament on their tree. Read the first day’s verse. (The verses can be found on the *Jesse Tree Guide* in the downloadable Parent Guide).
4. Label the trees with the children’s names.

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, “Jesus was the Great Rescuer. He came to earth for a purpose, and our memory verse teaches us about that plan. Follow along with me as I show you the motions to help you remember this month’s verse from Matthew 1:21.”

“She will give birth to a son (Hold your arms like you are cradling a baby). You will name the son Jesus (Sign the name “Jesus:” middle finger taps the opposite palm, alternating once). Give him that name because (Open both arms out to the front with palms up, like giving a gift) he will save (hug yourself) his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21 (hold your hands out like a book)

CHALLENGE: When trying to memorize Scripture (or anything!), repetition is key! Have the children practice this month’s verse several times.

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, “Great job on your Jesse Trees! They will look amazing as we get closer to Christmas. Now that we know that Jesus is the reason we have hope, what are some ways you can share hope with others this week? [Wait for responses.] Those are great ideas! Let’s pray and ask God to help us love others this week, and don’t forget...**God always keeps His promises.**”

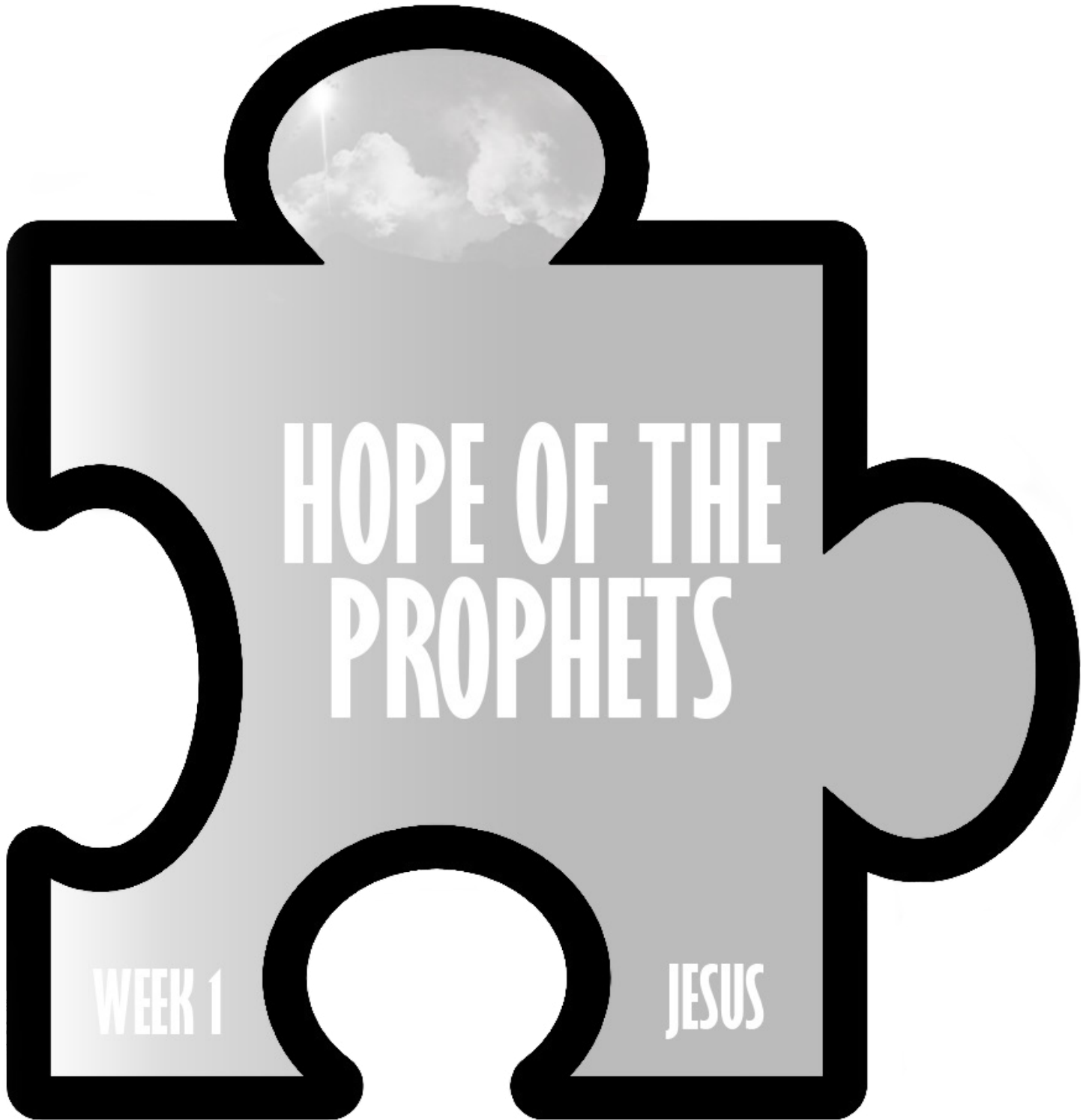
SAMPLE PRAYER: *“Dear God, thank You for always keeping Your promises. Thank You for being with us. Help us keep You at the center of all the fun we have this season. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*

RELEASE –

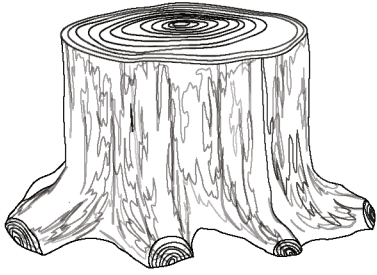
If you have extra time, have the children continue coloring their ornaments or play “Christmas Tree Tag.” When parents arrive, please give them a copy of the 2021 Advent Calendar and Parent Guide, which contains instructions about the Jesse Tree (downloadable).

PARENT GUIDE GOALS:

1. To provide engaging questions and activities for the families to continue discipleship at home.
2. To give a framework for reviewing what the children are learning.

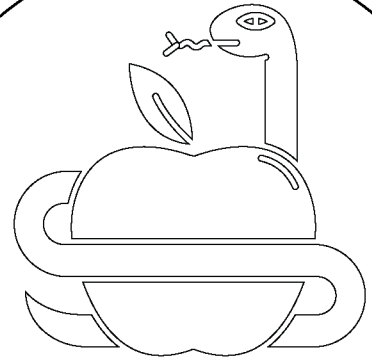


1



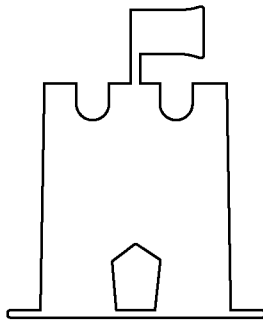
Isaiah 11:1-9

4



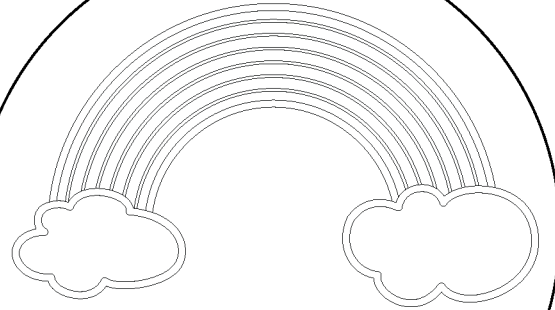
Genesis 3:1-19

2



Habakkuk 2:1-4

5



**Genesis 6:11-14,
7:17, 9:8-16**

3



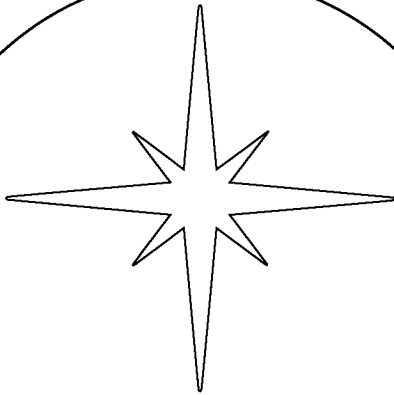
Genesis 1:26-31

6



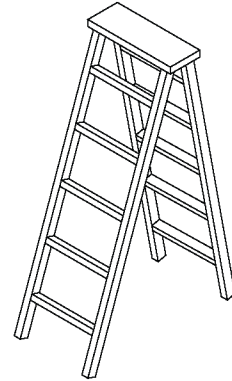
Genesis 12:1-7

7



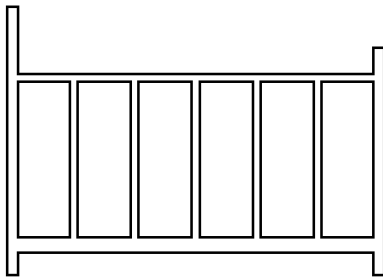
Genesis 15:1-6

10



Genesis 28:10-22

8



Genesis 21:1-7

11



Genesis 37

9



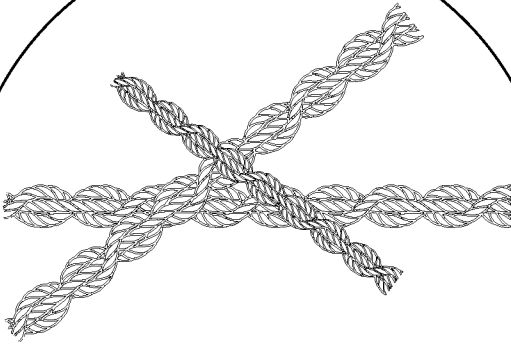
Genesis 22:1-14

12

לא תרצח You shall not murder	אנכי ה' I am the L-rd your G-d
לא תנאף You shall not commit adultery	לא יהיה You shall have no other gods
לא תגנב You shall not steal	לא תשא You shall not misuse the name
לא תענה You shall not bear false witness	זכור את Remember the Sabbath Day
לא תחמד You shall not covet	כבד את Honor your Father and Mother

