



Date: _____

Series: Jesus Is the King
Winter Year 1, Lesson 31

Welcoming the King

Primary Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

Key Verse: Luke 2:20, “As the shepherds returned to their flock, they glorified and praised God for everything they had seen and heard.”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

The question we are answering today is, “Just how do I welcome him into my life?” Kids, like adults, need a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This comes through simple faith in what he has done for us: his birth, death, and resurrection. To welcome Jesus, we daily call upon him as our Savior and Lord. When we do this, we are responding in praise. This was the response of the shepherds as they witnessed God’s gift coming to earth. It can be our response as well in our worship this day.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus became one of us so we can have a personal relationship with him. He took each person’s sin on himself.

Jesus in us: Jesus gives us power to glorify God in all we do. Just as Jesus glorified the Father through his actions (John 17), so can we.

Jesus through us: Giving gifts to others can be an expression of our praise to God if we give those gifts in the name of Jesus. To have Jesus’ love work through us in our actions can be greater than any purchased gift.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Supplies:

- *regal crown, cape, and scepter (All need not be elaborate.)*

Choose one of the kids to be king of Kids Church. Ask him to step outside the room where he will put on some type of regal crown, cape, and scepter (these need not be elaborate). Make a secret plan with the rest of the kids.

Let's surprise our Kids Church king when he returns. Let's give him a king's welcome. What are some things we could do that would welcome him like a king? *(Stand when he enters, clap for him, say or shout together, "Welcome, King so and so," give him gifts, etc.)*

After the child returns and receives his kingly welcome, ask:

Jesus came from heaven as King over all of heaven. He is now King of our hearts and lives. How shall we welcome him?

Gather suggestions. Emphasize today that we welcome Jesus by simply believing that he is King over us. Say:

We welcome Jesus, our King, with songs of praise and worship.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Supplies:

- shoebox wrapped like a gift (Wrap the lid separately so it can be removed.)
- cross (Decorative "Jesus Nails" would work as well.)
- various wrapped boxes on stage (Place the above-mentioned box among these.)

Think of the welcoming presents that Jesus received when he came to earth. He had shepherds come to visit him. Their present was to thank God for the gift of his Son.

Show a wrapped present.

The three wise men gave very expensive gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Show another wrapped present.

But now I am thinking of one final welcome Jesus received when he came from glorious heaven to earth below. I bet you can never guess what it is.

Let the children guess and even give hints. Show the contents of the box and say:

As sad as it is, the way we welcomed Jesus to earth was to nail him on the cross. That wasn't a welcome fit for a king, was it? But that's the reason the Father had sent his Son. Jesus also wanted it that way because it was the only way your sins could be forgiven. He took your sins and nailed them to the cross so you could be forgiven (Colossians 2:14). So, what do think about that welcome?

Take responses.

But now think about this. Because of the welcome Jesus took on the cross, he now welcomes us into heaven. He welcomes us into his kingdom as he lives in our hearts through faith (*Ephesians 3:17*). Let's pray now to welcome him into our hearts.

Dear Jesus, we welcome you to our world as you were born as a baby in Bethlehem. But you were also welcomed with the punishment of the cross. You did that for me. Thank you. I trust you as the King who came to give your life for me. You are the King who I want to rule over me. I welcome you into my life. Help me praise and thank you in the songs here at church and in all that I do for you everywhere. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want to help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Supplies:

- *crown from Attention Grabber*

Invite the kids forward to place the offering in the crown worn by the king of Kids Church. Say:

We lay down our crowns before the King of kings and give our offerings as an expression of praise and thanksgiving.



The Word

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Luke 2:1-20 will be illustrated with the kids' art project. The Bible verses have been divided into smaller sections (see attached) and can be cut and given to students who will illustrate them. Then Luke 2:1-20 will be read slowly while all watch the illustration unfold.

Art Illustration Option 1: Butcher Paper Mural

Supplies:

- *long section of butcher paper*
- *8 ½ x 11-inch sheets of paper*
- *markers or crayons*
- *glue or tape*
- *Luke 2:1-20 copied onto card stock and cut into sections (See pages 10-12 for verses.)*

Pass out a few verses to each group along with 8 ½ x 11-inch sheets of paper and markers or crayons. The children can then illustrate their sections of the story. When they are finished, have the children tape or glue their illustrations to a long piece of butcher paper in sequence, along with their verses. The illustrated reading can be rolled up and unrolled as the large group leader reads it. (If the butcher paper would not be too crowded with kids gathering around, another option would be to draw the illustrations right on the butcher paper.)

Application 1: Dramatized Story

Supplies:

- *The Christmas Gifts That Didn't Need Wrapping* by Dandi Mackall, Dawn Mathers, Illustrator (Minneapolis MN: Augsburg Fortress. 1990) This book is out of print. It is helpful as a resource but not necessary to purchase.

