FINDING CHRISTMAS

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:
Jesus is our King.

OBJECTIVE:
Kids will plan to read the Christmas story in their Bibles.

KEY PASSAGE:
Matthew 2:13-16, King Herod

MEMORY VERSE:
"She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 (NIRV)

SUMMARY:
Sharks remind us of King Herod who completely missed what Christmas was about. He could have gone to worship Jesus too, but instead he tried to kill Jesus to keep him from becoming king. Kids will learn that Jesus is our one and only true King and nothing and no one is greater than Jesus.

SIMPLE PRAYER:
Dear God,

Show us how to slow down and worship you this Christmas.

In Jesus' name,
Amen

MEMORY VERSE

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21 (NIV)

“She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That’s because he will save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21 (NIRV)

LARGE GROUP:
Have all the fifth/sixth graders (whatever the oldest age in the room may be) read the verse first. Then add the next grade down and repeat. Add the next grade down, and repeat. Keep repeating until everyone is reading together.

SMALL GROUP:
Have the kids work together to make hand motions they can use as they say the memory verse.

FINDING CHRISTMAS

SKIT

THE SHARK

ITEMS NEEDED:
A shark costume

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:
2 M or F

CHARACTERS:
The Narrator
The Shark

The Narrator enters.

NARR: As our story resumes today, the wise men, who followed the star to find the baby Jesus, were warned in a dream by an angelfish not to return to Herod, king of the sea. They went home by another current. When the king of the sea heard this, he was furious!

The Shark enters. Throughout this entire scene, he never stops moving, "swimming" to and fro quickly, and even on and offstage. Sharks can't stop swimming, or they will die!

SHARK: I am furious!

NARR: The king was afraid that this newborn king was after his throne!

SHARK: No little guppy is going to steal my throne!

NARR: He gave an order that every guppy under the age of two was to be eaten!

SHARK: I will find you, little guppy!

NARR: Excuse me, will you slow down a minute? You're making me sick!

SHARK: I can't slow down!

NARR: You can't stop just for a second?

SKIT

SHARK: I'll die!

NARR: The king of the sea was relentless in his pursuit of the guppy Jesus.

SHARK: I'm going to eat that little guppy!

NARR: He didn't realize that Jesus was his king too!

SHARK: I'm the only king around here!

NARR: It's sad, because Jesus came to save the king of the sea too.

SHARK: He did?

NARR: Yes! And if you'd slow down and listen, you might just learn—

SHARK: I told you I can't slow down! I'm a shark! We never stop!

NARR: Try as he might, the king of the sea never found the guppy Jesus.

SHARK: How sad!

NARR: No it's not!

SHARK: It is for me!

NARR: There was nothing the king of the sea could do to stop the guppy Jesus from becoming the King of Kings, and that is good news for every creature under the sea.

SHARK: Except me!

NARR: Oh you're making me dizzy!

SHARK: How do you think I feel?

NARR: This Christmas, don't let the holidays make you dizzy. Slow down, and take some time to worship the real king.

SHARK: I'm the king!

NARR: No, Jesus is king!

SHARK: Are we done? Can I take off this costume and stop swimming?

SKIT

NARR: We're done!

SHARK: Cool. I'm going to swim down to the nursery and scare the babies first!

NARR: Don't you dare!

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:
A Betta fish in a betta tank (or a picture)

Does anyone know what kind of fish this is, and why he's in a tiny tank all by himself?

This is called a Betta, also known as a Siamese Fighting Fish. Bettas are some of the most beautiful fish, and they are fun pets. But there's a reason Bettas have to be by themselves. Bettas don't get along with other Bettas! If a male Betta sees another male betta, they will fight until one of them is dead.

Bettas aren't as dangerous as a shark, but like the shark, they remind us of King Herod. Herod couldn't stand the idea of there being another king greater than him. He was relentless in his attempt to find and kill the baby Jesus, and he hurt a lot of people because he was so evil and selfish.

