



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

Welcoming the King

Take Home Point: *We welcome the King with our praise!
*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: Luke 2:8-20

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

We will help kids know:

- The Christmas story from Luke 2.
- The angels and the shepherds gave God the glory for what he had done.




We will help kids feel:

- Joyful that God loved them so much that he sent his Son.
- Blessed by the giver of all good things.

We will help kids do:

- Give praise and glory to God for all the blessings in their lives.
- Welcome the King in their lives on a daily basis.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids play Charades, acting out good things that may happen to them. Have you ever had any of these good things happen to you? Did you stop and think that all good things come from God?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> one lunch bag for each group slips of paper with the charade clues
Large Group 	4 7-9 9-11 11	Overview Puppet Presentation: "Gordy Has Something to Sing About" Drama: "Through the Eyes of an Angel, Part Three: Welcoming the King" Puppet Presentation Conclusion: "Gordy Has Something to Sing About"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gordy two ladders with white sheets draped over them (optional)spot light, fog machine and/or back light two angel costumes binoculars
Small Group Application 	4-6	Kids will make a "praise spiral," writing inside their spiral circle to complete the sentence, "We welcome the King with our praise. Thank you, God, for..." This spiral will remind the kids that all gifts come from God above. As we welcome him as King in our lives, our praise will return to him.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> spiral made from cardstock for each child (p. 7) yarn something such as a pen to punch the hole in the top of the spiral scissors for each child

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction! Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.*

Start with a charade game. You will have a bag with slips of paper inside that each contain one of the following sentences that describes a good thing.

😊 "I won the soccer game."

😊 "My mom made great cookies for me."

😊 "I went to a baseball game."

😊 "We went fishing and I caught a huge fish."

😊 "I made a new friend at school."

😊 "I'm singing a solo in the Christmas program."

😊 "I got the bike I wanted for Christmas."

😊 "I got a new puppy."

Today we will play an acting game. In this bag are examples of some good things that may have happened to you. One person at a time will pull a slip out of the bag and act out what is written on the slip without saying a word. See if the other children can guess what good thing happened to the actor.

You may have to help younger children by doing an example first or by giving them instructions on what to act out. Give as many children as possible an opportunity to act out a good thing but allow time for questions.

Have you ever had any of these good things happen to you? Has anything good happened to you this week that is similar to anything we have seen today?

How did you feel when you had this good thing happen? How did you *act* when this good thing happened?

I bet you were happy and you might have even said thank you to your mom or dad. But did you stop and think that all good things come from God?

Today we will see the Christmas event of how the angels and shepherds responded to God's gift. We will see how they praised God for all he had done. **We will welcome the King with our praise!*

Large Group: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible Event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Overview

Puppet Presentation: “Gordy Has Something to Sing About”

Gordy likes acting out charades, but thinks he is the main attraction.

Drama: “Through the Eyes of an Angel, Part Three: Welcoming the King”

The angels Ruby and Sapphire are amazed that God would choose lowly shepherds as the welcoming committee for the birth of his Son Jesus. They also witness the host of angels praising God and telling the shepherds the good news of the Savior’s birth.

Puppet Presentation Conclusion: “Gordy Has Something to Sing About”

Gordy learns that the best reception to give the baby Jesus is to welcome him with our praise.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible Event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion, but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to Luke 2 in their Bibles.

What was the message the angels brought to the shepherds? (Luke 2:10-14. Let several children answer.)

The angels said, “Glory to ? in the highest heaven.” (God.)

What did the shepherds do after the angels left them? (Luke 2:16. They hurried to Bethlehem to see what the angels had told them about.)

What did the shepherds do when they returned home? This is our key verse for today, let’s read it together Luke 2:20, “As the shepherds returned to their flock, they glorified and praised God for everything they had seen and heard.”

It will be easier for younger children to learn Luke 2:20 a phrase at a time.

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

Whom did the angels and shepherds see as the giver of the greatest gift, Jesus? (*God.*)

How do you think the shepherds felt to have been picked to be the first ones told of the Savior's birth? (*Honored, excited, thrilled.*)

Do you think they kept the news to themselves? (*Luke 2:18. Everyone who heard it was amazed.*)

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

The birth of a baby can be a very wonderful thing. In fact, it can be very exciting. For the shepherds, the birth of a baby became more than wonderful or exciting because they were able to see God as the gift.

