



9

Seeking the King



Key Passages

- Matthew 2:1–3, 2:10–11, 2:16

Lesson Focus

- Some people loved Jesus. Some people hated Him.

Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will color the Jesus Is Born Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 8 and/or play with play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—Students will hear that wise men from the East rejoiced when they learned that the King of the Jews had been born. They brought gifts and worshipped Him. The king of Judea, King Herod, reacted far differently. He became jealous, angry, and wanted to destroy Jesus.

Song—Students will sing songs to help them remember the lesson of the day. Lyrics to the songs are found on the Lesson 8 Flip Chart Lesson Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



Activity 1: Follow the Star

Students will follow stars 1–12 displayed around the room in order. They will answer questions along the way.



Activity 2: Who Loved Jesus?

Students will circle the pictures of those from the lesson who loved Jesus and X out the pictures of Herod.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse as they play a game and recite/sing the verse. Give them an opportunity to repeat the verse with you or after you individually.



Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

- ☐ Study the Prepare to Share section.
- ☐ Go Before the Throne.



COME ON IN

- ☐ Print one Jesus Is Born Coloring Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- ☐ Provide play dough if appropriate.

- ☐ Jesus Is Born Coloring Sheet for each student
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Play dough
- ☐ Cookie cutters



CIRCLE TIME

- ☐ Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.
- ☐ Print one copy of the Lesson Map for your use.

- ☐ Lesson Flip Chart
- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Stuffed animal for prayer time
- ☐ Lesson Map



FOLLOW THE STAR

- ☐ Print and cut out the 12 Follow the Star Questions from the Resource DVD-ROM. Keep the answer key for your use.
- ☐ Attach the Follow the Star Questions to the walls or furniture around the room.

- ☐ 12 Follow the Star Questions attached to the walls or furniture around the room
- ☐ Tape or poster putty
- ☐ Follow the Star Questions Answer Key



WHO LOVED JESUS?

- ☐ Print one Who Loved Jesus? Worksheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- ☐ Who Loved Jesus? Worksheet for each student
- ☐ Crayons



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- ☐ No extra preparation necessary.

- ☐ Flip Chart Memory Verse Page



APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- ☐ Prepare and bring snacks.

- ☐ Student Take Home Sheets
- ☐ Lesson Flip Chart for Review
- ☐ Snacks



Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above along with this background.

We learned last week that Jesus came as a humble servant (Philippians 2:8). He came to earth in a very simple way. He was born to a young Jewish woman and laid in a manger (Luke 2:7). God did not send His angels to announce the birth to kings, rulers, or religious leaders. God sent His angels to announce the arrival of the Savior of the world to simple shepherds in the field who were watching over their sheep in the countryside (Luke 2:8–14).

This child laid in a manger was the one promised to be heir to the throne of David, whose kingdom would not end (2 Samuel 7:16). Isaiah prophesied of a King who would bear the government upon His shoulder. He would be the Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6). The angel Gabriel announced to the virgin Mary that she would have a Son through the Holy Spirit and that her Son would be great. He would sit on the throne of David, and His kingdom would not end (Luke 1:32–33). This baby Jesus would fulfill many prophecies. And He would one day be a mighty, everlasting King.

How would this King be received? Matthew tells us of two very different reactions. First, we hear of magi (“wise men”) from the East who came to Jerusalem (Matthew 2:1). These wise men were probably from Babylon and ancient Persia. Hundreds of years earlier, magi in this area may have had opportunities to learn of the Jewish Scriptures and the promised Messiah—the King of the Jews—from the prophet Daniel who had been taken as a captive from Judah to Babylon and served in high positions there for many years (Daniel 1:19–20, 6:3).

These great wise men from Babylon came to Jerusalem. They asked, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him” (Matthew 2:2). When King Herod heard about these magi, he met with them to learn of their journey and destination. At the advice of his counselors, King Herod sent the wise men to Bethlehem to find the child. When the wise men saw Mary His mother, they fell down and worshipped Him. They then presented Him with treasures of gold, frankincense, and myrrh (Matthew 2:9–11).

The wise men from Babylon, Gentiles from a distant land, came with expensive gifts and humbly fell before the child in praise and worship.

