Name: _____

DEEP DIVE · THEME LESSON

Four Readings, One Promise: God Is Coming!

TODAY'S BIG IDEA	All four readings tell the same good news: God is coming to us! He is our Shepherd, he brings peace, he is patient, and he tells us to get ready.
BIBLE READINGS	Isaiah 40:9–11 · Psalm 85:8, 10 · 2 Peter 3:8–9 · Mark 1:1–3
MEMORY VERSE	"Behold, your God!" (Isaiah 40:9)

1 Four envelopes

This week the church reads **four** parts of the Bible: a prophet (Isaiah), a song (Psalm 85), a letter (2 Peter) and a Gospel (Mark). As we open each envelope, write the word from the back of its puzzle piece:

Piece 1: Isaiah

_____

Piece 2: Psalm 85

_____

Piece 3: 2 Peter

_____

Piece 4: Mark

_____

2 Piece 1: God comes like a Shepherd

Isaiah 40:9–11 You who tell good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain. You who tell good news to Jerusalem, lift up your voice with strength! Lift it up! Don’t be afraid! Say to the cities of Judah, “Behold, your God!” Behold, the Lord GOD will come as a mighty one, and his arm will rule for him. Behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will gather the lambs in his arm, and carry them in his bosom. He will gently lead those who have their young.

1. **How does God come in this reading, strong or gentle?**

2. **Shepherds carried the littlest lambs that couldn’t keep up. Who are God’s lambs?**

3 Piece 2: God brings peace

Psalm 85:8 I will hear what God, the LORD, will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, his saints; but let them not turn again to folly.

Psalm 85:10 Mercy and truth meet together. Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

1. **What does God speak to his people?**

2. **Mercy and truth "meet together." Where did God's mercy and God's truth meet?**

4 Piece 3: God is patient

2 Peter 3:8–9 But don't forget this one thing, beloved, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow concerning his promise, as some count slowness; but he is patient with us, not wishing that anyone should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

1. **Christians have waited a long time for Jesus to come back. Is God late?**

2. **Why does God wait?**

5 Piece 4: Get ready!

Mark 1:1–3 The beginning of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you: the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make ready the way of the Lord! Make his paths straight!' "

1. **The voice in the desert says, “Make ready the way of the Lord!” How do we get ready for Jesus?**

6 Put the puzzle together

Put it together. All four readings say: G _ _ I _ C _ _ _ _ _ !

Make a lamb, or draw one here in the Shepherd’s arms. Write the memory verse beside it:

7 St. Nicholas, a shepherd for his people

St. Nicholas gave gifts in secret. Who could you help this week without anyone knowing?

8 Pray

Dear God, thank you for coming to us. Jesus, you are our Good Shepherd. Give us your peace, thank you for being patient with us, and help us get ready for Christmas. Amen.

Scripture: World English Bible (public domain). Free to print and copy.