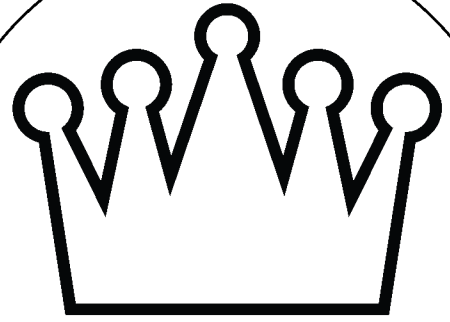
**Deuteronomy
5:1-22**

13



Joshua 2:1-21

16



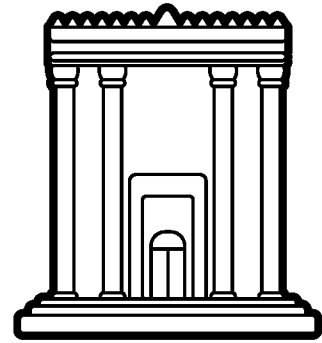
2 Samuel 16:1-13

14



**Ruth 1:15-2:3,
4:9-14**

17



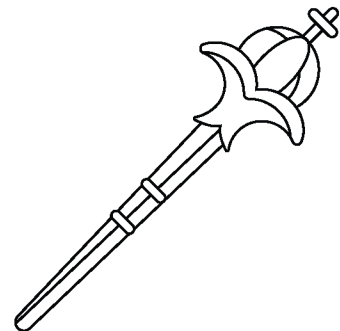
1 Kings 18:17-39

15



Genesis 22:1-14

18



Esther 4, 5:2

19



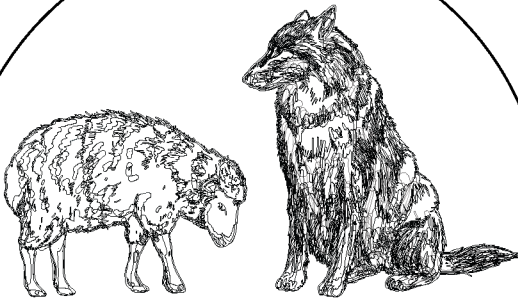
Isaiah 11:1-7

22



Daniel 6

20



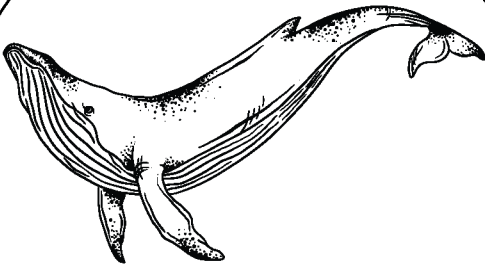
Isaiah 11:6-9

23



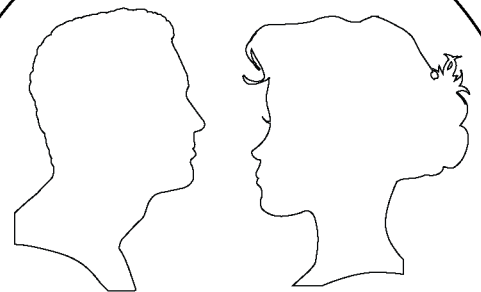
Michah 5:1-5

21



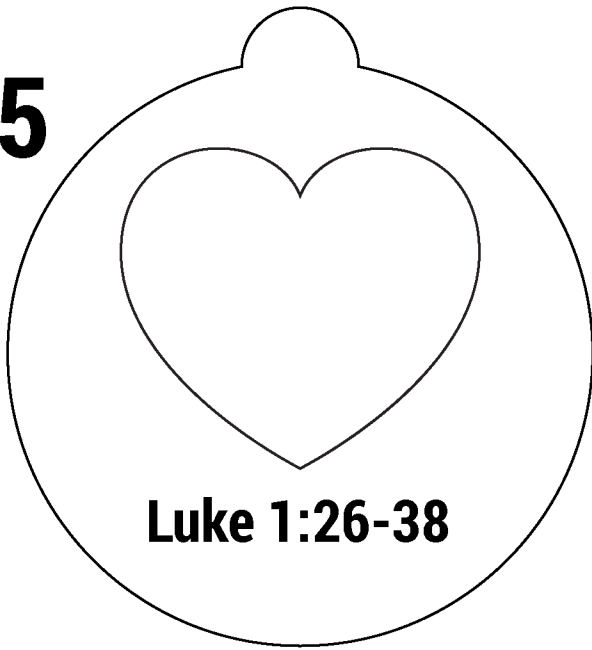
Jonah 3:1-5

24



Luke 1:5-25

25



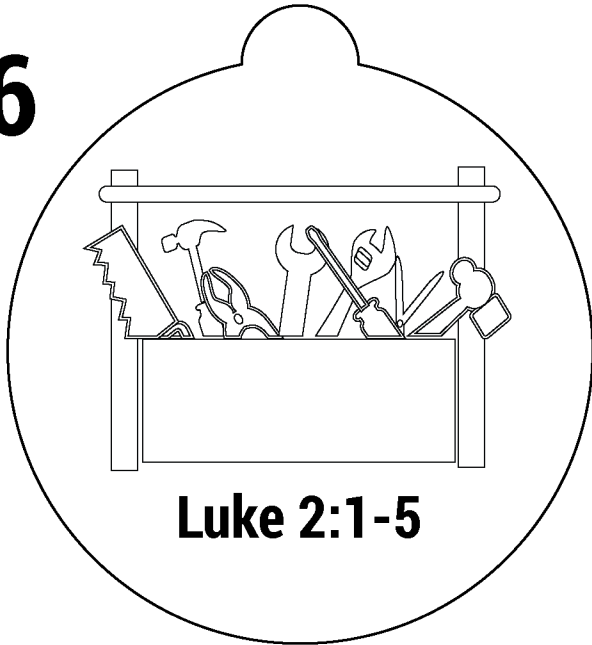
Luke 1:26-38

28



Luke 2:6-21

26



Luke 2:1-5

27



Matthew 3:1-6

JESUS

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISE



GOD'S FAITHFUL PEOPLE

BIBLE PASSAGE

Micah 5:2-4 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

God always keeps His promises.

FOCUS VERSE

"She will give birth to a son. You will name the son Jesus. Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 (ICB)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | *Bethlehem* Coloring Page | Paintbrushes (1 per child) | Washable Watercolor Paints (1 tray per child) | Cups of Water | Yellow Glitter Glue |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What is your favorite Christmas color? Red or green?
- Do you have a favorite holiday movie? (Offer suggestions like *The Grinch*, *Frosty the Snowman*, etc.)

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Say, "Merry Christmas! It is the second Sunday of Advent, and today's theme is 'FAITH.' Hebrews 11:1 says that 'faith means being sure of the things we hope for. And faith means knowing that something is real even if we do not see it.'

"What are some things you know are real but you can't see? [This age group may need help coming up with answers to this question. Offer examples like, 'You know the wind is real because it moves leaves around, but you can't see it.'] Those are great answers!

"This week, our lesson is also about a town called Bethlehem, so let's stand and sing 'O Little Town of Bethlehem.'"



WE RECOMMEND THE SONGS "YES AND AMEN" BY CHRIS TOMLIN AND LIFETREE KIDS' *SONGS OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY* FOR THIS UNIT. BOTH ARE AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE.COM.

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Gather your class for prayer.

