

# WEEK 4

# ADVENT

## GOD'S PEOPLE WORSHIP THE KING

### PRIMARY LESSON GUIDE

#### THE FOUR KEYS

## KEY VERSE

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Colossians 3:17

## KEY IDEAS

1. We were created to worship God
2. Worship means setting our hearts on God above everything else
3. Worship requires us to humble ourselves

## KEY PASSAGE

Luke 2:8-20

## KEY PRINCIPLES

 **EVERY CHILD SHOULD KNOW ...**

God is worthy of our worship and praise.

 **EVERY CHILD SHOULD FEEL ...**

thankful that we serve a God who is worthy of all praise.

 **EVERY CHILD SHOULD BE ABLE TO ...**

talk about ways our words and actions can worship God.

 **EVERY CHILD SHOULD WANT ...**

their words and actions to honor God.

# INTRODUCTION

Advent is a special season to celebrate the first coming of Jesus Christ our Lord and to remember that He has promised He will return again. Advent means “arrival” or “coming”. During this season, we are reminded that the first coming of Jesus was all about saving the world from sin. He left His throne in Heaven to willingly come to the earth as a man (God in human form), offering Himself as the perfect sacrifice to bring salvation and hope to the nations. Advent also reminds us that He has promised He will return for His church and make all things right once and for all.

## OPENING ILLUSTRATION

Begin class by bringing in the nativity set in the teacher’s closet. Review who each person is and what their role was in the birth of Jesus. Use the nativity set to tell the story and then let the children retell it to you using the characters from the nativity set.

## STORY

Read Luke 2:8-20 or read the Jesus Storybook Bible.

The shepherds played an important role in the story of Jesus’s birth. In fact, they play an important role in all of the Bible. Many of the men we read about in the Old Testament were shepherds. Abel, Abraham, Moses, David, are just a few. In the story of Jesus’s birth, the shepherds were the very first ones to hear about and see Jesus!

People often looked down on shepherds because they did not have much money or education, and they worked really hard, all day and all night to care for their sheep. Shepherds had very humble lifestyles.

Why do you think God wanted the shepherds to be the first ones to hear about Jesus?  
Why do you think shepherds are important in the Bible?

God uses shepherds and sheep to paint a picture of our relationship with Jesus! In the book of John, Jesus is called The Good Shepherd. King David wrote Psalm 23 to describe his relationship to God (read a few verses).

Shepherds were special to God because Jesus came like a shepherd to lead us, His sheep, to God the Father! Just like the shepherds, the people of Israel looked down on Jesus because they didn’t recognize Him as their King. He didn’t look like a normal king, but He was indeed the King above all Kings!

The shepherds believed Jesus was truly the Messiah, and they fell down and worshipped Him! They could not help but tell everyone they saw about the birth of the Messiah!

## ACTIVITY

Provide children the coloring sheet attached while you discuss what it means to worship God. Write the word “worship” on the whiteboard and ask the class what it means in their own words. Allow time for responses and explain that worship is honoring God in all we say and do. The shepherds honored God by praising Jesus and telling others about Him. We honor God the same way! Worship starts in our hearts with a desire to know God’s Word and be grateful for all He has done for us. There are many ways we can honor God in our lives. We can honor Him in the everyday tasks like making our beds, obeying our parents or singing His praises in song and dance!

## PRAYER

Thank God that He is our Good Shepherd and that He is worthy of all praise.

## SONG

Hark the Herald

Happy Birthday, Jesus by Jesus 4 Life (kids will learn and perform on the Sunday before Christmas)

# FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Isaiah 43:21, John 4:24, Hebrews 13:15

## ACTIVITY

Using the Candy Cane worksheet in your take home packet. Read the Legend of the Candy Cane with your child and discuss the meaning of it. Remind your child about the story of the shepherds and how we can worship God in many ways by honoring Him in all we say and do.

## DISCUSSION

- What is worship?  
Worship begins in our hearts. It is what we put our attention and affection toward. We were created by God to worship, and we should not desire to worship anyone or anything except the One who created us. God alone is worthy of our worship because He made us and loved us enough to save us from our sins. Whatever we feed our minds (the things we read or watch) grows in our hearts and becomes what we worship. When we feed our minds with God's Word, our hearts desire what is good and right and true, and we honor Him with our worship.
- How should we worship God?  
The Bible says God's people should worship Him in spirit and truth (John 4:24). We worship God by making Him more important than anything else in our lives and by following His Word.

