

WEEK 3 PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

Jesus came to bring peace to the world.

THE BIBLE

Jesus is Born!
Luke 2:1-14

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Songs of Joy

- **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!
 - "Oh What a Special Night" (Animated Praise)
 - "Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee" (Go Fish)
 - "Away in a Manger" (Yancy)
 - "Jesus, Savior of the World" (Kidspring)

ACTIVITY | Peace Signs

- Today we are going to be talking a lot about the word "peace." There are many signs that mean "peace" to different people in different parts of 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 mean peace.
 - The peace sign has been used a lot in the United States.
 - The "V" sign on your hand is also used throughout many parts of the world.
- There is even a flower called the "peace lily" that many people around the world like to have or give as gifts. Just like its name, the flower helps people think about peace, and also hope and healing.
- **Want to try making your own peace lily?**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help kids bring in both sides of the paper plate, so one side will overlap the other. Only do this at the bottom of the plate, so the top will remain open. Once you have the shape of your flower, glue the straw to the plate. The green straw is going to be your stem. Cut your pipe cleaner in half and stick it into the top of the straw, so it sticks out and forms the spadix of the flower (sample here).

✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of using a paper plate, trace each toddler's hand onto white paper and cut it out. Roll the hand cutout at the bottom and tape close. Use a marker to curl the ends of the top of the fingers so that they become petals.

ACTIVITY | Peace Doves

- Like we saw earlier, the white dove is also a sign of peace.
- **Did you know that we can find the white dove in the Bible?**
- For example, when Noah and his family were in the ark because of the great big flood that covered the whole land, Noah sent a dove out to see if it was safe for them to come out of the ark. When the dove came back with a little branch in its beak, Noah knew that God remembered him and his family. The water was going down and soon they would find land.
- The dove also showed up for Jesus when he was older, and it showed that God was with him.
- Let's make our own doves to remember these stories and to remember that God is with us, too.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create dove patterns out of cardstock paper. Have kids trace the pattern on folded coffee filters, then cut them out. Clip the two parts together using a clothespin or have kids create more than one and hang each of them from some string to create a mobile. Check out templates and more detailed instructions here.

TEACHING TIME

BIBLE STORY | Jesus is Born!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before story time, make a house, angel, baby, manger, and sheep out of origami paper and place them in an envelope. along with this "letter," and seal it shut. Place it next to a globe on top of a desk or table.
- Hi friends! The last few weeks, my friend, Linda, has been writing letters to me and telling me all about her travels! She's also been reading the Bible a lot on her trip and sharing the things she's been learning about God, too.
- I got another letter today and it looks like it came from . . . Japan! **Do you know where Japan is in the world?** [Show kids its location on the globe by placing a Christmas sticker there.]
- Let's see what her letter says.
 - Dear [Your Name], *Konnichiwa!* That's how you say "hello" in Japanese! That's right, I'm back on the continent of Asia! Japan is an island country (like Singapore!) and did you know its highest mountain, Mt. Fuji, is actually a sleeping volcano?
 - I've made some new friends here and they taught me how to do *origami*, which is this cool way of folding paper to make things. I tried making a few myself to tell you about another Bible story I've been reading about!

- [Show origami house.]
 - So over two thousand years ago, Caesar, the person in charge of Rome, wanted to know how many people lived in his empire, so he decided to count everybody. This meant everyone had to travel back to the places their families came from, also known as their hometowns.
- [Show origami angel.]
 - So Mary and Joseph had to do the same thing. You remember an angel told Mary she would be the mother of God's own son? So it was at the time when Mary had the baby in her belly that she and Joseph had to go all the way to Bethlehem.
- [Show origami baby.]
 - The strange part is, once they got to Bethlehem, everywhere was so full and they didn't have a place to stay. Then ended up having to stay in a room where all the animals were. And there, baby Jesus was born!
- [Show origami manger.]
 - The Bible says that Mary placed baby Jesus inside a manger. **Do you know what a manger is?** It's a food bowl for animals!
- [Show origami sheep.]
 - And speaking of animals, there happened to be sheep nearby and shepherds taking care of them around the time Jesus was born. The shepherds were keeping watch during the night when suddenly, an angel appeared!
- [Show origami angel again.]
 - The angel told them they needed to go find Jesus. Then a whole group of angels showed up and said together, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace to those who have God's favor!"
 - Jesus was born so that everyone — you, me, the whole world — could know real peace. Jesus is the true sign of peace because Jesus shows us God loves us and is always with us.
 - I hope you enjoyed that story. I'll write again once I arrive at my next destination! *Sayonara!* Your friend, Linda.
- That was an amazing story about how Jesus was born, right? But Linda's letter also told us about why Jesus was born. **Do you remember what that was?**

BIG IDEA | Jesus came to bring peace to the world!

