

THE
ARRIVAL

NAMES OF
JESUS

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HOPE

Start Talking:

What is something you have hoped for? Wished would happen?
Waited for?

Big Idea:

The Christmas story is a hope story. He came, and because He did, there is hope that sinners can be redeemed and the world can be renewed. Hope is a person, and His name is Jesus.

Key Verses:

Galatians 4:4

But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law ...

John 14:6

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me"

Start Doing and Sharing: RENEWED HOPE

What you need:

- One blank piece of paper for every person (any size, any color)
- One piece of paper for every person that has the name "JESUS" written on it
- A writing utensil for every person



Step-by-Step Directions:

1. Give each person a BLANK piece of paper and a writing utensil. Talk about what the paper looks like (fresh, flat, new, unblemished, not folded, etc.)

2. Tell everyone to write their name on their paper. (SAY: This paper represents you.)
3. Tell them to draw a picture on it or write something else on it. (SAY: Your drawing and marking on the paper represents the things that you do during the day.)
4. Tell them to fold it or crumple it up and step on it (SAY: This is what happens to your day when you sin or do something wrong – your day gets bent out of shape.)
5. Tell them to tear it in half (SAY: This is what happens when our sin gets bigger – it tears us away from Jesus.)
6. Talk about what a person might feel like when they are crumpled, torn, stepped on, etc. What are things that happen during a day to make us feel that way?
7. Now ask them to put their paper back to the way it was at the beginning when you first handed it to them. (fresh, flat, new, unblemished...) Give them a chance to try to make it new again and tell them to REALLY HOPE that they can do it all by themselves (even though they won't be able to).
8. SAY: It's impossible to make it new again. We can't do it for you, an iron won't work, an eraser won't work, water won't work. Just like these papers, we can't forgive our own sin, or make things right again with God all by ourselves. We need Jesus to do that for us. We have to put our trust and hope in Him and only Him. Because everyone does wrong things (sin), we all need Him. He is the one that they waited for so long ago to be born as a small baby and the one we still hope for now when he comes back again.
9. Give them all the "JESUS" paper (SAY: Only Jesus can make our days (and papers) new again.)
10. Have them write their names next to Jesus' name. If you have space, hang up the papers by their room or in a place where they can remember to put their hope in Jesus.

Start Praying:

Dear God, Thank You for being with me every day. Help me to think about You when things are going right and when things aren't. Please forgive me when I do wrong things and help make me new again like the paper. My hope is in You. In Jesus' name, amen.

PRINCE OF PEACE

Start Talking:

What would you do if you were a prince or princess? What would be your prince or princess name?

Big Idea:

When life gives me trouble, Jesus gives me peace!

Key Verses:

Psalm 29:11 NLT

The Lord gives his people strength. The Lord blesses them with peace.

John 14:27

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

Luke 2:14

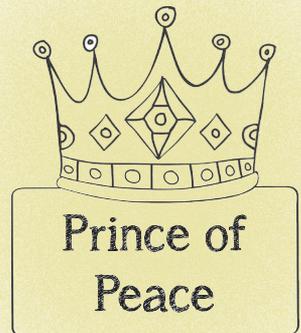
"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 26:3

You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.



Start Doing: **STORY TELLING AND RECAP**

Familiarize yourself with the passage in Luke 2:4-20. You can read directly from the Bible as well as from the recap below.

THE STORY RECAP: Today's Bible Story is from the book of Luke, chapter 2. It all starts with a group of shepherds taking care of their sheep out in the middle of a field late at night. As you can imagine, they were probably bored as could be. This was something they did a lot. Taking care of sheep can be quite boring sometimes, but they were about to get the surprise of their lives!

Suddenly, up in the sky, there appeared a huge group of bright, shining angels. They spoke to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid. We bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people." The shepherds were amazed by what they saw. Then, the angels began to sing, "Glory to God in the highest," and "Peace on Earth!" They told the shepherds all about the baby, Jesus, who had just been born in the town of Bethlehem. This baby was the Son of God who had come to Earth to take away the sins of all people. Jesus came to bring peace to the world! Then, just as quickly as the angels had appeared, they disappeared!

The shepherds didn't know what to make of all of this. They looked at each other, then said, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened!" They ran as fast as they could until they reached the town of Bethlehem. The shepherds went straight to the stable where Mary and Joseph were. Mary and Joseph had to stay in the stable because there was no room in the inn because of all the people traveling there to be counted and pay taxes. The shepherds gathered all around Jesus, the Savior of the World, and worshipped Him. The shepherds learned that day that Jesus came to bring peace. When they worshipped Him, they felt the peace and the presence of God all around them.

STORY Q AND A →

STORY QUESTION AND ANSWER:

1. Who did the angels appear to in the Bible Story?
Answer: The Shepherds
2. What did the angels say to the shepherds?
Answer: "Glory to God in the highest," and "Peace on Earth! Then they told them all about Jesus.
3. After the angels left, where did the shepherds go?
Answer: Bethlehem
4. Who did the shepherds go to see?
Answer: Jesus
5. In the key verses for today, what prince name did Isaiah use to describe Jesus?
Answer: Prince of Peace
6. The _____ Announced 'Peace On Earth'.
Answer: Angels
7. True Or False: Jesus brings peace.
Answer: True

Start Sharing:

Real peace - God's peace - means that when trouble comes, we don't freak out. We trust that God is in control! And that comes from a relationship with Jesus!

1. This world is full of trouble. You may have seen on the news or heard your parents talking about it. There are a lot of bad things in the world - wars, violence, hate, and all kinds of evil. It's easy to hear about those things and get a little scared.

