**Expected Student Outcomes**

**KNOW**
Christ is born. The shepherds and wise men worship Him.

**DO**
Students will:
• color by letter to reveal a hidden message about Mary and Joseph's obedience
• eliminate nonwords to find the gift the shepherds gave Jesus
• match pictures of the wise men’s gifts with each gift’s significance
• review the Bible truths by selecting pictures that illustrate the narrative

**APPLY**
Students will recognize that God loves them and sent His Son, Jesus, as a gift. They will focus on giving to others.

**Teacher Resources**

**Student Resources**

**HEART’S HEART**

“And it had been revealed to [Simeon] by the Holy Spirit … ” (Luke 2:26a). The Holy Spirit spoke to Simeon by means of a revelation, a direct message from God that enlightens the heart and communicates His truth. Who hasn’t wished for a direct message from the Lord? To walk in God’s revealed truth is the heart’s cry of each believer for this day, this hour!

God is a God of revelation. At Christmastime, you celebrate the fulfillment of His promises to a poor but obedient young couple; to several lowly, disrespected shepherds; to two elderly worshippers; and even to some Gentile astronomers. It’s comforting to realize that God came first to ordinary people.

God has even revealed Himself to an ordinary person like you—through His Son, His Word, and His Creation. In the events of your day, He wants to reveal more of Himself and His desires for you. God doesn’t want to confuse you; He doesn’t want His will to be hard to understand. He does, however, want you to have the light and wisdom you need for each day. As you read His Word and listen for His voice, He will reveal more of His wisdom and His plans to you. And as you respond to His love, He will reveal still more of His lovingkindness in your life. Let the revelation of His truth and love enlighten you and overflow into your classroom and into every area of your life.

**LESSON FOCUS**

| Day 1: | Baby Jesus |
| Day 2: | Shepherds Hear the News |
| Day 3: | The Wise Men and King Herod |
| Day 4: | My Gift to Jesus |
| Day 5: | Review |

**MEMORY VERSE**

Luke 2:11

**MATERIALS**

**Day 1:**
• Box, Christmas gift wrap
• VA 17A Baby Jesus
• BLM 17A Luke 2:11, cardboard, ribbon

**Day 2:**
• Bible costumes, tinsel garland crowns from Lesson 6.3
• Pictures of shepherds
• Cotton, candy cane, star, sandwich bag with grass inside, cloth, bag

**Day 3:**
• Pictures of the wise men
• Gift bags, golden item, incense, hand cream
• BLM 17B Christmas Memory Match Game, card stock

**Day 4:**
• BLM 17C Hearts, Christmas gift wrap, box with a lid, ornament hangers, clear contact paper, hole punch
• Map or globe
• Bible costumes

**Day 5:**
• VA 17A Baby Jesus, pictures of the shepherds and wise men from Lessons 17.2 and 17.3
• Luke 2:11 ornaments from Lesson 17.1, Christmas gift wrap
• Drawing paper
• Christmas card

**SONGS**

Wrap It All Up

Supplemental Materials are available to download. See Understanding Purposeful Design Bible at the front of this book for the Kindergarten URL.
Worship Time

• Share with students some reasons why you are thankful that Christmas is coming. Introduce and sing the song “Wrap It All Up” from the Kindergarten URL.

• Hold up the GIFT-WRAPPED BOX. Let students tell about a gift they plan to give someone this Christmas. Explain that Jesus’ birth was a gift that God gave because He loves people. Jesus’ birth brings joy because He came to bring salvation—a way for all people to be saved from their sins.

• Pray together, giving each student an opportunity to thank God for sending Jesus as the best Christmas gift!

Listening Time

• Open your Bible to Luke and show students where today’s Bible truth can be found. Point out that it is in the second part of the Bible, the New Testament. Remind students that this is where they can read about Jesus’ time on Earth and the first people who followed Jesus.

• Read the paraphrased Bible truth from VA 17A Baby Jesus, displaying the picture when reading the final paragraph. Tell students that a manger is a feeding box for animals. Remind students that God is all-powerful, and He sent Jesus to be born as a human who would one day die for the sins of all people.