- Today, let's say, "It's time for the Big Idea" in Hindi. Did you know that Hindi is one of the most widely spoken languages in the world!
- Are you ready? "Yah bade vichaar ka samay hai!"
- **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 have them trace the Big Idea. Then give everyone a sticker or stamp for box #3. Collect the passports at the end of large group time and save for next week.
- You got it! Today's Big Idea is . . . **Jesus came to bring peace to the world!**

VIDEO | Joy to the World, Episode 3

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this week's episode of Cali's World.*

ACTIVITY | Peace Magnet

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Give each kid a bag with foam sticker letters that spell "peace on earth," a foam frame, and one adhesive magnet.*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Trace the words "peace on earth" using the foam letters on a piece of paper. Photocopy this onto cardstock paper and give each little a copy. Have toddlers locate the right letters and place them on their paper where they should go.*
- Dump out all the stickers from your bag. I wonder what this could spell? All the letters are out of order and so confusing.
- *[Help kids locate each letter and place it on their frame.]*
- Look at that! We were able to find something that made sense from that mixed-up pile of letters.
- Sometimes, this world can feel out of order and confusing, too. But we can feel peace because God is doing something about it. As a matter of fact, God already did. God gave us Jesus so that we can find peace whenever this world feels like a scary place.
- **Jesus came to bring peace to the world.** Make sure you hang your magnet on your fridge (or some other place at home for magnets) so we don't forget!

PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Play this song again (or a different one featuring kids from different parts of the world) before praying together.*
- Dear God, thank you so much for sending Jesus to bring peace to the world! We know that sometimes this world can feel big and scary, but we know you are always there for us to give us peace. Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Edible Gift Box

- People in different countries eat different things during Christmas time. In Japan, where my friend Linda is right now, it's tradition to eat fried chicken, while in Germany, many families enjoy a Christmas goose.
- While the food might be very different from place to place, one thing many of them share in common is giving gifts during the holidays! And of course, everyone everywhere can get the greatest gift of all . . . Jesus! And **Jesus came to bring peace to the world!**
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Help kids spread icing on a graham cracker square. Lay a length of licorice candy from top to bottom of the square and then from side to side of the square (like ribbons). You could also give kids sprinkles to decorate their "gift box." Additionally, go ahead and share treats from a snack box featuring a different country this week, if you'd like!*

ACTIVITY | How Far Peace Goes

- Today we heard that Mary and Joseph traveled back to their hometown. **Do you remember why?**
- That's right, the ruler of Rome wanted to count everybody who lived in the empire.
- **Do you know how far they had to travel?**
- Those are good guesses! First, let's practice measuring distance by finding out how long our room is.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Show kids a yardstick (or meter stick) then measure the length or perimeter of the room with it. Ask kids to be markers for you by sitting or standing at each yard (or meter).*
- So our room is ____ yards (meters). That's pretty big, right?
- Mary and Joseph traveled from where they were living in Nazareth to the city of Bethlehem. That distance was about 90 miles (or about 145 kilometers).
- You see this measuring stick? That means, we would need close to 160,000 (or "over 140,000" if using meters) of these to cover the distance they traveled! That's a lot!
- But no distance is too great for God. God wants to let us know how precious we are, no matter where we are in the world. Whenever we feel afraid or alone, we know that God is with us. That's why **Jesus came . . . to bring peace to the world!**

ACTIVITY | Packed with Peace

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Cut construction paper into a suitcase shape. Pre-cut the pieces from the printable or provide safety scissors for kids to cut out themselves.*
- **Which of these things help you feel peaceful and calm you down?**
- These are all wonderful ways to help us feel peace but they don't last very long. When Jesus gives peace, it lasts forever. We never have to worry about whether or not Jesus loves us. We never have to be afraid because Jesus is always with us.
- Let's paste this picture of baby Jesus into our suitcase to help us remember that **Jesus came to give peace to the world!**

MEMORY VERSE | Luke 2:14 (NIV)

- Did you know this month's memory verse comes from today's Bible story? It was said by a large company of angels. 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:** *Have kids practice saying the verse together as a "company of angels," but change up the "type" of angel they are each time (e.g., whispering angels, shouting angels, chipmunk angels, underwater angels, jumping angels, opera angels, etc.).*

PLAY TIME

While you're waiting for parents to pick up their kids . . .

ACTIVITY | Coloring Page

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print and distribute the coloring page along with crayons or markers. As the kids color, you can review today's Bible story, Big Idea, and memory verse. To reinforce the around the world theme, consider passing out passport visa or world flags stickers when they complete their coloring page.*

ACTIVITY | Merry Christmas, World!

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Use a phrasebook or a video ([like this](#) one) to teach kids how to say, "Merry Christmas" in different languages!*

ACTIVITY | Airport Play

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Prepare small suitcases or duffel bags, articles of clothing, books, toothbrushes, stuffed animals and other things kids might pack to travel the world. Have kids pack a suitcase for their imaginary trip and you could even turn this into a race to see who does it the fastest. For added fun, print out play plane tickets ([like these](#)) and have kids pretend to be at the airport.*
✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Find airport or travel themed play sets or sticker books for toddlers.*

Encourage your preschoolers to help clean up the room while they wait for their parents.