



WEEK  
**ONE**  
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP

**2** YEAR  
-OLDS

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### BIBLE STORY

God tells Mary she is going to have His Son, Jesus.

**THE ANGEL AND MARY**  
**LUKE 1:26-33, 38**

### MEMORY VERSE

"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son."

**JOHN 3:16, GNT**

### KEY QUESTION

How do we know  
God loves us?

### BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

### BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

### PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

### SMALL GROUP

**15**  
MIN

#### **SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction**

*Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.*

Pool Noodle Track Building

Baby Care

Show Me Your Face

### LARGE GROUP

**20**  
MIN

#### **WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God**

#### **STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways**

"Silent Night"

Bible Story

Prayer

### SMALL GROUP

**25**  
MIN

#### **GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect**

*Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.*

Memory Verse with Motions

Story Toss

What's the Message?

Stained Glass Angel

### HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)

Parent Cue App



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

## MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's  
natural desire to move  
to help them learn



## 1. POOL NOODLE TRACK BUILDING

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Pool noodles, painter's tape, and  
scissors or utility knife

### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Cut pool noodles in half,  
widthwise and lengthwise. Using the pool noodle length  
as a guide, create a train track pattern on the floor with

tape. Create more than one train track on the floor if you have a large group of  
children. Lay the pool noodles on the floor near the tape track.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage the children to work together to build  
a train track by laying the pool noodles on top of the tape lines. Ask children  
to pretend to be passengers on a train and follow the tracks they built. If time  
allows, ask children to remove the pieces and build the track again.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Talk about how all month we're riding on the Christmas  
train as we celebrate the best gift ever, Jesus!

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, join me over here. Chugga-chugga, over  
here and look at this! These tape lines are our pattern to build a train track!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Can you help build the train tracks with these pool  
noodles? Do you see the pattern on the floor? Line the pool noodles on the tape  
lines. (Pause.) Wow! Great job building the train tracks! Can you pretend to be  
passengers on a train and follow the tracks you built? Follow me. (Leader takes  
children slowly over the pool noodle train tracks.) What does a train sound like?  
(Pause.) Choo-choo! That was so fun!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Thank you for helping build the tracks! You are great  
track builders! Now we can hop on the Christmas story train and go hear the true  
story of Christmas. Follow me. Choo-choo!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by continuing to "choo-choo" and  
move along like a train on a track.

## BIBLE STORY

God tells Mary she is going to  
have His Son, Jesus.

**THE ANGEL AND MARY**  
**LUKE 1:26-33, 38**

## MEMORY VERSE

"God loved the world so much  
that he gave his only Son."

**JOHN 3:16, GNT**

## KEY QUESTION

How do we know  
God loves us?

## BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

## BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



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## MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



## 2. BABY CARE

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Baby dolls, baby blankets, baby clothes, and baby bottles

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Place all of the supplies in the activity area.

## BIBLE STORY

God tells Mary she is going to have His Son, Jesus.

**THE ANGEL AND MARY**  
**LUKE 1:26-33, 38**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage the children to take care of the babies by feeding, changing, and loving on them.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Introduce a very special baby we'll hear about in our Bible story.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come over and look at the different things we have to help us take care of these babies. Let's help each other take care of the babies."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "These babies are so sweet. Show me some of the different ways we can take care of the babies. We can sing to the babies. Babies like to hear sweet lullabies. Do you know any sweet lullabies to sing to these babies? (Pause.) We can rock the babies and hug them. (Pause.) We can bathe them and put clean clothes on the babies. (Pause.) And we can feed the babies."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Today, we'll hear about a very special baby! Our Bible story is about when Jesus was born!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by pretending to cradle a baby and sing a lullaby as you walk to the story area.

