



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP

2 YEAR
-OLDS

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is born.

JESUS IS BORN
LUKE 2:1-7

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.

Plain or Fancy?

Sounds Like

Swaddle the Baby

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.

Baby Verse

Ride to the Stable

Stable Relay

Manger Ornament

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)

Parent Cue App



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP

2 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

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. PLAIN OR FANCY?

WHAT YOU NEED: Soft blanket, brown butcher paper, painter's tape, music player, and this month's music, included in your files

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Lay the blanket on the floor on one side of the activity area and a large piece of butcher

paper on the other side. Tape paper down to secure it to the floor. Ask children to stand with you in the area between the blanket and the paper.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Ask children to dance, walk, or wiggle while the music plays, then when it stops children go to the blanket or paper to rest. Resume dancing, walking, or wiggling when the music plays again. Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the idea of fancy and not fancy that will be introduced in our Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, stand with me. There are two areas in our room that we'll use for our game. This area with the blanket is so soft and fancy, and this area with the paper is plain. I'll play some music, and I want you to dance or just walk around. But when the music stops, I want you to go to one of the two areas to rest."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: *(Start music.)* "Walk, dance, wiggle. *(Pause music.)* Go to the paper or the blanket. *(Pause.)* Wow! Why did you pick the blanket to rest on? *(Pause.)* Good answers. *(If anyone is on the paper, ask them why they chose paper.)* Why did you pick the paper to rest on? *(Pause.)* Also, good answers for paper. Let's do it again. *(Start music.)* "Walk, dance, wiggle. *(Repeat as desired.)* Awesome job, friends! Everyone, join me at the paper and sit down for a rest."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That was a fun activity, moving around today and seeing which area you liked best. The blanket was a fancy area, and this paper is plain and not as soft. Today, we'll hear an amazing story about Jesus, and it didn't happen in a soft, fancy area. It happened in a not fancy place . . . with animals! I can't wait to hear our story today!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by walking, dancing, wiggling, or all three as you move to your designated area.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is born.

JESUS IS BORN
LUKE 2:1-7

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.



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP

2 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



2. SOUNDS LIKE

WHAT YOU NEED: "Sounds Like" Activity Page; cardstock; scissors; sound effects for baby, chicken, sheep, and cow; and smartphone or tablet to play sound effects

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Sounds Like" on cardstock and cut apart, one set per small group. Download the sound

effects to a smartphone or tablet.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Place the "Sounds Like" pictures on the floor or table. Play each sound effect and have the children point to the corresponding picture. Move the pictures around and complete the activity again. Continue as time and interest allow. Option: Give each child a picture and have them hold it up when the corresponding sound is played.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come sit with me. I have a fun game to play."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Look at all these pictures I have. What do you see? (Pause.) Yes! There is a donkey, a sheep, a chicken, and a baby. Great job. Now, I'll play a sound. I want you to point to the picture of what makes that sound. Are you ready? (Play sound.) What was that? (Pause.) Yes, it was a [animal's name]. Now, let's do another one. (Continue until all sounds are played multiple times.) Great job!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "We heard some fun animals in our game today. What else did we hear? (Pause.) Yes, we heard a baby. Today's story is about a very special baby. I can't wait for you to hear it."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by making the different animal sounds as you walk.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is born.

JESUS IS BORN
LUKE 2:1-7

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.



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP

2 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts



3. SWADDLE THE BABY

WHAT YOU NEED: Four dolls, baby blanket, streamers, toilet paper, and toy banana

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Gather children with supplies either on the floor or at a table.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is born.

JESUS IS BORN
LUKE 2:1-7

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead children to investigate swaddling the baby with the different items available. Help them determine what is the best option for wrapping Baby Jesus. Continue as long as there is interest.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come sit with me. I want to do an experiment with you. An experiment is where you try different things to see what works best. Let's see what will work best to wrap these babies and keep them warm."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's try wrapping one of our babies with these streamers. (*Demonstrate.*) See if you can get the baby all covered and warm with them. Hmmm, I wonder if that's the best. Now, let's try wrapping one of our babies with this banana. (*Demonstrate.*) Did that work? (*Pause.*) No, I think the banana is not the best to cover our baby and keep him warm. What about toilet paper? Let's try that. (*Demonstrate.*) Wow, we did cover the baby with toilet paper. Do you think that's the best? (*Pause.*) Let's keep experimenting. Let's use this blanket. (*Demonstrate.*) Oh look, the baby is all wrapped up and warm. Which one do you think did the best job of wrapping our baby? (*Pause.*) Yes, the blanket did the best job. Great job of experimenting. We learned that the blanket is best for wrapping a baby. Do you want to try it again?"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In today's story, we'll hear about a very special baby. I wonder if they wrapped Him in a blanket. Let's find out."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by rocking a pretend baby.