- two gifts made by a child that might be given to a mother. In the book, these gifts are a pencil holder and a book of home-drawn pictures. These are the items that will be mentioned in the story, though you might change them to items easily found.
- ties
- wrapping paper
- tape and scissors

The Christmas Gifts That Didn't Need Wrapping

Today's dramatized story will be a shortened version of the story, *The Christmas Gifts That Didn't Need Wrapping*, by Dandi Mackall. This has been paraphrased with the author's permission, so that it might be acted out by three volunteer children and an adult. Those parts are:

- Jay, the main character
- Kay, his sister
- Their mother
- Max, Jay's friend

The story line is simple enough that the actors might act their part with no preparation as the narration is read, or they can rehearse before Kids Church for a better presentation. The actors listen to the narration and do what is being read. The narrator can pause or give directions to the actors to help the presentation

After the volunteers have been selected and positioned offstage, begin.

The following is a paraphrased story of a book by Dandi Mackall, *The Christmas Gifts That Didn't Need Wrapping*. This is Jay and his sister, Kay. They were so excited that Christmas was near. It was only a few days away and they were making all the preparations necessary. Of course, there was the Christmas tree, the decorating, and shopping for presents, but now it was time for the wrapping of the presents!

Together they sat on his bedroom floor, ready to wrap the presents. Mom had given them a little pair of scissors and roll of Scotch tape. They had two rolls of Christmas paper. "I want this one," Kay said, as she grabbed for the red paper with the green holly all over it. "Okay," said Jay, "I'll take the white and the green paper," he hollered as he went out the door. "Mom, don't come into my room. We're doing secret stuff." With that he went to the secret place in his closet and brought out the Christmas presents. Kay had made a little pencil holder for mom. Jay had made a book filled with pictures he'd drawn himself. That would be his gift to mom. Jay then pulled out the box he and Kay had picked out especially for dad. It was a tie. Their

mother had helped pick it out when they were shopping last week. “I just know that dad’s going to love this tie,” said Kay, “because I like it.” “Well,” Jay said, “let’s get busy and wrap these presents.” Kay wasn’t as good at wrapping as Jay. She needed a little bit of help smoothing the paper, then cutting it. Getting enough Scotch tape was also a tricky thing for her. “I give up,” she said. “I just can’t make this pencil holder stay in the paper.” “Jay, why do we have to wrap presents anyway?” “We just do,” Jay said. “Why do you have to ask so many questions?” “Well, I just want to know why we have to do such a silly thing as wrapping.” “Look, Kay,” said Jay, “this is Christmas. We give lots of presents to lots of people. It’s not like a birthday when only one person gets the present. Instead, it’s like... wait a minute...” Jay stopped suddenly. “Wait, *it is* a birthday. How could I forget?”

Jay jumped up and ran out of the room. “Mom, Mom!” Jay found Mom, sitting in her favorite chair. “Mom, I want to send Jesus a present for Christmas. After all, it’s his birthday, but I don’t know how to get it to him. And how would I even wrap it?” Mom said softly, “I don’t think its possible to send Jesus a present like that, Jay.” “But, Mom,” Jay said, “in three days it will be Jesus’ birthday. He gives us so many gifts. I want to give him a present, too. I want to say, ‘Thanks.’” Mom motioned for Jay to sit down next to her. “Jay,” she said, “you’ve come up with a wonderful idea. I think you should a gift to Jesus.” “But what will I give him? I shall I wrap it?” “Some of the best gifts that Jesus gives us don’t come wrapped. He gives us kindness and love and...” Jay interrupted her, “I get it. I’ll come up with gifts for other people, gifts that don’t need to be wrapped.” “That’s it,” Mom said. “Give him gifts like patience and peace, by showing patience and peace to others.” “And love,” exclaimed Jay. Just then, mom and Jay were interrupted by Kay shouting from inside his room, “Jay, I can’t get this stupid paper to do anything. Help me.” “Sounds like a job for patience,” said Jay with a big smile. Off he ran to help his sister. Jay’s mother thought to herself, “It looks to me like Jay is giving a present that doesn’t need wrapping already. It’s the gift of patience.”

That afternoon Jay and Max built a giant snow fort in the front yard. “Okay,” said Max, shoving Jay aside, “I’m the king and you’re my slave. Help me climb to the top.” “No way,” said Jay, “I’m the king, here. It’s my yard.” Max pushed Jay back. Jay started to push him again, then he remembered Jesus’ birthday present. What present do you think he could give Jesus, now? It would be a present that didn’t need wrapping. Boys and girls, would you like to guess what his present might be? How about the present of peace? With that, Jay looked at Max. “Okay, Max, you can be the king first, and then, I’ll take a turn at being king. What do you say?” “Wow,” said Max, “you mean you’re going to let me be king just like that?” “Yep,” Jay

answered, smiling. "I don't get it," said Max, "but you've got yourself a deal." "You're King Max all afternoon," Jay said. Max enjoyed the present that Jay was giving Jesus. It was the gift of "blank." Boys and girls, can you answer that? Right, it was peace.