## PRAYER

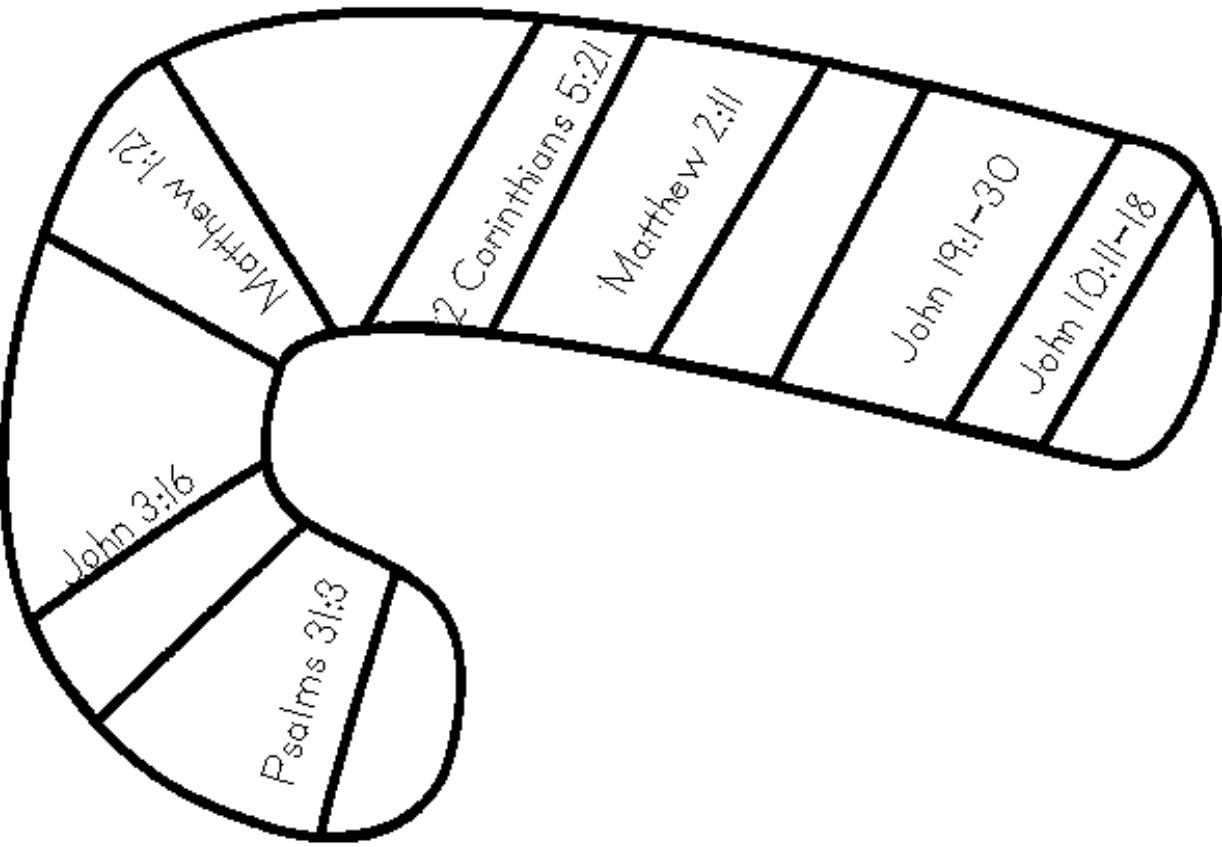
Thank God that He is worthy of our worship. Ask God to help you say and do things that bring honor to Him.

## The Shepherd's Story



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Look up the verses on the Candy Cane to find out the meaning behind the candy.  
Write the verse address to each meaning.



1. The hard candy reminds us that Jesus is our "rock" on whom we can depend.

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2. The peppermint flavor reminds us of the spices from the wise men

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3. The white in the candy reminds us of how Jesus is sinless and holy.

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4. The shape reminds us of the Staff and that Jesus is our Good Shepherd

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5. Turned upside down, We see the letter "J" for the name of Jesus.

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6. The color red reminds us of God's love for us that He sent his son to die for our sin.

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