SAMPLE PRAYER: *“Jesus, thank You for coming to a small town called Bethlehem, and thank You for keeping Your promises. We love You. Amen.”*

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, “Last week’s theme for the first Sunday of Advent was ‘HOPE.’ We looked at Isaiah 11 and how God spoke through the prophet Isaiah and promised His people that He would not forget them. Even when things look bad, **God always keeps His promises!** [Remind the children that Advent is the time of year when the Church celebrates what it was like for God’s people to wait for the King, Jesus. We do this so that we can be reminded that Jesus is God’s greatest gift.]

“God promised that He would send His people a King who would rescue them. Today’s lesson is about those who never stopped believing that God would do what He promised, even when they couldn’t see Him working. These are God’s faithful people. Who would like to put up the puzzle piece for today?”
Have a child put the puzzle piece on the wall.

TRANSITION: Say, “Time to play a game!”

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

Say, “Today, we are going to play a game called ‘Four Corners!’ You are going to have to be very quiet to win. Can you do that? I know you can!”

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Name the four corners of the room, and clear the space so that the children can move quickly.
2. Evenly divide the children out to the four corners.
3. Choose a volunteer to stand in the middle, close his eyes, and count slowly and loudly from one to ten. (You can count with him.)
4. As the child in the center of the room counts, the remaining children may stay where they are or quietly move to a different corner. When the counter gets to 10, everyone must be at a corner (if not, they must sit down).
5. After counting, the child should keep his eyes closed and call out one corner number. Anyone standing in that corner must sit down.
6. If no one is standing at the chosen corner, all players sitting may stand up and rejoin the game. Once only four children are remaining, all participants must choose separate corners until there is a winner.
7. When only one player is left standing, that person becomes the counter for the next round.

TRANSITION: Ask, “You did a good job playing ‘Four Corners!’ Now, let’s take a look at our lesson and learn about some people who were very faithful.”

LEARN — 10 MINUTES

Say, “Now it’s time for our lesson. Our reading for today comes from Micah 5:2-4 [ICB].”

² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, are one of the smallest towns in Judah. But from you will come one who will rule Israel for me. He comes from very old times, from days long ago.” ³ The Lord will leave his people in Babylon until Jerusalem, who is in labor, gives birth to her children. Then his brothers who are in captivity will return. They will come back to the people of Israel living in Judah. ⁴ Then the ruler of Israel will stand and take care of his people. He will lead them with the Lord’s power. He will lead them in the wonderful name of the Lord his God. They will live in safety. And his greatness will be known all over the earth.

Ask, “What is the name of the town we’re talking about today? [Wait for responses.] Right! It’s Bethlehem!

“Micah was a prophet. [A prophet’s job was to listen to God and then share the Lord’s words with the people.] God visited Micah in a dream. In Micah’s dream, the Lord told His people that He would send them a King from the little town of Bethlehem. God promised His King would love them and take care of them. The people would be safe. Does anyone think they know who this King is? [Wait for responses.] Yes! It is Jesus!

“God waited a long time before sending His Son, the King, and many of God’s people forgot about His promise, or they just stopped believing it would happen. However, a small group of people did believe. We call those people ‘faithful.’ I want to be faithful, don’t you? I don’t ever want to forget that **God always keeps His promises**. We will pray and ask God to help us be faithful in a few minutes, but now let’s talk more about today’s Bible story.”

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Say, “So let’s talk more about our story!”

1. Who always keeps His promises?

Response: **God always keeps His promises.**

2. What was the name of the prophet in today’s story?

Response: The prophet’s name was Micah.

3. What did Micah tell God’s people?

Response: He told them about his dream that God would send them a King from the little town of Bethlehem.

4. Did everyone believe Micah?

Response: No, only a few faithful people believed.

5. What does it mean to be faithful?

Response: It means to believe God’s words all the time. We can do that because **God always keeps His promises.**

6. What did you learn about God today?

Response: **God always keeps His promises.** God loves us. God can help us be faithful and believe, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, “I am so thankful for God’s mercy and for the hope He brings!”

RESPOND — 20 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | *Bethlehem* Coloring Page (1 per child) | Paintbrushes (1 per child) | Washable Watercolor Paints (1 tray per child) | Cups of Water | Yellow Glitter Glue |

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Give each child a *Bethlehem* Coloring Page, a paintbrush, watercolor paints, and a cup of water.
2. Have them paint their Bethlehem town. Tell them to paint the sky a dark blue.
3. Help the children use glitter glue to put stars in the sky.

CHALLENGE: If you have extra craft time, or want a more challenging activity, have the children use Play-Doh to create an assortment of houses. Then put everyone's creations together to make your own "little town of Bethlehem."

TRANSITION: Say, "Your coloring pages are beautiful! Who remembers the name of the town where Jesus was born? [Wait for responses.] Right! It's Bethlehem! God promised Jesus would come from Bethlehem, and He did! **God always keeps His promises.**"

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "Let's take some time now to go over our memory verse for this unit." Review the memory verse and motions with them:

"She will give birth to a son (Hold your arms like you are cradling a baby). You will name the son Jesus (Sign the name "Jesus:" middle finger taps the opposite palm, alternating once). Give him that name because (Open both arms out to the front with palms up, like giving a gift) he will save (hug yourself) his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 (hold your hands out like a book)

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, "We know Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem. We know He is God. We know that Jesus grew up and then died on the Cross to forgive us for all the bad things we've ever done. Jesus is our Savior and our King.

"But what do you think it was like for those who lived before Jesus came to Earth? What do you think they felt as they waited for baby Jesus? [Wait for responses.] Do you think it would have taken a lot of faith to keep believing that God always keeps His promises? YES!

"I want to be someone who has lots of faith in Jesus, don't you? We need God's help to believe in Him all of the time."

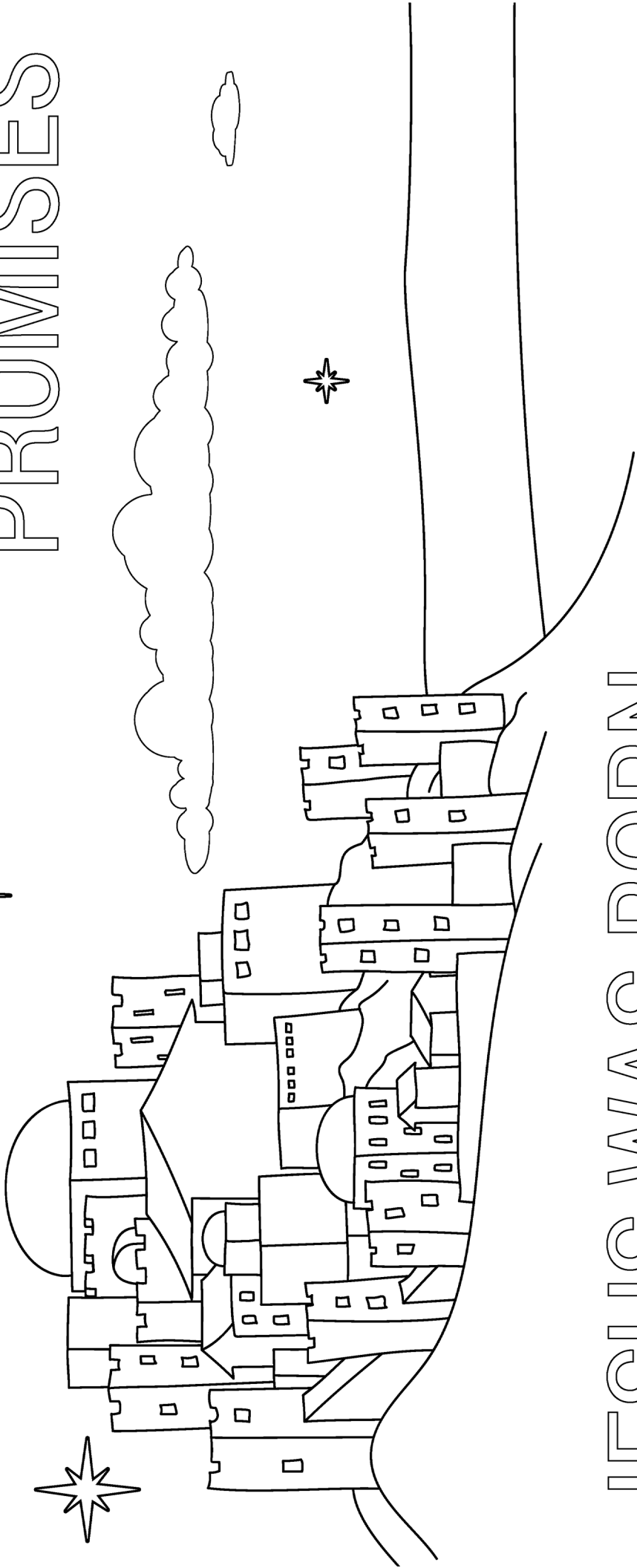
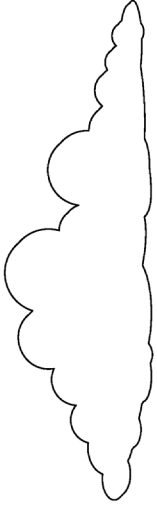
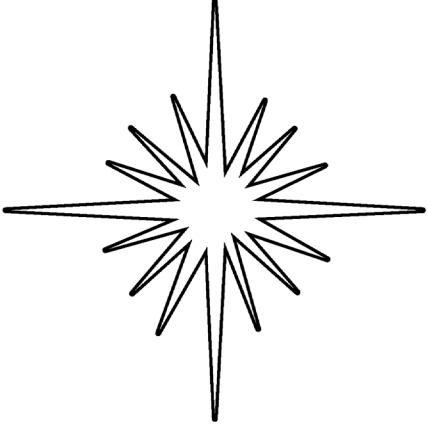
SAMPLE PRAYER: *"Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus. Thank You for the Bible that is full of Your promises. As we go home, help us remember that You always keep Your promises, so we can always believe You! In Jesus' name we pray, Amen."*