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.



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP

2 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



1. BABY VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Say the memory verse as you do the motions with the children.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is born.

JESUS IS BORN
LUKE 2:1-7

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to pretend to cradle and rock a baby in their arms. Ask children to quietly say the memory verse to the babies. Repeat several times.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the memory verse with the motions one more time. Review the Bottom Line.

MEMORY VERSE

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

JOHN 3:16, GNT

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hello, friends, join me over here. Let's do the motions as we say our memory verse together. '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.*) Great job!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Our Bible story was all about how Jesus was born. Let's pretend to hold and rock a baby. Great job! While we rock our babies, let's quietly say the memory verse to our babies. Remember, use sweet and gentle voices. 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,' John 3:16. That was wonderful! Let's do it again!" (*Repeat as desired.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "We're learning that God loves us so much that He gave us His Son, Jesus. **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!** Say that again with me. **God gave us Jesus!**"

KEY QUESTION

How do we know
God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP

2 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



2. RIDE TO THE STABLE

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Plush farm animals, baby doll, baby blanket, and a shallow basket

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Place your basket in one area of your room with the baby and blanket nearby. Put the plush

farm animals around the basket.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children on the opposite side of the room. Pretend to ride donkeys to the animals. When you get to the animals, wrap the baby doll and lay it in the basket. Encourage the children to lie down and pretend to sleep. Then wake up and do it again!

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how Baby Jesus was born in a place where animals sleep.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Come stand with me. We're going to pretend to ride donkeys!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's ride our donkeys to Bethlehem like Mary and Joseph did in our Bible story. Here we go! Hee-haw! Hee-haw! (Pretend to ride a donkey around the room as you make donkey sounds. Stop at the plush animals.) Whoa, donkey! We made it to Bethlehem. (Kneel at the basket and animals.)

"When Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem, they had to stay in a room where animals stayed, because there were no other rooms. When Baby Jesus was born, Mary wrapped Him in cloths and laid Him in a manger. (Wrap the baby doll and lay it in the basket.) Shh. Baby Jesus is sleeping. Let's pretend we are sleeping, too. (Lay down and pretend to go to sleep.) Time to wake up! Let's go back and pretend we're riding donkeys again!" (Repeat as long as time and interest allow.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus was born in Bethlehem in a room where animals stayed. God loves us so much **God gave us Jesus! How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!**"

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is born.

JESUS IS BORN
LUKE 2:1-7

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.



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP

2 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



3. STABLE RELAY

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Stable Relay" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, blue butcher paper, painter's tape, and a marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Enlarge as desired and copy "Stable Relay" on cardstock and cut, one set per small group.

If you have more children than pictures, make extra copies of the animals. Place tape loops on the back of each picture. Hang blue butcher paper on the wall at child's height and draw a simple stable. Tape a start line on the floor for the relay. Seat the children behind the line and give each one a picture.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage them to add their pictures one at a time to create the stable scene.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the story by pointing at all the pictures.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Everyone, come sit on this tape line. We're going to create a picture on this blue paper. I'll give each of you a picture. We'll put them on the blue paper, one at a time."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Who has the picture of Mary? Run and put Mary in the stable then come back to the line. (Pause.) Great job. Who has the picture of Joseph? Run and put Joseph in the stable then come back. (Pause.) We have Mary and Joseph in the stable. Now, let's put the animals in the stable. (Pause.) Great!"