Herod couldn't stop Jesus. No one could! And sadly, Herod died never knowing that Jesus came to save the whole world - including him!

Jesus is our king in heaven, and he wants to be king of your life. This Christmas, take some time to slow down and to read the Bible story of Christmas for yourself, or with your parents. Let the Bible remind you that God has sent us a king. And as you read you can pray and ask Jesus to be king of your heart.

LARGE GROUP GAME

CROWN TOSS

ITEMS NEEDED:
Three Burger King crowns

INSTRUCTIONS:
Choose one player for this game. The player will have 60 seconds to get all 3 Burger King crowns on his or her head by tossing them in the air and catching them on his or her head. The player can adjust the crowns once each one is “caught” before going to the next, but they have to get all 3 on their head to win a prize.

VARIATION:
This can be a two-player game, with one player tossing crowns on the head of their partner.

WHAT’S THE POINT?
Jesus is our king!

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:
Jesus is our King.

OBJECTIVE:
Kids will plan to read the Christmas story in their Bibles.

KEY PASSAGE:
Matthew 2:13-16, King Herod

INTRO:
When you think of sea creatures, there's one that captures the imagination of kids and adults more than any other: sharks! The ocean is full of some big and dangerous creatures, but nothing compares to sharks!

Sharks are made for one thing: to hunt and kill. They are perfectly designed, streamlined killing machines with streamlined bodies built for speed and rows of razor-sharp teeth. They are the apex predators of the sea, hunted by no one except man - and even man loses that battle more than he would like!

Sharks are so fascinating, they have their own week on the Discovery Channel. They are the star and centerpiece of every major aquarium in the world, from the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago, to the Ripley's Aquariums, to the Georgia Aquarium, and beyond. A shark is the star of one of the scariest movie series every made, Jaws, not to mention one of the craziest movie series of all time, Sharknado!

So why on earth, you ask, are we talking about sharks at Christmas time? Sharks have nothing to do with the baby Jesus, or angels, or shepherds, or even wise men. But the sharks do have something in common with a man the wise men met on the way to meet the baby Jesus. King Herod was very disturbed when he heard a "new king" had been born in his country. Herod was the son of a king, and his throne would pass to his son when Herod died. If there was a new king some place in his kingdom, Herod thought, that king might try to steal his throne!

Herod told the wise men to come back and tell him where they found the baby Jesus, but an angel warned the wise men not to go back to Herod. When Herod found out what the wise men had done, Herod turned into a shark.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

READ MATTHEW 2:13-16

MAIN POINT:
This is the part of the Christmas story we don't like to read. You won't see this scene in a Nativity, or on a Christmas ornament. It's a terrible moment in the Bible that shows us how evil men can be. Herod was so consumed by his fear of the baby Jesus, he had every newborn boy in his kingdom under the age of two put to death to try to stop him.

If Herod could have stopped for a moment, he might have realized Jesus had not come to steal his throne. Jesus already had a throne in heaven. Jesus didn't come to be king of Israel. He had come to save the world from sin!

Herod could not stop Jesus from becoming king. He was already a king. Instead of fighting Jesus, Herod should have worshipped him with the Magi. God wants us to make Jesus our king as well, and worship him for what he has done.

DRIVE IT HOME:
One of the most interesting facts about sharks is the fact that some species never stop swimming. Sharks have to keep moving constantly to keep oxygen-rich water flowing through their gills. If a shark stops swimming, it stops breathing, and if a shark stops breathing, it's going to be a dead shark.

Herod was pretty relentless in his pursuit of Jesus. Just like a shark, Herod raced out to find and kill the baby Jesus. He didn't stop to think about what he was doing. He went out at full speed and missed the miracle God had sent to save him from his sins.

I can't imagine any of us doing anything as terrible as Herod, but how many of us feel like a shark, relentlessly racing from one thing to another at this time of year? Not only do we have school and the normal after school activities, we have Christmas programs, Christmas concerts, Christmas parties, and Christmas shopping. From Thanksgiving to Christmas Eve, many people never stop moving!