RELEASE —

If there is extra time, replay “Four Corners” or work together to create a “little town of Bethlehem” with Play-Doh. (See RESPOND.) Finally, remind parents of the Advent Calendar.



GOD ALWAYS
KEEPS HIS
PROMISES



JESUS WAS BORN
IN BETHLEHEM

JESUS

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISE



PRINCE OF PEACE

BIBLE PASSAGE

Isaiah 9:2, 6 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

God always keeps His promises.

FOCUS VERSE

“She will give birth to a son. You will name the son Jesus. Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21 (ICB)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Phone and Speaker | *Pre-K Name Game Cards* | Prince of Peace Crowns (1 per child) | Construction Paper | Glue | Scissors | Markers or Crayons | Decorations: Stickers, Pom Poms, etc. |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Phone and Speaker |

As children are arriving, play *Handel's Messiah*, “For Unto Us a Child is Born.” (You can find it on YouTube.)

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What do you think about the song that is playing? Do you like it? Have you heard it before today?
- Do you like to sing? Do you want to learn how to play an instrument? If so, which one?



PROVIDE ACTIVITIES FOR THE CHILDREN TO DO AS THEY ARRIVE EACH WEEK. FOR EXAMPLE, GIVE THE CHILDREN COLORING SHEETS AND CRAYONS OR COLORED PENCILS TO HELP THE CHILDREN SLOW DOWN AND MENTALLY PREPARE FOR YOUR TIME TOGETHER. IF YOU HAVE YOUNGER CHILDREN, CONSIDER SETTING UP MULTIPLE SENSORY TABLES FOR QUIET PLAY. AS CHILDREN ENTER, DIRECT THEM TO THE TABLE(S).

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Say, “How did the music make you feel as you arrived? Sometimes when we worship, we jump and shout and dance around, but other times we can be quiet and calm. Those times can make us feel safe with Jesus. Either way, when we sing to God, we are worshipping Him. And He is so worthy to be praised! Let’s sing together now.”



WE RECOMMEND THE SONGS “YES AND AMEN” BY CHRIS TOMLIN AND LIFETREE KIDS’ *SONGS OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY* FOR THIS UNIT. BOTH ARE AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE.COM

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Gather the children for prayer.

SAMPLE PRAYER: *“Dear Jesus, sometimes I wonder how the shepherds and wise men felt when they visited You. I wonder if they understood how great You are. Please help us know how to show You we believe You are Christ the King! In Your name we pray, Amen!”*

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, “This is the third Sunday of Advent, and today we will be thinking about ‘PEACE.’ Who would like to put up our new puzzle piece?” (Select someone to post the piece, and remind the children that Advent is the time of year when the Church celebrates what it was like for God’s people to wait for Jesus.)

(Use the puzzle pieces to review.) Say, “Now, let’s talk about the themes of Advent that we have learned so far: On the first Sunday, we talked about ‘HOPE.’ We learned of the prophets’ hope that God would keep His promise and give them a King. Last week was the second Sunday of Advent. That’s when we talked about ‘FAITH.’ We heard that the faithful people never gave up waiting for God’s King to be born in the small town of Bethlehem. I want God to help me have hope and faith too! Don’t you?”

TRANSITION: Say, “Who’s ready for an activity?”

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Pre-K Name Game Cards |

Say, “Today, our lesson is all about names, so we are going to play ‘The Name Game!’ Let’s get started!”

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Ask for a volunteer to go first and have that child come to the front of the room.
2. Show the volunteer (but not the rest of the children) the first card. The child will then act like the creature on the card as the class tries to guess the animal’s name.
3. Each time someone shouts the correct animal’s name, sit that card aside. (If you want to make this a competitive activity, give the children a point each time they are the first one to guess the answer.)
4. Once a child has gotten the class to guess the animal on their card, ask for a new volunteer.

TRANSITION: Say, “You did a great job playing ‘The Name Game’ together! Now, let’s find a seat, and show me you are ready to listen!”

LEARN — 10 MINUTES

Say, “When you entered the room, some special music was playing. Do you remember ever hearing that

song before today? [Wait for responses.] The man who wrote that music read the Bible verses you're about to hear, and it made him want to write that song. I'm going to read those verses from the Bible now." Read Isaiah 9:2, 6 (ICB).



THINK ABOUT READING ISIAH 9:2, 6-7 IN KJV AS WELL TO ALLOW THE CHILDREN TO HEAR THE EXACT WORDING OF *HANDEL'S* MESSIAH, "FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN."

² Now those people live in darkness. But they will see a great light. They live in a place that is very dark. But a light will shine on them... ⁶ A child will be born to us. God will give a son to us. He will be responsible for leading the people. His name will be Wonderful Counselor, Powerful God, Father Who Lives Forever, Prince of Peace.

Say, "We just heard a lot of new names for God. Can you remember any of them? [Wonderful Counselor, Powerful God, Father Who Lives Forever, and Prince of Peace] These are special names we can call Jesus."

"Let's take a look at what each one means. Will you help me?"

- *Wonderful Counselor*: God helps us know the right things to do.
- *Powerful God*: God is the only God, and He can do anything.
- *Father Who Lives Forever*: God will take good care of us forever.
- *Prince of Peace*: God makes us feel safe.

"God told His people about Jesus a long, long time before He was born! One thing He wanted us to know the names of Jesus because they help us understand that He is better than any king who ever lived. The people could be happy because they knew God would really send them a good King. After all, **God always keeps His promises.**"

TRANSITION: Say, "They had hope because **God always keeps His promises.**"

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Say, "Are you ready to talk about the story?"

1. Who always keeps His promises?

Response: **God always keeps His promises.**

2. Do you know your whole name? Do you know what your name means?

Response: Answers will vary.

3. Do you think the meaning of names is important? Why or why not?

Response: Answers will vary.

4. Sometimes, our names don't mean anything special, but God's name is important. Which of God's names from today's reading do you like best? Why? (Review the names: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, or Prince of Peace.)

Response: Answers will vary.

5. What have you learned about God today?

Response: **God always keeps His promises.** God is our Father. God is wise. God is powerful. God makes us safe, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, "I'm so glad **God always keeps His promises!** Let's make something special that will help us remember that truth."

RESPOND — 20 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | *Prince of Peace Crowns* (1 per child) | Construction Paper | Glue | Scissors | Markers or Crayons | Decorations: Stickers, Pom Poms, etc. |

Say, "Who remembers the special names of Jesus? [Wait for responses.] Right! [Wonderful Counselor, Powerful God, Father Who Lives Forever, and Prince of Peace] Today, we will make a crown that says 'Prince of Peace' because 'PEACE' is our special word this week. Let's get started!"

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Before class begins, cut out the crowns.
2. Give each child a *Prince of Peace Crown*, markers or crayons, and decorations. Please encourage them to make a beautiful crown for Jesus.
3. When they have finished coloring and decorating their crowns, have the children choose a piece of construction paper and help them glue their crown to the paper.
4. If possible, decorate your classroom walls with the crowns.

TRANSITION: Say, "Your crowns look amazing! Are these crowns for us? [Wait for responses.] No, they are for Jesus! He is the Prince of Peace."

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "Today, we've talked about the names of God from Isaiah 9. [Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace] However, this month's memory verse tells us about another important name of our King: Jesus. 'Jesus' means 'The Lord will save us.' Isn't that awesome? Let's practice our verse."