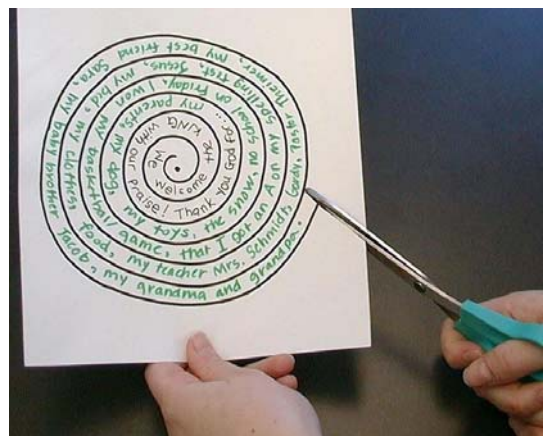
Have you ever had something happen and knew God had done a wonderful thing right in front of your eyes? Can you share an example? (*You may have to give an example of your own.*)

Do you know everything that happens as a blessing in our lives is because of God's great love for us? How did the shepherds respond to God's blessings? (*They glorified and praised God.*) What will you do now when you see God's rich blessings in your life? ****We welcome the King with our praise***

Application Activity:

****We welcome the King with our praise*** when we give thanks to God for all the blessings he gives us. When we recognize him as the giver and the one who loves us very much, we welcome him into our life as King.

Today's activity is making a "praise spiral." Have children write inside their spiral circle being careful to stay between the lines and completing the sentences, "We welcome the King with our praise. Thank you, God, for..." Then have children cut on the line, starting at the outside edge and staying right on the line all the way to the center.





When they finish, have the children use a pen to punch a hole in the center. Tie a knot in the end of a piece of yarn and string it through the hole.

Gently fold the bottom of the spiral down.

When held up, the loops will fall in a spiral. When held over a heat source such as a heat vent or light, the spiral turns.



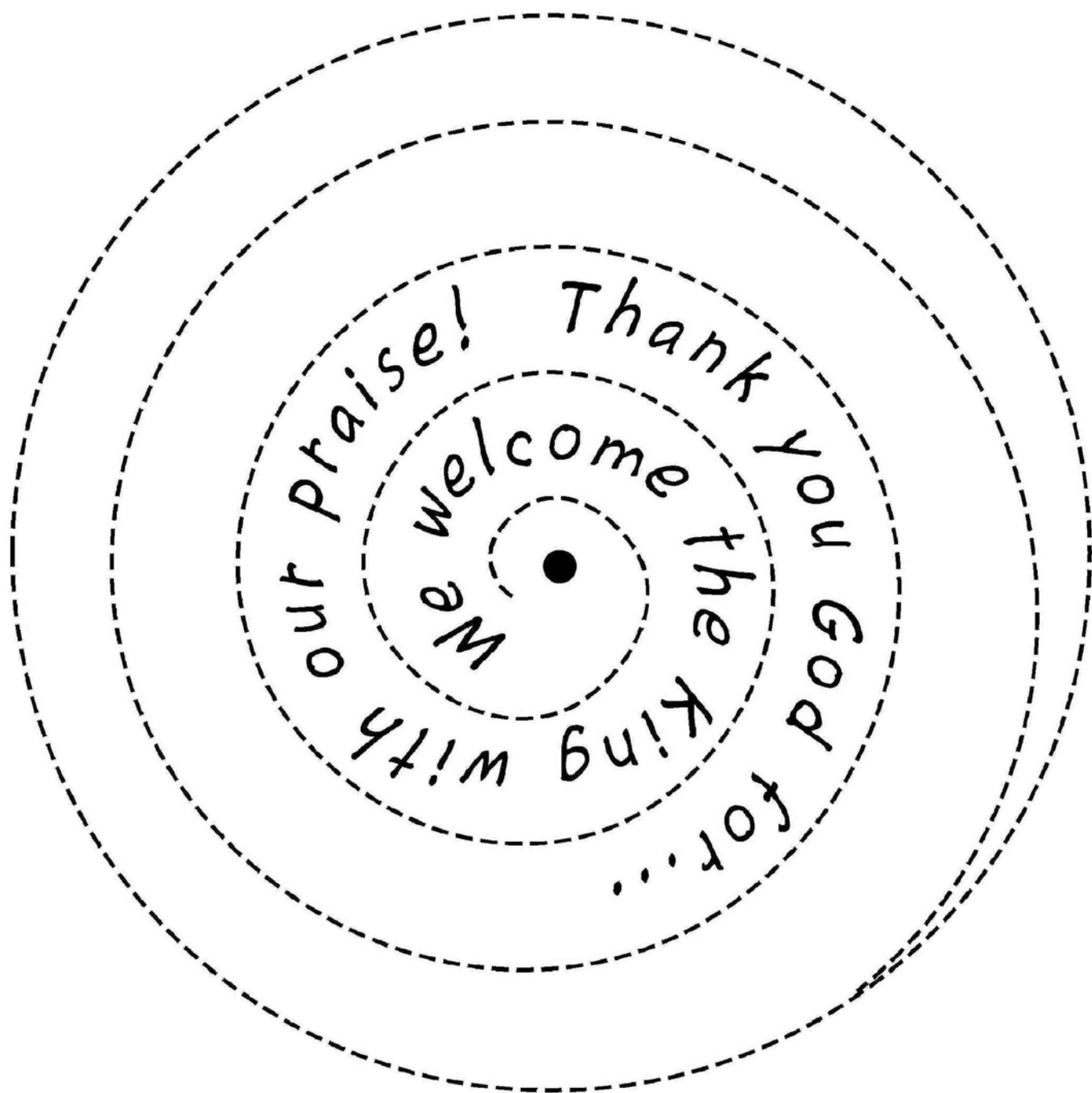
This will remind us that all gifts come from God above. As we welcome him as King in our lives, our praise will return to him.



