

Worship the King!

Quarter 9 • Lesson 13

Christmas Celebration!

1. *Connecting:* Play a game of tag.
2. *Teaching:* Act out stories about people who were invited to worship Jesus (Matthew 2:1–12; Luke 2:8–20, 25–38).
3. *Responding:* Create a song to worship Jesus and respond to who He is.

SUPPLIES

- Bible
- Stories from end of lesson, torn apart
- Optional Supplies:*
 - Memory Verse Poster
 - *The Action Bible*, images of the shepherds, the wisemen, and Simeon
 - *The Action Bible*, pages 532–537
 - Coloured pencils
 - Student Pages

Teacher Devotion

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Matthew 2:1–2

When Jesus was still a small, fragile newborn, others knew that He was worthy of worship. The shepherds hurried to the humble manger to see the Saviour the angels had spoken about. Old Simeon and Anna rejoiced at the sight of the tiny baby, for they knew He was God's promised salvation. The magi, also called wise men, travelled a long distance to worship the new King.

This week, respond to Jesus in the same way His first visitors did—with worship! Bow down like the wise men did. Tell others the amazing news as the shepherds and Anna did. Lift your voice in praise as Simeon did when he took the newborn Saviour in his arms. Allow the wonder of Jesus, God made man, to be with you this week.

Family Connection: Let families know that their children will worship Jesus as others did that first Christmas. Encourage families to share what they know or have heard about Christmas. Encourage the children to share what they learned in class with their families.

LESSON TIME

1. Connecting: Play a game of tag.

As the children come in today, welcome them with a cheery Christmas greeting! When everyone has arrived, ask the children what they remember or have heard about Jesus' birth.

Tell the children that they will play a special game of tag. Ask for a volunteer to be "It." Explain that the volunteer will try to tag the other children, who will try to escape. When he tags a child, she must link arms with him. Then the volunteer will try to tag another child. When the next child is tagged, he will link arms with the child who was tagged earlier. All the children who have been tagged must stay linked together. Once all of the children are linked together, the game is over. Then have the children sit down.

- **Did you want to be tagged? Why or why not?**

Allow 3 children to respond

- **How did you feel when there were lots of children who had been tagged and you were still running around?**

Allow 3 children to respond.

What would you think if I told you that our volunteer represents God? When "God" tagged someone, He was inviting her to be with Him. We will hear about some people God invited to be with Him and to worship Jesus.

2. Teaching: Act out stories about people who were invited to worship Jesus (Matthew 2:1–12; Luke 2:8–20, 25–38).

Divide the children into 3 groups.

Today we celebrate the birth of Jesus. Jesus is the Saviour God had promised to send to His people. Amazingly, some people recognized this, even when He was still a tiny baby!

I will give each group the story of some people who recognized that Jesus was God's promised Saviour. Each group will read its story and act it out for the whole class. One person in each group will read the story out loud while the others act it out silently.

Give each group one of the worship stories from the end of this lesson. Give the groups about 5–10 minutes to read the story and prepare their silent skit. Have each group perform their story for the rest of the group. Be sure to clap after each one.

*Optional: If you are using *The Action Bible*, have the children read the story on pages 532–537.*

The Shepherds Worship (Luke 2:8–20)

There were shepherds watching their sheep in the fields near Bethlehem, where Jesus was born. An angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds and said, "I bring you good and joyful news for everyone. Today a Saviour has been born to you—He is Christ the Lord. You will find this baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding trough." Suddenly, many angels appeared and praised God. When the angels left, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go and find this baby!" So they hurried to Bethlehem and found the baby the angel had told them about. After they saw Jesus, they told everyone about Him. Then the shepherds praised God for all they had seen.

Simeon and Anna Worship (Luke 2:25–38)

Forty days after Jesus was born, Mary and Joseph took Him to the temple to dedicate Him to God. An old man named Simeon was there. The Holy Spirit had told Simeon that before he died he would see the Saviour. When Simeon saw Jesus, he took the baby Saviour into his arms and said, “Lord, You are King over all. As You promised, I have seen Your salvation.” There was also an old woman, Anna, who had been a widow for most of her life. She worshipped and prayed at the temple every day. Anna came up to Mary and Joseph and thanked God for the baby. She also told anyone who would listen that this baby was the one they were waiting for.

The Wise Men Worship (Matthew 2:1–12)

Some wise men from a faraway country and different religion had been told that Jesus would be born in the town of Bethlehem. They had seen His star in the east and travelled a long way to worship Him. When they found Jesus, they were full of joy. They bowed down and worshipped Him. They gave Him gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh (a sweet-smelling balm). After worshipping Jesus, they returned to their own country.

Have the children remain in their groups for the rest of the lesson.

- **Why do you think God told the shepherds about Jesus?**

Allow the children to offer their ideas.

*Optional: If possible, share the image of the shepherds seeing Jesus from *The Action Bible*.*

Shepherds were not considered important in their communities. But these shepherds were the first to worship the new King. God does not think anyone is unimportant. He invites everyone to worship Jesus.

- **Why do you think God showed baby Jesus to Simeon and Anna?**

Allow the children to offer their ideas.

*Optional: If possible, share the image of Simeon holding baby Jesus from *The Action Bible*.*

Simeon and Anna were faithful believers who trusted that God would fulfil His promise. Because of this, they recognized Jesus as the Saviour. God wants everyone to know and trust Him. He invites everyone to worship Jesus.

- **Why do you think God led the wise men to Jesus?**

Allow the children to offer their ideas.

*Optional: If possible, share the image of the wise men giving gifts from *The Action Bible*.*

The wise men did not believe in the Jewish God. But they knew who Jesus was, and they travelled a long way to worship Him. God wants everyone to seek Him and know the joy He brings. He invites everyone to worship Jesus.

As we have seen, God invites everyone to worship Jesus!

- **Which story meant the most to you? Why?**
- **Were you surprised that God invited these different people to worship Jesus? Why?**
- **Do you think that God invites you to worship Jesus?**

Teacher Tip: Be prepared to answer questions children may have about worshipping Jesus. If students are interested in learning more about Jesus and what it means to follow him, you can download the Salvation Path below and share it with them.

People may not think that you are important, but you are important to God. Whether you believe in God now or are not yet ready to trust Him, He does love you and wants you to know Him. He invites you to love and worship Jesus.

3. Responding: Create a song to worship Jesus and respond to who He is.

If you are using the Memory Verse Poster, show it to the students.

The shepherds, Simeon and Anna, and the wise men all recognized who Jesus was and worshipped Him.

In your groups, think about the story you acted out earlier. How did the people in your story worship Jesus? Create a song that shows the people in your story worshipping Jesus. You can make up your own melody, or you can use the melody of a song you already know.

Give the groups 5 minutes to create their songs. Then have them share their creations with the whole class. Clap for everyone's beautiful songs.

Throughout the year, we have learned many things about Jesus and who He is. I will ask you some questions, and I want you to think about the answers quietly, in your hearts.

- **Who do you think that Jesus is?**

Give your children a few moments to think.

- **How do you want to respond to who He is?**

Give your children a few moments to think.

Optional: If you are using the Student Pages, your children can colour them.

Close your class by praying this blessing over the children:

Blessing: The shepherds, Simeon, Anna, and the wise men recognized Jesus and worshipped Him. May you also recognize Jesus and worship him.