• Ask the following questions to review:
  How did Mary and Joseph learn that God’s Son would be born? (An angel told each of them.)
  Why did Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem? (They were obeying the law by going there to sign the king’s book and to pay taxes. They were following God’s plan for Jesus to be born in Bethlehem.)
  Why did Mary and Joseph stay in a stable and use a manger for the baby’s bed? (Bethlehem was full of people, so there was no other place to stay. The manger was a place for Mary to put Jesus so he could lie down.)
  What did Mary and Joseph name the baby? Why? (They named Him Jesus because the angel told them to do so.) (Explain that Jesus means Savior, and that Jesus was born to ultimately provide a way for people to be forgiven for their sins.)

Activity Time

• Student Page 17.1: Instruct students to color the package as indicated to find the hidden message. Discuss how Mary and Joseph obeyed God by saying yes to being the earthly parents of Jesus. Let students discuss how they can say yes to Jesus this Christmas, such as obeying, giving gifts out of love, and believing in Jesus as the Savior who forgives their sins.

• Give each student a copy of BLM 17A Luke 2:11, a 3” × 5” piece of LIGHTWEIGHT CARDBOARD, and a piece of RIBBON. Inform students that...
they will be making a Christmas ornament. If you copied the Bible verse on white paper, have students slightly crumple it and lightly color it brown to look like old parchment paper. After students color the holly and berries, have them glue the lightweight cardboard to the back center of the text to give it stability. Instruct students to write their name on the cardboard and then flip the ornament over. Tell them to use a pencil to roll the ends of the paper to look like a scroll. Attach each end of the ribbon to the top corners of the cardboard to make an ornament holder. Display the ornaments in the classroom and then send them home as a gift at the end of the week.

• Choose three students to stand in front of the class. Instruct the other students to close their eyes and put their head down on their desk. Hand the GIFT-WRAPPED BOX to one of the three students. As all three students walk around the desks, have the student with the gift-wrapped box quietly set it on someone’s desk. Tell the three students to return to the front of the class. Direct students to open their eyes. Tell the student with the gift-wrapped box to make one guess about who left it on his or her desk. If the guess is correct, have the student choose two other students to switch places with the original three students. If the guess is incorrect, tell the three original students to remain up front and play the game again. Each time a round ends, have everyone say, “Jesus is God’s gift of love.”

• Let students act out ways they can say yes to Jesus this Christmas. Examples are immediately obeying Mom when she says to make their bed, giving a coat to someone in need, or asking Jesus to forgive their sins.

APPLICATION

• In what unusual way did God give messages about Jesus’ birth to Mary and Joseph? (He sent an angel.)
• How does God usually send messages to believers today? (Possible answers: through reading the Bible, through prayer and worship, through the teaching of His Word)
• Why did Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem at the time of Jesus’ birth? (They were obeying the tax law.) (Explain that Mary and Joseph were also following God’s plan. The only place in crowded Bethlehem was a stable.)

DAY 1

What gift did Mary and Joseph give to Jesus? Color the spaces red and green to find out.

Key

r = red

g = green
**PREPARATION**

Select **BIBLE COSTUMES**, including the **TINSEL GARLAND CROWNS** from Lesson 6.3. (Worship Time, Activity Time)

Locate **PICTURES OF SHEPHERDS** listening to the angels and worshipping at the manger from cards, picture books, or the Internet. (Listening Time)

Place **COTTON**, a **CANDY CANE**, a **STAR**, a **SANDWICH BAG WITH GRASS INSIDE**, and **CLOTH** into a **BAG**. (Activity Time)

**REINFORCEMENT**

Angels are often a subject of great fascination and great misunderstanding. Scripture does not indicate that angels have halos, yet artists traditionally use halos as figurative allusions to angels’ holiness and radiance (Matthew 28:3). The Bible also does not show angels having wings in the strictest sense; in fact, people in Scripture often assume that angels are human. Cherubim and seraphim, types of angelic or celestial beings, are described as winged beings (Exodus 25:20, Isaiah 6:2). Artists might add wings to angels to show that they are messengers or to imply speed. Angels in Scripture appear as fearsome men, not as adorable dimpled babies or beautiful women. Finally, God does not resurrect His people as angels! Angels are created beings, but they are different creatures from humans (Psalm 8:4–5, Hebrews 1:14).

