



# WEEK 4

## PRESCHOOL LESSON OUTLINE

FOLLOW THE  
**Star**

### **BIG IDEA**

God gives hope to guide us.

### **THE BIBLE**

**Wise Men Worship Jesus:**  
Matthew 2:1-12

### THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

## **WELCOME TIME**

- **ACTIVITY** | Make a Path
- **ACTIVITY** | Play-Doh Stars

## **TEACHING TIME**

- **MUSIC** | Worship Time
- **THE BIG IDEA** | God gives hope to guide us.
- **BIBLE STORY** | Matthew 2:1-12
- **ACTIVITY** | Find the Stars
- **PRAYER**

## **DISCUSSION TIME**

- **DISCUSSION** | Snack and Discussion
- **ACTIVITY** | Circle Time
- **ACTIVITY** | Three Ring Hop
- **MEMORY VERSE** | John 3:16

## **PLAY TIME**

- **ACTIVITY** | Coloring Page of the Week
- **ACTIVITY** | Wise Men Figures
- **ACTIVITY** | Flashlight Dance



# WEEK 4

## PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



### BIG IDEA

God gives hope to guide us.

### THE BIBLE

**Wise Men Worship Jesus:**  
Matthew 2:1-12

## WELCOME TIME

### ACTIVITY | Make a Path

- Welcome back to church! In this series, we are learning about when baby Jesus came to earth and brought us hope! Today, we'll learn about some people who came to worship Jesus.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids floor tape to use to make their own paths around the room. They can make the paths go under tables or over chairs or anywhere they want. Let them take turns following the paths they created.
- **Were some paths tricky to follow?** The people in our story knew just what path to follow to find Jesus. Those wise men followed a special star in the sky that led them to where Jesus was.

### ACTIVITY | Play-Doh Stars

- We can use our Play-Doh to make stars, like the star that led the wise men to Jesus!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Provide Play-Doh and star cookie cutters for the kids to play with. Show the kids how to push the cookie cutter into the dough to make a mark or pull out the star shape.
- God put a big, special star in the sky right over where Jesus was. The wise men followed the star to find Jesus. They knew that when God sent Jesus, God gave us hope to guide us.

## TEACHING TIME

### MUSIC | Worship Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Spend some time singing with your preschoolers. You can sing any songs you'd like, but for this lesson we like, "Joy to the World" by Bethel Kids and, "We Three Kings" by Tenth Avenue North.

**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**

- Last week, we learned about Mary and Joseph having baby Jesus. A little while after He was born, Jesus had some special visitors. **Have you ever had someone come from far away to visit you? Maybe a friend or grandparent or aunt or uncle?** Let's read from the Bible to find out who came to visit Jesus.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Look up the story in your Bible and read it to your preschoolers.*
- Wise men came from far away to the city of Jerusalem. They asked the king an important question. **Who did the wise men want to find?** The wise men wanted to find Jesus. They said, "We saw His star and we want to worship Him."
- **Did the king like the idea that the wise men wanted to find Jesus?** No, King Herod did not like this at all. He asked his own smart people where Jesus was, and they told King Herod Jesus was born in Bethlehem. But the wise men didn't need King Herod for directions.
- **What did the wise men follow to find Jesus?** They followed a star! They found Jesus and then they worshiped Him.
- **How many presents did the wise men bring Jesus?** They brought Jesus three different kinds of presents: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. We've probably all seen gold before; it's a precious metal, we use it a lot in jewelry. Frankincense and myrrh are like fancy perfumes that smell good and heal people.
- The wise men knew Jesus was special. Jesus brought hope to the world. Hope means we trust that God loves us and safely guides us. God gave Jesus to be hope to guide us.

**ACTIVITY | Find the Stars**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Hide foam hearts in a plastic bin full of dried rice. Add one really big star to the rice. Have the kids dig in the rice to find all the stars.*
- You found the stars! In our story today, there was one star in the sky that was different. The special star led the wise men to Jesus, who brings hope to us all.

**PRAYER**

- Let's spend time talking with God in prayer.
- Dear God, we are so happy You gave Jesus to give us hope. We want to worship you just like the wise men did. Amen.

## DISCUSSION TIME

### DISCUSSION | Snack and Discussion

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass out a snack to all of your preschoolers and ask them to sit and listen while they eat. Your discussion will be more effective when they're busy sitting and snacking!
- **Who did the wise men ask about where the special baby was born?** (King Herod.)
- **Was King Herod happy about baby Jesus?** (No.)
- **In what city was Jesus born?** (Bethlehem.)
- **What did the wise men follow to find Jesus?** (A star.)
- **How many presents did they bring Jesus?** (Three presents.)

### ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Before the service, put small prizes, such as [glow-in-the-dark stars](#) into a big box and wrap the box with Christmas wrapping paper. Have the kids join you in a circle on the floor. Shake the box a little and pass it around the circle for each kid to shake and guess what is inside the box.
- **What do you think is in this present?** (Open the box.) There is a gift for everyone! We're always happy to get presents.
- Presents like this show how much you care about someone. God showed us care and love by giving us Jesus.

### ACTIVITY | Three Ring Hop

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Put three hula hoops on the floor with their edges touching. Line the kids up next to the hoops to take turns hopping through them. Have them shout, "One, two, three gifts!" as they hop from one hoop to the next. Then each kid can run around to the end of the line and hop again.
- In today's story, the wise men brought Jesus three kinds of gifts. **Do you remember what the three gifts were?** They brought gold, frankincense and myrrh.

### MEMORY VERSE | John 3:16

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Check out the Memory Verse Guide in your Programming Folder for ideas on how to help your preschoolers memorize Bible verses. Here are the hand motions for this month's memory verse . . .

**GOD** (point up to the sky)

**SO LOVED** (hug yourself)

**THE WORLD** (spread arms out in a big circle)

**THAT HE GAVE** (open hands as if giving a gift)

**HIS ONLY SON** (pretend to rock a baby in your arms).

## PLAY TIME

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

**ACTIVITY | Coloring Page of the Week**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give every kid a Coloring Page, plus markers or crayons. As they color, remind them about the wise men coming to worship Jesus, who was the hope of the world.

**ACTIVITY | Wise Men Figures**

- The Bible doesn't tell us how many wise men there were in the group who came from far away to worship Jesus. We know that they brought three gifts.
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids some wise men figurines from a play nativity set. Have them play with the figurines and act out how the wise men might have traveled, visited the king, worshiped Jesus, and brought Him gifts.
- **When you travel far away, would you want to walk, ride a camel, or ride in a car?**
- The wise men traveled from far away, and may have walked or ridden on animals, such as camels.

**ACTIVITY | Flashlight Dance**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give the kids small flashlights to hold while they dance to upbeat music. If possible, turn off half of the lights in your room so the flashlights will be more visible.

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