



WEEK
FOUR
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP

2 YEAR
-OLDS

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

BIBLE STORY

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!
LUKE 1:26-33, 38; 2:1-2:21

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.

Dance and Celebrate

Balloon Match

Birthday Sensory Bin 

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.

Best Gift

Cake Art

Parachute Celebration

Present Art

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home

Memory Verse Card

Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)

Parent Cue App



This symbol indicates an activity with potential allergens. Be sure to post allergy alert sign and inform parents at drop-off.



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

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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. DANCE AND CELEBRATE

WHAT YOU NEED: Music player; the monthly song,
included in your files; and streamers or scarves

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a streamer or
scarf.

BIBLE STORY

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!
LUKE 1:26-33, 38; 2:1-2:21

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Play music and encourage children to dance and
wave their streamer or scarf in the air. Repeat several times.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce today's Bible story by talking about
celebrating Jesus' birthday.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hello, friends. Merry Christmas! Come over here with
me and take a [scarf/streamer]. We'll use these to celebrate today!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (*Play the music.*) "Dance and wave your scarf in the
air to celebrate! (*Pause.*) Wave it high and do a little dance. (*Pause.*) Wave it
low and do a little dance. (*Pause.*) Wave it in the middle and do a little dance.
(*Pause.*) Wave it all around and do a little dance. (*Pause.*) Let's celebrate that
God gave us Jesus! Great job!" (*Repeat as desired.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus. Today
in our Bible story, we'll celebrate Jesus' birthday! Today will be a SUPER-DUPER
exciting day!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by chanting **"God gave us Jesus,"**
as you walk to the story area.

MEMORY VERSE

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

JOHN 3:16, GNT

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15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



2. BALLOON MATCH

WHAT YOU NEED: "Balloon Match" Activity Page; cardstock; and large red, yellow, blue, green, and purple pom-poms

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Balloon Match" on cardstock, one for every two children. Place the activity

pages around the table. Place the pom-poms in a pile on the table.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to work together and look at the colors of the balloons on their page. Ask children to match a pom-pom to each balloon by color. When all balloons have a pom-pom match, clear and repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hello, friends! Join me at the table."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Look and tell me what you see on the papers. (Pause.) Balloons! Balloons tell me that we have something wonderful to celebrate! The balloons are all different colors! I see red. Point to the red balloon. (Pause.) I see a yellow balloon. Point to the yellow one. (Pause.) I see a blue balloon, too! Point to the blue balloon. (Pause.) There are two more colors, green and purple. Point to the green balloon, and now the purple balloon. (Pause.) The pom-poms on our table are the same colors as the balloons! That's fun! Let's work together to match each pom-pom color to a balloon color. (Pause.) Fabulous work! All of our balloons are nice and fluffy, and we are ready for our celebration."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today in our Bible story, we'll hear why we have the BEST reason to celebrate!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by asking children to pretend to put on a party hat and walk to the story area in a celebratory way.

BIBLE STORY

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



3. BIRTHDAY SENSORY BIN*

WHAT YOU NEED: "Allergy Alert Poster," cardstock, plastic bin, colored rice, silicone cupcake cups, and fun birthday candles; *Optional raw white rice, gallon resealable bags, food coloring, vinegar, measuring cups and spoons, wax paper, and air-tight storage container*

**Be sure to list the items you will be using today on the "Allergy Alert Poster" (in the Prelude folder) and post it at the door to your room.*

BIBLE STORY

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!
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JOHN 3:16, GNT

KEY QUESTION

How do we know
God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: *Option—Make colored rice if you do not already have multiple colored rice from previous activities. Divide rice into bags, add a teaspoon of vinegar for each cup of rice and as many drops of food coloring as desired. Seal bag and shake to distribute the color. Spread rice out on wax paper to dry, one hour to overnight. Once dried, pour rice into container. Save for future use.*

Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list rice and food coloring (*if necessary*), and post at the door. Place the candles and cupcake cups in the bin and cover with rice.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Ask the children to dig around in the rice to find all the hidden items. Encourage children to make cupcakes to celebrate. Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce celebrating a special birthday that we'll hear about in today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Come join me at the table. Look at this fun sensory bin we get to play with today! It looks like sprinkles on a birthday cake!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "There are some different items hidden in the bin. Reach in and see what kind of birthday surprises we can find! (*Pause.*) Wow! What did you find? (*Pause.*) Cupcake liners? What else? Fun candles? It's like a birthday party is hidden in the box. Show me how you use these things to celebrate a birthday."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "All of these birthday things must mean it is someone's BIRTHDAY! Let's get ready to hear our true story from the Bible to find out whose birthday it is!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by singing "Happy Birthday" as you walk to the story area.



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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



1. BEST GIFT

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Best Gift" Activity Page, cardstock, washable ink pads, baby wipes, and pen

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Best Gift" on cardstock, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper. Review

the motions of the verse as you say it together.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to press one finger on the ink pad and then press it on their paper. Encourage children to walk to the next paper and press their fingers on that page. Continue until every child has stamped each paper. Ask children to re-ink their fingers after one or two stamps. Clean hands and say the verse together.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Say and do the motions one more time and review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come over here to the table with me. Before you sit down, let's say our memory verse and do the motions. '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: "We are celebrating Jesus' birthday, and we know that Jesus is the best present! There is a picture of a present on your paper. We'll decorate the gifts by putting our fingerprints on each paper. So you will have each friend's fingerprint decorating your present. Press one finger on the ink pad and stamp your paper. (*Pause.*) Walk to the paper next to you and press your fingerprint on it. (*Pause.*) Press your finger on the ink pad and walk to the next paper and stamp it. (*Continue with each paper.*) Great job! Let's clean our hands and say the verse together. 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,' John 3:16. Super job, everyone!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "It's Jesus' birthday. Happy Birthday, Jesus! God loves us so much that He gave us His Son, Jesus. Let's say our verse and do the motions one more time 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.*)

How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus."

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Happy Birthday, Jesus!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!
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2. CAKE ART

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Cake Art" Activity Page, cardstock, and sheets of large birthday stickers; *Optional crayons*

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Cake Art" on cardstock, one per child.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to decorate their birthday cake with stickers. Assist when needed. Talk about how Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus' birthday. When the children are done, sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus. *Option: If desired, encourage children to color their cake.*

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Come sit with me! Let's decorate birthday cakes for Jesus!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus' birthday. So let's decorate a birthday cake! Here's your birthday cake, and here are some stickers. Use the stickers to decorate your cake! (Pause.) Your birthday cakes look yummy! Now let's sing 'Happy Birthday' to Jesus! (*singing with children*) Happy birthday to Jesus! Happy birthday to Jesus! Happy birthday to Jesus. Happy birthday to Jesus!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "I love celebrating Jesus' birthday! And I love celebrating that God loves us so much that **God gave us Jesus! How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!**"

BIBLE STORY

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

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3. PARACHUTE CELEBRATION!

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Gift bows and/or party streamers; and
parachute

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Spread out the parachute in
an open area of the room. Put the gift bows and/or party

streamers in the center of the parachute.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Ask the children to gently move the parachute up and
down while saying "Happy Birthday, Jesus." Collect the items that bounced off
and repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, let's have a parachute celebration! Find a
spot around the parachute."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Our parachute celebration is for Jesus' birthday! Can
you help me celebrate Jesus' birthday? On the count of three, we will gently raise
our parachute and say, 'Happy Birthday, Jesus!' Ready? One, two, three. Happy
Birthday, Jesus! (Pause.) Wow! Great job, friends. Let's collect all the things that
bounced off. (Pause.) It's so fun to celebrate Jesus' birthday! Let's do it again.
(Repeat as desired.) That was so much fun!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today, we learned about the true story of Christmas:
when we celebrate Jesus' birthday and the love God has for us. **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!**"