**Worship Time**

- Encourage students to share about Christmas preparations taking place in their homes. Remind them to focus on Jesus’ birth and on giving to others—not on receiving gifts. Sing familiar Christmas carols.

- Hold up a **TINSEL GARLAND CROWN** and explain that an **angel** is known as **God’s messenger**. Have students look around for any angels that might be on decorations or in pictures in the classroom. Remind students that God used angels to tell Mary and Joseph that Jesus would be born. Explain that God used angels multiple times in today’s Bible lesson.

- Pray together for help in sharing the joy of Jesus’ birthday. Let students pray for opportunities to tell people about the Christmas gift God gave the world—Jesus!

**Listening Time**

- Display **PICTURES OF SHEPHERDS**, and explain that shepherds take care of and protect sheep. Read the following paraphrase from Luke 2:8–20:

> Bethlehem was full of people on the night Jesus was born. Almost everyone was sleeping. Maybe some servants in the inn were making bread for breakfast. Maybe some mothers were quieting fussy babies. Maybe a few more tired travelers were just arriving. Out on the hills near Bethlehem, some shepherds were definitely awake. They were caring for their sheep and protecting them from thieves and wild animals. SUDDENLY, the shepherds were surrounded by bright light! It was an angel! The shepherds were very scared, but the angel said, “Don’t be afraid! I’m here with joyful news for everyone. Today, in Bethlehem, a savior is born. Look for a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

The shepherds were even more surprised when the sky filled with many angels praising God and saying that peace had come to people. Then the angels disappeared. The shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go to see the Savior!” They RAN into town, and THEY FOUND BABY JESUS! They knew He was the right baby when they saw Him wrapped in soft cloths and lying on clean hay in the manger. As they left the stable to go back to their sheep, they excitedly told everyone the news—the Savior had been born! When the shepherds returned to the fields to care for their sheep, they praised God for what they had heard and seen, just as the angel had told them.

- Ask the following questions to review:

  Why were shepherds awake on the night Jesus was born? (The shepherds were watching and protecting their sheep in the fields.)

  What did one angel tell the shepherds? (Possible answers: to not be afraid, good news, that a savior had been born that day, that the shepherds could find Him wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger)

  (Remind students that Jesus was in a manger in the stable because Bethlehem was crowded with people.)
What did many angels say? (They praised God and said that Jesus brought peace.)
What did the shepherds do after they found Jesus? (They told others about the Savior Jesus and praised God.) (Explain that worshipping and sharing the news about Jesus was a gift the shepherds gave to God.)

Activity Time

• Student Page 17.2: Instruct students to look carefully at what is written on each boxed gift. If the text is a word, students should not color the boxed gift. If the text is not a word, students should color the boxed gift to cover the writing. When students are finished, read and discuss the message together.

• Invite students to take turns pulling an item from the prepared bag. Explain how each item relates to the Bible truth—COTTON (sheep), CANDY CANE (shepherd’s staff or for Jesus), STAR (night sky when the angels appeared), GRASS (sheep’s field or manger’s hay), CLOTH (soft cloth in which Jesus was wrapped).

• Provide students with BIBLE COSTUMES including some TINSEL GARLAND CROWNS to use as halos. Encourage them to act out the Bible truth, conveying these concepts: love, hope, worship, praise, and joy.

• Help students practice saying the Memory Verse.

APPLICATION

• How might you have worshipped Jesus if you had been one of the shepherds? (Possible answers: I might have prayed, sung, jumped up and down, quietly looked at Jesus, or given Him a present.)
• Why do you think the shepherds told others that they had seen Jesus? (Answers will vary but should include that they were excited because the news was important, and everything about what they had seen and heard was very unusual.)
• How can you tell others about Jesus? (Answers will vary.)