Closing Prayer:

Thank God for sending his Son Jesus into the world for us. Ask God to give the children eyes to see all the blessings he gives them and how he comes to them every day. Continue to pray with the children about their concerns.

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“Gordy Has Something to Sing About”

Puppet Presentation

Mr. King: Kids, did you have a great time acting out some events that might have been worth celebrating? I hope so. Let’s see what Gordy has to say about it. Let’s call Gordy.

(Kids chant, “Gor-dy! Gor-dy! Gor-dy!”)

Gordy: Hi, kids! Hi, Mr. King!

Mr. King: Gordy, did you just play that game in small group?

Gordy: Sure! I got to act out something good that happened to me. I even made up my own.

Mr. King: You mean you made up your own happy thing to act out?

Gordy: Sure. You want to see it?

Mr. King: Okay, Gordy.

(Gordy bows several times and then dodges imaginary objects flying at him. Then bows some more.)

Mr. King: Gordy, I can tell that you are bowing. Are you some kind of performer?

Gordy: Sure. I’m the best actor on this stage!

Mr. King: That is commendable.

Gordy: Well, there’s only two of us and you’re...well...How do I say this kindly?

Mr. King: Gordy, be nice. I will agree you are a great actor and you’re bowing. But what’s that other thing you were doing?

Gordy: Oh, when I did this? *(Dodges imaginary objects.)*

Mr. King: Yes. It looks like you’re dodging things.

Gordy: Sure! I’m dodging money that my fans are throwing at me.

Mr. King: You’re dodging money that your fans are throwing at you?

Gordy: You got it!

Mr. King: Well, I've never heard of fans throwing money on the stage, even when a famous actor is there. Besides, I don't think dollar bills would hurt very much if one hit you.

Gordy: Yeah, but my fans aren't rich enough to have dollars. They would probably just throw pennies and nickels.

Mr. King: That's an interesting charade you have given us. I know you're a good actor, but I don't think that would ever happen.

Gordy: Oh, I don't know. *(To kids.)* Do you have some money you want to throw at me?

Mr. King: No, kids. Wait a minute. Their money is for offering. And I think you're missing the point.

Gordy: What's the point?

Mr. King: Today the main attraction isn't you.

Gordy: It's not?

Mr. King: No, it's Jesus. And there is something we can give him...

Gordy: Yeah, like money. *(That is if he's quick enough to dodge it!)*

Mr. King: No, it's even more than that. We can give him our praise because that's a special way to tell Jesus that we think he is wonderful and that he is our God.

Gordy: Even when he's just born as a baby?

Mr. King: Even when he's just born as a baby. Actually, that's what the shepherds did. Our key verse is Luke 2:20, *"As the shepherds returned to their flock, they glorified and praised God for everything they had seen and heard."*

Gordy: So we are going to talk about the shepherds rejoicing?

Mr. King: Yes. Not only did they rejoice, but the angels rejoiced too. Remember our angels, Ruby and Sapphire? They will help us learn about when Jesus was born. They will help us imagine what it would be like to look at the events of Jesus being born through the eyes of an angel. Let's listen to Ruby and Sapphire now and hear what they have to say.

Welcoming the King

“Through the Eyes of an Angel: Part Three”

Luke 2:8-20

Setting:

Have house lights turned off or dimmed. Both angels are sitting on top of ladders. Sapphire has binoculars. A spotlight should be on the angels. For special effect, the angels can be lit with back light and a fog machine can be used near them.