"She will give birth to a son (*Hold your arms like you are cradling a baby*). **You will name the son Jesus** (*Sign the name "Jesus:" middle finger taps the opposite palm, alternating once*). **Give him that name because** (*Open both arms out to the front with palms up, like giving a gift*) **he will save** (*hug yourself*) **his people from their sins."** **Matthew 1:21** (*hold your hands out like a book*)

CHALLENGE: Help the children with memorization by playing a game called "Mute." After your children have practiced the verse several times, tell them that you will go through it again, but this time if you point to a child, they have been "muted." (You may need to explain that muted means they cannot talk.) When a child is "muted," they have to close their mouths and not say that word in the verse.

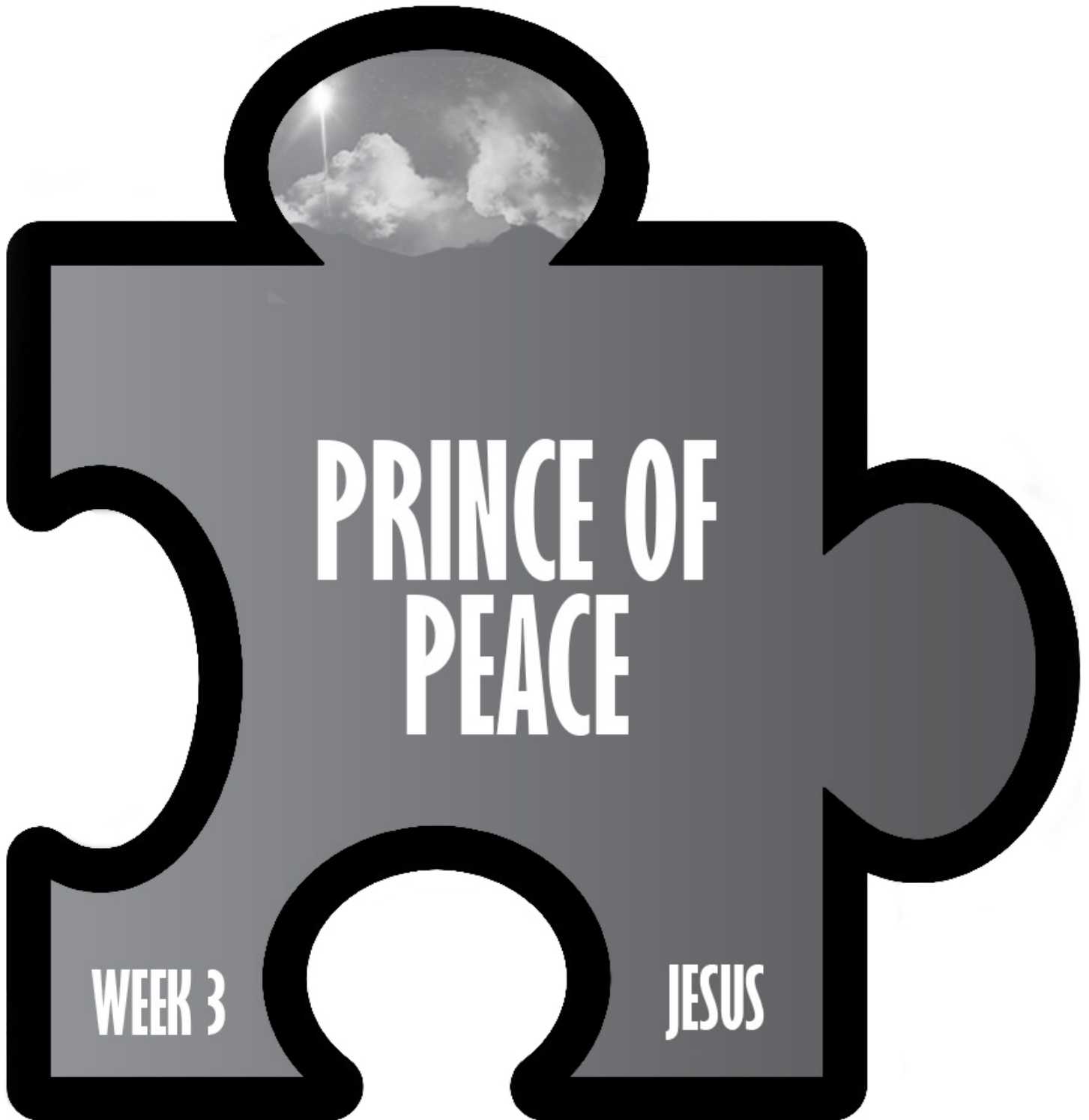
REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

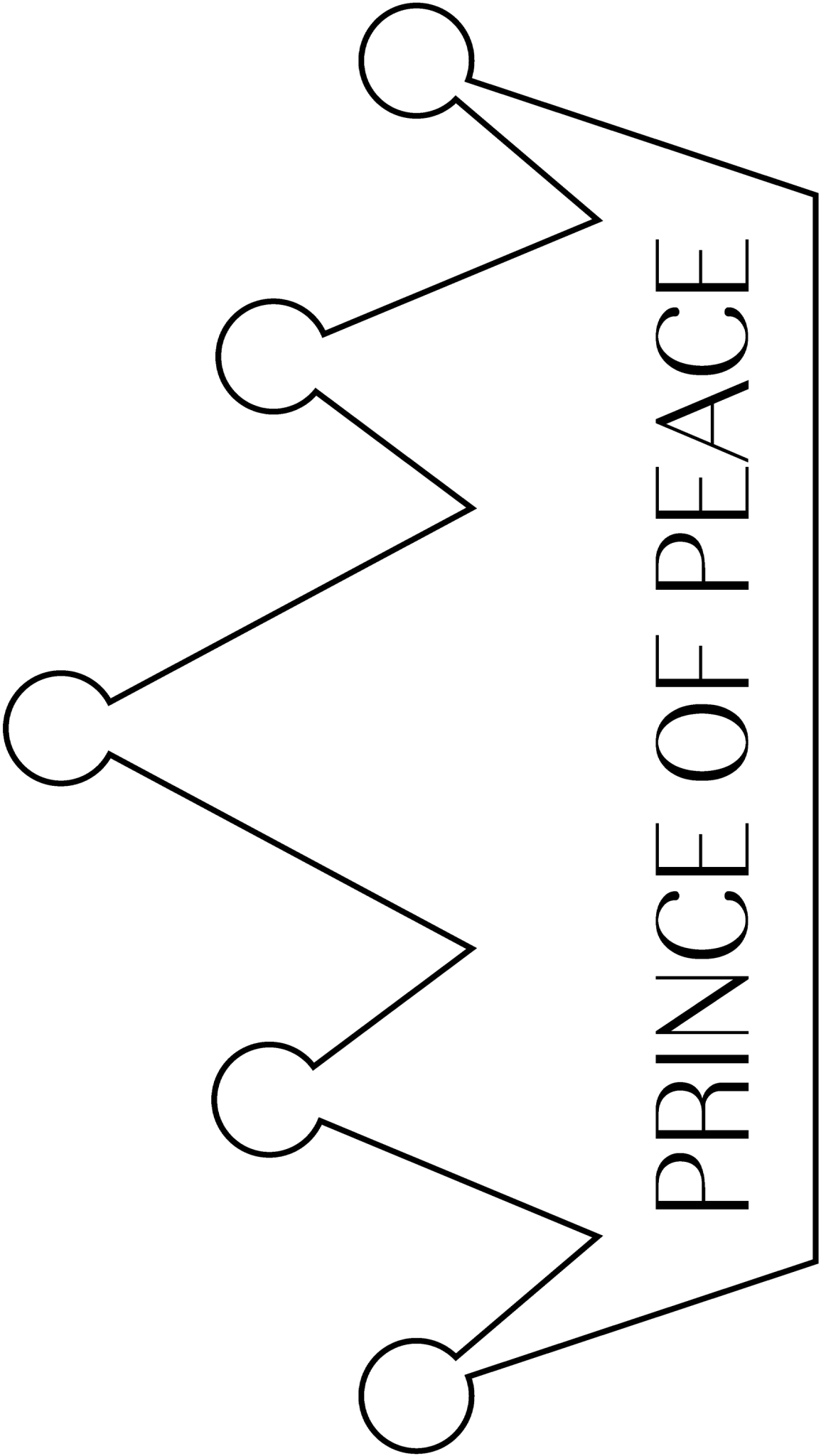
Say, "This time of year gets so busy and full of fun activities. Advent helps us slow down and think about who we are celebrating. What are some ways you can remember the things we learned about Jesus today? [Wait for responses.] Those are great ideas! Now, let's pray."