DAY 2

Christmas

What gift did the shepherds give to Jesus?
Color the gift boxes that do NOT have words in them.
17.3 Christmas
Focus: The Wise Men and King Herod

**PREPARATION**
Obtain used greeting cards and picture books, or browse the Internet to find PICTURES OF THE WISE MEN following the star and worshipping Jesus. Avoid selecting pictures of the wise men in the stable. (Listening Time)

Obtain THREE GIFT BAGS. Place each of the following in a different bag: a GOLDEN ITEM, such as a rock painted gold, INCENSE, and SCENTED HAND CREAM. (Listening Time)

Print one copy of BLM 17B Christmas Memory Match Game on CARD STOCK for each student. (Activity Time)

**Worship Time**
- Encourage students to share about a time when they visited a baby or toddler for the first time. Have them describe how they felt and what gifts they may have brought. Sing familiar Christmas carols.

- Ask volunteers to pray for any of the students’ prayer requests.

**Listening Time**
- Invite students to listen to the Bible truth about more visitors sent to see Jesus. Display PICTURES OF THE WISE MEN, and read the following paraphrase from Matthew 2:1–15:

  Far from Bethlehem, some wise men packed for a trip. God had shown them a special star and told them it would lead them to a newborn king in Israel. Excitedly the wise men chose gifts for the new king. They traveled for many months. When they got to Jerusalem, the city where King Herod lived, they asked where to find the new king. When King Herod heard about this new king, he was UPSET! He wanted to be the only king! He thought of an evil plan. He learned the answer from some religious leaders and told the wise men that God promised the king would be born in Bethlehem. “After you see Him,” King Herod said, “come back and tell me, so I can go worship Him too.” But Herod didn’t want to WORSHIP Jesus; he wanted to KILL Jesus!

  As the wise men left Jerusalem for Bethlehem, the star began to shine brightly again. It led them right to the house where Jesus, Mary, and Joseph lived. The wise men went in and worshipped Jesus. They gave Him expensive gifts. When they left, they did NOT go back to Herod, because God had told them in a dream to go home a different way. When Herod realized that the wise men weren’t coming, he was UPSET! Just in time, God protected Jesus from Herod. In a dream, God warned Joseph to move far away to Egypt. God wouldn’t let Herod ruin His plan for Jesus!

  • Show students the THREE GIFT BAGS. Explain that the Bible says the wise men brought Jesus three gifts. Invite a student to take the GOLDEN ITEM out of one bag. Explain that gold is a gift for a king, and that Jesus is the Leader and King. Next, display the INCENSE, which was burned while priests prayed in the temple. Inform students that incense is a reminder that Jesus talks to God the Father. The third gift was myrrh, an ointment like SCENTED HAND CREAM, that was once used as a perfume for dead bodies. Myrrh is a reminder that Jesus died and came back to life.

  • Ask the following questions to review:
  How did the wise men know that Jesus was born? (God used a special star to signal the news.)
  Why did King Herod want to know how to find Jesus? (King Herod wanted to kill Jesus.)
  What did the wise men give to Jesus? (expensive gifts)
  Who worshipped Jesus? (the wise men)

**REINFORCEMENT**
Folklore has added to the biblical account of the magi, or wise men, who came from a distant country to worship Jesus. The Bible mentions an unknown number of wise men, but not three kings. The number three likely came from the three gifts the wise men gave Jesus. Artists often depict the wise men kneeling beside the shepherds in the straw of a stable and worshipping the newborn King. But Scripture describes the magi entering the house where the young child was living with his parents, which corroborates King Herod’s calculation that Jesus was born about two years before the arrival of the magi. In many cultures and churches, the arrival of the magi is celebrated in January during Epiphany, a word that fittingly means a striking illuminating discovery.
**Activity Time ★**

- **Student Page 17.3:** Tell students to draw a line from each gift the wise men brought to the picture that shows what students know about Jesus.

- Distribute a CARD-STOCK copy of BLM 17B Christmas Memory Match Game to each student. Guide students to color the pictures and then cut out the cards. Direct students to find a partner and use one set of cards. Tell students to place all the cards facedown on the desk and mix them up. Direct each student to turn over two cards, trying to make a match. If matching pictures are found, the student tells about that picture and why it is part of the Christmas lesson. If no match is made, the other student turns over two cards, trying to make a match. Play continues until all cards have been matched. Have students play again using the other partner’s set of cards.

