



WEEK
FIVE
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP

2 YEAR
-OLDS

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

BIBLE STORY

The wise men go to see Jesus,
God's Son.

THE WISE MEN
MATTHEW 2:1-2, 9-11

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.

Tunnel Star
Tracks in Water
Seek and Find 

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.

Pass the Present
Train Puzzle
God Gave Us Jesus
Train Connection

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

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. TUNNEL STAR

WHAT YOU NEED: "Tunnel Star" Activity Page, yellow cardstock, yarn, tape, scissors, small Christmas-wrapped gift box, and a preschool tunnel

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Tunnel Star" on yellow cardstock and cut, one per small group. Cut a six-inch length

of yarn, one per small group. Tape one end of the yarn to the back of the star and tape the other end of the yarn to the top of one end of the tunnel. Place the tunnel in the middle of the activity area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to go through the tunnel, one at a time, to follow the star while carrying the gift box. Continue with each child and repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce that some people in today's Bible story followed a special star to bring gifts to Jesus.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, we have an important job today. We need to carry a gift from one side of the tunnel to the other. Will you help me?"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "[Child's name], take this gift and crawl through the tunnel. Do you see the star? The star can tell us where we need to take the gift. Follow the star and crawl through the tunnel to take the gift to the other side! (Pause.) Marvelous! (Continue with each child.) All of you followed the star and did the important job!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today in our Bible story we are going to hear about some people called wise men who also had an important job and how a star helped them too!"

TRANSITION: Remove the star from the tunnel. Move to Worship and Story by the leader holding up the star from the activity and asking the children to follow the star.

BIBLE STORY

The wise men go to see Jesus,
God's Son.

THE WISE MEN
MATTHEW 2:1-2, 9-11

MEMORY VERSE

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

JOHN 3:16, GNT

KEY QUESTION

How do we know
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BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



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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. TRACKS IN WATER

WHAT YOU NEED: Baking sheet with raised edges, water, several toy trains, butcher paper, and paper towels

Note: Never leave an activity with water unattended. An adult SGL should always be present. When the activity is over, please discard the water immediately.

BIBLE STORY

The wise men go to see Jesus, God's Son.

THE WISE MEN
MATTHEW 2:1-2, 9-11

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Cover the table with butcher paper. Fill the bottom of the pan with enough water to cover the bottom. Place in your activity area with the trains.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Ask the children to dip the trains in the water to get the wheels wet and encourage them to drive the trains on the butcher paper to make tracks. Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce that today we'll hear the last Bible story on the Christmas train.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, look at what we have to play with today."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "We've been learning all about the true story of Christmas. Each week, the Christmas train brings a new story. Let's pretend these trains are part of the Christmas train! Let's make some tracks! Dip your train in the water and drive it on the paper like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Let's see how far you can make the train tracks go. Wow! Look at all the tracks you made! Dry the trains and your hands."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today in our Bible story, we'll hear about some people called 'wise men' who traveled a long way to see someone very special."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to drive a train to the story area.

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.

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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. SEEK AND FIND

WHAT YOU NEED: Clean, wide-mouthed plastic bottles; blue colored rice or beans; sequin stars; mini presents; and a hot glue gun; Optional raw white rice or dry lima or garbanzo beans, gallon resealable bags, blue food coloring, vinegar, measuring cups and spoons, wax paper, and airtight storage container

BIBLE STORY

The wise men go to see Jesus,
God's Son.

THE WISE MEN
MATTHEW 2:1-2, 9-11

WHAT YOU DO:

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

Place a mini present into each plastic bottle, add a few star sequins, then add rice or beans. Close the bottle securely and shake. Add a bead of hot glue around the closed lid of each bottle to secure. You'll need one bottle for every two children.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Set the bottles on the table and encourage the children to share as they move the bottle to find the gift hidden inside.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the star and gifts we'll hear about in today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, join me at the table! We've got some exploring to do!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Look at these fun bottles. Twist and turn them. (Pause.) What do you see inside? (Pause.) Yes, stars! What else do you see? A gift! Very cool! Pass your bottles to the friend next to you. Twist and turn the bottles. What do you see in this bottle? (Pause.) Stars. What else? Another gift? Wow! Keep exploring."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "What things did you see in all the bottles? (Pause.) There were stars and gifts in all the bottles. What color was the [rice or beans]? Blue like the sky. In our story today, we'll hear about some people who followed a star to take gifts to someone special."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to follow a star all the way to your storytelling area.

