

WEEK 3

BIBLE LESSON



Need to Know: *God Has a Plan for Me*

Bible Story: *Jesus Is Born (Luke 2:1-5, Luke 2:7c, Micah 5:2a)*

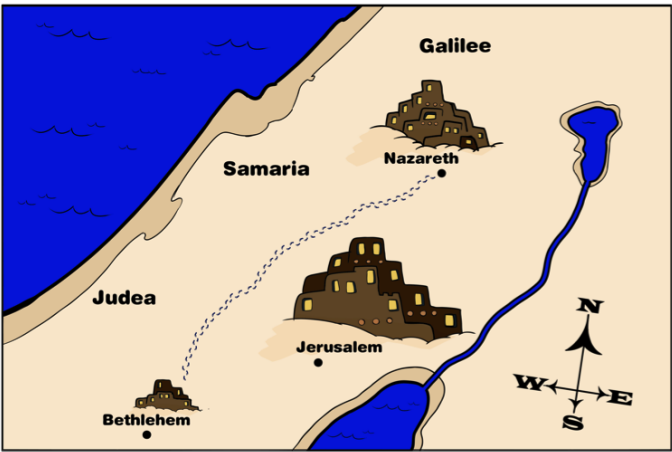
Supplies: *Attached Review Cards (PreK-3 only) and Bible Story Cards, printed*

Pre-K through 3rd grades:

1. **SAY:** *Part of God's special plan was to send His Son to be the Savior of the world! We can read all about God's plans when we read the Bible. As I read today's story, listen for the word "plan." When you hear me say, "plan," I want you to clap one time. Are you ready?*
2. **READ** the **Bible Story Cards** to the group. Afterwards, **SAY:** *Let's play a game to see if we can remember what happened in this story!*
3. **REVIEW** the story by allowing kids to take turns pulling a **Review Card** from the **bag**. Each time someone pulls out a **Card**, **SHOW** the picture to the group and **ASK:** *Was this in the story?*
4. **ALLOW** kids to respond, and **READ** the back of the **Card**.
5. After all **Cards** have been pulled from the **bag**, **SAY:** *Mary and Joseph didn't plan to have God's Son in a barn in Bethlehem. Even though these things were unexpected for Mary and Joseph, God had a plan for them the whole time, and He has a plan for you, too!*

4th-5th grades:

1. **SAY:** *Part of God's special plan was to send His Son to be the Savior of the world! We can read all about God's plans when we read the Bible. As I read today's story, listen for the word "plan." When you hear me say, "plan," I want you to clap one time. Are you ready?*
2. **READ** the **Bible Story Cards** to the group. Then, **ASK:**
 - **True or False:** *When Mary and Joseph made it to Bethlehem, they found a hotel room.* (False; they couldn't find a room, but a man offered for them to stay in his barn)
 - **Was staying in a barn in Bethlehem part of Mary and Joseph's plan?** (No) **Was it part of God's plan?** (Yes)
3. **SAY:** *Mary and Joseph didn't plan to have God's Son in a barn in Bethlehem. Even though those things were unexpected for Mary and Joseph, God had a plan for them the whole time! God has a plan for you, too!*



Map

Did Mary and Joseph plan on taking the trip to Bethlehem? (No)

Even though they weren't planning to take this trip, they trusted that God had a good plan for them.

Wk 3 - K-3 - Review Cards

Baby

What was the name of the baby God had been planning to send all along? (Jesus)

Jesus was God's plan to fix our friendship with Him!

Wk 3 - K-3 - Review Cards

Donkey

It wasn't easy for Mary to ride that donkey all the way to Bethlehem.

Even when things aren't easy, can we trust that God has a good plan for us? (Yes) Yes, because He loves us and is taking care of us!

Wk 3 - K-3 - Review Cards

Hotel

The inn in Bethlehem didn't look like this hotel, but when Mary and Joseph got there, were there any rooms left? (No)

*They didn't know what to do! Who can we talk to when we don't know what to do? (God)
We should talk to God because He knows the plans for our lives!*

Wk 3 - K-3 - Review Cards

Pizza

Let's say your family was planning to have pizza for dinner, but now there's a change of plans and you're having chicken.

Sometimes we can be disappointed when plans change, but what is the right attitude to have? (Good)

Wk 3 - K-3 - Review Cards

Barn

What kind of animals do you think were in the barn where Jesus was born? (ALLOW guesses - donkeys, sheep, cows, goats, etc.)

Wk 3 - K-3 - Review Cards

700



Hay

Let's say you are visiting a farm, and the money you brought for a souvenir falls into the hay and is now lost. How would you feel? (ALLOW responses)

Sometimes things happen that can mess up our plans. Who can you trust that is always in control and has a good plan? (God)

Wk 3 - K-3 - Review Cards

700

The number 700 was in today's story! 700 years before Mary and Joseph were born, God told the world what was going to happen in their lives.