But what of King Herod—the ruler who was ruling over Judea? What was he thinking about this King who had attracted such attention from men of pagan nations? King Herod was troubled at the news of the one called King of the Jews (Matthew 2:2–3). He sent the wise men to Bethlehem to find the child and instructed them to come back to him and tell him where the child was so that he could worship Him (Matthew 2:8). King Herod’s motives were deceitful, but the almighty sovereign God was watching over the Christ child and His family. Soon after the wise men left for home, Joseph was warned in a dream to take the child and His mother and flee to Egypt because they were in danger. King Herod intended to destroy the child (Matthew 2:13).

Jesus escaped King Herod’s jealous wrath. But many other children were killed as Herod sent forth an order to put to death all the male children two years old and under who were born in Bethlehem and in all its districts (Matthew 2:16).

What a contrast we see between the Gentile wise men and the king of Judea (Herod) regarding the birth of Jesus Christ. The wise men travelled a great distance to worship the King. They humbly bowed before Him and presented valuable gifts. King Herod, on the other hand, was threatened by this one who was destined to be King. His extreme response of murder was one of hatred and fear of losing his throne.

The truth of the matter is, there are only two reactions to Jesus Christ. The Bible clearly states that the one who is not with Christ is against Him (Luke 11:23). There is no middle ground. He is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). Those who repent, trust, and receive Him will freely and willingly bow to Him in praise and worship. They will have eternal life. And those who don’t believe in Him, but are threatened by Him because they don’t want another King in their life, will be condemned because they will not believe in God’s one and only Son (John 3:18).

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Jesus is King! Many people throughout history have rejected His lordship and demanded that they are the kings of their own lives. Like King Herod, they conspire to deny Jesus His rightful place on the throne. Every person throughout all of history has been born a rebel against King Jesus. In Colossians 1:13, Paul makes it clear that no one is born into Christ’s kingdom—all

are born under the power of darkness. It is only by acknowledging, through repentance and faith, that Jesus is Lord that anyone can be brought into the kingdom of Jesus.

Herod was so intent on remaining the king of Judea, and the king of his own life, that he was willing to murder many young children and infants. This heinous act was committed in fulfillment of a prophecy given through Jeremiah (Jeremiah 31:15; Matthew 2:17–18). This murderous legacy continued through Herod's line. His son, Herod Antipas, was the ruler who beheaded John the Baptist and tried Christ before His death. Later, Herod Agrippa I was persecuting the fledgling church in Acts 12. And Paul appeared before his son, Herod Agrippa II, to defend himself in Acts 26.

Herod the Great could not deny Jesus the throne God had prepared for Him. In the same way, any effort of people to deny the lordship of Jesus will also fail. One day, every knee will bow before King Jesus—some exalting Him as the merciful Savior, others as the just Judge who will cast them into eternal punishment (Philippians 2:9–11; Revelation 20:11–15). As ambassadors of King Jesus, we have the joyful duty of serving Him and calling people to bow their hearts to Him before it is too late.

As people celebrate the birth of Christ, there are many traditions they participate in. You might choose to have a nativity scene in your home during the Christmas season. What pieces does it include? Mary? Check. Joseph? Check. Jesus in the manger, a few animals (hopefully no pigs), maybe a stable backdrop . . . and three wise men? Check. But do all of those pieces belong in this scene together?

The birth of our King didn't necessarily happen in a stable behind a hotel, but could have been in the lower room of a house where animals were often kept. Based on our text today, we see another discrepancy between Scripture and the typical nativity scene. If you read the account of the birth in Matthew 2, you will find no mention of how many wise men travelled to Jerusalem seeking the King of the Jews. Some have assumed that there were three since there were three gifts. Others have even suggested the names of these men, but the Bible does not confirm these ideas. They are extrabiblical traditions.

Also, the text seems very clear that the wise men were not present at the birth. They did go to Bethlehem and offer gifts and worship to the child. The Greek

word used in Matthew 2:11 is *paidion*, the word commonly used of a child, not an infant. Additionally, Herod had determined the time of the star's appearing from the wise men and ordered his soldiers to kill every child up to age two (Matthew 2:7, 2:16). This indicates that it was as many as two years later that the wise men found the Christ and offered their worship and gifts to Him. If you would like to spark some conversation, place the wise men across the room (to the east) and when people ask why, open up the Scriptures with them and share the true account of their visit to worship the young King.

