

WEEK 4 PRESCHOOL LESSON GUIDE



THE BIG IDEA

Jesus came so the world
could know God.

THE BIBLE

Jesus at the Temple:
Luke 2:41-52

WELCOME TIME

MUSIC | Songs of Joy

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** You can lead kids in worship with any songs you like best, but here are a few songs 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!
 - "Oh What a Special Night" (Animated Praise)
 - "Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee" (Go Fish)
 - "Away in a Manger" (Yancy)
 - "Jesus, Savior of the World" (Kidspring)

ACTIVITY | Name Tag

- Today we're talking about knowing God. First, let's play a game to see how well we know each other!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this modified version of "Duck Duck Goose" for kids to practice saying each other's names! Have everyone sit in a circle and say their names out loud in order. Then choose one person to be "It." That kid will go around the circle saying "duck" for each person they pass in the circle (no touching), and the person they want to "tag," they will yell their name out loud (e.g., "Duck, duck, duck, duck, Micah!").

ACTIVITY | Hello World!

- **Do any of you speak more than one language?**
- **Did you know that there are about 7,000 languages being spoken around the world?** That's a lot, right?

- Let's see if we can learn how to say "hello" in a few of these languages!
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print the printable or prepare a slideshow with the images. Say "hello" in each language with the group (look up pronunciation videos if you're not sure) and you could even point out the countries on a map or globe where each language is spoken (see the Elementary version of this printable for corresponding country names).*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Show a video ([like this](#) one) that teaches kids how to say hello in different languages through song.*

TEACHING TIME

BIBLE STORY | Jesus at the Temple

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print out a photo of Iguazú Falls along with this "letter" and place it in an envelope. Place it next to a globe on top of a desk or table.*
- Hello again friends! So you remember my friend Linda who's traveling the world right now? We've been reading letters she sent from Singapore, Kenya, and Japan!
- I got another letter today and it looks like it came from . . . Argentina! **Do you know where Argentina is in the world?** *[Show kids its location on the globe by placing a Christmas sticker there.]*
 - Dear [Your Name]. ¡Hola! That's how you say, "Hello!" in Spanish. Argentina is the second-largest country in South America and there is so much to see. The other day, I went on a tour of Iguazú Falls, which is one of the biggest waterfalls in the whole world, and it lies between Argentina and its neighbor country, Brazil.
 - But guess what?! While I was taking pictures, I got lost! Somehow I got separated from my group and I ended up on the Brazil side of the Falls! I was confused and a little scared. I know a few words in Spanish but I don't know any Portuguese, which is what they speak in Brazil.
- Wow, that sounds frightening! **What do you think you would have done if you were Linda?**
 - My parents were so worried but they eventually found me. I felt like I was lost for hours, but it turns out, it was only fifteen minutes!
 - That reminded me of another story about Jesus. When Jesus was about twelve years old, he traveled with his family to Jerusalem for a festival. After it was over, their group of friends and relatives started their journey back home. They didn't have planes, trains, or cars back then so they had to walk most of the way. The trip took many days.
 - After three whole days, Mary and Joseph, Jesus' mother and father, realized Jesus wasn't with them! They were traveling with a large group so they probably thought he was somewhere in the crowd. But, nope! Jesus was nowhere to be found.
- **How would you feel if you couldn't find your family members for three days?**
 - Mary and Joseph hurried back to Jerusalem, and would you believe it? Jesus had been at the temple the entire time! They found Jesus sitting at the temple courts, listening to people talk about God and asking questions.
 - Jesus' parents had been so worried. They told him they had been looking everywhere for him.
 - Jesus told them that he just had to be in his Father's house.

- Wait, what does that mean? Isn't Joseph the father of Jesus? **What do you think Jesus means here?**
 - Yes, Jesus was the son of Mary and Joseph. And the Bible tells us he was a good son who grew up strong and wise. But he was also the son of God. And because of that, he wanted to spend time with God as much as he could!
 - You know, you and I are God's children, too. So as I return home from my travels, I'm starting to think about what I can do to spend more time with God. What about you? I can't wait to see you when I get back! Your friend, Linda.
- That was a gripping story! I was so worried for Linda and for 12-year-old Jesus when they were lost. But Linda asked a really good question at the end.
- **What can we do to spend more time with God?**