Did God have a plan for you before you were born? (Yes)

Wk 3 - K-3 - Review Cards

King/Emperor

Why did the emperor in today's story want everyone to go to their hometown? (To be counted)

Even though the king's plan wasn't what Mary and Joseph had planned, it was part of God's plan for Jesus to be born in Bethlehem. Even when we can't see it, God is always planning good things!

Wk 3 - K-3 - Review Cards

Christmas Lights

Your family is planning to go look at Christmas lights, but your sister gets sick before you leave, and now you can't go. Would you be disappointed? (Yes)

When plans change it can be disappointing, but we can always trust God's plan and find something to be thankful for! What could you be thankful for in this situation? (That your sister didn't get sick in the car, That your family can help take care of her, That you feel well)

Wk 3 - K-3 - Review Cards

Christmas Tree

Let's say your mom has a plan for how she puts up your Christmas tree. First, she puts on the lights, then the ornaments, and last is the star.

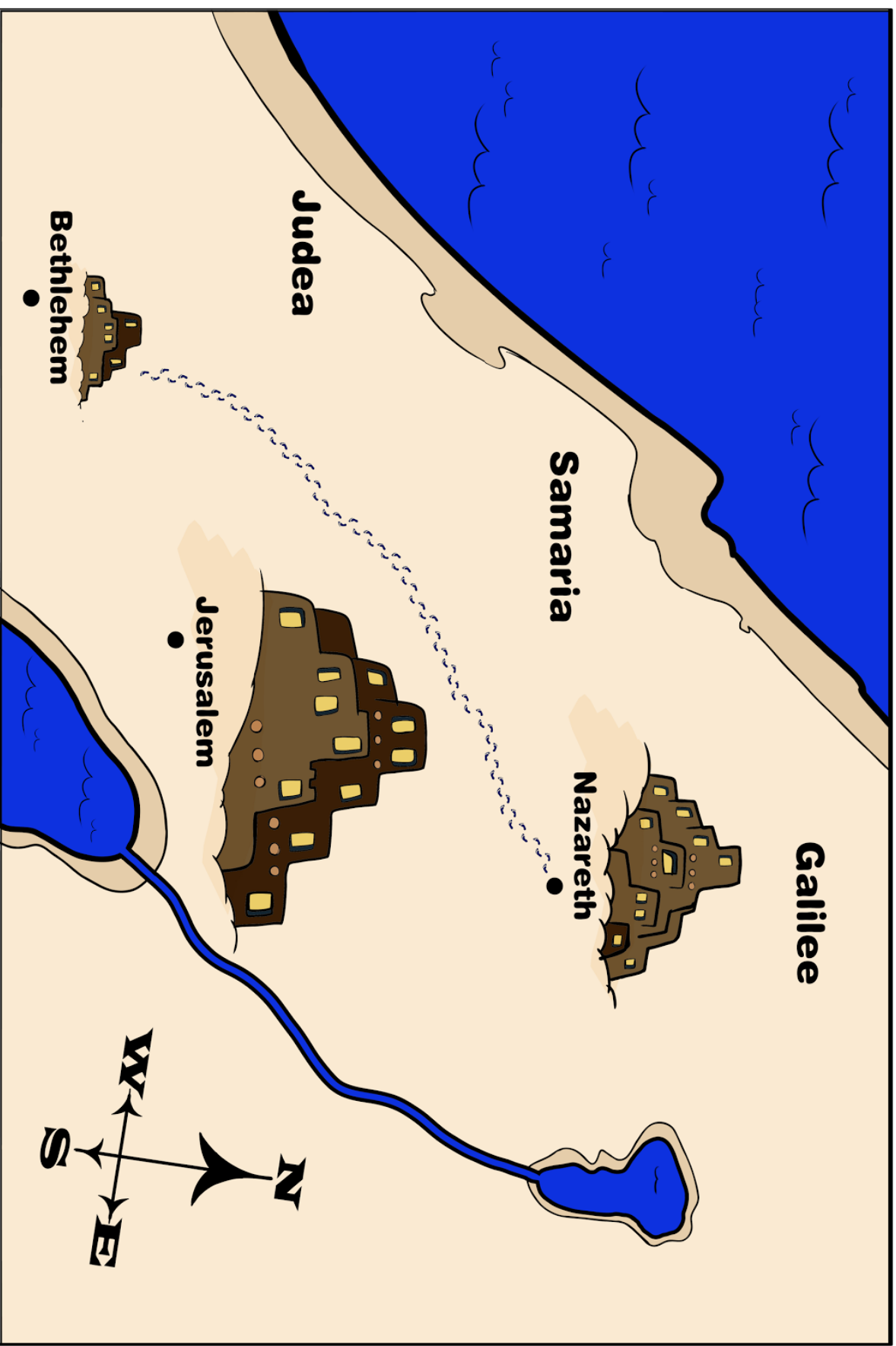
If you know that God has a plan for you, let me hear you say this after me: God Has a Plan (point up) for Me (thumbs to chest)

Wk 3 - K-3 - Review Cards

Gingerbread Man Cookie

When you are decorating Christmas cookies, you may have a plan for how you want your cookie to look. If your brother accidentally bumps your cookie and messes up your plan, what's the right way to react? (Show kindness, Forgive him, Know that it's still going to taste good)

Wk 3 - K-3 - Review Cards



Jesus Is Born

Luke 2:1-5, Luke 2:7c, Micah 5:2a

Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth.