Another common question relates to the sign the wise men saw. What was the star? Many have tried to explain it as a convergence of different stars or planets at a specific time, but these explanations fall short of the biblical descriptions. The alignment of planets in the constellations could never point the wise men to a particular city, let alone a particular house. According to the biblical account, the star was a supernatural object that led the wise men to Jerusalem, disappeared, and then reappeared to lead the wise men to the very house where Jesus was living (Matthew 2:9–10).

At Christmas and throughout the year, we need to be diligent to ensure that the cultural traditions and the media do not corrupt the truth of God's Word. We must take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ—our King. As we do so, we can help those who are His subjects to understand more about their King and share those truths with those who are not yet part of His kingdom.



BEFORE THE THRONE

King of kings, I worship you. Once again, I am brought to my knees as I consider your glory. You alone are worthy of the kind of royal worship that the wise men offered you. I have no gold, frankincense, or myrrh, but my life is yours. My desire is to surrender my life completely to your lordship. As I teach this lesson and discuss the response of men to King Jesus, please bring understanding to the minds of my students. Move in their hearts to hear the truth and to one day submit to the authority of Scripture and to Jesus Christ, the King of kings.

► As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page to keep the children engaged. When reading the lesson Scriptures, stand up, be enthusiastic, look at the children, and emphasize the answers to the questions you will be asking. This will help to keep the children interested.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color the Jesus Is Born Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 8.
- If there is time, they can play with play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs. Bring your Lesson Flip Chart, Bible, stuffed animal for prayer time, Lesson Map and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Supplication is suggested. You might proceed this way:

Today let's say prayers of supplication when we ask God to please bless us in a special way.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life, and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

I'll start. Dear God, I know that you hear all my prayers, and you will give me all I need according to your perfect will. Lord if it is your will, would you please. . . (insert personal prayer).

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer of supplication.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first five questions will be repeated each week this quarter. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? Does God know all things? *Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God.*
- ? Can you see God? *No. I cannot see God, but He always sees me.*
- ? Can God do all things? *Yes! God can do all His holy will.*
- ? Where do you learn how to love and obey God? *In the Bible alone.*
- ? Is God's Word true? *Yes! Every Word of God is true.*

Bible Pass Around

► Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

► When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark today's passage before you begin.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. *Hold up Bible.* God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number *choose a number. You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity.* We'll start right here. *Hand the Bible to the first student.* As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you—remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin. *You may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it. Continue with the lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.*

Refer to Lesson 8 Flip Chart Page. We talked about Jesus's birth last time. Look here at the Flip Chart.

- ? How did Jesus come into the world? *Allow discussion.*
Jesus was born in a simple, quiet way in the little town of Bethlehem!
- ? Where did Mary lay her baby, Jesus? *In a manger.*

? **What is a manger?** *It is where the animals' food is kept. It is what the animals eat out of.*

? **Who is Jesus?** *Jesus is God!*

Yes. Jesus is God. He is the King. But even though He is God and the King of kings, He was born in a very simple way. The people didn't give Jesus a big party. And God didn't tell all the other kings, rulers, or important people of the land about Jesus.

? **Who were the first people God told that Jesus was born?** *The shepherds.*

? **Who did God send as His messengers to tell the shepherds?** *The angels.*

? **Who did God choose to be the mother of Jesus?** *Mary.*

Very good! Jesus came quietly into the world. But He came to change the whole world because, one day, He would die for sinners and offer forgiveness to everyone who would trust Him and believe what the Bible says about Him.

Before we move on, let's sing verses one and two of our song, "This Little Baby!" Remember, this little baby was Jesus, the Savior sent from God! *Sing verses 1 & 2 of the song as a review of Lessons 7 and 8. Lyrics are on the Lesson 8 Flip Chart Page.*

You would think that EVERYONE would be excited to know that Jesus was born. But some people were not happy at all! As a matter of fact, some people hated Jesus! Today we're going to read about some people who were happy that Jesus, the Savior, was born, and we'll hear about some people who were not happy about Jesus being born. The Bible tells us about these people, so let's look there.

Refer to Lesson Flip Chart Page. We're going to start with some men who LOVED Jesus. The Bible calls them wise men. They lived in a faraway country.

