

WEEK 3 ELEMENTARY LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

Jesus came to bring peace to the world.

THE BIBLE

Jesus is Born!: Luke 2:1-14;
Micah 5:2-5a

LARGE GROUP TIME

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

MUSIC | Worship

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs that go along with this month's theme. Make sure you have purchased any licenses required to play or perform these songs. For more information, [read this!](#)*
 - "Good News" (Mandisa)
 - "Joy" (For King & Country)
 - "Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee" (Go Fish)
 - "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" (Paul Baloche)

ACTIVITY | Peace Symbol

- Our memory verse for the month and many songs around Christmas time talks about "peace on earth."
- **Can you think of any symbols of peace?**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Queue up images of peace symbols (see your Shop & Prep List) to show as you mention them. Then pass out a sheet of origami paper to each kid and play this [instructional video](#), pausing between each step to give kids a chance to follow along.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Instead of origami cranes, work with kids to make doves out of coffee filters. You can find [patterns and instructions here](#).*

- There are many symbols of peace used around the world.
 - The white dove with an olive branch has been a symbol of peace that people have been using for a while everywhere.
 - The United Kingdom introduced the white poppy flower to symbolize peace.
 - The peace sign has been used a lot in the United States.
 - The “V” sign on your hand is used throughout many parts of the world.
- In Japan, they use an origami crane. Origami is the art of folding paper to make all kinds of shapes, like animals and flowers.
- This week, we’re going to make our own origami peace cranes that you can put on your Christmas tree as ornaments!

ACTIVITY | Christmas Karaoke

- Speaking of Japan, have you ever heard of karaoke? It’s when you sing along to recorded music while words appear on a screen. It was invented in Japan but it’s popular in many parts of the world. In the Philippines, for example, it’s something families like to do together all the time!
- Let’s try some Christmas karaoke together!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this karaoke video of “[Angels We Have Heard on High](#)” (or something similar). Have everyone line up behind the microphone. Have each person sing one line from the song, then step aside to let the next person sing the next line.*
- Each of you has a unique voice, and together, you all sound like *angels*! We are going to find out what actual angels had to sing about in today’s Bible story!

QUESTION | What is peace?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Ask questions and guide the conversation to help kids better grasp what peace might look like for them.*
- **What do you think peace is?**
 - Is it a quietness around you?
 - A calm feeling in your heart?
 - The opposite of fighting or war?
- Today we are going to talk about true peace that only God can give.

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

BIBLE STORY | Jesus is Born!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *It’s time to break out the costumes for a Christmas skit to tell today’s Bible story from Luke 2:1–1.! Cast four kids in the main roles of Caesar, Joseph, Mary, a shepherd, and the angel. Cast as many more kids as are interested to be the shepherds and the heavenly host of angels. Actors can memorize their parts beforehand, simply act out what you are narrating, or you can use poster board to create cue cards for actors to read along with.*

