



WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON OUTLINE



BIG IDEA

God gives hope to guide us.

THE BIBLE

Wise Men Worship Jesus:

Matthew 2:1-12 (Micah 5:2,4; Colossians 3:17)

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

LARGE GROUP TIME

- **ACTIVITY** | God's Promises Stick
- **ACTIVITY** | Pass the Present
- **QUESTION** | What is the best gift you've received?
- **OBJECT LESSON** | Pepper Picker Upper
- **THE BIG IDEA** | God gives hope to guide us.
- **BIBLE STORY** | Matthew 2:1-12
- **ACTIVITY** | Twinkling Stars
- **VIDEO** | Hope in Christ
- **SCRIPTURE** | Micah 5: 2,4
- **REFLECTION** | Star Ornaments
- **RESPONSE** | Wonder Wall
- **TALK** | RECAP OF THE MONTH
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Philippians 2:14; John 3:16

SMALL GROUP TIME

- **DISCUSSION**
 - Have you ever made a promise you couldn't keep?
 - How does it make you feel knowing God's promises are always true, even if we have to wait for them?
 - How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when the wise men came with gifts?
 - How can you put your hope in Jesus?
 - How can God's hope help and guide you?
- **SCRIPTURE** | Colossians 3:17
- **ACTIVITY** | Random Acts of Kindness
- **MEMORY VERSES** | Philippians 2:14; John 3:16



WEEK 4

ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE

FOLLOW THE
Star

BIG IDEA

God gives hope
to guide us.

THE BIBLE

Wise Men Worship Jesus:
Matthew 2:1-12 (Micah 5:2,4; Colossians 3:17)

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | God's Promises Stick

- Welcome to the last week of our series Follow the Star! We've been learning about many different ways that God guides us, and we've seen that God can be trusted.
- Now we're going to play a game to help this message "stick."
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Divide kids into groups of five or fewer. Give each group some pads of white and yellow sticky notes, and give them one minute to cover one of their teammates in as many sticky notes as possible. You can play multiple rounds and let them switch the kid who gets covered. The team with the most sticky notes on their kid at the end of one minute wins.*
- **FOR PRETEENS:** *Have them play this game with their eyes closed!*
- With all those white and yellow sticky notes all over you, you're starting to look like stars too! Just like these sticky notes "stick" to you, we know that God's promises "stick" too. Not one of God's promises has ever failed!
- Today we're going to be talking about a promise God gave to the prophet Micah that came true hundreds of years later when the wise men traveled to find Jesus.

ACTIVITY | Pass the Present

- Since it's almost Christmas, I brought a present, but I need your help unwrapping it.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Place a star ornament inside a small box ahead of time. Wrap this box in as many layers of wrapping paper, boxes, and gift bags as you'd like. The more layers the better! Have kids and leaders sit in a circle. Pass the present around while Christmas music plays in the background.*

Whenever the music stops, whoever is holding the present will unwrap one of the layers of wrapping paper around the present. Then when the music resumes, have them continue passing it. Repeat until the final layer of wrapping paper is removed and the present inside is revealed!

- **FOR PRETEENS:** Make your own saran wrap ball with a bigger prize or candy in the middle, and smaller prizes or pieces of candy wrapped throughout the saran wrap ball, and make it as big as you can. Then let them pass it around and let each person have three unwraps before passing it to the kid beside them.
- I brought this star ornament today because we're going to be learning about some people who followed a star to get to Jesus.

QUESTION | What is the best gift you've received?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show the kids the star ornament from the previous activity. Share about the best gift you've received, or have the kids share about a gift they have received.
- Have you ever received a gift you loved? It doesn't have to be expensive or fancy. Sometimes the smallest gifts can mean the most.
- Today we're going to learn about some people who traveled to worship Jesus and bring Him gifts. They wanted to see Him because they knew Jesus could give them something special: hope.

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

OBJECT LESSON | Pepper Picker Upper

- **Do you think I can pick up this pepper without touching it?** Let's try an experiment and see!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Sprinkle some black pepper on a plate. Hold up an inflated balloon and rub it on your shirt to generate static electricity. Then hold the balloon just above the pepper and watch as the pepper jumps up from the plate onto the balloon.
- **FOR PRETEENS:** Give them the supplies and let them do this activity on their own. To make it a contest, see which person can get the most pepper on their balloon without touching the pepper.
- It seemed impossible to pick up pepper without touching it. The pepper is like us when we don't know Jesus. But Jesus comes, like the balloon, and picks us up and gives hope. **What is hope?** It's a feeling of trust and peace when we know God is with us.

THE BIG IDEA | God gives hope 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 hope to guide us.**

BIBLE STORY | Matthew 2:1-12

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

- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *Teach the Bible story visually by giving them a picture Bible and letting them look at the pictures as the story is being told, or print out pictures of the wise men and Jesus.*
- The people in the story are called magi, which means wise men. They came from the East and they studied stars. **Have you ever looked at a sky full of stars and tried to count them or find patterns?** Those are some of the things they might have done.
- They saw a big and mysterious star in the sky and believed it was a sign telling them an important king was born, so they began a long journey to find this king.
- **Why do you think King Herod was disturbed when the wise men asked him where Jesus was?**
- King Herod might have thought Jesus would threaten his position as king. He told the wise men to let him know when they found Jesus, not because he really wanted to worship Jesus, but because he wanted to get rid of Jesus.
- Nothing can stop God's perfect plan though! **How did God make sure Jesus was safe?**
- God guided the wise men in a dream to not go back to King Herod.
- The wise men knew Jesus was a special king, and this hope of meeting Him kept them going on this long journey. When they finally met Jesus, they gave Him presents. Do you remember what presents they brought? They brought gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These gifts were very valuable and special.
- For hundreds of years, people knew God was going to send a Savior, and they were waiting. Jesus was the Savior God sent.
- We can have hope too. When we follow Jesus, we have hope that we can be forgiven and that we will be connected with God forever.

