

WEEK 4 LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

Jesus is God's love
for everyone.

BIBLE

Angels Appear to Shepherds:
Luke 2:1-20

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Songs of the City

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs of your choice, but here are some suggestions 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!](#)
 - "Christmas is Jesus" (Go Kids Music)
 - "Go Tell It on the Mountain" (Love to Sing)
 - "Jesus, Savior of the World" (KidSpring Children's Ministry)
 - "Joy to the World" (Love to Sing)

ACTIVITY | Angels We Have Hidden on High

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Hide an angel figurine somewhere in the room. Let the kids know the only way to invite our angel friend to our group is to complete this morning's movements! Once complete, give kids hints in case they're not able to spot the angel on their own.
- Sometimes, we have friends who are shy. **The best way to make them comfortable is to do what?** That's right! Wiggle around and give them a big invitation!
- We have an angel friend somewhere in the room. Let's see if we can get them to come out of hiding!
 - **Can you stretch your arms out wide and spin one time?**
 - **Can you pat your head?**
 - **How about three big jumps?**
 - **Let's repeat our motions!**
- Okay, I think they're ready! Let's hunt for our angel friend!

ACTIVITY | Christmas is Jesus Parade

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Show a small clip from [this video](#) of Disneyland's "Christmas Fantasy" parade. Then invite kids to grab an item from a bin you provide (instruments, stuffed animals, toy vehicles, costume pieces), and have them walk in their own parade around the room while you play [this song](#). When you stop the music, they'll freeze!
- Every city has a fun parade at least once a year for special holidays!

- There's a city in California called "Los Angeles" and it's also known as the "City of Angels." Isn't that neat? Near Los Angeles, there's a huge theme park called Disneyland and every year they have a grand Christmas parade!
- How about we have our own parade today? Let's get our groove on and celebrate Jesus coming to be with us!

STORY TIME

SCRIPTURE | Luke 2:1–20 (Angels Appear to Shepherds)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up your neighborhood scene like in previous weeks. Invite two volunteers to stand up at the front as a shepherd and an angel (dressed as a mail carrier) as you tell the story. Select one or more of the illustrations for this week to use as a visual aid, if you'd like (located in the Teaching Videos folder inside your preschool content). Address an envelope to "everyone."
- Today in the City of Angels, we'll hear about a special delivery!
- **Has anyone ever had a special delivery arrive at your house? How did it feel?**
- If you felt excited, that may have been how Joseph and Mary felt when their special delivery, Jesus, came to the world. Jesus was a tiny little package, but special news for sure.
- See, Jesus was God's way of showing the world God loves everyone. No matter where they live or what they do for a living.
- **Does anyone know what a shepherd is?** A shepherd's job is to take care of sheep! I have a shepherd friend here who wants to tell you all about how they found out that Jesus was born.
 - **Shepherd:** So it was wild! My buddies and I were in the field late at night, just watching our sheep. Then suddenly —
 - **Angel:** I appeared!
 - **Shepherd:** [Screams.] AH! That's exactly what happened.
 - **Angel:** We are angels, God's special messengers.
 - **Shepherd:** Yes, that's right. The angel told us not to be afraid because we were just about to get exciting news.
 - **Angel:** I told them that Jesus had been born and I told them how to go find the place where Jesus was.
 - **Shepherd:** And then a whole bunch of angels showed up in the sky and they all sang this song. How did it go again?
 - **Angel:** Glory to God and peace to people everywhere!
 - **Shepherd:** I wasn't sure why God sent angels to deliver the message to shepherds in the fields instead of the palace or some other important place. But now I know it's because God wanted the whole world to hear this good news.
 - **Angel:** That's right! That's why this envelope says, "everyone" on it. Everyone needs to know that Jesus is born!
- Thank you for sharing your story friends! God didn't just give this message to everyone. God gave Jesus to everyone, too. God loves us so much!

BIG IDEA | Jesus is God's love for everyone.

- I like hearing good news. Do you? I think today's Big Idea has something to do with good news!
- Every big city has lots of cars, and you're bound to hear someone honk their car's horn. Let's get in our cars and honk for the Big Idea!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask kids to pile into cardboard "cars," and give each of the kids a horn. Have them all honk as the Big Idea sign is being brought to the front. Countdown from five and turn the sign around to reveal this week's Big Idea. You can also use a traffic light animation (like [this](#)) before projecting the Big Idea image onto a screen.