Have you ever been afraid or nervous because of something you heard about going on in the world?

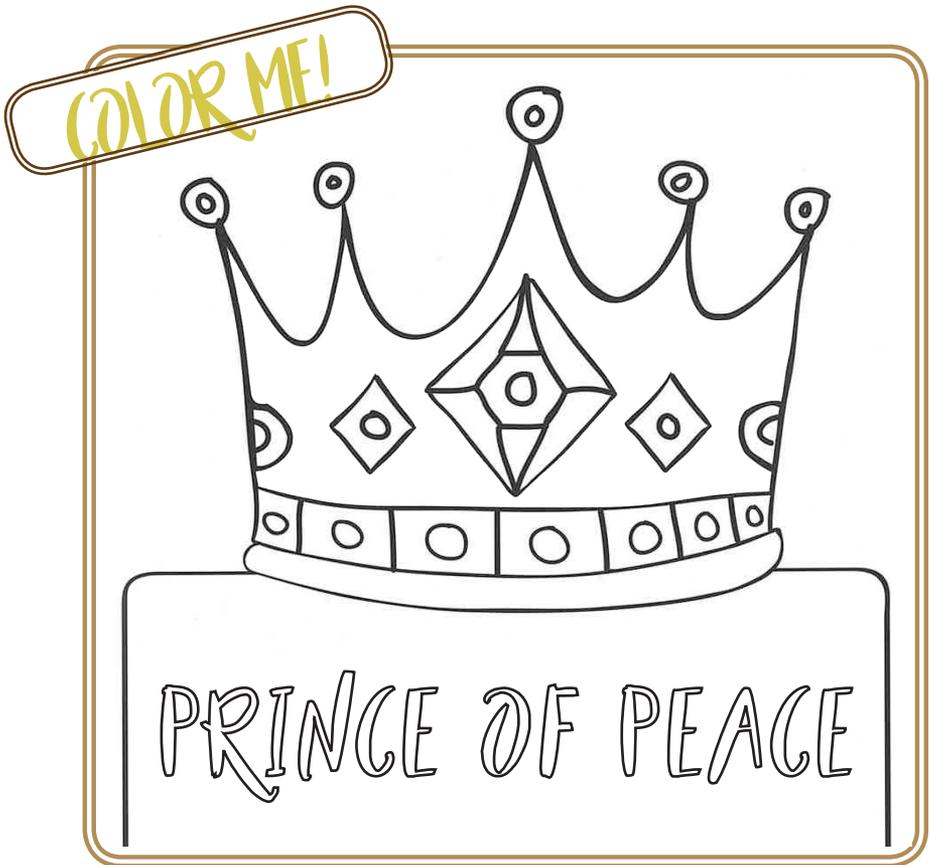
2. When the angels announced "Peace on Earth," they didn't announce "No more trouble on Earth!" Nope - Jesus didn't take away all the trouble in this world. Instead, he came to help us

during our troubled times by giving us peace. In fact, later in Jesus' life, He said in John 16:33, "I have told you all this so that you may have peace in me. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world" (NLT). There will be trouble, but there can be peace too!

How can we feel that peace when we have trouble?
(through prayer, trusting in Jesus that all will be okay)

Start Praying:

Dear God, when I get scared or nervous, please give me peace. Help me to trust in You and not worry. I want to feel peace like the shepherds did that night You were born. Please be near to me and help those that are in trouble in this world to also find Your peace. In Jesus' name, amen.



MESSIAH

Start Talking:

What are the names of your parents? Aunts? Uncles? Grandparents?

Big Idea:

God uses all people to bring His message of love!

Key Verses:

Matthew 1:1-2

This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham: Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob ...

Luke 2:25-32 GNT

At that time there was a man named Simeon living in Jerusalem. He was a good, God-fearing man and was waiting for Israel to be saved. The Holy Spirit was with him and had assured him that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's promised Messiah. Led by the Spirit, Simeon went into the Temple. When the parents brought the child Jesus into the Temple to do for him what the Law required, Simeon took the child in his arms and gave thanks to God:

*"Now, Lord, you have kept your promise,
and you may let your servant go in peace.*

*With my own eyes I have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples:*

*A light to reveal your will to the Gentiles
and bring glory to your people Israel."*



Start Sharing:

1. Read Luke 2:25-32.
2. What does Messiah mean? (*the expected king and deliverer of the Jews, the deliverer, or the one who saves.*)
3. What did Joseph and Mary do after Simeon said that Jesus was the promised Messiah? (*marveled [verse 33]*)
4. What does Simeon's story help us know about Jesus? (*He's God's Son. He's the promised Messiah. He's the one who brings salvation and redemption [makes us acceptable to God].*)

Start Doing: BLIND RECOGNITION

Let's see how well you recognize people by hearing only voices.

Pick one person to have their back to everyone else. If desired, put a blindfold on the volunteer. Have the volunteer pick one animal that everyone will make the noise of.

One at a time, make that animal noise and the volunteer needs to guess who is making the noise. Let them know if they got it right and move on to the next person.

After you have all had a turn, discuss:

1. How easy or hard was it to know who people were without seeing them?
2. How else do you recognize people? (*seeing them, seeing their uniforms, hearing something about them*)
3. How would you recognize someone you had never met or never heard?
4. How did Simeon recognize Jesus? (*prompted by God, knew in his heart*)
5. How do you think Simeon felt after he met Jesus?
6. How do you recognize that other people love Jesus?

Start Praying:

Dear God, Thank You for showing us who You are. You gave us a Messiah, a Savior, so that we can live with You someday in heaven. Please help us believe in You with our whole hearts. Thank You for this Christmas season. In Jesus' name, amen.



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