"The animals need some hay to eat. If you have the hay, run and put it by the animals. (Pause.) Good job! Now, we're missing someone very special. Who are we missing? (Pause.) Yes! We're missing Baby Jesus. Who has Baby Jesus? Awesome. And who has the manger where Baby Jesus slept? Great. Run and put the manger in front of Mary and Joseph. (Pause.) Now, let's put Jesus in the manger. (Pause.) Yay! We filled our stable!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Let's look at our stable. We have Mary and Joseph. We have animals and the hay they eat. We have the most special baby of all in the manger. Who is this most special baby? (Pause.) Yes! That's Jesus. God loves us so much that He sent us Jesus. **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

Jesus is born.

JESUS IS BORN
LUKE 2:1-7

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.



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP

2 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

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. MANGER ORNAMENT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Manger Ornament" Activity Page, cardstock, white jumbo baking cups, washable ink pads, glue sticks, thin twine, clear tape, scissors, baby wipes, and a pen

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Manger Ornament" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Cut twine into twelve-inch lengths and knot at the end, one per child.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to press their finger on the ink pad then press in the manger for Baby Jesus. Clean fingers. Ask children to glue their picture on the center of the baking cup and sandwich the twine loop between. Leader helps as needed.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, join me at the table. Let's make a special ornament of today's Bible story when Jesus was born."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "On your paper is a picture of Mary and Joseph next to the manger. When Jesus was born, Mary wrapped Him in a blanket and laid Him in a manger. Let's make Baby Jesus with your fingerprint. Press your fingertip on the ink pad then right on top of the manger. (*Help as needed.*) Clean your fingers. Now we need to put the pieces together to make your ornament. Help me tape the twine hanger on the back of your picture. (*Pause.*) Now rub glue on the back and stick it to the middle of the baking cup. (*Pause.*) Great job! Look at your ornaments! You can take these home today and hang them on your tree to remember the true story of Christmas."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "The true story of Christmas begins with a young girl named Mary. God sent an angel to tell Mary she would have a baby and that baby would be Jesus, God's Son! God loves us so much that He gave us His Son, Jesus. A little later, Mary and Joseph had to travel a long way to the town of Bethlehem. When they got there, they needed to find a place to stay because Jesus, God's Son, was about to be born! The place Mary and Joseph found to stay the night was not fancy. It was a stable full of animals like chickens and sheep. And when Baby Jesus was born, Mary wrapped Him up and placed Him in a manger full of straw. God loves us so much that He gave us His Son, Jesus. **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus.**"

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is born.

JESUS IS BORN
LUKE 2:1-7

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.



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP

2 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

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. PLAIN OR FANCY?

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Soft blanket
- Brown butcher paper
- Painter's tape
- Music player
- This month's music, included in your files

WHAT YOU DO:

- Lay the blanket on the floor on one side of the activity area and a large piece of butcher paper on the other side.
- Tape the paper down to secure it.

2. SOUNDS LIKE

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Sounds Like" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Sound effects for baby, chicken, sheep, and cow (provided)
- Device such as a smartphone or tablet to play the sound effects

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Sounds Like" on cardstock and cut, one set per small group.

- Download sound effects to phone or tablet.

3. SWADDLE THE BABY

Made to Explore: An activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Four dolls
- Baby blanket
- Streamers
- Toilet paper
- Toy banana

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. BABY VERSE

[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



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP

2 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

GETTING READY

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

2. RIDE TO THE STABLE

[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:

- Plush farm animals
- Baby doll
- Baby blanket
- Shallow basket

WHAT YOU DO:

- Place your basket in one area of your room with the baby and blanket nearby.
- Put the plush farm animals around the basket.

3. STABLE RELAY

[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:

- "Stable Relay" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Blue butcher paper
- Painter's tape
- Marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Enlarge as desired and copy "Stable Relay" on cardstock and cut, one set per small group.
- Place tape loops on the back of each picture.
- Hang blue butcher paper on the wall at child's height and draw a simple stable.
- Tape a start line on the floor for the relay.

4. MANGER ORNAMENT

[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:

- "Manger Ornament" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- White jumbo baking cups
- Washable ink pads
- Glue sticks

- Thin twine
- Clear tape
- Scissors
- Baby wipes
- Pen

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Manger Ornament" on cardstock and cut, one per child.
- Cut twine into twelve-inch lengths and knot at the end, one per child.

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