Kids, we need to make ourselves slow down this time of year. We need to pause and read the Christmas story. We need to remember why we celebrate this holiday. Jesus has come not to be a king on Earth, but the King of Kings. He wants to be king of your heart. Don't miss the miracle of Christmas like King Herod. Remember who Jesus is, and thank God for sending us a King who loves us!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,
Show us how to slow down and worship you this Christmas.
In Jesus' name, Amen

FINDING CHRISTMAS

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:
What's the biggest shark you've ever seen in person?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:
Matthew 1:21
Have the kids work together to make hand motions they can use as they say the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:
Practice the art of not just slowing down but stopping with a game of Red Light/ Green Light.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
Read Matthew 2:13-16

Who visited Joseph after the wise men?

What did the angel tell Joseph?

What did Herod try to do?

Why is Jesus our King?

Will you make time to read the Christmas story in Luke or Matthew this week with your Mom or Dad?

SIMPLE PRAYER:
Dear God,

Thank you for sending Jesus to be our King!

In Jesus' name,
Amen

FINDING CHRISTMAS

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:
What's the biggest shark you've ever seen in person?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:
Matthew 1:21
Have the kids work together to make hand motions they can use as they say the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:
Practice the art of not just slowing down but stopping with a game of Red Light/ Green Light.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
Read Matthew 2:13-16

Why did the angel visit Joseph?

Why did Herod try to murder the baby Jesus?

What makes Jesus our King?

Have you taken time to worship Jesus and read the Bible this Christmas season?

Will you make time to read the Christmas story in Luke or Matthew this week?

SIMPLE PRAYER:
Dear God,

Thank you for sending Jesus to be our King!

In Jesus' name,
Amen

FINDING CHRISTMAS

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

MULTIPLE CHOICE

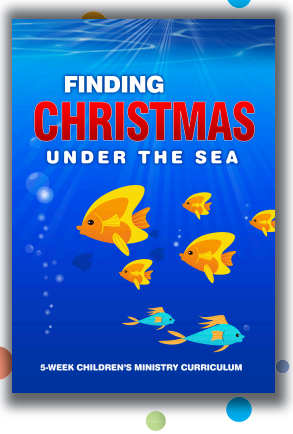
1. An _____ warned Joseph that Jesus was in danger.
A. angel*
B. shepherd
C. wise man

2. Joseph and Mary fled with the baby Jesus to _____.
A. Bethlehem
B. Jerusalem
C. Egypt*

3. King _____ tried to find and kill the baby Jesus.
A. Nebuchadnezzar
B. Ahab
C. Herod*

4. God wants us to make _____ our king.
A. Herod
B. Jesus*
C. Joseph

5. We need to _____ _____ at Christmas and worship Jesus.
A. speed up
B. just keep swimming
C. slow down*



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Finding Christmas Lesson 3

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: SHARKS



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:
Sharks remind us of King Herod who completely missed what Christmas was about. He could have gone to worship Jesus too, but instead he tried to kill Jesus to keep him from becoming king. Kids will learn that Jesus is our one and only true King and nothing and no one is greater than Jesus. Matthew 2:13-16



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:
Take some time to read the Christmas story from Luke or Matthew with your kids.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:
- Why did Joseph and Mary have to flee to Egypt?
- What makes Jesus our king?
- Have you made some time to slow down and remember Jesus this Christmas?



