

**Week One: A King for the Nations**

**Early Arrival Activity**

(15 minutes or until all your students arrive)

*Supplies Needed: Star resource page, yellow tissue paper, scissors, glitter, glue sticks*

*Teacher Note:* Before class, cut yellow tissue paper into small squares.

As the children arrive, give each student a copy of the Star resource page (see resources) and set out the tissue squares, scissors, glitter, and glue sticks. Instruct the students to use the tissue paper and glitter provided to decorate their star. In today's Treasure Story, the students will learn how the Magi followed the star to see Jesus. The star led them to Jesus so that they could worship Him.

**Week One: A King for the Nations**

**Reinforcement Activity**

(15 minutes)

*Supplies Needed: Chart paper, marker*

For this activity, the students will discuss the importance of taking time out of their schedules to worship Jesus. Ask the students to describe activities they are involved in throughout their day. Record the students' responses on a sheet of chart paper. In today's Treasure Story, the Magi were eager to find Jesus so that they could worship Him. Even though the Jews had waited for their Messiah for many years, they failed to recognize who Jesus was to them. They did not take time to worship Jesus.

Although we are very busy, we still need to make time to worship Jesus. We should seek to worship Him with all of our hearts, just as the Magi did. Ask the students to describe ways in which they can worship Jesus. Also record their responses on the chart paper. Close this activity in prayer by thanking Jesus that we can worship Him.

**Week Two: A Threat to God's King**

**Early Arrival Activity**

(15 minutes or until all your students arrive)

*Supplies Needed: Newspapers, copy paper, crayons, white fingerpaint, paper plates, paper towels*

*Teacher Note:* Prior to class, cover the table with newspapers and pour fingerpaint onto paper plates. Also place paper towels and crayons on the table.

As the children arrive, give each one a sheet of copy paper. Instruct them to use the crayons provided to draw the body of an angel. They will then use fingerpaint to draw the wings. A teacher should be available to assist the students with rolling up their sleeves and securing their garments so that they will not get paint on them. When they have finished drawing their angels, instruct them to lightly dip one hand into the paint. They will then press their paint-covered hands onto the paper to create the wings for the angel. There should be one handprint on each side of the body.

Once they are finished, give the students paper towels to wipe their hands and allow time for them to wash their hands. In today's Treasure Story, the students will learn about an angel who visited Joseph and warned him to leave Bethlehem.

**Week Two: A Threat to God's King**

**Reinforcement Activity**

(15 minutes)

Students will participate in a discussion about the effects of anger and jealousy. Ask the children to describe situations where they have become angry or jealous. If necessary, define these terms for the students. In today's Treasure Story, Herod was so jealous of Jesus that he acted in anger and planned to kill Jesus.

Anger and jealousy can lead us to do things that do not honor God, like what Herod was planning to do to Jesus. Ask the students to describe appropriate ways that they can respond when they are angry. For example, when we become angry that our favorite toy has been taken by another student in the classroom, how should we react? How should we react if our friend gets a better bike than what we have? Remind the children that we should respond to our anger and jealousy by turning away from these emotions and choosing to honor God with our actions.

### **Week Three: A Tempted King**

#### **Early Arrival Activity**

(15 minutes or until all your students arrive)

*Supplies Needed: Leaves, pine straw, small pine cones, bowls filled with sand, construction paper, glue, plastic spoons*

*Teacher Note:* Prior to class, collect items such as leaves, pine straw, and small pine cones. Also pour small amounts of sand into the bowls.

As the children arrive, set out the items you collected before class, the bowls of sand, and glue on the table. Also give each student a sheet of construction paper. For this activity, the students will be making a wilderness scene. In order to glue the sand, the students should place glue on their paper first and then lightly sprinkle the sand over the glue using a plastic spoon. In today's Treasure Story, the students will be learning about when Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness. Jesus went to the wilderness to pray and prepare for His earthly ministry. Satan used the opportunity to tempt Jesus.

### **Week Three: A Tempted King**

#### **Reinforcement Activity**

(10 minutes)

*Supplies Needed: Memory game items, small tray or shallow box lid*

*Teacher Note:* Prior to class, gather various objects and place them on a small tray or shallow box lid.

For this activity, the students will participate in a memory game. Begin by displaying the tray of items for the students to see. Instruct the students to take note of the objects on the tray. After everyone has had an opportunity to look, instruct the children to close their eyes. Remove one or two items from the tray. Then ask the students to open their eyes and guess which item(s) have been removed. Play this game several more times.