SAMPLE PRAYER: *"Dear Jesus, this time of year is so busy. There is a lot to do and see. Help us slow down and think about You, even when we are busy. Thank You for always being with us, and thank You for keeping Your promises. We love you. Amen!"*

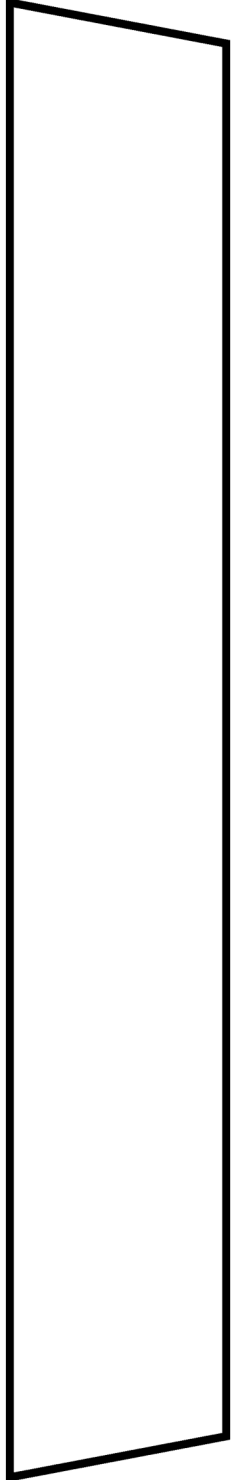
RELEASE —

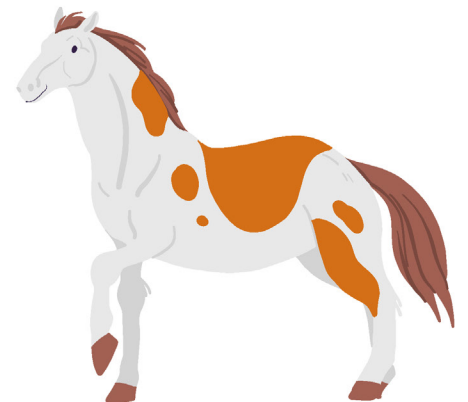
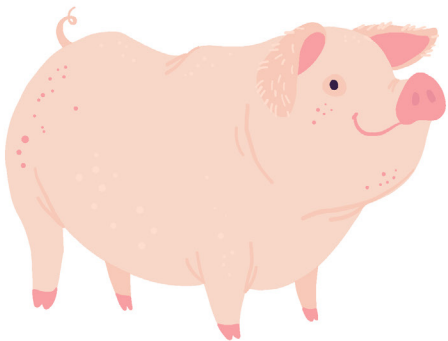
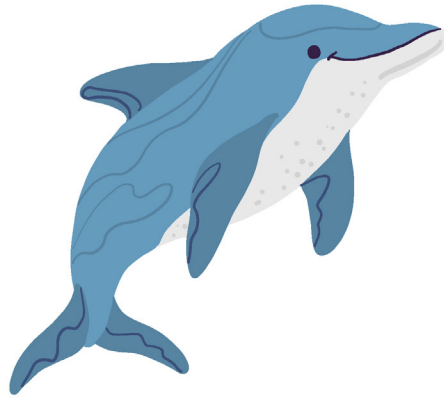
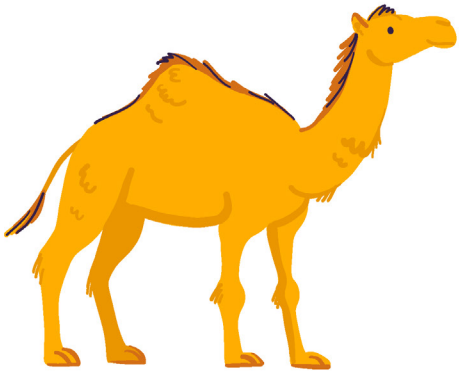
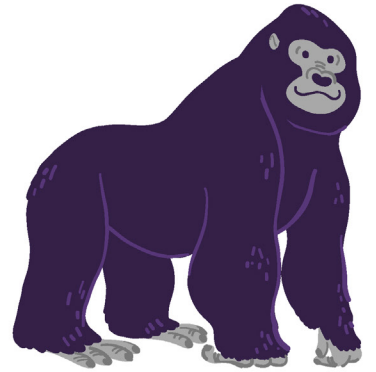
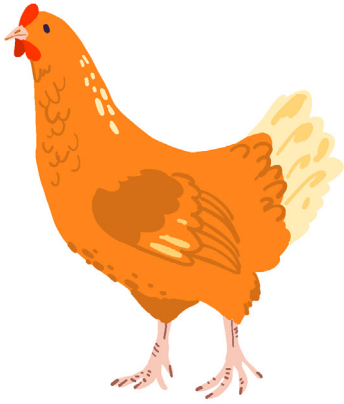
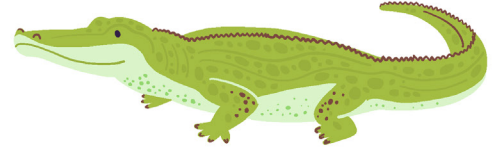
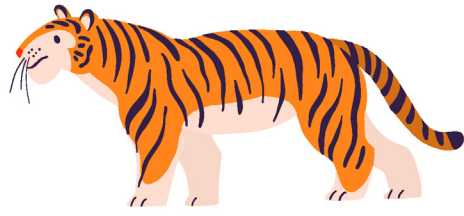
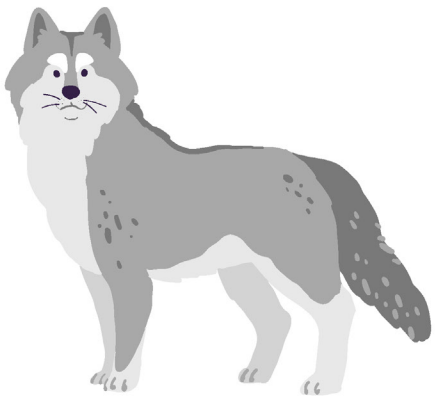
If there is additional time, sing some of the songs you have chosen for this unit.

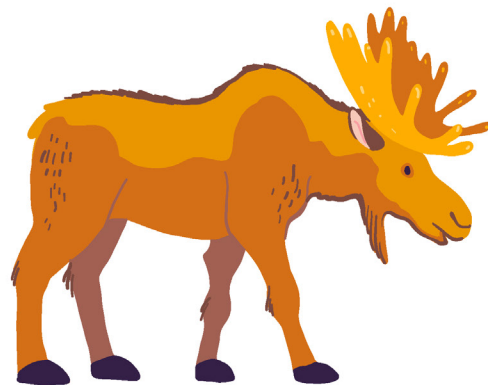
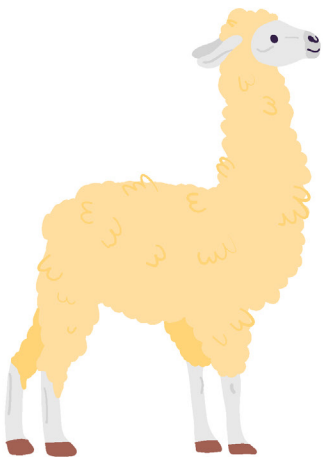
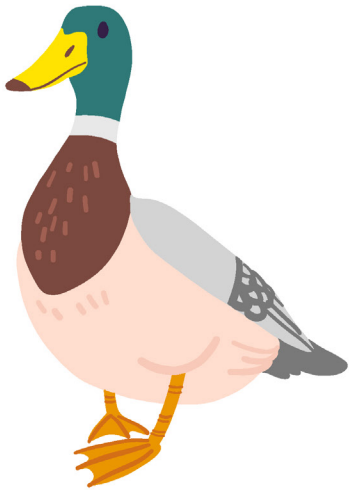
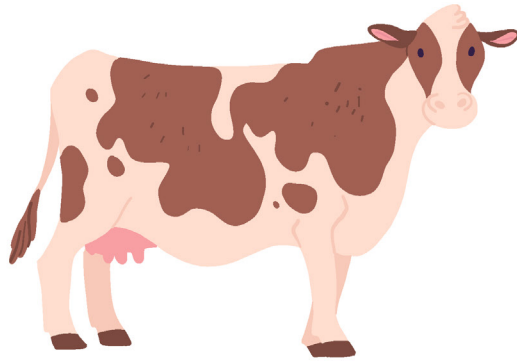




PRINCE OF PEACE







JESUS

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISE



THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROMISE

BIBLE PASSAGE

Luke 2:1-20 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

God always keeps His promises.

FOCUS VERSE

“She will give birth to a son. You will name the son Jesus. Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21 (ICB)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Candy Bars or Other Small Gifts | Gift Wrap | Tape | Scissors | Music | Baby Doll | Small Box | Small Blanket | Props and Costume Pieces for Bible Characters | Nativity Silhouette | Mult-Colored Tissue Paper Squares | Contact Paper | Scissors |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- Have you watched any Christmas movies? If so, which ones?
- What is one gift you hope to get for Christmas?