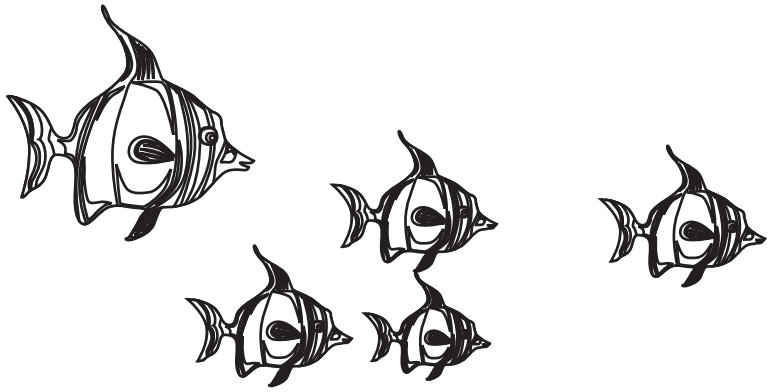
AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:
"She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:21 (NIRV)



PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:
The story of Herod is one of the most tragic stories in the Bible. Talk to your kids, and ask if they have questions about it. Take some time with them, and for yourself, to praise Jesus for being our king.



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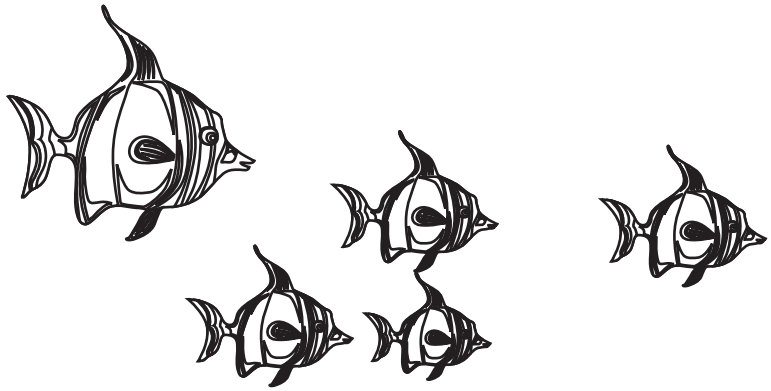

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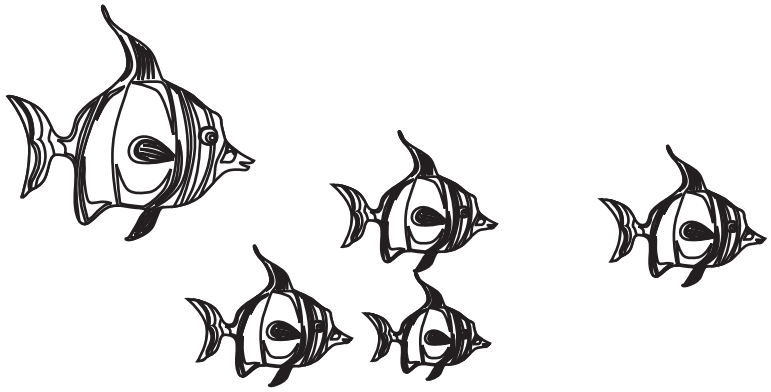

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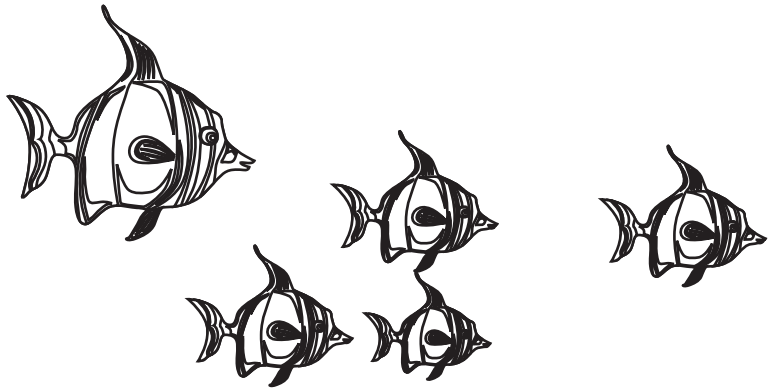

"She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins." - Matthew 1:21 NIRV

CUT ON DASHED LINE

FINDING CHRISTMAS

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Have the kids make Christmas-colored bookmarks to put in their Bibles to remind them to read the Christmas story. Write down the Scriptures from Luke and Matthew for them to reference.