- Ask students what is often at the top of a Christmas tree, and why angels and stars are appropriate. Have students look around the classroom and point to any stars they see.

- Give students an opportunity to imagine being in the room with the wise men and King Herod. Let students describe what they see and hear, as well as any responses they might have made.

**Notes:**

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**DAY 3**

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**Christmas 17.3**


Draw lines from each gift the wise men brought to a related fact about Jesus.

- **Gold:** Jesus prayed for me.
- **Frankincense:** Jesus is my king.
- **Myrrh:** Jesus died for me.

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Worship Time ★

• Sing the song “Wrap It All Up” from the Kindergarten URL. Ask students how they can show their love for God through their words and actions.

• Pray for God to help students understand His love, and ask Him to give them a desire to show their love to Him in return.

Listening Time

• Invite students to listen to the following make-believe story about a boy who has been working hard to make Christmas gifts:

  Christmas was almost here, and Taj could hardly wait! He had made a notepad for his father, a pretty pin for his mother, a necklace for his older sister, Atasi, and a star to hang above the crib of his baby sister, Taraka, because her name means star. Taj smiled, thinking of how happy his family would be when they opened the gifts. He had something for everyone he loved! But wait—Taj had forgotten someone after all! “Christmas is Jesus’ birthday, and I didn’t make something for Him!” Taj thought. “But how can I give a present to Jesus?” He didn’t know, so he asked his father. “What does Jesus want for His birthday, and how can He get a package from me?”

  “Jesus wants your heart, Taj,” said Father. Taj had a puzzled look on his face because he felt confused. “Not the muscle in your chest that pushes blood.” Father smiled. “He wants you to love Him and believe in Him. He wants you to show your love by obeying Him and by loving others.”

  “I do love Jesus, Father!” Taj exclaimed. “I belong to Him because I asked God to forgive my sins and make me part of His family. He helps me obey Him. Now I can show that I love Him by loving others.” Taj thought again about the presents he had for his family and smiled. When the packages were opened, Jesus would see that Taj loved his father, his mother, and his sisters, Atasi and Taraka. And Jesus would know that Taj loved Him, too.

• Ask the following questions to review:

  Why was Taj excited? (He was looking forward to giving Christmas gifts to his family.)

  Taj forgot to make a present for someone. Who was it? (He forgot to make a present for Jesus.)

  What did Taj’s father say that Jesus wants? (Jesus wants Taj to love Him, believe in Him, and obey Him.)

  How will Taj show love for Jesus? (Taj already belongs to Jesus and wants to obey Him. He will also show love for Jesus by loving others.)

Activity Time ★

• Student Page 17.4: Guide students to circle pictures that are part of the Christmas Bible truth and cross out those that are not.
• Give each student a set of two red paper hearts from BLM 17C Hearts to cut out. As students cut out their heart, they should think of a gift they would like to give Jesus, such as obeying parents, being kind to siblings, or telling others about Jesus. Invite students to whisper their gift to you so you can write it on the appropriate paper heart. Have students write their name on the “Jesus” heart. Students should fold a piece of CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAP in half and glue one heart on the front and the other on the back. After the glue has dried, cover the ornament with CLEAR CONTACT PAPER. Use a HOLE PUNCH to make a hole at the top of the ornament, and insert an ORNAMENT HANGER through the hole. Read aloud each student’s gift for Jesus. Place the completed ornaments in the BOX WITH A LID. Allow students to take their ornament home at the end of the day. This could be a two-day project, if desired.

• Show students the country of India on a MAP or a GLOBE. Explain that India is a country where a large number of people worship many, many gods. Tell students that Christians live all around the world, and some live in countries where most people do not celebrate Christmas. Pray for Christian schools in India, as well as any missionaries your school or church supports who tell people about Jesus’ birth as God’s gift to them.

• Provide students with BIBLE COSTUMES. Encourage them to act out all of the Christmas Bible truths.

