



# 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

December 13-14, 2014

DATE

Shepherds and Wise Men

LESSON TITLE

Matthew 1:21  
Adventure Bible (p. 1052)

WHERE TO FIND IT

God speaks to us

MAIN POINT

## schedule

**Connect Time (15 minutes):** Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

**Large Group (30 minutes):** Begin 20 minutes after the service starts. Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group.

**Small Group (15 minutes):** Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

## tips

Today, we're talking about how God speaks to us. This is a tough concept for kids (and adults), so be ready to share ways God speaks to *you*. And if you're not sure, ask God to tell you!

## check-in/out

Encourage kids to share what they wrote on their bracelet...and why.

## large group heads up

We're talking about the Christmas story again, but this time, we're focusing not just on how God wants to be with us but also how he wants to *speak* to us.



## connect time

**GOAL:** *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

***\*The first slide of the Keynote has 13 minutes of Christmas music. Play it while kids you search for stars!***

### **LISTEN TO FIND THE STAR**

- Pick two students to pretend to be wise men.
- Show the group which **color paper** you have (each small group has a different color). Draw a star on the piece of paper using **markers**.
- Then have the 2 wise men close their eyes as the rest of the team hides a star somewhere in the room.
- The two wise men will walk around the room trying to find the star and the rest of the group will say "getting brighter" as the wise man gets closer to the star and "getting darker" as the wise man moves away from the star. *(You'll have to move as a group with your "wise men" so clues don't get all mixed up.)*
- Once the wise men find the star, pick two new wise men and play again, until everyone has had a turn to look for the star.
- If necessary, add extra challenges to the game. Here some ideas: Wise men will only get 3 "brighter/darker" clues, wise men can only walk backward as they search, or wise men must bunny hop. Better yet, let kids come up with their own twists!
- **Then ask kids to share the best and worst parts of their week.**

**Before you head into Large Group, remind them of your expectations for their behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.**



## instructions

**Goal:** Kids will be able to (1) retell the story of Jesus's birth including the story of the shepherds and wise men, (2) understand ways God speaks to people in the Bible and (3) identify ways they can listen to God.

**Why?** God wants to speak to us, but it's important to know that so we remember to listen.

**Tips:** Open up the discussion as much as you can. Share how God speaks to you. Ask kids specific questions to help them share and/or discover how God speaks to them too.

## small group

### REVIEW THE STORY

1. How did God speak to Joseph?
2. How did God speak to the shepherds?
3. How did God speak to the wise men?
4. What was different about the way he spoke to all three of them? What was the same?

### MAKE IT PERSONAL

- How else might God speak to us? How does he speak to *you*? Come up with ONE word to describe how God speaks.
  - Write it on a **large, tear-off sheet of paper**.
  - Share: Did anybody feel like God said something to you during Large Group? How did God speak? What did he say? (Encourage kids to do what God says!)
- Ask: What can we do to be ready to listen to God?
  - Write that on the large, tear-off sheet of paper too.
- Give each kid a **strip of Christmas paper**.
  - It's a bracelet reminder that God wants to speak to them. They can write a word from the large piece of paper to remind them of HOW God speaks or they could write a way we can listen to remind them to practice that this week.
- Help kids attach the paper strips around their wrists like wrist bands (they're self-stick strips).

**\*Then pray with the kids, asking God to speak to us this week.**

*If you have extra time, play the Connect Time game again. Or try the listening game on the following page:*



*Say: "I'm taking a plane to (choose a destination) and I'm taking (choose an item or person)." The first letter of the destination must be the **same** as the first letter of the item or person he's taking, **but don't tell the kids that rule!** For example, you might say, "I'm taking a plane to Florida and I'm taking French fries."*

*Then ask kids where they want to go and who/what they want to bring. If they choose a location and item/person to bring (both of which share the same first letter), tell them they can come with you on the trip. If they don't, they can't come with you...yet. Encourage them to listen very carefully to see if they can figure out who can come and who can't. (But at the end, tell them **WHY** some could come and some couldn't! And assure them that you'd want them all to come along.)*

## special notes

Be prepared to share an example of the ways God speaks to you! If you want, you can even share a specific example of what God said...and what you did about it!

## presenter tips

Preview today's videos here:

Birth of Jesus:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRWIEzyMn9o&list=UUO8DQzvSJY\\_oxtQMUxiqmA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRWIEzyMn9o&list=UUO8DQzvSJY_oxtQMUxiqmA)

Shepherds:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaeBx6bPlv4&list=UUO8DQzvSJY\\_oxtQMUxiqmA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaeBx6bPlv4&list=UUO8DQzvSJY_oxtQMUxiqmA)

Wise Men:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qxqCEqf0N0&list=UUO8DQzvSJY\\_oxtQMUxiqmA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qxqCEqf0N0&list=UUO8DQzvSJY_oxtQMUxiqmA)

## script

*\*Click to play intro music.*

Hey guys, welcome to Kids Club! I'm so glad to see you here. Looked you were playing a fun Christmas game during Connect Time. We'll talk more about the wise men's story in a little bit but first of all, raise your hand if you were able to find the star your team hid (let kids respond). Wow, a lot of you! Can somebody tell me how you found it? (Let kids respond.) That's right, you had to *listen* to your team.