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## MADE TO IMAGINE

an activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning



## 3. SHOW ME YOUR FACE

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Toddler-safe mirror

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Gather children in front of the mirror.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to make different types of emotional faces in the mirror. Make each type of face multiple times, being sure to highlight surprised often.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Introduce the story as one about someone who was very surprised.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come look in the mirror with me."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Can everyone see their faces? (*Pause.*) Great. Let's make a happy face! (*Demonstrate.*) Look at all those smiling, happy faces. Now, how about a sad face. (*Demonstrate.*) Aww, you all look so sad. Can you show me a scared face? (*Demonstrate.*) Nice job! Oh, how about a surprised face? (*Demonstrate.*) Now, let's do happy faces again! And now we're surprised. Now, we're scared. And sad." (*Repeat as time and interest allow.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "You did such a great job of showing me all of those different kinds of faces. Today, we're going to hear about someone who was surprised. I wonder what surprised her. Let's find out."

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by making different types of emotional faces as you walk.

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

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an activity that uses a preschooler's  
natural desire to move  
to help them learn



## 1. MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Say the memory verse and teach the motions to the children.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Repeat the verse with the motions and invite the children to do it with you. Repeat several times.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review that God knows what's best for us because God knows everything.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, join me over here. We have a brand-new memory verse and motions to learn! Everyone, listen and watch me. 'God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*) loved the world (*cross arms over chest*) so much (*pull hands away from each other*) that he gave his only Son,' (*rock arms like a baby*) John 3:16." (*Open hands like a book.*)

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Now let's do it together! Are you ready? 'God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*) loved the world (*cross arms over chest*) so much (*pull hands away from each other*) that he gave his only Son,' (*rock arms like a baby*) John 3:16. (*Open hands like a book.*) Nice job. Let's do it again." (*Repeat several times.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Our memory verse teaches us that God loves us SO much that He gave us His Son, Jesus. **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!** Let's say that one more time, friends. **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!**"

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## 2. STORY TOSS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Container of pom-poms

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Give each child a few pom-poms to hold.

### BIBLE STORY

God tells Mary she is going to  
have His Son, Jesus.

**THE ANGEL AND MARY**  
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**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Lead the children to say the angel's message rhyme and throw their pom-poms like confetti in the air when you say, "EVERYONE!" Gather the pom-poms and do it again. Repeat as desired.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review that **God gave us Jesus** because God loves everyone.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Hello, everyone! Come get some pom-poms!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "We're going to say a Bible story rhyme together, then we'll toss our pom-poms in the air. Wait for me to tell you when to toss them, okay? Now say what I say!"

"Hello, Mary! Don't be afraid! (Pause for children to repeat.) God has a message for you today. (Pause for children to repeat.) You're going to have a baby, God's only Son. (Pause for children to repeat.) To show that God loves EVERYONE! (Pause for children to repeat and cue children to toss pom-poms when they say, 'Everyone.')

"Yay! (Clap.) God loves everyone! Let's pick up our pom-poms and do that again." (Repeat as long as time and interest allow. When the children are ready, say the story rhyme straight through without stopping for them to repeat what you say.)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "**God gave us Jesus** because God loves us. So when I ask, '**How do we know God loves us?**', we will say, '**God gave us Jesus!**' **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!**"

### MEMORY VERSE

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## 3. WHAT'S THE MESSAGE?

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Additional leader

### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Gather the children on one side of your activity area with a leader. Have another leader stand on the opposite side of the activity area.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** The leader standing with the children will gather them together and whisper the message below to the children then send them to the leader on the opposite side to share the message. The first time, they'll be sharing the message the angel gave Mary! Have the leader repeat the message aloud and lead everyone to clap and celebrate. Then have the children return to the first leader and share another message or two in the same way.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review with the children that the angel had a very special message for Mary. She would have a baby, God's Son, Jesus. God gave us Jesus because God loves us!

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, join me over here, and let's play a game. I'll share a very special message. Listen closely! Then I want you to walk to [leader's name] and share the special message. Are you ready?"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Okay friends, here's the special message. (*whispering to children*) The angel said to Mary, 'You will have a baby!' Walk to [leader's name] and share this special message! (*Pause.*) Great job, friends. Come back, I have another message for you to share. Are you ready for the next message? Listen closely. (*whispering*) Christmas is about Jesus! Go share this message with [leader's name]. (*Pause.*) Are you ready for the last message? Here we go. (*whispering*) God gave us Jesus! Go share this message with [leader's name]. (*Pause.*) Great job, friends! Come sit with me."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "In our Bible story, the angel had a special message for Mary! Mary would have a baby, Jesus, God's Son. I'm so glad God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus. Tell me, **how do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!** One more time! **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus.**"