Notes:

APPLICATION

• How can you show love to others this Christmas? (Possible answers: give gifts, obey, help)
• How can you show Jesus you love Him this Christmas? (Possible answers: worship Him, tell others about Him, show love to others)
• What does Jesus want most of all? (He wants me to accept Him as my Savior, and if I’ve already done that, to show His love to others.) (Allow an opportunity for students to discuss this topic, ask questions, and pray about becoming a child of God.)

Circle the pictures that show part of the Christmas Bible truth. Cross out pictures that are not part of the Christmas Bible truth.
PREPARATION

Select the song “Wrap It All Up” from the Kindergarten URL. (Worship Time)

Reuse VA 17A Baby Jesus, and THE SHEPHERDS AND THE WISE MEN PICTURES used in Lessons 17.2 and 17.3. (Listening Time)

Prepare to send home LUKE 2:11 ORNAMENTS made in Lesson 17.1. Cut a piece of CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAP for each student. (Activity Time)

Have available a CHRISTMAS CARD or any Christmas item that students can easily hold. (Activity Time)

APPLICATION

• Compare an unopened gift under the Christmas tree to a gift that has been received, opened, and used. How are they different? (I can enjoy a gift that I have received, opened, and used. I cannot enjoy an unopened gift.)
• How is accepting Jesus as your Savior like opening a gift under the Christmas tree? (Answers will vary but should include that when I ask Jesus to be in my life, I become part of God’s family, and I can enjoy His love and help in my life.)

Worship Time ★

• Sing the song “Wrap It All Up” from the Kindergarten URL.
• Remind students that worship is a time to think, sing, or talk about God and how wonderful He is. Let students suggest some of the ways Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the angels, and the wise men might have worshipped God.
• Close by giving students a moment to worship God by themselves.

Listening Time ★

• Display VA 17A Baby Jesus and THE SHEPHERDS AND THE WISE MEN PICTURES. Guide students as they retell the Bible truth.
• Ask the following questions to review:
  How did Mary and Joseph show a gift of love to God when an angel spoke to each of them? (They trusted and obeyed God’s plan for them to have and take care of Jesus.)
  What gift did the shepherds give to Jesus? (They told others that Jesus had been born, and they praised God for all the things they had heard and seen.)
  What gifts did the wise men give to Jesus? (They worshipped Him and brought Him expensive gifts. They obeyed God when He told them not to go back to King Herod.)
  What gift did God give you for Christmas? (God gave us the gift of Jesus, who brought peace and salvation to all people.)

Activity Time ★

• Have students recite the Memory Verse. Afterward, have them get their LUKE 2:11 ORNAMENT and wrap it in a piece of CHRISTMAS GIFT WRAP. Encourage students to give the ornament as a gift of love to someone.
• Make a book about the birth of Jesus. Invite students to provide sentences that you will write on strips of paper. Try to elicit a sentence from every student. Glue each strip of paper (or copy sentences) onto a separate piece of LARGE DRAWING PAPER. Give each student one page to illustrate. Invite one or two students who finish early to design and make a cover for the book. Help students to order the sentences chronologically. Bind or staple the pages together, and read the book aloud with the class. You may want to share this book with parents at a class party or read it to another class.
• Play the game Good News. Have students sit in a circle. Explain that as Christmas music is played, they are going to pass a CHRISTMAS CARD or other Christmas item around the circle without stopping. Hand the card to a student and start the music. When the music stops, tell the student holding the card to turn to the student who had it last and say, “God loves you and sent Jesus.” That student responds by saying, “Merry Christmas!” Start the music again and continue the game.
What gift did Mary and Joseph give to Jesus? Color the spaces red and green to find out.
What gift did the shepherds give to Jesus? 
Color the gift boxes that do NOT have words in them.
Draw lines from each gift the wise men brought to a related fact about Jesus.

- **gold**
  - Jesus prays for me.

- **frankincense**
  - Jesus is my king.

- **myrrh**
  - Jesus died for me.
Circle the pictures that show part of the Christmas Bible truth. Cross out pictures that are not part of the Christmas Bible truth.
Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.
Luke 2:11 (NIV)

For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
Luke 2:11 (NKJV)
Christmas Memory Match Game
Jesus is God's gift of love to

My gift to Him is

Jesus is God's gift of love to

My gift to Him is
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