

# Finding Jesus, the Gift

**Big Idea:** Jesus is my God. He wants me to seek Him and find Him.

## ● Memory Verse

*“And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13).*

## Word of the Week

**“Seeking”** - Seeking is searching for something. Jesus wants us to seek for Him with all our hearts. Some things we can do to spend time with Jesus include praying, reading the Bible, going to Sabbath School, and singing worship songs.

## This week’s lesson

is based on **Matthew 2:1-12**; **Luke 2:8-38**; and *The Desire of Ages*, pp. 43-67.

Sunday

## By the Fireside

The flames of the fire flickered yellow and orange. It crackled as smoke rose up into the starry night sky. Huddled around the warm flames sat some men.

Who were these men, and what were they doing? Read **Luke 2:8**.

The grassy fields were their home. During the day they would lead their sheep to crunchy green grass and cool streams. At night they would camp under the stars, still looking after their flocks. No hungry wolves would come near their fluffy sheep!

The shepherds laughed and talked together as they watched the sheep. They may have chatted about the cool breeze, their families back home, and the new little lambs. Perhaps they pointed to the field in the distance filled with long, new grass. Yes, that would be a great place to take the sheep tomorrow.

But as the night grew still and quiet, the men began to talk about their most favorite thing of all—the coming Savior.

When would He come? What would He look like? What would He do? Oh, how they wanted it to be soon!

Bowing their heads together, the shepherds prayed

for the King whose “rule will last forever” and whose “kingdom will never be destroyed” (Daniel 7:14, ICB).

## I Wonder

- » What would you have liked/disliked about being a shepherd?
- » Who were the shepherds seeking?

## ● Prayer Idea

Thank God for putting His love in our hearts so we want to seek Him.

## ● Do

Build your own pretend campfire, using things from around the house. Sit around it and chat about what excites you the most about Jesus’ second coming.



Monday

## A Surprise Announcement

The shepherds looked up at the starry sky as their sheep slept on the soft grass. All was quiet. All was still.

Suddenly a dazzling angel appeared before them. The angel's light was so bright, it made the sky shine all around them. The shepherds jumped back in surprise. Their eyes opened wide, and their knees began to wobble. They were scared!

"Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people" (Luke 2:10).

The shepherds gasped, amazed. An angel wanted to share good news for the whole world with them—a group of shepherds!

What did the angel say? Read **Luke 2:11**.

The promised Savior had come! The King they had just been talking about was here. They imagined His big, strong muscles, His crown, and His royal palace. Yes! They couldn't wait to bow before their Ruler, the one they thought would save them from the mean Roman soldiers.

The angel said, "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger" (Luke 2:12).

Well, that's a little strange for a king, isn't it? But the shepherds looked at the beautiful angel and nodded. How special that God had sent them an angel messenger! With seeking hearts they believed the angel's words.

### I Wonder

» If the angel hadn't told the shepherds where Baby Jesus was, what might have happened?

#### Prayer Idea

Thank Jesus that His love is for all of us.

#### Do

Using lights, lamps, and flashlights, make a room very, very bright. Imagine what it might have felt like for the shepherds to see the angels. In a big voice, share the joyful news for all people: "Today your Savior was born. . . . He is Christ, the Lord" (Luke 2:11, ICB).

#### Memory Verse





Tuesday

## Glory to God!

The shepherds trembled at the angel's words. The promised King had been born!

Then, with a flash, the sky lit up brighter than the sun. Thousands of angels filled the sky with brilliant light! In their loudest and happiest voices, the angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace . . . toward men (Luke 2:14).

It was the most beautiful song the shepherds had ever heard. When the song finished, the angels disappeared. The light faded away, and the darkness returned.

The shepherds could hardly breathe, they were so excited! Jumping up, they ran to Bethlehem. Finally, puffing and panting, the shepherds stopped outside a humble stable. Shh! There, with Mary and Joseph, lay tiny Baby Jesus, sleeping peacefully in the manger. Bowing down, the shepherds worshipped Jesus.