A scripture reader will be near a microphone using a flashlight for light.

Instead of regular large group song time, songs may be included in the drama. Musicians or music accompaniment, including overhead transparencies for songs, should be ready to go at the appropriate time. The overhead should be turned off after each song so the room remains dark for the drama.

If time does not allow, the songs can be eliminated.



Characters:

Sapphire: An inquisitive angel who is interested in the affairs of men and the mystery of God becoming flesh.

Ruby: An angel who has seen the glory of God and his plan unfold as he sends Jesus into the world. She is eager to help Sapphire see the glory in all of it.

Characterization Hint:

Any time an angel mentions the name of God or the Most High, both angels should lower their heads in reverence, raise their hands, and say, “Blessed be his name.” This will help the audience understand the angels’ perspective of being able to have seen God face to face and be completely awed by the experience.

Additional Helps:

In choosing the actors, look for older elementary kids, teens or adults who are willing to prepare and rehearse. The script can be enlarged and placed on the floor for the actors to refer to. Music can also be played while angels are getting set up on the ladders.

SCENE 1: All of Heaven and Earth Rejoice at the Gift

Reader: *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." (Luke 2:8-12.)*

Ruby: Sapphire, what are you looking at now?

Saph: I see the shepherds, Ruby. They're scared. They're in the presence of just one angel and the glory of the Lord *frightens* them. Why is that?

Ruby: It is too wonderful for them. They are not familiar with such glory in their world.

Saph: **Go figure! If they could but see the glory of the Holy One face to face as we have, it would be far too wonderful for them. For he alone is worthy. All glory, honor, wisdom, and might are his. Blessed be the Eternal One!**

Both angels lower their heads in reverence and raise their hands

Ruby: Ah, Sapphire, these humans will know something of God's glory we could never know. God became a human so he might rescue them from their sin. How much love is that? God will never become an angel to rescue us. We already dwell with him. We have no sin. But look how much he loves these sinful humans.

Saph: **Go figure. It is a mystery I long to look into...** *(Looking down through his binoculars.)*

Ruby: There is no time for that now. We are called upon to worship.

Reader: ***Suddenly, a large army of angels appeared with the angel. They were praising God and saying...***

**Saph
& Ruby:** *(Standing and raising hands.)* **"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those who have his good will." (Luke 2:13 & 14.)**

SONG: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Angels sit.

SCENE 2: God Calls the Humble Heart to Worship

Saph: Go figure, Ruby.

Ruby: What do you mean?

Saph: **Shepherds. Some kind of reception. No dignitaries. No crowds. No religious leaders. Just shepherds! Go figure.**

Ruby: Sapphire, our King went into that world in a very humble way. Maybe that's why he would choose humble people as his reception committee.

Saph: **Yeah, but shepherds? Couldn't he do better than that?**

Ruby: Maybe it's the best choice for a welcoming committee. Shepherds are always watching, always ready to rescue sheep. Maybe the King will grow up to be a shepherd. And he will shepherd more than sheep.

Saph: **Humble hearts for a God who humbled his own heart.**

Ruby: Go figure!

Saph: **Hey, Ruby, that's my saying! I'll go figure. As a matter of fact, I figure I'll go worship the newborn King! (Exits.)**

Ruby: Wait for me, Sapphire. Glory to the newborn King. (Exits.)

Reader: *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." 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. Mary treasured all these things in her heart and always thought about them. 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. (Luke 2:15-20.)*

SONG: "Joy to the World"

“Gordy Has Something to Sing About”

Puppet Presentation Conclusion

Mr. King: **What do you think, Gordy?**

Gordy: *(Sings.)* “Joy to the world!” This is really pretty good.

Mr. King: **You mean the acting of the angels?**

Gordy: No, I mean it is pretty neat to sing to God and to give him glory. He really has done a wonderful thing for us by sending his Son into our world.

Mr. King: **Right! So it is important to **welcome the King with our praise.***

Gordy: And we can do that by singing.

Mr. King: **Yes, and we can even praise him in our prayers. As we have trust in him, Jesus will be with us every single minute of every day. Gordy, why don’t you pray for that?**

Gordy: Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus. He is the King. We welcome the King with our praise. Help us to think about him, pray to him, and praise him so we can see the way you work in our lives every day. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Bye, boys and girls. Remember to bring dollar bills next week if you want to throw money at me.

Mr. King: *(Using a slight correcting tone.)* **Gordy!...Bye, boys and girls.**