



# WEEK 3

## ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



### **BIG IDEA**

God gives a Savior to guide us.

### **THE BIBLE**

**Jesus is Born:**

Luke 2:1-20 (John 10:14-15, 27; Psalm 25:4-5)

### THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

## LARGE GROUP TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | Christmas Light Scratch Art
- **ACTIVITY** | Herd the Sheep
- **QUESTION** | Have you ever been surprised?
- **IMAGE** | Shepherds
- **THE BIG IDEA** | God gives a Savior to guide us.
- **BIBLE STORY** | Luke 2:1-20
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Hard-boiled Egg
- **ACTIVITY** | Shepherd and Sheep
- **VIDEO** | Sheep Follow the Shepherd
- **SCRIPTURE** | John 10:14-15, 27
- **ACTIVITY** | Scratch-off Art
- **RESPONSE** | Wonder Wall
- **MUSIC** | Worship
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Philippians 2:14; John 3:16

## SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
  - Do you know where you were born?
  - Does it surprise you Jesus was born around animals in a manger?
  - How did the shepherds respond to the angels' message?
  - How would you have responded if you were there in the field?
  - Why do we need a Savior?
  - What is one area of your life where you need Jesus to help and guide you?
- **SCRIPTURE** | Psalm 25: 4-5
- **ACTIVITY** | Census Game
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Philippians 2:14; John 3:16



# WEEK 3

## ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

FOLLOW THE  
**Star**

### **BIG IDEA**

God gives a Savior to guide us.

### **THE BIBLE**

**Jesus is Born:**

Luke 2:1-20 (John 10:14-15, 27; Psalm 25:4-5)

## **LARGE GROUP TIME**

**WHAT?** *What are we talking about today?*

### **ACTIVITY | Christmas Light Scratch Art**

- Welcome to the third week of our series! We've been learning different ways God guides us.
- This week we'll discover another way God guides us as we look at the story of Jesus' birth.
- Before we do, let's do an activity to help us understand why Jesus was born.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Before the service, cover a table with a plastic tablecloth; and mix black tempera paint and a few drops of dish soap in a shallow bowl. Give the kids a piece of cardstock and have them sit around the table. Write their name on the back of their paper. Have them color their entire paper with as many different colored crayons as they would like, not leaving any white space. You can cut the paper in half for younger kids. When kids are finished, have an adult volunteer paint over their designs with the black paint. Put the painted papers in a designated area to dry.*
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *They may need help coloring their paper. Tape the paper to the table to help it stay in place while they're working.*
- You all started with some beautifully bright designs on your pages, but now they're covered in darkness. Later when our papers are dry, we're going to see how we can make the light shine through that darkness.
- You'll see that our papers are a little like Jesus. Jesus came to be a guiding light in our dark world.

### **ACTIVITY | Herd the Sheep**

- Three weeks ago, we learned about a girl who received a special message from the angel Gabriel.  
**Can anyone remember who that was?** It was Mary.

- **What was the special message she received?** Gabriel told Mary she was going to have a baby – God’s Son – and His name would be Jesus.
- **How about last week – who received a special message from Gabriel?** It was Zechariah! **What was the special message he received?**
- Zechariah received a message that he and his wife, Elizabeth, were going to have a baby named John, even though they were both old.
- This week, we’re learning about a special message angels brought to some shepherds. **Does anyone know what a shepherd does?** They protect sheep.
- Let’s play a game and pretend we’re protecting sheep.
- The cotton ball in your hands is your sheep, and you need to move it from the starting line to the sheep pen, which is the square marked on the floor.
- Here’s the catch: you can only move your sheep by blowing through your straw! Don’t use your hands or feet, and you can’t poke or push your sheep with your straw.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Designate a starting line on the floor with floor tape. At least ten feet away from the starting line, mark a square on the floor with floor tape (approximately 1’x1’ in size). Give each kid a straw and a cotton ball and have them try to blow their cotton ball or “sheep” from the starting line to the square on the floor.*
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *They may be unable to kneel on the floor. Set up this activity on a small table and offer support blowing through the straw if needed.*
- **FOR PRETEENS:** *Take this game up a notch by putting a handful of cotton balls on a long table and have someone hold a bucket under one end of the table while the preteens take turns seeing who can use a straw to blow the most sheep into the bucket in one minute.*
- One night, many years ago, some shepherds were out taking care of their sheep – much like you were just doing – when suddenly angels appeared all around them! I’m sure the light surrounding the angels was pretty bright, but their message was even more incredible. **Jesus, the Savior they had been waiting for, had just been born and would guide them forever!**

#### QUESTION | Have you ever been surprised by something wonderful?

- **Have you ever been surprised by something wonderful, like a surprise gift, party or friend coming to visit?**
- Today we’ll hear about the shepherds receiving a wonderful surprise. Not only were they surprised to see angels all around them, but they were overjoyed at the message the angels shared.