They had found their King and Savior!

Then off they raced again, down the streets of Bethlehem. Stopping here, and stopping there, they shared their story everywhere. Angels! A stable! A baby King! What an exciting story it was for them to tell others. "Everyone was amazed when they heard what the shepherds said to them" (Luke 2:18, ICB).

Somebody else couldn't stop thinking about their story. Who was it? Read **Luke 2:19**.

### I Wonder

» If you were in Bethlehem that night, and a shepherd told you their story, what would you have done?

#### ● Prayer Idea

Ask God to fill your heart with thankfulness and praise for His great love for sending Jesus to our world as a baby.

#### ● Do

Make up a song using the angel's words in Luke 2:14. Your family may like to also look up a choir singing "Glory to God in the Highest" from Handel's *Messiah* and share it with you.

#### ● Mission Challenge

Draw a picture of an angel and ask your mom or dad to write the words from Luke 2:14 beside the angel. Give the picture to someone and tell them the story of the angels coming to the shepherds.

#### ● Memory Verse



Wednesday

## Anna and Simeon

Mary and Joseph held Baby Jesus close as they walked along the stone streets of Jerusalem. Today was a very special day. Today they would take Jesus to the temple. It was time to thank God for the gift of Baby Jesus.

The happy parents smiled as they gave Baby Jesus to the priest to say a prayer of thanks. The priest held the tiny Baby in his arms, but he had no idea he was holding the King of heaven! He said a prayer in front of the altar and handed Jesus back to His mother.

But someone else noticed who Jesus was. It was an old man in the temple named Simeon. Simeon was really close to God. When he saw Baby Jesus cradled in Mary's arms, he instantly knew that *this* baby was the promised King and Savior. He took Jesus in his arms and said a special thank-You prayer.

What did Simeon say? Read **Luke 2:30**.

Old Anna, with her wrinkly skin and gray hair, was also in the temple that day. Anna loved seeking God with her whole heart. She would pray "day and night," and she "never left the Temple" (Luke 2:37, ICB). As Simeon stood holding Baby Jesus, Anna's face lit up with God's bright joy. She knew this child was special. She just couldn't keep inside her words of praise, thanking God that Jesus, the promised Savior, had come.

### Did you know?

Parents today like to thank God for their babies with a baby dedication. Parents bring their baby to church to say thank You. They then say a special prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help them teach their child to love and follow God.

### I Wonder

- » How did Simeon and Anna know that Jesus was the promised Savior?
- » Have you ever seen a baby dedication? Have you been dedicated. If so, ask your family what it was like.

### Prayer Idea

Ask the Holy Spirit to fill your heart so you can know Jesus.

### Do

Play a game of hide-and-seek. Choose to be either Anna or Simeon when it's your turn to seek.

### Memory Verse

Thursday

# Stargazers

Far, far away from Bethlehem lived a group of very wise and good men. They knew a lot about stars—the same stars you can see each night in your sky!

Where were these men from? Read **Matthew 2:1**.

These Wise Men spent their days seeking truth and reading. As they read the Old Testament Scriptures, they discovered that the Savior was coming soon. How exciting!

Then one night (the very night Baby Jesus was born) they looked at the sparkling stars in the night sky and noticed something different. It was an unusual light in the sky. Then the light faded and turned into a beautiful star that moved. How interesting!

They remembered the Old Testament scriptures that said “a star will come” and “a ruler will rise” (Numbers 24:17, ICB). With excitement the Wise Men realized this must be “His star” (Matthew 2:2), God’s special sign that their King and Savior had come, just as God had promised!

Not knowing where it might lead, they decided to follow the star. They

saddled their camels, packed their bags, and filled their sacks with three very precious gifts for their King. No matter how far or how hard the trip might be, they would search for Him! They knew the truth of God’s promise: “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart” (Jeremiah 29:13).