Can anyone find Nazareth on this map? (Allow responses)

Mary was pregnant with Jesus, and He was going to be born any day now.

Around this time, they received some unexpected news. The emperor wanted to count everyone in the land. To be counted, you had to return to the town where you were born. Mary and Joseph were born in Bethlehem.

Can anyone find Bethlehem on this map? (Allow responses)

This meant that they were going to have to travel all the way to Bethlehem. This journey was definitely not what they were PLANNING (kids clap) to do right before their baby was to be born.

How do you think Mary & Joseph were going to get to Bethlehem? (Allow responses)



Well, back in Mary and Joseph's time, there were no cars, airplanes, buses, or trains.

They were going to have to walk or ride an animal.

How long do you think that would take? (Allow responses)

The journey would take three long days through the desert.

Mary was about to have a baby! Do you think she was super excited about walking for three days straight? (No)

What Mary and Joseph didn't know was that this was all part of God's awesome PLAN (kids clap).

So Mary and Joseph loaded up their donkey and started the long, tiring trek to Bethlehem.



When they finally got to Bethlehem, they began to look for a place to stay.

But Mary and Joseph were not the only people who had traveled to Bethlehem to be counted.

There were so many people in town that all the hotels were full.

They traveled from hotel to hotel, but all the rooms were booked.

Finally, one innkeeper said, "I don't have any rooms, but I do have a place where you may be able to rest."



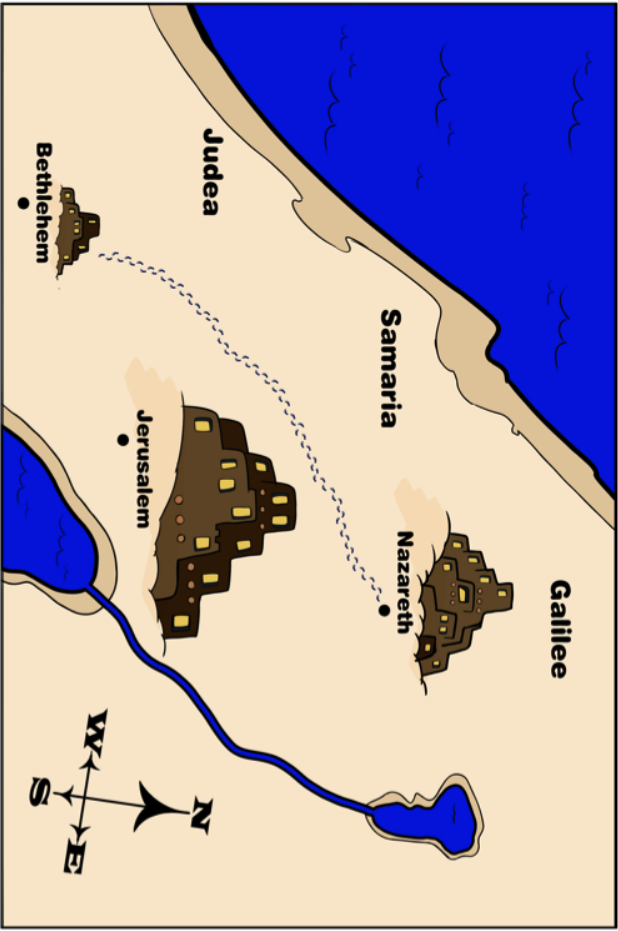
The innkeeper showed them to his stable where he kept all of his animals.

How would you like to sleep in a barn full of animals?
(Allow responses)

Mary and Joseph were going to be staying with the animals and sleeping in the hay.

Mary and Joseph did not PLAN (kids clap) on traveling to Bethlehem, and they did not PLAN (kids clap) on sleeping in a barn, but amazingly, this was all a part of God's awesome PLAN (kids clap).

That night, right there in the stable, Jesus was born!



See, long before Joseph & Mary were ever born, God knew that this was the PLAN (kids clap) for their lives. 700 years before all of this took place, God sent us a message through the prophet Micah.

He said, “Bethlehem, you might not be an important town... But out of you will come a ruler for all of my people.”

Who do you think the ruler would be? (Jesus)

God had a PLAN (kids clap) for the little town of Bethlehem—this is where Jesus, God’s son, would be born!

Because God wanted Jesus to be born in the tiny town of Bethlehem, He PLANNED (kids clap) long ago to send Mary & Joseph there around the time Jesus was to be born.

Even though the journey was long and their bed was not in a hotel, everything that happened was a part of God’s PLAN (kids clap) for Mary, Joseph, and Jesus.