- **NARRATOR:** Over two thousand years ago, Caesar, the emperor of Rome, wanted to know how many people lived in his empire, so he commanded a census. A census is when the government counts everybody.
 - *(Enter CAESAR, walking pompously with chest out and nose in the air.)*
 - **CAESAR:** *(In a loud voice.)* Everyone, go to your hometown so I can count you! *(Exits.)*
 - **NARRATOR:** Joseph had to leave Nazareth and go all the way to Bethlehem because that was where Joseph's family was from. He went there with Mary, who was expecting a baby!
 - *(Enter JOSEPH and MARY, who trudge from one end of the room to another, huffing and puffing like they've been walking for days.)*
 - **MARY:** *(Holding belly and waddling.)* Any day now! Are we there yet?
 - **JOSEPH:** Hang in there, Mary. We'll find a place to rest soon.
 - **NARRATOR:** Not long afterward, while they were still in Bethlehem, the beautiful baby Jesus was born, and Mary wrapped him snugly and laid him in a manger. **Do you know what a manger is?** It's a food trough for barn animals!
 - *(JOSEPH and MARY sit on the ground. NARRATOR hands MARY baby doll wrapped in a blanket.)*
 - **MARY & JOSEPH:** *(Looking at baby.)* He's beautiful!
 - **NARRATOR:** The birth of Jesus wasn't just good news for Mary and Joseph, though. There happened to be shepherds nearby, and they received a big surprise!
 - *(SHEPHERDS are sitting off to the side, dozing off.)*
 - **ANGEL:** *(Enters and shouts loudly.)* Don't be afraid!
 - **SHEPHERD:** *(Wakes up startled.)* What in the huh?
 - **ANGEL:** I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people! Your Savior is born!
 - *(All SHEPHERDS cheer loudly.)*
 - **ALL ANGELS:** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to those who have God's favor!
 - **NARRATOR:** Yes, the birth of Jesus is good news for all people. That includes you, me, and the entire world! Let's celebrate!
- Let's give our actors a big round of applause!
 - Now you know the biggest, brightest, and most powerful symbol of peace ever. The baby Jesus!
 - **How can a little baby in a manger be the biggest symbol of peace?** Because Jesus was sent to earth to how to have peace and a loving relationship with God.
 - Even though bad things might continue to happen, because of Jesus we can find peace in knowing that God takes care of us and shows us how we can help others have peace, too.

BIG IDEA | Jesus came to bring peace to the world

- It's time for the Big Idea! This week, let's say it in Hindi! Did you know that Hindi is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world?
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Find a native speaker to record this on a simple video, or play the sound clip [on Google Translate](#) for kids to copy. Afterward, pass out the Big Idea passport printable to each kid and have them write today's Big Idea in box #3. Collect the passports at the end of large group time and save for next week.

- Are you ready? “Yah bade vichaar ka samay hai!”
- Yes, you’re right! It’s time for the Big Idea. Give me a loud drumroll please!
- Today’s Big Idea is . . . **Jesus came to bring peace to the world!**

VIDEO | Teaching Video, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week’s episode of Grow TV.*

VIDEO | “The Star”

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show [this scene](#) from “The Star,” depicting the night of Jesus’s birth.
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Preteens might enjoy a video [like this](#) instead!*
- **In the movie clip, who visited baby Jesus?**
- **What happened when the wild dogs came?** The other animals were afraid that the dogs would hurt somebody, but they didn’t! Instead, they bowed to Jesus, along with the farm animals and people.
- Now, things probably didn’t happen exactly this way on the night Jesus was born. But still, this movie clips hows us a little bit of what the peace God gives us looks like.
- When people realize who Jesus is and they welcome him as God’s Son and the Savior, it brings people together. It makes us want to live peacefully with others and to tell as many people as we can that **Jesus came to bring peace to the world!**

OBJECT LESSON | Magnetic Peace

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Use a magnet and iron filings scattered on a plate to show how Jesus can bring peace out of chaos.*
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** *Have magnets and cookie sheets available for kids to play with or have a powerful magnet that kids will use to pick up paper clips off the table.*
- When we don’t have peace, we might feel like this plate covered with iron filings. It’s a mess, it’s chaotic, and we feel like everything is out of control. This confusion could be in the world around us, or happening inside our hearts.
- But when we turn to Jesus, we can find peace.
- *[Hold a magnet to the plate and watch how quickly things change.]*
- When we have that kind of peace, we can trust God to give our lives order and meaning, and to help us overcome whatever messy and confusing situations we might be in.
- **Jesus came to bring peace to the world!**

BIBLE | Micah 5:2–5a

- **If you were going to introduce the greatest hero of all time to any city in all the world, where would you do it?**
- Let’s see how God was planning to introduce Jesus to the world.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Read Micah 5:2–5a to the group.*
- We might think that a big city would be the best place for a big reveal like the Savior of the world, but what did God tell the prophet Micah?
- God sent Jesus to be born in Bethlehem, a city described as “small among the clans of Judah.”
- But out of this small town came a ruler who would bring peace on earth. It’s Jesus!