SLOWLY BUILD A CLASSROOM LIBRARY. PURCHASE A FEW BOOKS AT A TIME, ASK FOR GENTLY-USED DONATIONS OR CREATE AN AMAZON WISH LIST TO SHARE WITH THE CONGREGATION. HAVING BOOKS IN THE ROOM GIVES THE CHILDREN SOMETHING QUIET TO DO WHEN THERE IS EXTRA TIME. FOR A LIST OF RECOMMENDED CHILDREN'S BOOKS, CHECK OUT OUR FREE PRINTABLES AT [HTTPS://IPHC.ORG/DISCIPLISHIP/PRINTABLE-RESOURCES/](https://iphc.org/discipleship/printable-resources/).

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Say, “Let’s get our hearts ready to celebrate Jesus. Each week, we have sung a different Christmas carol, and today we are going to sing one that I think you will know. Are you ready to praise the Lord?” Sing “Joy to the World.”



WE RECOMMEND THE SONGS “YES AND AMEN” BY CHRIS TOMLIN AND LIFETREE KIDS’ *SONGS OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY* FOR THIS UNIT. BOTH ARE AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE.COM.

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Ask the children if they have needs they’d like you to pray for, and encourage them to pray for one another.

SAMPLE PRAYER: *“Jesus, we have joy because You came to the world. We are grateful that we can celebrate You with all of heaven! We love You so much. Amen.”*

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, “Today, is the fourth Sunday of Advent, and we are talking about ‘JOY!’ Who remembers the themes we have emphasized during this Advent season? [Wait for respond. Remind the children that Advent is the time of year when the Church celebrates what it was like for God’s people to wait for Jesus.]

“The first week, we looked at the ‘HOPE’ of the Old Testament prophets and learned that the Messiah would come from the family of King David. The second week, we talked about ‘FAITH’ as we read that God’s King would be born in the small town of Bethlehem. Last week, ‘PEACE’ was our theme, and we looked at some of the names of Jesus. God promised to send a King to rescue His people, and He did it! **God always keeps His promises!**”

TRANSITION: Say, “Today, we will hear about what a ‘JOY’ it must have been to finally meet the promised Messiah. Who would like to put up the puzzle this week?” Have a child put the puzzle piece on the wall.

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Candy Bars or Other Small Gifts (1 per child) | Gift Wrap | Tape | Scissors |



IN ADDITION TO WHAT YOU NEED FOR THE GAME, WRAP AS MANY SMALL GIFTS OR CANDY AS CHILDREN IN THE CLASS. THIS WILL ALLOW EACH CHILD TO HAVE A PRIZE BY THE END OF THE GAME.

Say, “How many of you love opening presents? When I was a kid, I loved it! I even wanted to open other people’s gifts! I would get so excited. But to play this game, it will take patience. Are you ready?”



BEFORE CLASS BEGINS, PREPARE FOR THIS ACTIVITY BY PLACING A SMALL GIFT OR CANDY BAR INSIDE A BOX. WRAP THE GIFT WITH A FEW MORE LAYERS THAN THERE ARE CHILDREN IN YOUR CLASS. MAKE MULTIPLE BOXES IF YOU HAVE A LARGE GROUP.

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Have the children sit in a circle.
2. Have an adult be the music-keeper; this person is responsible for turning the music on and off, so everyone has a turn unwrapping.
3. Have the children pass the parcel around the circle while the music is playing.
4. When the music stops, the player holding the parcel unwraps a layer.
5. Continue until the parcel is completely unwrapped.

TRANSITION: Say, “It’s fun to open presents, isn’t it? That has to be one of the most exciting things about Christmas. However, the best gift God ever gave was His Son, Jesus. And now, we’re going to hear about His birth!”

LEARN — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Baby Doll | Small Box (for baby doll) | Small Blanket | Props and Costume Pieces for Bible Characters |

Say, "You all have been such good listeners these past few weeks, but I think I am going to need help with this lesson. Who wants to help me? [Select children to play Joseph, Mary, the shepherds, and the angels. Distribute a prop or costume piece to differentiate the characters. Place the baby doll in a box with fabric remnants. Tell the children you will point to them when they need to act out their parts.] Okay, let's act out the events from Luke chapter 2 for this week's story."

See Next Page.



IF THE FIRST TIME THROUGH IS CHALLENGING, GO THROUGH THE STORY AGAIN. THE CHILDREN WILL ENJOY THE HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE, AND IT WILL REINFORCE TODAY'S BIBLE STORY.

Say, "Today's Advent theme is 'JOY!' What from this story brings you joy? [Wait for responses.] Great answers! Now, I have a few more questions I want us to discuss, so please go ahead and find your seat."

“At that time, Augustus Caesar sent an order to all people in the countries that were under Roman rule. The order said that they must list their names in a register...And everyone went to their own towns to be registered.”

Joseph and Mary move center stage: “So Joseph left Nazareth, a town in Galilee. He went to the town of Bethlehem... Joseph went there because he was from the family of David. Joseph registered with Mary because she was engaged to marry him, and she was going to have a baby.”

Mary puts baby Jesus in the manger: “While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. She gave birth to her first son. She wrapped the baby with cloths and laid him in a box where animals are fed.”

The shepherds pretend to be watching sheep: “That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching sheep.”

The angels arrive: “An angel of the Lord stood before them. The glory of the Lord was shining around them, and suddenly they became very frightened.”

One angel points to Mary and Joseph: “The angel said to them, ‘Don’t be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all people. Today your Savior was born in David’s town. He is Christ the Lord. This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding box.’”

The angels pretend to sing: “Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel. All the angels were praising God, saying: Give glory to God in heaven, and on earth let there be peace to the people who please God.”

The angels depart: “Then the angels left the shepherds and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, ‘Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened. We will see this thing the Lord told us about.’”

The shepherds go to the manger and worship the baby: “So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph. And the shepherds saw the baby lying in a feeding box. Then they told what the angels had said about this child. Everyone was amazed when they heard what the shepherds said to them. Mary hid these things in her heart; she continued to think about them. Then the shepherds went back to their sheep, praising God and thanking him for everything they had seen and heard. It was just as the angel had told them.”

DISCUSS – 10 MINUTES

Say, "Are you ready to talk about the story?"

1. Who gives His people strength?

Response: **God gives His people strength.**

2. If you had been a shepherd that night, how would you have felt when you saw the angels?

Response: Answers will vary.

3. Why do you think God chose to tell the shepherd (and not someone rich or powerful) about Jesus' birth? (Remind the children what a shepherd does.)

Response: Answers will vary.

4. What is your favorite part of this story?

Response: Answers will vary.

5. Did you know that this is a story for you? Why?

Response: Answers will vary.

6. What do we learn about God from today's story?

Response: **God always keeps His promises.** God takes care of us. God is amazing! God loves us very much, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, "I am so glad God sent His Son to us! He loves us so much!"

RESPOND — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | *Nativity Silhouette* (1 per child) | Mult-Colored Tissue Paper Squares | Contact Paper | Scissors |

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Before class begins, cut the tissue paper into small, 1 inch squares.
2. Help each child lay a piece of contact paper out with the sticky side facing up.
3. Then, they should center the nativity silhouette on top of the contact paper.
4. Next, assist the children in placing squares of tissue paper inside the nativity silhouette to create the look of stained glass.
5. Once the nativity is full of tissue paper, lay the second sheet of contact paper on top of the entire project. Be careful not to trap air bubbles.
6. Finally, trim the excess contact paper with scissors.
7. If possible, hang the nativities on the window of your classroom.

TRANSITION: Say, "Your nativities are beautiful! I love how the light shines through your paper. It makes them look like little church windows, doesn't it? Great job!"

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "What's this month's Big Idea? [Wait for responses.] Right! **God always keeps His promises.** Let's take a few minutes to practice the memory verse that reminds us of the best promise God ever made."

“She will give birth to a son (*Hold your arms like you are cradling a baby*). **You will name the son Jesus** (*Sign the name “Jesus:” middle finger taps the opposite palm, alternating once*). **Give him that name because** (*Open both arms out to the front with palms up, like giving a gift*) **he will save** (*hug yourself*) **his people from their sins.”** **Matthew 1:21** (*hold your hands out like a book*)

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, **“God always keeps His promises!** Can you imagine what it must have been like for the people who heard about Jesus’ birth? Those like Joseph, Mary, and the shepherds had waited their whole lives for someone to save them, and they got to see Jesus with their own eyes. That must have been so exciting!”