BIG IDEA | Jesus came so the world could know God

- It's time for the Big Idea! This week, let's say it in Spanish, which is the language that's most spoken in Argentina!
- Are you ready? "¡Es hora de la Gran Idea!"
- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Find a native speaker to record this on a simple video, or play this sound clip on Google Translate for kids to copy. Afterward, pass out the Big Idea passport printable to each kid and have them trace today's Big Idea. Give them a sticker or stamp for box #4. Let them take their passports home to remind them of this month's Big Ideas!
- Today's Big Idea is . . . **Jesus came so the world could know God!**

VIDEO | Joy to the World, Episode 4

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

ACTIVITY | Where is Jesus?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Create a maze using chalk (outdoor) or painter's tape (indoor) kids can solve. On the entrance to the maze, write "Joseph & Mary". On the finish end, draw a kid and write "Jesus". Have kids go through the maze alone or in pairs. Play fun, upbeat music during the activity.
- **How do you think Mary and Joseph felt for the three days they could not find Jesus?**
- **Why do you think it was so hard to find him?**
- **Why do you think Jesus knew the Bible so well?**

PRAYER

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this song again (or a different one featuring kids from different parts of the world) before praying together.
- God, thank you for making yourself known through Jesus. We want to know more and more about you, like how we know our family and friends. Help us to be a part of letting the world know you, too. Amen.

DISCUSSION TIME

SNACK | Joy to the World Cookie

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare or purchase ready-made round sugar cookies. Have each preschooler use small spoonfuls of green and blue frosting to decorate their cookie then top it off with a heart-shaped candy or chocolate. Show a globe or image of one to let them see what they're making. Additionally, go ahead and share treats from a snack box featuring a different country this week, if you'd like!
- **Jesus came so the world could know God.** Let's make these special world cookies to remember that God loves everyone in the whole, wide world!

ACTIVITY | One Is Not Like the Other

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Print out matching cards. The card with baby Jesus should not have a match. Place all the cards face down. Have kids take turns to find the matches. The person with the last card of baby Jesus wins!
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** Instead of matching cards, purchase two sets of a nativity playset to match up the characters. Or consider a more diverse option [like this](#) set that you could use to go over the story of Jesus' birth from last week. See if they can retell the story, too!
- There is no one like Jesus! Only **Jesus came so the world could know God.**

ACTIVITY | Quality Time

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Give each kid a paper plate that is divided into four sections and has two holes punched in the middle. Help kids label the outside edge of the plate at each of the "hour" lines (i.e., 12, 3, 6, 9). IN each of the four sections (i.e., 12-3, 3-6, 6-9, 9-12) have them draw one way they can spend "quality time." Then help them insert both ends of a pipe cleaner into the holes from the back of the plate, and twist it around once to create the clock hands.
- One of the ways people feel loved is when people spend time with them. Whenever we spend time doing something meaningful or important, we call that quality time.
- **What are some ways you can spend quality time with the people you love?**
- **How about quality time with God?**

MEMORY VERSE | Luke 2:14 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Come up with simple hand motions to go along with key words in the memory verse. They don't have to necessarily "symbolize" the words — they can just be fun dances if you'd like. If you're not sure about what to do, you can always use the sign language for the verse provided in your Programming folder or at growcurriculum.org/Luke2-14.

PLAY TIME

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

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. To reinforce the around the world theme, consider passing out passport visa or world flags stickers when they complete their coloring page.*

ACTIVITY | Big Idea World

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Cut the picture of the world into four pieces by cutting along the lines indicated. Put all the pieces in a plastic bag or envelope for each kid. Have kids glue the pieces together onto a piece of construction paper. Help kids find each Big Idea piece in order and have them repeat the Big Idea with you as they glue it to the paper.*
 - ✂ **TODDLER HACK:** *Print out a second copy of the printable and have toddlers match the pieces to the completed image and glue them on top.*
- Let's go over all the Big Ideas we learned about this month as we put this puzzle together.
 1. **Jesus came to bring good news to the world.**
 2. **Jesus came to bring joy to the world.**
 3. **Jesus came to bring peace to the world.**
 4. **Jesus came so the world could know God.**

ACTIVITY | Create a Flag

- **If you could create a country, what would it be called?**
- **What kind of rules would you make?**
- **What would your country's flag look like?**
 - ✂ **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Leave out paper and assorted supplies (e.g., foam stickers, pom poms, washi tape, glitter glue, etc.) and have kids create their own flag.*

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