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

REFLECTION | Praying for Peace

- **Jesus came to bring peace to the world!** Not just to you and me. Not just to our church. To the whole world!
- There are places in the world that really need Jesus's peace right now. There are people going hungry. There are people who have lost loved ones and homes in wars. There are people whose relatives are very sick.
- Let's take a moment to pray for the world to have Jesus's peace.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Rotate a globe to remind the group that the world is all connected.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Remember that some preteens in your care may be experiencing very real heartaches, like the ones mentioned here. These are not just issues far from home. You could say, "Some of us here and some far away" – always be sensitive to the kids in your circle.*

RESPONSE | Packed with Peace

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *On the printable provided, ask kids to write or draw different things that make them feel peaceful. You could provide magazines and have them cut things out to paste on the sheet, also. Afterward, have them write "Jesus" over everything with a marker. Be sure to have them fold the paper in half so that it looks like a suitcase.*
- Let's take a few moments to identify some things that give us peace. Maybe it's reading a good book, listening to calming music, exercising, eating a bowl of soup, anything!
- *[Give kids ample time to write or draw then have some or all of them share.]*
- These are all great examples. But the peace that comes from these things might last for only a short period of time.
- Micah 5:5 says that the ruler from Bethlehem would "be our peace." **Who is this ruler?** Jesus! Jesus came to bring peace to the world by *being* our peace. Jesus *is* peace!
- Let's write "Jesus" in big letters over everything to remind ourselves that **Jesus came to give peace to the world!** Jesus gave us himself!

MEMORY VERSE | Herald Angels

- **Did you know that angels are God's messengers?** Let's all say this verse together, in a nice, loud, clear voice like we're announcing it to the world. Are you ready?
- **"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Display Luke 2:14 on a screen or board. Split kids off into groups of four and have them try to recite the memory verse together, by saying only one word at a time. See which team could do it the fastest!*
- In today's story, we found that our memory verse came from the angels at Jesus's birth! Each of you are angel teams and you need to get out the message – our memory verse – as clearly and as quickly as you can!

PRAYER

- God, thank you for sending Jesus so that the world could know peace. Because Jesus was born, we now have a way to true and forever peace with you! Help us to share your peace wherever we go so that your creation could show more love toward one another. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **Why did Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem?**
- **Who were the first people to hear about Jesus's birth?**
- **Why do you think God wanted them to know about Jesus?**
- **Read Luke 2:14. What do you think it means to have God's favor?**
- **How would you describe peace?**
- **How did Jesus bring peace to the world?**
- **What can you do to help bring more peace to the world around you?**

ACTIVITY | Peace on Earth

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a light blue origami paper (or regular light blue paper cut into a square). Have them draw a world map on their paper (show them [a picture](#) to work off of, if you'd like). Work with them to make an [origami ball](#) once they are finished. To turn this into an ornament, loop a piece of string onto a paper clip, then insert the paper clip into the hole at one end of the ball.
 - ✂ **SPECIAL NEEDS HACK:** For kids who might struggle with folding paper, distribute globe foam balls [like these](#) and allow kids to play with them as you review today's story and Big Idea.
- God sent baby Jesus as the ultimate symbol of peace. But Jesus is more than a symbol, since Jesus is the way we can know true and lasting peace!
- Our world is in desperate need of peace. **Can you think of any examples of what's happening around the world today?**
- Let's make our own little globe to help us remember that Jesus came to bring peace to the world. Hang up this ornament somewhere at home and every time you see it, pray that more of the world can know the peace Jesus wants everyone to have!

MEMORY VERSE | Luke 2:14 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Practice this month's memory verse with the signs (a combination of SEE and ASL) we've provided in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/Luke2-14.
- Let's practice this month's memory verse together!
- **"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."**