- The Big Idea for today is . . . **Jesus is God's love for everyone!**

VIDEO | City of Angels, Episode 4

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Cali's World](#).

ACTIVITY | Match the Angels

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare a deck of memory match cards from the printable provided and place all the cards face down on the table or floor. Each kid takes turns flipping over two cards to find a match. Have kids play a few rounds as a team, taking turns.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Scatter the cards on the floor face up. Pick up a card and ask toddlers to find its match from the pile. Play until all pairs are found.
- Let's take some time thinking of all our messages that were delivered this week in our *City of Angels*!
- An angel told Zechariah that he would have a son named John. John would grow up to tell people about Jesus.
- An angel told Mary she would have a baby named Jesus!
- An angel told Joseph that Mary's baby came from God so he didn't need to worry.
- A whole bunch of angels showed up to shepherds to let them know Jesus was born!

PRAYER

- Okay, everyone! Let's pray about what we talked about today. Repeat after me:
 - Dear God,
 - You love the whole world!
 - Help me share the news that . . .
 - **Jesus is God's love for everyone.**
 - Amen.

SHARING TIME

SNACK | God's Sweet Love

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare heart-shaped sugar cookies and partner with kids to decorate their cookies with frosting, chocolate chips, and sprinkles. Have kids make two cookies — one for themselves, and one to share with a family member.
- **What is God's love like?** It is so, so sweet!
- Let's imagine these cookies are a symbol of God's love for us. Let's decorate one for ourselves, and the other for a member of our family who needs to know how much God loves them!

ACTIVITY | Circle Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Pass around the angel figurine from the *Angels We Have Hidden on High* activity while kids take turns answering questions.
- Let's practice taking turns as we think about today's story! When the angel comes to you, it's your turn to answer a question. When you're done, choose a friend to pass it to.
- **Who did the angels visit?**
- **Who was born?**
- **Name as many people as you can. What can you tell them about Jesus?**

ACTIVITY | City Skyline Silhouette Art

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a paint palette with different colors of watercolor paint along with two pieces of paper towels (either one large piece cut in half or two half sizes), and a dropper or a pipette. Have kids drip watercolor paint onto their paper towels, and when they're finished, set it aside to dry (Use a hairdryer to speed up the drying process.). Once dry, glue or tape the paper towel onto black construction. Before kids arrive, cut cityscape outlines out of black construction paper. Help kids glue their outlines onto their paper towels. You can also cut out rectangular strips of various sizes and have kids glue them on one by one to form the skyline themselves. Check out [these instructions](#) to see how this works.
- Jesus was born in the small town of Bethlehem, but God wanted people everywhere to know that Jesus was born.
- The angels started by telling the shepherds and the shepherds told everyone they met on the way to meet Jesus.
- Whether you live in a big city or in a small town, we can be like the angels and share the good news: **Jesus is God's love for everyone!**

MEMORY VERSE | Luke 2:10 (NIV)

- "But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.'"
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the whole memory verse to the kids, then practice memorizing it all together. Once the kids seem to have memorized the verse, put on some fun, upbeat music and encourage them to go around the room and say the verse with hand motions to each other! Apply these hand motions:
 - **But the angel said to them** (hands cupped around mouth)
 - **Do not be afraid** (wave pointer finger)
 - **I bring you good news** (palms facing up, outstretched, in front of chest)
 - **that will cause great joy** (spin once)
 - **for all the people** (point to everyone in the room)

PLAY TIME

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.

ACTIVITY | God's Message to Me

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Help kids remember that God wants everyone to know about Jesus by having each of them decorate their own envelope with their names on it. Write their names for them in large letters and have kids trace over it and decorate the envelope with crayons, markers, glitter glue, stamps, and stickers.
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Provide nativity sticker scenes (like [this one](#)) and allow toddlers to position the characters. Ask them about the story of Jesus being born as they do so.

ACTIVITY | City Mapping

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print this week's tangram pieces printable and help kids cut and arrange the pieces into the shape of a different angel (a diagram of how this is supposed to look is included with the printable.). Have kids glue the pieces onto 11x17-inch paper. Once they're done, have the kids design the city where Jesus was born, complete with Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, sheep, shepherds, and more angels. Show the kids a [picture](#) of the nativity scene for inspiration.