### SO WHAT? *Why does it matter to God and to us?*

#### IMAGE | Shepherds

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show the kids the image of the shepherds (in your Week 3 folder).*
- **What do you notice about this picture?**
- The sheep stay close to the shepherds, and the shepherds are leading the way. Their job is to guide all of these sheep and keep them safe.
- Jesus called Himself the Good Shepherd and said He knows all His sheep. We are like the sheep. We need to be guided and protected.
- Just like shepherds guide their sheep, **Jesus wants to guide** and take care of us.

**THE BIG IDEA | God gives a Savior to guide us.**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Each week, do a big reveal (and make it fun) when you announce the Big Idea, like:*
  - Ask the kids to give you a drum-roll by stomping their feet or patting their laps.
  - Shout the Big Idea, then point to the kids and have them shout it back. (Change it up by using funny voices, different volumes, or inflections.)
  - Have a character (either recurring or rotating) come out every week to reveal the Big Idea.
  - Write it on a piece of paper and hide it somewhere in the room. Have the kids go on a “hunt” for it. When it’s found, ask someone to come up and read it.
- This week’s Big Idea: **God gives a Savior to guide us.**

**BIBLE STORY | Luke 2:1-20**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the story in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!*
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *Give them a play nativity set like [this](#) one and let them use it to act out the story as it’s being told.*
  - The birth of Jesus was wonderful and amazing, and it was definitely not ordinary!
- **What did you hear that was unusual about where Jesus was born?** Jesus wasn’t born in a hospital or a nice room at his home. His parents were traveling for the census and couldn’t find a room to stay. They placed Jesus in a manger, which is a feeding bowl for animals.
- Jesus could’ve been born in a palace, but God let Jesus come in a very humble way, surrounded by animals and without anything fancy. Even though His surroundings weren’t fancy, what happened in the sky was magnificent!
- **How did God announce Jesus’ birth to the world?** God sent an angel to announce to shepherds in their fields the wonderful news of Jesus’ birth. Thousands of angels joined this messenger in the sky praising God!
- God could have announced Jesus’ birth to kings or important politicians, but chose to tell the shepherds first.
- Shepherds weren’t important or special. They were smelly from being with sheep all day.
- Jesus didn’t just come for people who seem important or special; He came for everyone.
- God sent Jesus, our Savior, to guide us.

**OBJECT LESSON | Hard-boiled Egg**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show the kids a hard-boiled egg, and as you’re talking, write on the eggshell different words that might describe a person who doesn’t know Jesus (e.g., alone, sinful, worried, hopeless). After filling up the egg with words, peel away the shell revealing the smooth, shiny outer layer of the egg.*
  - Today we’re going to learn how the shepherds heard the wonderful news that the someone would be born to help them.
- **Why did God send Jesus to be born? How do you think Jesus could help someone?**
  - Let’s think of some ideas and write them down on this egg.
  - Let’s think of some ideas. The shepherds in our story today may have felt alone and hopeless because they weren’t well-liked in society. Jesus brought them hope.
- **Can you think of other words that could describe a person who needs to know Jesus?**
  - When the shepherds heard the wonderful news that Jesus was born, they knew what this news

meant. Jesus would save them from their sins and forgive them.

- Just like our egg is shiny and clean when we removed the shell, Jesus could give the shepherds hope and remove all the negative words used to define them.

### ACTIVITY | Shepherd and Sheep

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Divide the kids into two lines and have the lines face each other in the center of the room. Designate one line as the shepherds and one line as the sheep. Behind each line, mark off an area that is the "sheep pen" (the safe area). When you call the name "sheep," those in the sheep line will try to tag the shepherds before the shepherds can make it to the sheep pen. When you call "shepherds," they will try to tag the sheep before the sheep make it to the pen. When a kid is tagged, they will join the opposing team. The game continues until all the kids are on one team.
- This game was a fun way to use up energy and pretend we were sheep or shepherds!
- Unlike the shepherds in our game who were running around, God sent us the perfect Shepherd who knows exactly what to do.
- God gave Jesus to guide us.

## NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

### VIDEO | Sheep Follow the Shepherd

- We've been talking about shepherds today, so let's look at this video to see learn about how sheep respond to their shepherd.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this](#) video.
- The sheep knew and listened to their shepherd's voice.
- We're going to read some verses from the Bible about Jesus and how He guides.
- As we read, think about this question: **Do you know when Jesus is trying to guide you? Do you listen to and trust Jesus?**

### SCRIPTURE | John 10:14-15, 27

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse and read it!
- **Why do you think Jesus calls Himself the Good Shepherd?**
- Just like a shepherd, Jesus loves and protects His sheep. He loves us so much that He was willing to die for our sins!
- **Who do you think are Jesus' sheep? Why do they follow Him?**
- We learned today that sheep only listen to their shepherd's voice; they trust their shepherd to take care of them and protect them.
- We know that we can trust Jesus too. God sent Jesus, our Savior, to guide us.

### ACTIVITY | Scratch-off Art

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Make sure the paint on the "scratch art" papers prepared earlier is dry. Provide items to scratch with and ask the kids to scratch a design on their page. Encourage them to scratch something that reminds them of the lesson today – a scene from the story, a word that stuck out to them, an angel, etc. If they have time, let them all share their pictures.
- Our lives can seem pretty sad or scary sometimes, but we always have hope because Jesus is the

Savior God sent to guide us.

- Your papers look pretty dark right— we can't see the color --but we're going to help some "light" and color shine through the darkness.
- Jesus is our hope when we are nervous, and our hope for our sin. We cannot save ourselves from our sin, but Jesus can. God gave Jesus, our Savior, to guide no matter what is going on around us.

### RESPONSE | Wonder Wall

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Find a space in your room to serve as your wonder wall. Set out index cards or paper stars; pens, markers, or crayons; and whatever you will use to secure the cards to the wall (such as masking tape). Allow a few minutes for the kids to think of questions that they have about life or about the Bible story and give them time to write their questions on their cards or stars. Have them tape their cards or stars on the wall.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** Let them decorate a special "wonder wall" with lights, stars, and Christmas decorations. Give them star-shaped sticky notes or stars cut from colored paper, and have them write down things they've learned or wondered about during this series.
- We're going to create space for you to express your wonder and imagination. After the Bible story each week, you will have the opportunity to write down a question or a "wonder" you have on an index card or paper star.
- **What do you wonder about our story today? What questions do you have about the night Jesus was born?**

### MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can sing any song you like, but for this lesson we like, "My Lighthouse" by Rend Collective and "One Thing Remains" by Passion.
- What good news that we can trust Jesus to always guide us! His love will never fail or run out.

### MEMORY VERSES | Philippians 2:14; John 3:16

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid memory verse magnets or stickers. Then work on the memory verse together. For ideas on how to do this well, check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming folder and give them to your small group leaders, if you'd like.

## SMALL GROUP TIME

### DISCUSSION

- **Do you know where you were born? If so, was it anything like the place where Jesus was born?**
- **Does it surprise you that Jesus was born around animals in a manger?**
- **How did the shepherds respond to the angels' message?** (*They were terrified.*)
- **How do you think you might have responded if you were there in the field that night?**
- **Why do we need a Savior?** (*Because of our sin.*)
- **What is one area of your life where you need Jesus to help and guide you?**

### SCRIPTURE | Psalm 25: 4-5

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!

- How does it make you feel to know God wants to help and guide you?
- What is one thing you can do this week to let Jesus guide you?

#### ACTIVITY | Census Game

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Have the kids line up in the center of the room or space where you are meeting. Tell them Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem for a census, which is when people are counted. Have the kids move back to the center after responding to the following statements.
- Read the following statements . . .
  - If you have three or more siblings, step to the right. If you have two or fewer siblings, step to the left.
  - If you like pineapple on your pizza, step to the right. If you don't, step to the left.
  - If you cheer for [insert local sports team], step to the right. If you cheer for a different team, step to the left.
  - If you have seen an elephant in real life, step to the right. If you haven't, step to the left.
  - If you like candy corn, step to the right. If you think candy corn is gross, step to the left.
  - If you can whistle, step to the right. If you can't, step to the left.
  - If you have gone camping outside overnight, step to the right. If you haven't, step to the left.
  - If you can curl your tongue, step to the right. If you can't, step to the left.
  - If you have seen the North Star in the sky, step to the right. If you haven't, step to the left.

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