



# 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

December 12-13, 2015

DATE

Shepherds and Wise Men

LESSON TITLE

Matthew 1:21. Luke 2:10-13. Isaiah 9:6

WHERE TO FIND IT

God speaks to us.

MAIN POINT

## schedule

**Connect Time (20 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 (10 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

While kids are doing the small group activity, share with them how YOU hear from God. What are the different ways that he speaks to you, and what does he say or show you?

## check-in/out

Ask kids what kind of journal they made, and what they drew or wrote inside it.

## large group heads up

This week we'll continue the Christmas story by talking about how God spoke to the shepherds and wise men, and how God speaks to us too!

## 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-** This game can be played with as many as **FOUR** teams.

- Pick 2 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
- 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 or three 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!

### TALK ABOUT IT

- Do you remember why the wise men followed a star? Who sent the star?
- What's your favorite part of Christmas?

**Before you go to Large Group, you can also remind kids of the expectations for Large Group 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?** You don't have to be grown up to hear from God! We want kids to understand and believe that God speaks to them no matter what age they're at.

**Tip:** Don't forget to pray with kids when you're done with the activity!

## small group

### REVIEW THE STORY

1. How did God speak to Joseph and the shepherds? (through angels)
2. How did God speak to the wise men? (he used a star to lead them)
3. Why did God speak to the shepherds and wise men? (so that they could go find Jesus and worship him, so the wise men could lead Herod away from Jesus)
4. What ways does God speak to us? (the Bible, other people who tell us about him, praying, worshipping/music, quiet time, when God put words or images in our mind)
5. Has God ever spoken to you before? What did he say? (Let kids respond how they want)

### MAKE IT PERSONAL

- Tell kids that we're going to pray together before our activity today.
- ***Pray this as a group: "God, speak to us right now. We are ready to listen to you. We want to be closer to you, and experience your love. Amen."***
- After the prayer, tell kids that we're going to have a few minutes of quiet time. Tell them to put their heads down and keep their eyes closed, but don't talk. (*Remind kids that God might give them a word or picture, or maybe put a thought in their head that he wants them to do. This is a time to listen to him.*)
- After a few minutes, have kids open their eyes, then hand them a **journal** and **markers**.
- Tell kids that this is a prayer journal, and it's a place they can write or draw what they hear from God, as well as what they want to say to him. It can be words, pictures, or both! They can fill it up today, or leave space for another time.
- If there's time, let kids share with the group what they wrote or drew!

*Extra Time? Play Simon Says, but instead of acting out motions, have kids draw! Give them paper and markers and do the following:*

- *Give kids an instruction, and they have to draw whatever you say. But ONLY if you say Simon Says first.*
- *Once the game is over, let everybody look at each other's papers to see if they following the directions or not!*
- *Here's a list of instructions, but make sure to say a few of them without Simon Says. You can also make up your own!*
  - *Simon says draw a large rectangle*
  - *Simon says draw three eye balls in the rectangle*
  - *Simon says draw a triangle nose in the middle*
  - *Simon says draw 5 squiggly lines*
  - *Simon says draw eyelashes on the eyeballs*
  - *Simon says draw a mouth in the rectangle*
  - *Draw a second nose in the rectangle*
  - *Simon says draw 3 hearts*
  - *Simon says draw spikes coming out of the top of the rectangle*
  - *Simon Says switch your paper with a friend*
  - *Simon Says draw ears on the sides of the rectangle*
  - *Simon Says give your paper back to your friend*
  - *Draw some teeth*
  - *Simon Says give your rectangle hands*
  - *Simon Says give you rectangle one foot*
  - *Give your rectangle another foot*
  - *Simon Says give your rectangle freckles*

## special notes

If you have time, share with kids how God speaks to you! What's a specific way that you hear from him? It could be reading the Bible, spending time in nature, worshipping through music, or

## presenter tips

We'll be watching three separate videos to help illustrate today's lesson:

Birth of Jesus:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRWIEzyMn9o&list=UUO8DQzvSJY\\_ooxtQMUxiqmA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRWIEzyMn9o&list=UUO8DQzvSJY_ooxtQMUxiqmA)

Shepherds:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaeBx6bPlv4&list=UUO8DQzvSJY\\_ooxtQMUxiqmA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TaeBx6bPlv4&list=UUO8DQzvSJY_ooxtQMUxiqmA)

Wise Men:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qxqCEqf0N0&list=UUO8DQzvSJY\\_ooxtQMUxiqmA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qxqCEqf0N0&list=UUO8DQzvSJY_ooxtQMUxiqmA)

## script

*\*Click to play intro music.*

### WELCOME AND INTRO

Hey everybody! I'm so glad to see you here. We're going to have a really fun time in Kids' Club today! Raise your hand if you just got to hide the star? (Let kids respond.) Raise your hand if you got to find the star? (Let kids respond.) How did you find it? (Let a kid respond.) That's right, you listened to your teammates to hear where you should go!

Today we're going to talk about some more of the Christmas story, and how the wise men were a big part of it. But before we do that, I have a question. Does you guys ever talk to people? (Let kids respond, "Yes.") Okay, who talks to you during the day? (Call on 3-4 kids to share.) Thanks guys! You're right, lots of different people speak to us. Our friends, our parents, our teachers, our brothers and sisters. There's someone else who speaks to us, can you guess who it might be? (Let kids answer, "God" or "Jesus") That's right, God speaks to us!

Does God speak to us in normal ways, like our friends talk to us? (Let kids answer, "No") You're right, he doesn't just talk to us like a regular person would. He speaks to us in LOTS of different ways. Today we're going to learn about more of the Christmas story, and see how much God speaks to people.