They learned that Jesus—the Messiah, the King of kings—was born! And they wanted to go and see Him and bring gifts to Him. So they set out on a long journey to find the baby Jesus. But how did they know where to go?

We are going to find out from the Bible. I will read from the Gospel of Matthew. Let's open the Bible now! *Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible, and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is. Show the students where Matthew is. Let them look at it. Carry it around your circle.*

Listen carefully as I read! *Read Matthew 2:1–2 enthusiastically emphasizing the answers to the questions below.*

? **Who was the person who was born in Bethlehem?** *Re-read Matthew 2:1. Jesus.*

? **And who came from the East to Jerusalem?** *Re-read Matthew 2:1. The wise men.*

? **The wise men asked a question. What did they ask?** *Re-read Matthew 2:2. Where is He who has been born King of the Jews?*

? **Who did they mean? Who was the King of the Jews? He was born and laid in a manger in Bethlehem.** *Jesus.*

► Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text. The children should hear God's Word and know they can answer questions from it. It is not too hard for them.

Matthew 2:1–2

? What did the wise men say they saw in the sky? It led them to Jesus. *Re-read Matthew 2:2. A star.*

? And why did the wise men come to see Jesus? *Matthew 2:2. They wanted to worship Him.*

Wow! There was a bright star in the sky. God put that bright star in the sky so the wise men would be able to find the baby Jesus, King of the Jews! The wise men traveled from their home all the way to the city of Jerusalem, following the star. *Refer to the Lesson Map.*

The wise men were trying to find Jesus. They knew He was the true King of the Jews, and they had come a long, long way to see Him and worship Him.

Matthew 2:3

But there was already a king named Herod in Jerusalem! And he heard about this King the wise men came to worship! Hmmm. I wonder how King Herod felt about that? Listen to this next verse! *Read Matthew 2:3 emphasizing "troubled."*

? What did King Herod think? *He was troubled.*

The Bible says King Herod was troubled. That means he was very upset! He didn't want any other king to come and take away his throne! He wanted to be the ONLY king! Remember, some men loved Jesus, and some men hated Him.

So King Herod spoke to the wise men and sent them to Bethlehem. He told them to find Jesus and then come back and tell him where Jesus was so HE could go and worship Jesus, too.

But King Herod lied to the wise men. He pretended to love Jesus, but he really didn't love Jesus at all! Herod hated King Jesus. And this was really bad! Some people loved Jesus, while others hated Him.

Matthew 2:10-11

Well, let's keep reading and find out what happened next. *Read Matthew 2:10-11.*

? What did the wise men see in the sky? *Re-read Matthew 2:10. The star.*

They saw the star again in the sky. And they were filled with joy. They knew they were close to the end of their long, long journey. *Refer to Lesson Map.*

They followed the star until it stopped over a house. They went to that house.

? Who did they see in the house? *Re-read Matthew 2:11. Mary and the child, Jesus.*

? What did they do when they saw Jesus? *Re-read Matthew 2:11. Fell down and worshipped Him.*

They worshipped Jesus! That's right. The wise men knew who Jesus was.

? Who is Jesus? *Jesus is God.*

Jesus is God. Jesus is the Savior. He came into the world so that sinners, like all of us, could be forgiven of our sins and then one day be with God in heaven.

- ? What did the wise men bring to the baby Jesus? *Re-read Matthew 2:11. Treasures, gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

These wise men loved Jesus, and they brought gifts and worshipped Him. These were special gifts. Gifts that were fit for a king. Some men loved Jesus and other men hated Him. *Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart Page.*

Remember King Herod? He lied to the wise men and told them to come back and tell him where to find Jesus so he could worship Him, too. But Herod did not want to worship Jesus. And God protected Jesus by telling the wise men not to go back to Herod. They obeyed God and went home another way!

Well, King Herod didn't like that one bit! He was really angry now. The wise men had ignored him. They did not come back to see him like King Herod had told them to. Listen to what the Bible says King Herod did. *Read Matthew 2:16 emphasizing the answers to the questions below.*

Matthew 2:16

- ? How did King Herod feel when the wise men did not come back? *Re-read Matthew 2:16. Exceedingly angry!*
- ? What did King Herod do? *Allow discussion.*

The Bible tells us that King Herod was "exceedingly angry." He was really, really mad! And he gave orders for his soldiers to go out and kill all the boys in Bethlehem who were 2 years old or younger. King Herod thought that if he killed all the baby boys, then he would also kill the baby Jesus.