## Fast Fact

A constellation is a group of stars that make a shape in the sky—a bit like a dot-to-dot puzzle. Can you see any in your sky at night?

## I Wonder

- » Do you know what the light and moving star was?
- » What can the Wise Men teach us about seeking God and His truth?

### Prayer Idea

Thank God that the Bible shows us the way to Him.

### Do

Sit together under the stars at night and try to find different stars. Your family may like to use an app to learn about the stars you see.

### Memory Verse





Friday

## The Seeking Wise Men

The Wise Men traveled across the sand, over hills, and through distant lands. Every night they followed the star. They were seeking the promised King!

Finally, after a very long journey, the Wise Men saw Jerusalem up ahead. They watched as the star stopped still, right above the temple. They must be getting close!

Excitedly the men entered the city gates. They began asking people where to find their newborn King. The people looked confused—they didn't know.

They went to the palace of King Herod. *Maybe he would know?* But no, Herod didn't know. In fact, their question made him very jealous. He was the king—he didn't want there to be a new one!

Leaving Jerusalem, the Wise Men didn't know where to go next. But then they saw the special star moving again! This time it led them right to a humble little home in Bethlehem.

What did they see and do next? Read **Matthew 2:11**.

The Wise Men dropped to their knees and worshipped Jesus. They opened their treasure box and pulled out three gifts. They gave Jesus shiny gold, special frankincense, and a sweet-smelling oil called myrrh. These gifts were worth a lot of money! They were special gifts for a king.

The Wise Men were so happy. God's word was true: "And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13).

### Parent Faith Talk

Share with your child how you seek Jesus each day, and the ways you "find" Him.

### I Wonder

» What can you do to seek and find Jesus each day?

#### Prayer Idea

Give Jesus a gift of sweet praise today. Think of three things to thank Him for.

#### Memory Verse

## Family Activity

### Memory Box

Think about the people who were seeking to find Jesus in this week's story. Find something for the memory box that will remind you to seek after Jesus.

## For You, Parents

"Ask in faith, wait in faith, receive in faith, rejoice in hope, for everyone that seeketh findeth. Be in earnest in the matter. Seek God with all the heart"  
(Ellen G. White, *Our High Calling*, p. 131).

Sabbath

# Bobbie the Wonder Dog

Frank slid the last suitcase into the back of the car. His wife, Elizabeth, climbed into the front seat. With a wag of his tail, their dog Bobbie jumped into the back. It was time to go!

Frank and Elizabeth had decided to make a very long trip across the United States to visit their family. This was a long time ago, in 1923. It was a big journey over mountains, past fields, and through a hot desert.

Finally, after many days of travel, Frank and Elizabeth arrived on the other side of the country. When they stopped for a rest, Bobbie jumped out of the car and began looking and sniffing around.

Suddenly a pack of three dogs ran toward Bobbie and attacked him. Poor Bobbie ran away into the nearby forest.

Back at the car, Frank and Elizabeth waited for Bobbie to return. "Bobbie, time to go," Frank called. But no Bobbie came. They waited a very long time. Eventually they had to leave. They hoped Bobbie would use his sniffing skills to find them at their relative's house not too far away.

Many days passed. It was now time for Frank and Elizabeth to return home. With sad hearts they began their long journey without their dog Bobbie.

Out in the forest, Bobbie was busy searching and seeking to find his owners again.

For days, weeks, and months, Bobbie traveled toward home, alone. He walked through tall fields of prickly grass, a dusty desert, and ice-cold snow. He swam through deep rivers. He loved his family. He would keep seeking them.

Bobbie would not give up.

Finally, after six long months, Bobbie made it back across the country to home! As soon as he saw his family, Bobbie raced up to them and licked their faces. He'd found them!

Jesus wants us to love Him and seek after Him too. He promises, "And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13). We don't have to walk to the other side of the country to seek Jesus. He is right here. But we can get closer to Him by putting Him first in our lives. We can do that by talking to Him every day, reading our Bible, and making good decisions that will lead us closer to Him.