### JESUS IS BORN

Raise your hand if you're excited for Christmas! (Let kids respond.) Me too. Can someone tell me why we celebrate Christmas? (Call on one kid to respond.) Thanks, you're right! Christmas is Jesus' birthday. It's all about how God promised to send a rescuer for hundreds and hundreds of years, and then, he finally came!

Let's watch a short video to help us remember how Jesus was born. As you watch, see if you notice God **speaking** to anyone.



## script continued

### Video: Birth of Jesus

So, did anyone see if God spoke to someone? (Let a kid respond.) He did! Who did he speak to? (Let a kid respond, "Joseph") Yep, he spoke to Joseph. **(Click to show picture of Joseph.)** He didn't speak to Joseph during the day though...how did he speak? (Let a kid respond.) That's right, he spoke through an angel in a dream. Kind of strange, huh? Well guess what? All throughout the Bible, God uses angels to speak to people!

### GOD SPEAKS TO THE SHEPHERDS

Do you think God was done speaking people to people after that? (Let kids respond, "No") You're right! God still had a lot to say. Let's watch another video. This time, try to figure out if God speaks to anyone again.

### Video: Shepherds

Wow, what an amazing part of the Christmas story! Did God speak this time? (Let kids respond, "Yes!") He sure did. Who did he speak to? (Let kids respond: "Shepherds") Yep, he spoke to the shepherds, and told them something really exciting! **(Click to show picture of shepherds.)** What did God want the shepherds to know? (Let kids respond: "Jesus was born" etc.) Yes, he wanted to tell them that the rescuer had been born. The rescuer they were waiting for all this time. Here's what the angel said:

**SLIDE: Luke 2:10-13 "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."**

These shepherds were just regular people, taking care of their sheep out in the country. They might have even been pretty young. And God chose to speak to them. He invited them to come be a part of the first Christmas. How do you think they felt when God chose to speak to them? (Let kids respond.) I bet you're right. They must have felt excited, or happy, or maybe even honored!

### GOD SPEAKS TO THE WISE MEN

God STILL wasn't done speaking to people! There's one more part to our story today, and we're going to watch another video to see what happens. As you watch, try to figure out the special way God used to speak this time.

### Video: Wise Men

So who did God speak to this time? (Let kids respond, "The wise men"). That's right, the wise men. **(Click to show picture of wise men.)** How did he speak to the wise men? (Let a couple kids answer, "By leading the wise men to Jesus with a bright star". Kids may need help understanding this part.) Good job. God used a bright star to speak to the wise men. It's how he lead them to baby Jesus!

It might seem a little strange that God used a star to lead the wise men, but it's actually really



## script continued

amazing! It shows that God can speak to us in all kinds of ways, not just through words.

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

God spoke to Joseph, the shepherds, and the wise men. He had a plan, and he needed to speak to all those people to help them be a part of that plan. Do you think God wants us to be a part of his plan too? (Let kids respond.) He does! He sent a rescuer to save us, so that we can be part of his story. That's why he speaks to us.

There are a lot of ways that God speaks to us. In the Christmas story, he used angels, and even a star to speak! Let's look at the screen and see some ways that God might try to speak.

- **(Click to show Bible image.)** He speaks to us through words in the Bible.
- **(Click to show Kids' Club image.)** He speaks to us through other people, who teach us about what he says. Like when we come to Kids' Club!
- **(Click to show head image.)** He speaks to us through words or pictures that puts in our heads. When we pray, he might gently tell us something.
- **(Click to show music image.)** He speaks to us through songs, when we worship him and spend time being close to him.
- **(Click to show quiet image.)** He speaks to us when it's quiet. Sometimes, we just need to be silent and listen, so that we can hear what he wants to say!

Here's something that God told us a long time ago, in a book called Isaiah. This verse is all about how a rescuer would come one day to save the world. (Lead kids in repeating it along with you.)

**SLIDE: Isaiah 9:6 "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."**

God told us this because he loves us, and wanted us to know that a rescuer was coming. He speaks to us today because he wants to be close to us, not far away! He has still has a lot to tell us, and we need to make sure we're ready to listen! Here's a song that helps us remember how to listen for God's words.

### **Music Video: Listen**

### **PRAY**

Lord, we are so glad that you want to speak to us, and be close to us. We love you, and thank you so sending our rescuer, Jesus.

### **WORSHIP**

Let's spend time with God and celebrate how he sent Jesus to save the entire world!

### **Music Video: Joy to the World**

*\*Dismiss kids to small groups.*



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# PREP needs



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## connect time supplies

Per group

6 pieces of the same color of paper per group per service (each team will get a different color)

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## small group supplies

Per kid

1 prayer journal

Per group

1 Bible

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## large group supplies

Bible

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## a/v needs

1. Song slide: for when kids enter the room (All that You Need instrumental; mp3 only; can be downloaded on website)
2. Video: The birth of Jesus (videos>misc>birth of jesus)
3. Slide: Joseph
4. Video: Shepherds (videos>misc>shepherds)
5. Slide: Shepherds
6. Slide: Luke 2:10-13 "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you. You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."
7. Video: Wise Men (videos>misc>shepherds)
8. Slide: Wise men
9. Slide: Bible
10. Slide: Kids' Club
11. Slide: Head
12. Slide: Music
13. Slide: Quiet
14. Slide: Isaiah 9:6 "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."
15. Music Video: Listen (<https://vimeo.com/107752866>)
16. Music Video: Joy to the World (Christmas>35\_Joy to the world)

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## connect questions

How did God speak to the shepherds and wise men?  
How can God speak to us?

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## parent page