SAMPLE PRAYER: *“Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus. Please help us share His love with others this Christmas! In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen!”*

RELEASE —

As children leave, wish them a Merry Christmas. Remind them of any upcoming church events happening this week.



THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROMISE

WEEK 4

JESUS



JESUS

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISE



AND THEY CAME TO WORSHIP

BIBLE PASSAGE

Matthew 2:1-12 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

God always keeps His promises.

FOCUS VERSE

"She will give birth to a son. You will name the son Jesus. Give him that name because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 (ICB)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Various Obstacle Course Materials | Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh Gift Props | Shoe Boxes (or other similarly sized- boxes) | *Nativity Character* Printouts | Crayons or Markers | Scissors | Glue | Additional Decorating Items (straw/hay, star stickers, construction paper, etc.) |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- Do you know what fruit cake is? Have you ever heard of figgy pudding? Do you think you would like those desserts? (They will have fun saying "figgy.")
- Would you rather ride in a sleigh or "rock" around the Christmas tree?

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Say, "Hearing your answers to those questions was a lot of fun! Christmas is a happy holiday with so much to celebrate, but the most wonderful thing about this season is that we get to celebrate Jesus' birth. Let's sing some of our favorite Christmas songs as we worship Christ!"



WE RECOMMEND THE SONGS "YES AND AMEN" BY CHRIS TOMLIN AND LIFETREE KIDS' *SONGS OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY* FOR THIS UNIT. BOTH ARE AVAILABLE ON YOUTUBE.COM.

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Ask the children if they have needs they'd like you to pray for, and encourage them to pray for one another.

SAMPLE PRAYER: "Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son to save us from our sins. We come joyfully to worship You. Please help us hear what You have for us to learn today. Amen."

REVIEW — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, "Let's take a look at our puzzle wall. Each week, we had a new theme for Advent. [Ask the children to tell you what they learned each week. Some children may need help remembering the lessons. Gently give them hints of the key ideas throughout the month.]

"The Big Idea we learned this month was that **God always keeps His promises**. Today, we are going to learn about how we should act when we meet Jesus. Who would like to post our puzzle piece for today?" Have a child put the puzzle piece on the wall.

TRANSITION: Say, "Who's ready for a relay?"

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Various Obstacle Course Materials | Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh Gift Props |



YOU CAN MAKE SIMPLE PROPS TO REPRESENT THE WISE MEN'S GIFTS. FOR EXAMPLE, TO MAKE "GOLD," WRAP A RECTANGULAR BOX IN GOLD WRAPPING PAPER. CREATE "FRANKINCENSE" BY ADDING VEGETABLE OIL TO AN ORNAMENT JAR. FINALLY, FILL A VASE WITH POTPOURRI TO MAKE "MYRRH."

Say, "Later today, we will read the story of the Wise Men who brought special gifts to Jesus. To get us thinking about these men and their long journey to see Jesus, we're going to pretend that we are the Wise Men traveling to see the Lord. Are you ready?"

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Before class begins, set up the classroom with a series of age-appropriate obstacle course items. For example, you could set out river rocks to pretend like you are crossing water or use large foam to create "mountains."
2. Say, "The Wise Men had to travel a long way to see baby Jesus. They didn't have cars or airplanes, so they probably rode camels and walked. Today, we're going to pretend like we are the Wise Men, and we're going to travel around the room for our journey to Bethlehem."
3. Give each child a "gift" to take with them.
4. Then, "travel" with the children around the room and over the obstacles. Use your imaginations to discuss what types of places the Wise Men would have gone through on their journey.
5. At the end of the activity, have the children place their gifts down for Jesus.

TRANSITION: Say, "The Wise Men had to go a long way to see Jesus, didn't they? What do you think would have been hard about traveling that far? Well, now we're going to hear about those special gifts they gave Jesus. Let's find our seats so we can listen to God's Word."

LEARN — 10 MINUTES

Say, "The lesson for today is from the book of Matthew. Here, we find the story of the Wise Men. Even though they were from a different part of the world than God's chosen people, Jesus was the King they

had been waiting on too. I'm so grateful **God always keeps His promises**. Let's read Matthew 2:2-12."

¹ Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea during the time when Herod was king. After Jesus was born, some wise men from the east came to Jerusalem.

² They asked, "Where is the baby who was born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east. We came to worship him." ³ When King Herod heard about this new king of the Jews, he was troubled. And all the people in Jerusalem were worried too. ⁴ Herod called a meeting of all the leading priests and teachers of the law. He asked them where the Christ would be born. ⁵ They answered, "In the town of Bethlehem in Judea. The prophet wrote about this in the Scriptures:

⁶ 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are important among the rulers of Judah. A ruler will come from you. He will be like a shepherd for my people, the Israelites.'" Micah 5:2 ⁷ Then Herod had a secret meeting with the wise men from the east. He learned from them the exact time they first saw the star. ⁸ Then Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem. He said to them, "Go and look carefully to find the child. When you find him, come tell me. Then I can go worship him too."

⁹ The wise men heard the king and then left. They saw the same star they had seen in the east. It went before them until it stopped above the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When the wise men saw the star, they were filled with joy. ¹¹ They went to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary. They bowed down and worshiped the child. They opened the gifts they brought for him. They gave him treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² But God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they went home to their own country by a different way.

Ask, "Why do you think Herod wasn't happy about Jesus being born?"

Say, "King Herod was afraid that a new king would take His place, so he wanted to know everything he could about this baby.

"Like the prophet Micah [review the meaning of 'prophet'] said, Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the town of David! Herod asked these wise men questions like when they had first seen the star. He told them to go and look for the child but to come back and tell him when they found Him. He said he wanted to worship Jesus, but do you think that was true? [Wait for responses.]

"The wise men went to the town of Bethlehem. The star they had been following stopped right over Jesus' house. They were filled with joy and bowed down to worship Jesus! They brought Him gifts that you would give a king: Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh."

TRANSITION: Say, "The Bible doesn't tell us how many wise men there were or if they understood who Jesus really was. However, we do know that they worshiped Jesus when they saw Him. They knew He was really special and should be worshiped."

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Say, “**God always keeps His promises.** I love that today’s story shows us that even these Wise Men, who lived far from Jesus, knew how important He was.”

1. Who always keeps His promises?

Response: **God always keeps His promises!**

2. Where was Jesus born?

Response: Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

3. Who followed a star to see Jesus?

Response: The Wise Men

4. What gifts did the Wise Men give Jesus?

Response: Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh (Have the children repeat these words after you.)

5. Can you think of anything else that is surprising about Jesus’ birth?

Response: Answers will vary.

6. What have you learned about God from today’s teaching?

Response: **God always keeps His promises.** God helped the Wise Men find Jesus. God loves us, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, “Great job paying attention!! Now let’s use our creativity to build something!”

RESPOND — 20 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Shoe Boxes (or other similarly sized- boxes) (1 per child) | *Nativity Character* Printouts (1 per child) | Crayons or Markers | Scissors | Glue | Additional Decorating Items (straw/hay, star stickers, construction paper, etc.) |

Say, “We are creating Nativity scenes!! Let’s get to it!”

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Provide each child with a *Nativity Character* Printout, scissors, and a shoebox. Make the remaining items available to the whole class.
2. Have the children color and cut out the characters.
3. Then, ask the children to decorate the inside of the boxes and glue the characters into place to create a nativity scene.
4. Allow the boxes to dry before sending them home.



IF YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH BOXES FOR EVERYONE, HAVE THE CHILDREN WORK TOGETHER IN GROUPS OF TWO OR THREE TO CREATE THE SCENE. IF POSSIBLE, DISPLAY THE BOXES IN THE ROOM.

TRANSITION: Say, “It is true, **God always keeps His promises!**”

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "This is our last lesson in the unit. Does anyone have this month's verse memorized? If so, would you like to share it with us?" Give children an opportunity to share the memory verse with the hand motions.

"She will give birth to a son (Hold your arms like you are cradling a baby). You will name the son Jesus (Sign the name "Jesus:" middle finger taps the opposite palm, alternating once). Give him that name because (Open both arms out to the front with palms up, like giving a gift) he will save (hug yourself) his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 (hold your hands out like a book)

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, "This month, we learned that **God always keeps His promises**. God told the prophets that He would send a king to make everything right, and He did. Just like the wise men bowed down and worshiped Jesus when they saw Him, our response to Jesus should be worship too."

SAMPLE PRAYER: *"Dear Jesus, we worship You because You are our King. Please help us remember that You always keep Your promises and that we can trust You! In Your name we pray, Amen."*

RELEASE —

If you have extra time, the children can finish their shoeboxes or sing their favorite Christmas songs. As parents/guardians arrive, invite them to look at what the children accomplished.