### GOD SPEAKS

Well, I'm glad you guys got to practice listening, because today is all about listening to God—and how he wants to speak to us. He can speak to us in a lot of different ways. Today, we're going to be talking about the story of when Jesus was born. You may have heard this before but today we're going to specifically look for the way God spoke to different people.

Before we start though, let's see what you already know about the Christmas story. Everybody stand up! (Let kids stand.) Find a friend or any other person and tell them ONE thing about the Christmas story. Just one. And if you've never heard the story of Jesus' birth before, tell them one thing you know about Christmas! (*Give kids a few minutes to share together. Then have them sit and let 2-3 kids share.*)

Wow! You guys already know a ton about the day Jesus was born. Let's take a minute to watch a quick video to review. While you watch, see if you notice God speaking to someone.

### Video: Birth of Jesus

Did anyone notice God speaking to someone? (Let kids say: Yes!) Who did He speak to? (Let kids say: Joseph.) How did he speak to Joseph? (Let kids respond.) That's right, through an angel in a dream. And how do you think Joseph felt? (Let kids respond.) I bet you're right!



## script continued

Well, once Jesus was born, God sent angels to some other people. Let's check it out! Once again, see if you can figure out where God is speaking.

### **Video: Shepherds**

Who did God speak to this time? (Let kids say: The shepherds.) How did he speak to them? (Let kids respond.) Yep, through angels in the sky. And how did the shepherds feel when the angels came down to tell them about baby Jesus's birth? (Let kids respond.) Yes, they were SO excited. In fact, what did they decide to do once the angels told them about Jesus? (Let kids respond.) Yes, they went to see him! So God sent angels to speak to the shepherds and they listened and left everything to go find Jesus.

### **WISE MEN**

All right, time to hear about one more way God spoke to people about Jesus' birth. This time, God didn't send angels. Let's watch one last video to find out another way God spoke:

### **Video: Wise Men**

So God talked to the wise men in 2 different ways. What were they? (The star brought them to Jesus and the dream warned them not to return to Herod.) And how do you think the wise men felt about leaving their homes and traveling from far away to go see Jesus? (Let kids respond.) I bet you're right!

Let's listen to a song to help us understand how the shepherds and wise men—and many others—must have felt when Jesus arrived. Remember, God had told them about Jesus hundreds of years earlier. Here's one of the things he said about him through the prophet Isaiah:

**SLIDE: Isaiah 9:6 A child will be born to us.**

**A son will be given to us.**

**He will rule over us.**

**And he will be called**

**Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God.**

**He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever  
and Prince Who Brings Peace.**

How would you feel knowing someone like that was coming? Imagine it as you listen to this song. Then, if you want, thank God that the rescuer came!

### **Music Video: Savior Coming**

### **GOD WANTS TO SPEAK TO US**

You know, just like God spoke to people in the Bible, he wants to speak to us! There are lots of ways God speaks to us. In those three videos that we just watched, what's ONE way God spoke to people? (Let 3-5 kids share.) That's right!



## script continued

God can speak to us in those ways...or in other ways. One way God speaks to me is (*share a personal example of one way God speaks to you*). We're going to watch or just listen to a video about some ways God speaks. You can look at words on the screen or lie down, close your eyes and listen. Take a moment and get comfortable. (Let kids readjust.)

### **Video: Take A Minute / Listen**

Wow, some of you probably heard God speak. If you didn't, that's OK! He will speak to you. Just be patient, and continue to ask him to talk to you.

### **WORSHIP**

To think about listening, let's sing a song now to declare that we want to hear God's voice.

### **Music Video: Listen**

### **PRAYER**

Ask somebody to come and thank God for speaking to us.



**script continued**

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# PREP needs



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## connect time supplies

Per group:

1 sheet of colored paper (please choose a different color per group)  
markers

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## small group supplies

Per kid

1 paper chain piece to use as bracelet (OT: IN-48/5962)

Adventure Bible (p. 1052)

Per group

Markers  
Large, tear off sheet of paper

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## large group supplies

Adventure Bible (p. 1052)

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## a/v needs

1. CHRISTMAS intro music: Slide with this loop: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AzA-MwsSmM>
  2. Video: Birth of Jesus ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRWIEzyMn9o&list=UUO8DQzvSJY\\_ooxtQMUxiqmA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRWIEzyMn9o&list=UUO8DQzvSJY_ooxtQMUxiqmA))
  3. Video: Shepherds ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaeBx6bPlv4&list=UUO8DQzvSJY\\_ooxtQMUxiqmA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaeBx6bPlv4&list=UUO8DQzvSJY_ooxtQMUxiqmA))
  4. Video: Wise Men [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qxqCEqf0N0&iist=UUO8DQzvSJY\\_ooxtQMUxiqmA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qxqCEqf0N0&iist=UUO8DQzvSJY_ooxtQMUxiqmA)
  5. SLIDE: Isaiah 9:6 A child will be born to us.  
A son will be given to us.  
He will rule over us.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God.  
He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever  
and Prince Who Brings Peace.
  6. Music Video: Savior Coming (Mae or Dave will have file)
  7. Video: Take A Minute / Listen (<http://vimeo.com/104309273>)
  8. Music Video: Listen (<http://vimeo.com/107752866>)
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## connect questions

Tell me about the shepherds and wise men.  
How does God speak to us?

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## parent page

Daily Talk Starts – separate doc.