ACTIVITY | Twinkling Stars

- The wise men were guided by a star to Jesus, so let's play a game to see how well we could follow a twinkling star.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Divide kids into three even teams. Give one kid from each team a flashlight. Those kids will be the "twinkling stars." Give each star its own pattern: one can spin with the flashlight, one can blink with the flashlight, and one can spin and blink with the flashlight or make a circle. Have them practice and show their teammates what their pattern looks like. Turn off the lights and place the twinkling stars in three separate corners of the room. Make sure everyone else has their eyes closed and is in the center of the room. When you say, "Go!" the stars will make their patterns, and kids will make their way to their team's twinkling star. The first team to have all of its teammates arrive wins. You can also let the kids draw shapes with their flashlights while their teammates guess the shapes.*
- **How did you feel when you had to pay attention and follow your team's twinkling star?**
- The wise men had hope that the bright star in the sky would bring them to the king, and it did!

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

VIDEO | Hope in Christ

- Let's watch a video that shows what people put their hope in.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this](#) video.

- **What were some things the kids in this video said they put their hope in? What did the teachers say? How are the two answers different?**
- How would you answer the question: **“What is your hope?”** God gave us Jesus to be our hope.
- Jesus came to save us from our sins. We don’t have to do anything to earn that forgiveness. God gave Jesus so we would have hope!
- **God gave hope to guide us.**
- The wise men were searching for hope and truth. They found it when they found Jesus.

SCRIPTURE | Micah 5: 2,4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the verse and read it!*
- In the verse, the people were waiting for a Savior to come.
- **What was the Messiah, or Savior, compared to in verse 4?**
- The people were waiting for a Savior who would be their shepherd and care for them.
- **God gave people the hope of the Messiah coming to guide them.** In the same way, Jesus gives us hope and guidance.

REFLECTION | Star Ornaments

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid six craft sticks or popsicle sticks and show them how to glue them into two triangles arranged on top of each other to make a star shape. You can give them markers and jewel stickers to decorate their stars and then some yarn to tie onto it and make an ornaments. As they’re working, ask them how God gives them hope in their lives.*
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *Prepare some pre-assembled stars for them, and provide them with stickers and crayons to decorate their stars.*
- **FOR PRETEENS:** *Watch [this](#) video to teach them how to make “glue-less” exploding stars that burst into pieces when they come into contact with things like walls and tables.*
- **What did God send Jesus to bring the world?** God sent Jesus to bring hope to the world. The wise men looked at a star for direction to get to Jesus. We can take home our star ornaments to remind us of the hope Jesus brings.

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.*
- 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 in the story we heard today? What questions do you have about the story of the wise men?**

TALK | RECAP OF THE MONTH

- We’ve learned so much this month! We’ve been talking all about the different ways that God guides us using the story of Jesus’ birth. Let’s see if you can remember what we talked about.

- When we heard the story of Mary being visited by the angel, we learned that **God gives direction to guide us.**
- When we heard the story of John the Baptist's birth, we learned that **God gives people to guide us.**
- When we heard the story of Jesus' birth, we learned that **God gives a Savior to guide us.**
- And today, when we heard the story of the wise men worshiping Jesus, we learned that **God gives hope to guide us.**
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *Provide visuals to remind them of what they learned each week.*

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

- **Have you ever made a promise you couldn't keep?**
- **How does it make you feel knowing God's promises are always true, even if we have to wait for them?**
- **How do you think Mary and Joseph felt when the wise men came with gifts?**
- **How can you put your hope in Jesus?**
- **How can God's hope help and guide you?**

SCRIPTURE | Colossians 3:17

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the verse in your Bible and encourage kids to do the same. Read it!*
- **What does this verse mean when it says to do everything as if we're doing it for Jesus?**
- **What are some examples of things we can do for Jesus?**

ACTIVITY | Random Acts of Kindness

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give the kids index cards and pens or markers. Have them think of or choose from the list a random act of kindness to do this week and write or draw it on their card.*
- **FOR KIDS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:** *Help them think of acts of kindness that would be easy for them to do, and help them write them down.*
- One of our memory verses this month tells us that God so loved the world that He sent His Son. We learned today that the wise men gave their gifts and their worship to Jesus. We can worship Jesus by giving the gift of kindness to others.
- **What are some random acts of kindness you can do?** Here are some examples of things you could do with your families. Choose one to do this week, or make up your own.
- Make a Christmas card or gift basket for someone in a nursing home.
- Donate food to an organization who helps people who need food.
- Bake Christmas cookies for a neighbor.
- Read a story from the Bible with a sibling or friend.
- Send a thank you note to someone who has done something for you.

- Give a warm cup of cocoa or a bottle of water to someone working outside.

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.