What an awful thing to do. But King Herod did not love God, and he did not love Jesus. Some people loved Jesus while others hated Him.

We know that God was in control and knew exactly what was happening. God is sovereign. He is always in control of everything that happens.

- ? Can you repeat that with me? *Repeat the phrase several times. "God is sovereign. He is always in control of everything that happens."*

God was in control of this, too. And God protected baby Jesus. He warned Joseph to quickly leave Bethlehem and go to Egypt. Joseph obeyed God and took Mary and the baby Jesus away. God protected Jesus from King Herod's plan to kill Him.

Some people loved Jesus, such as the wise men. They traveled a long, long way to worship Jesus, and they brought gifts to Him. Other men hated Jesus, such as King Herod who tried to kill Him.

There are still people today who hate Jesus. And there are people today who love Jesus. I pray that each of you will grow up to know and love Jesus! But to know and love Jesus, we need to spend time learning about Him and getting to know Him.

? **How would we do that? Where can we find out about Jesus and God?** *Hold up Bible. By reading the Bible, memorizing Scripture, praying.*

That's right! We can only know and love Jesus by knowing God's Word. And the more we study what the Bible says, the more we will learn about Jesus.

SONG

► Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. The Bible teaches us about Jesus. It tells us that Jesus came in a simple, humble way to be born as a baby. Our memory verse reminds us that Jesus was humble and obedient to God's plan so we could be forgiven of our sins. Let's sing our Memory Verse Song now. Here we go! Sing the Memory Verse Song two or three times.

► Lyrics to the song "This Little Baby" are on the Lesson 8 Flip Chart Page. Continue to teach the entire song.

Turn to the Lesson 8 Flip Chart Page. Let's sing the song about Jesus, "This Little Baby." Sing the song several times. You may want to march in place or around the room. Add hand motions.

God sent an angel to Mary. And God sent angels to the shepherds! God sent a star to the wise men. Jesus was born simply. But God made it very special! This little baby Jesus was the Savior sent from God.

Repeat songs as time allows. You may want to add hand motions, stomping, marching, or instruments.



Follow the Star

MATERIALS

- ☐ Twelve Follow the Star Questions attached to the walls or furniture around the room
- ☐ Tape or poster putty
- ☐ Answer key for your use

INSTRUCTIONS

Print and cut out the 12 Follow the Star Questions from the Resource DVD-ROM then attach them to the walls or furniture around the room. Have the children line up and follow you around the room, stopping at each star in order to answer the question. Allow different children to lead the group and "find" the next star. Make it exciting and fun!

? **How did God guide the wise men all that long way to find Jesus?** *He gave them a star to follow.*

That's right. The wise men followed God's special star. Today, we're going to pretend

we are the wise men following the star. Line up here. Let's travel on our journey! There are 12 stars numbered 1–12. When we get to a star, I'll read the question. You will need to answer it before we go on. Ready? Here we go! *Allow different children to lead the group to the next star. If time allows, repeat the "journey" and the questions.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God wanted the wise men to find Jesus, so He put a special star in the sky for them to follow all the way to Bethlehem. They wanted to worship Jesus and bring gifts to Him. The Bible says that the star stopped and "stood over" where Jesus was. And the wise men found Him! Isn't that amazing?



Who Loved Jesus?

MATERIALS

- ☐ Who Loved Jesus? Worksheet for each student
- ☐ Crayons

INSTRUCTIONS

Print one Who Loved Jesus? Worksheet for each student. Have the students find and circle the pictures of those people who loved Jesus. Have students put an X through the pictures of King Herod.

We learned that many people loved Jesus and were excited that He was born.

- ? Do you remember some of those people? We talked about some of them today and last week. *Mary. Joseph. Shepherds. Wise men.*

Take this time to remind the children what role each of these people played in the account of Jesus's birth.