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4. PRESENT ART

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Present Tag" Activity Page, cardstock, small gift boxes, washable markers, stickers, mini gift bows, clear tape, scissors, baby wipes, and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Present Tag" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Write each child's name on the bottom of their box.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to decorate the inside of their gift boxes with markers and stickers. Ask each child who they want to give their present to and write the name on the tag. Help children replace the lids, tape the tags on, and stick a bow on top.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, it's such a special day to celebrate! Merry Christmas! Whose birthday are we celebrating? (Pause.) Jesus' birthday! That's right! Let's make a special present to celebrate Jesus' birthday."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Everyone has a gift box. Open it and use the markers and stickers to decorate the inside. Your artwork is the present! (Pause.) What beautiful presents! (Ask each child individually.) Who do you want to give your present to? (Write the name on their tag.) Tape your tag to the top of your box and add a bow. (Help as needed.) Hooray! Now let's review today's Bible story."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "The true story of Christmas begins with a girl named Mary. God sent an angel with an important message for Mary, saying that she would have a baby and that baby would be Jesus, God's Son! Then Mary and Joseph had to travel a long way to the town of Bethlehem. When they got there, they stayed in a stable full of animals, and that's where Baby Jesus was born! That night, some shepherds were out in a field with their sheep, and an angel appeared in the sky. The shepherds were so afraid, but the angel said 'Don't be afraid! God's Son Jesus has been born. You will find him in a manger!' Then the whole sky filled with angels praising God and singing 'Glory to God in the highest!' The shepherds ran fast to find Baby Jesus in a manger with Mary and Joseph, just like the angel said."

"God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus. And Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus' birthday! Let's all sing 'Happy Birthday' to Jesus. (singing with children) Happy birthday to you! Happy birthday to you! Happy birthday, dear Jesus. Happy birthday to you! Happy Birthday, Jesus! **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus.**"

BIBLE STORY

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!
LUKE 1:26-33, 38; 2:1-2:21

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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. DANCE AND CELEBRATE

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Music player
- This month's song, included in your files
- Streamers or scarves—one per child

2. BALLOON MATCH

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Balloon Match" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Large red, yellow, blue, green, and purple pom-poms

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Balloon Match" on cardstock, one for every two children.
- Place the activity pages around the table.
- Place the pom-poms in a pile on the table.

3. BIRTHDAY SENSORY BIN*

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Allergy Alert Poster"
- Cardstock
- Plastic bin
- Colored rice
- Silicone cupcake cups
- Fun birthday candles
- Optional raw white rice, gallon resealable bags, food coloring, vinegar, measuring cups and spoons, wax paper, and air-tight storage container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Option: Make colored rice if you do not already have multiple colored rice from previous activities. Divide rice into bags, add a teaspoon of vinegar for each cup of rice and as many drops of food coloring as desired. Seal bag and shake to distribute the color. Spread rice out on wax paper to dry, one hour to overnight. Once dried, pour rice into container. Save for future use.
- Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list rice and food coloring (if necessary), and post at the door.
- Place the candles and cupcake cups in the bin and cover with rice.

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.



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GETTING READY

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

1. BEST GIFT

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

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:

- "Best Gift" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Washable ink pads
- Baby wipes
- Pen

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Best Gift" on cardstock, one per child.
- Write each child's name on their paper.

2. CAKE ART

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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:

- "Cake Art" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Sheets of large birthday stickers—one sheet per child
- Optional crayons

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Birthday Cake" on cardstock, one per child.

3. PARACHUTE CELEBRATION!

[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:

- Parachute
- Gift bows and/or party streamers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Spread out the parachute in an open area of the room.
- Put the gift bows and/or party streamers in the center of the parachute.

4. PRESENT ART

[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:

- "Present Tag" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Small gift boxes (any size)
- Washable markers
- Stickers
- Mini gift bows
- Clear tape
- Scissors
- Baby wipes
- Permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Present Tag" on cardstock and cut, one tag per child.
- Write each child's name on the bottom of their box.

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