The next day was the day before Christmas and Jay had another present he wanted to give. He had already given patience and peace; what other present could he give today that didn't need wrapping? When he and Kay were in the front yard making snow angels, Jay looked across the street to see Mrs. Cooper. She was an older lady who lived by herself. She was trying to shovel the snow off her front sidewalk. "That's it," said Jay, "I can shovel her walks for her." So off he went. Kay followed as well, but she wasn't much help shoveling. So, Jay mostly worked by himself. Before he finished the last step, Jay saw his mother and sister walking toward him. Kay was carrying a tray of homemade Christmas cookies. "We want to say, 'Merry Christmas' to Mrs. Cooper, too," said Mom. They all went inside Mrs. Cooper's house with hot chocolate and cookies. She seemed to enjoy their visit so much. "I'll never forget your kindness," she told them. Jay smiled and thought to himself, "Well, there's another present that didn't need wrapping. It's the present of "blank." Boys and girls, what is it? Kindness, yes.

Finally, it was Christmas morning. Mom brought out a very special cake, decorated with letters that said, "Merry Christmas." Together, Mom, Dad, Jay, and Kay held hands and sang "Happy Birthday, Jesus." Then, dad prayed;

Heavenly Father,
Thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus...
the best gift of all.
Amen.

"We have one more 'no wrapped' present," Jay told Mom and Dad. "Ready, Kay," he whispered to his sister? "One... two... three..., we love you, Jesus," Jay and Kay shouted as loud as they could. "Merry Christmas." This last present was perhaps the best of all. It was the present of love!

What were the four presents that didn't need wrapping? (*Patience, peace, kindness, love.*)

Application 2:

Supplies:

- *various colors of construction paper*
- *markers*
- *scissors*
- *tape*
- *envelopes*

The children might like to make notes of such “no wrapped” presents like those mentioned in the story. They can put the notes in envelopes and hang them on the tree. Perhaps doing “Witness and Tell” would be a great way to spark the kids’ imaginations as to what they could do to glorify God in their actions. Remember, this is a way of welcoming Jesus into our lives.



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Have the kids talk about ways they will welcome Jesus. Use the following conversation starters.

“One of the ways I intend on welcoming Jesus is to thank and praise him for...”

“One of the ways I will welcome Jesus is to give someone a gift without wrapping that will bless him. This gift is...”

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- regal crown, cape, and scepter (Need not be elaborate.)

The Power of the Cross:

- shoebox wrapped like a gift (Wrap the lid separately so it can be removed.)
- cross (Decorative “Jesus Nails” would work as well.)
- various wrapped boxes on stage (Place the above-mentioned box among these.)

Offering:

- crown from *Attention Grabber*

Bible Presentation:

Option 1:

- long section of butcher paper
- 8 ½ x 11-inch sheets of paper
- markers or crayons
- glue or tape
- Luke 2:1-20 copied onto card stock and cut into sections (See pages 12-14 for verses.)

Application 1:

- *OPTION: The Christmas Gifts That Didn't Need Wrapping* by Dandi Mackall, Dawn Mathers, Illustrator (Minneapolis MN: Augsburg Fortress. 1990)—children will be playacting a paraphrased version of the story—order from <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0806624663>

Application 2:

- various colors of construction paper
- markers
- scissors
- tape
- envelopes

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Luke 2:1-20

1. At that time the Emperor Augustus ordered a census of the Roman Empire. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All the people went to register in the cities where their ancestors had lived.

2. So Joseph went from Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to a Judean city called Bethlehem. Joseph, a descendant of King David, went to Bethlehem because David had been born there. Joseph went there to register with Mary. She had been promised to him in marriage and was pregnant.

3. While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have her child. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger because there wasn't any room for them in the inn.

4. Shepherds were in the fields near Bethlehem. They were taking turns watching their flock during the night. An angel from the Lord suddenly appeared to them. The glory of the Lord filled the area with light, and they were terrified. The angel said to them, "Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, a message that will fill everyone with joy. Today your Savior, Christ the Lord, was born in David's city. This is how you will recognize him: You will find an infant wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger."

5. Suddenly, a large army of angels appeared with the angel. They were praising God by saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those who have his good will!"

6. The angels left them and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see what the Lord has told us about."

7. They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph with the baby, who was lying in a manger. When they saw the child, they repeated what they had been told about him. Everyone who heard the shepherds' story was amazed.

8. Mary treasured all these things in her heart and always thought about them.

9. As the shepherds returned to their flock, they glorified and praised God for everything they had seen and heard. Everything happened the way the angel had told them.