## BIBLE STORY

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

## MADE TO CREATE

an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



## 4. STAINED GLASS ANGEL

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Stained Glass Angel" Activity Page, cardstock, clear contact paper, tissue paper in a variety of colors and patterns, craft knife, scissors, and a permanent marker

### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Stained Glass Angel" on cardstock, one per child. Cut out around each angel with scissors then cut the inner part of the angel with the craft knife. Cut contact paper into 8 ½" x 11" pieces, one per child. Peel backing and attach contact paper to the front of each angel, trim excess. *Note:* For transport and storage until use, place the backing over the sticky part on each angel. Cut or tear tissue sheets into quarters.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to pick different pieces of tissue paper to tear and add to the sticky area of their angel. Leader trims excess as needed. Encourage children to hold their angel up to the light to reveal all the pretty colors.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Bible story.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, join me at the table. Let's make an angel to help us remember the special message Mary was given."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Pick some of these colorful papers and tear them into small pieces. *(Pause.)* Great! Now decorate your angel with the paper pieces. This part of your angel has sticky paper on it. *(Point.)* Fill the whole sticky part. *(Pause.)* Wow! They look amazing! Hold your angel up and let the light shine through. *(Pause.)* Beautiful!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Today, we heard the beginning of the true story of Christmas. God had an important message for a young girl named Mary. God sent an angel. Mary was surprised and a little afraid, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid Mary! God says you are going to have a baby and you will call Him Jesus.' Jesus will be SO special because . . . Jesus is God's Son! **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus.**"

## BIBLE STORY

God tells Mary she is going to have His Son, Jesus.

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## GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

### SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age-appropriate and hands-on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

*Prepare to offer one or more of the following activities as preschoolers arrive. Let one or two teachers lead activities in different areas of the room while another teacher greets parents and children at the door.*

#### 1. POOL NOODLE TRACK BUILDING

**Made to Move:** An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Six to eight pool noodles
- Painter's tape
- Scissors or utility knife

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Cut pool noodles in half, widthwise and lengthwise.
- Using the pool noodle length as a guide, create a train track pattern on the floor with tape.
  - Create more than one train track if you have a large group of children.
- Lay the pool noodles on the floor near the tape track.

#### 2. BABY CARE

**Made to Play:** An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Baby dolls
- Baby blankets
- Baby clothes
- Baby bottles

#### 3. SHOW ME YOUR FACE

**Made to Imagine:** An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role-play to enhance their learning

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Toddler-safe mirror

### GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect through activities written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real-life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

*Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or, offer two activities at once and allow half the children to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.*

#### 1. MEMORY VERSE W/ MOTIONS [HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

**Made to Move:** An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- No supplies needed

#### 2. STORY TOSS [TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**Made to Move:** An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Container of pom-poms

#### 3. WHAT'S THE MESSAGE? [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**Made to Move:** An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Additional Leader



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## GETTING READY

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### 4. STAINED GLASS ANGEL

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**Made to Create:** An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft

#### WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Stained Glass Angel" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Clear contact paper
- Tissue paper in a variety of colors and patterns
- Craft knife
- Scissors
- Permanent marker

#### WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Stained Glass Angel" on cardstock, one per child.
- Cut out around each angel with scissors then cut the inner part of the angel with the craft knife.
- Cut contact paper into 8 ½" x 11" pieces, one per child.
- Peel backing and attach contact paper to the front of each angel, trim excess. *Note: For transport and storage until use, place the backing over the sticky part on each angel.*
- Cut or tear tissue sheets into quarters.

### HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's Parent Cue card.
- Copy the Memory Verse card to hand out or make available to parents.
- Copy "Going Home" and hang it on the door where Small Group Leaders can reference and remind parents of the Bottom Line and Memory Verse as parents pick up their children.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource, the **Parent Cue app**.

### FIRST LOOK PINTEREST PAGE

- Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. [bit.ly/FL\\_ChristmasTrain](https://bit.ly/FL_ChristmasTrain)