Explain to the children that in order to correctly guess the missing items, they first had to remember all the items on the tray. Our memory serves a great purpose because it allows us to recall important details and facts. In today's Treasure Story, Jesus combatted Satan with Scripture. Explain to the children that just as we remembered the objects on the tray, it is also important for us to remember verses from the Bible. If Jesus remembered and used Scripture against Satan's temptations to be victorious, we should do the same.

**Week Four: The Citizens of the Kingdom**

**Early Arrival Activity**

(15 minutes or until all your students arrive)

*Supplies Needed: Newspapers, play dough*

*Teacher Note:* Prior to class, cover the table with newspapers to prevent play dough from damaging the surface.

As the children arrive, set out the play dough on the covered tables. Invite the students to create a tall mountain and some people using their play dough. In today's Treasure Story, they will learn about the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Crowds gathered and sat on the mountainside to listen to Jesus teach. This is why they are creating the people and mountain with their play dough. Jesus taught the people what it meant to be a follower of Christ.

**Week Four: The Citizens of the Kingdom**

**Reinforcement Activity**

(10 minutes)

*Supplies Needed: Pitcher of water, vegetable oil, shallow baking pan*

*Teacher Note:* Before beginning this activity, place a pitcher of water, a container of vegetable oil, and a shallow baking pan on the table.

This demonstration will help the students understand how followers of Christ are to be different from the world. Begin by inviting the students to gather around the table. In today's Treasure Story, Jesus taught that followers of Christ would look different than the world. They will live in a way that honors God and relies on Him.

For the demonstration, pour water into the shallow pan. Explain to the children that the water represents people who have chosen to not follow God. Carefully drop very small amounts of oil into the water. Draw the students' attention to the oil and how it does not mix with the water. As followers of Christ, we are supposed to be in the world just as the oil is in the water. However, this does not mean we are supposed to be like the world. Jesus taught that we are to rely on Him, confess our sins, and shine as a light in the dark world. Close the activity by asking the students to name ways in which they can shine as a light for Jesus.



**Week Five: The King at Prayer**

**Early Arrival Activity**

(15 minutes or until all your students arrive)

*Supplies Needed: Colored index cards, marker*

*Teacher Note:* Prior to class, write the books of the Bible from Matthew to 2 Corinthians on separate colored index cards. Place a few Bibles on the floor along with the index cards for the students to use to complete this activity.

As the children arrive, invite them to take a seat on the floor. Then ask them to put the books of the Bible in the correct order. They can use the Bible to assist them with the correct ordering. Explain to the children that they are now studying from the New Testament and will begin memorizing the books of the Bible in this section. In today's Treasure Story, they will study the model Jesus gave for His disciples to use when praying. Praying is important because it is how we talk to God.

**Week Five: The King at Prayer**

**Reinforcement Activity**

*Supplies Needed: Give Me Five resource page, crayons, scissors, tape, craft sticks*

*Teacher Note:* Prior to class, make copies of the Give Me Five resource page (see resources). Place crayons, scissors, tape, and craft sticks on the table.

In today's Treasure Story, Jesus taught the disciples how to pray. Give each child a copy of the Give Me Five resource page. Discuss the different prayer points included on each finger on the resource page. Then instruct the children to color and cut out the hand on the page. When they have finished this step, they will tape the cutout hand to a craft stick. Encourage the children to use this craft as a guide when they are praying and talking to God to this week.

**Week Six: The Entrance to Christ's Kingdom**

**Early Arrival Activity**

(15 minutes or until all your students arrive)

*Supplies Needed: Against the Flow resource page, crayons*

As the children arrive, set out the crayons and give each student a copy of the Against the Flow resource page (see resources). Ask the children to explain what is different about this picture. (One fish is swimming in the opposite direction as the other fish.) Explain to the children that this picture represents what it is like to be a Christian. As Christians we go against the flow of what the world does because we are relying on God and not ourselves.

**Week Six: The Entrance to Christ's Kingdom**

**Reinforcement Activity**

(15 minutes)

*Supplies Needed: Yarn*

*Teacher Note:* Before beginning this activity, set up two paths in the classroom by using yarn as path boundaries. One path should be very wide, and the other path should be very narrow. If possible, set up the wide pathway so that it leads to a large entryway. Have the narrow path leading to a single door.

Invite the children to take a seat on the floor. In today's Treasure Story, Jesus described two paths. The path leading to death and destruction was very wide and had a wide gate. This path is the way of the world, and many will choose to go down this path because it is an easier path to follow. Invite the children to take a walk down the wide pathway. Explain to the children that this pathway represents those who decide against following Jesus.

The path to follow Christ is a small path because few people will choose to follow Him. Instead of choosing to follow Jesus, many people will want to hold on to the fun things of the world that do not honor God. God promises to give us eternal life when we choose to follow Him. Conclude this activity by inviting the children to walk in a single file line down the narrow path.