- ? And who did we talk about today that hated Jesus? *King Herod.*

That's right. And today on our worksheet there are some pictures of people who loved Jesus. I want you to put a circle around all the people who loved Jesus. But watch out! There are some pictures of King Herod in there too. He hated Jesus! I want you to put an X over his pictures.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Today, we talked about how some people loved Jesus, such as the wise men, and were happy to know that He had finally come. But there were some people who hated Jesus. King Herod was one of those people. God knew Herod's heart though, and He protected Jesus from harm.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Philippians 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

MATERIALS

- ☐ Flip Chart Memory Verse Page

INSTRUCTIONS

Using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page, point to each picture as you say each word and have the students repeat.

After the Flip Chart review, divide the entire class (including teachers) into three groups. You can do boys and girls, to start and then mix it up by age, by hair color, oldest or youngest in the family, etc. You will say a word or phrase of the memory verse while doing some sort of action—sit down, stand up, spin in a circle, touch your toes, etc. The groups will “echo” what you say and do as you repeat the verse. Continue several times. You can whisper, shout, squeak, etc. Change it up. This will help them learn.

**We’re going to practice our memory verse.
I’m going to point to the word pictures and**

you repeat after me. *After reviewing from the Flip Chart move on to the echoing game.*

Now, we’re going to play our echoing game. I want Group 1 to repeat what I say and do, then Group 2, and then Group 3 until we are all the way through our verse. Follow my actions and repeat my words as we go! Stand up and get ready now.

You may want to sing the Memory Verse Song instead of saying the verse. When finished, see if anyone can say the verse using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Jesus was perfect. And He came to do what God wanted Him to do. He was obedient, even though obeying God meant dying on the Cross. Jesus’s death on the Cross makes it possible for sinners like us to be forgiven and go to heaven someday. All who trust and believe in Jesus—what the Bible says about Him—can be forgiven and God will give them eternal life!



Applying God's Word/Snack

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

After thanking God for your snack, review today's lesson using the Flip Chart.

Some people loved Jesus and were excited about His birth. The wise men came a long, long way to find Jesus, and then they fell down and worshipped Him. They knew He was God, the King of kings. They brought treasures to Him—gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. All of these were special gifts for Jesus.

Some people did not love Jesus, but hated Him. King Herod was one of these people. He pretended to love Jesus, but God knew what he was thinking. God protected the baby Jesus from Herod's plans.

Some loved Jesus, while others hated Him.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

There are a lot of people who love Jesus and trust Him as their Savior. They've turned away from their sins and turned to Jesus. They love Jesus because He died for them and saved them from sin.

There are also people who hate Jesus. They don't believe in Him, and they don't want to obey Him.

Jesus says in His Word that only those who believe in Him will be able to be with Him in heaven. I pray that each of you come to know Jesus really well. And that one day you will trust Jesus as your Savior and believe what the Bible says about Him!

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, who saves us from our sin.
- Praise God for His great love.
- Pray that God will give us hearts to love and trust Him.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

PHILIPPIANS 2:8

(To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

And being found in
(Are you sleeping?)

Appearance as a ma-an,
(Are you sleeping?)

He humbled Himself
(Brother John,)

Be-came-o-be-di-ent.
(Brother John.)

To the point of dea-eath,
(Morning bells are ringing.)

Even-the-death-of-the cro-oss.
(Morning bells are ringing.)

Phil-ip-pi-ans
(Ding, ding, dong!)

Two verse eight.
(Ding, ding, dong!)

THIS LITTLE BABY

(To the tune of "The Muffin Man")

God sent an-angel-to tell Mary
(Oh! Do you know the Muffin Man?)

That-she would have a ba-a-by.
(The Muffin Man, the Muffin Man.)

She would have a ba-a-by—
(Do you know the Muffin Man?)

The Savior sent from God!
(Who lives on Drury Lane?)

God sent angels-to-the she-e-pherds,

The she-e-pherds, the she-e-pherds.

They ran to find the ba-a-by—

The Savior sent from God!

God sent-a-star to the wi-ise men,

The wi-ise men, the wi-ise men.

The wise men-gave-gifts to the ba-a-by—

The Savior sent from God!

This-little-baby was Je-e-sus,

Je-e-sus, Je-e-sus!

This-little-baby was Je-e-sus—

The Savior sent from God!

Think of fun ways to sing. Get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction. Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out! Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.