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.

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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. PASS THE PRESENT

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Gift" and "Memory Verse Stickers"
Activity Pages, cardstock, Avery® #5294 labels or equivalent

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Gift" on cardstock, one per
small group. Copy "Memory Verse Stickers" on label paper,

one per child. Review the memory verse with the motions together.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to sit in a circle and pass the
gift page around as they repeat the memory verse together. After a few rounds,
pass out a memory verse sticker to each child.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come over here, and 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.*) Fantastic!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Now let's sit in a circle together. I have a gift for us
to pass around the circle as we say our verse. Ready? (*Pass the gift to the child
next to you.*) God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,' John 3:16.
Keep passing the gift as we say the verse again. (*Repeat as desired.*) That was
so good, friends! I have a sticker for each of you. This will help you remember our
memory verse. 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son!'"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Let's say our verse with the motions one more time.
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.*) Jesus is the BEST gift
ever! God gave us Jesus because He loves us. **How do we know God loves
us? God gave us Jesus!"**

BIBLE STORY

The wise men go to see Jesus,
God's Son.

THE WISE MEN
MATTHEW 2:1-2, 9-11

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



2. TRAIN PUZZLE

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Train Puzzle" Activity Page, 11"x17" paper, and scissors; *Optional laminator*

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Train Puzzle" on 11"x17" paper and cut, one set per small group. *Option: Laminate*

the pieces and cut.

BIBLE STORY

The wise men go to see Jesus,
God's Son.

THE WISE MEN
MATTHEW 2:1-2, 9-11

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Sit on the floor with the children and review the Bible story as you put the puzzle together.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how the true story of Christmas is about how **God gave us Jesus.**

MEMORY VERSE

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

JOHN 3:16, GNT

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Come sit with me! I have a big puzzle for us to play with today that will help us review our Bible story. Let's start our train puzzle with the engine. Do you see the engine train piece? (*Assist as needed.*) Good job, there it is!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "The true story of Christmas begins with an angel telling Mary she will have Baby Jesus. Do you see a puzzle piece that has Mary and an angel on it? (*Assist as needed.*) There it is! See? This is Mary (*point*), and this is the angel. (*Point.*)

KEY QUESTION

How do we know
God loves us?

"Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem. When they got there, they had to stay in a room where animals stay, because there were no more rooms. Will you help me find a puzzle piece that has Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, and some animals on it? (*Assist as needed.*) We found it! This is Mary. (*Point.*) This is Joseph. (*Point.*) This is Baby Jesus. (*Point.*) And these are the animals! (*Point.*)

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

"After Jesus was born, God sent an angel to tell some shepherds the good news about Jesus. Do you see a puzzle piece with shepherds, sheep, and angels? (*Assist as needed.*) You found it! These are shepherds. (*Point.*) These are angels. (*Point.*) And these are sheep! (*Point.*) Baa-baa!"

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

"We have one puzzle piece left. It's the wise men! (*Point.*) The wise men followed a special star all the way to Jesus. When they found Jesus, they worshipped Him and gave Him gifts. Yay! We put our puzzle together! Let's do it again!" (*Repeat the activity as time and interest allow.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Wow, look at our train puzzle! It's the true story of Christmas! And the true story of Christmas is about how God loves us so much that **God gave us Jesus. How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!"**



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3. GOD GAVE US JESUS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "God Gave Us Jesus" Activity Page,
cardstock, and painter's tape or sticky tack

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "God Gave Us Jesus" on
cardstock, one set per small group. Tape the pictures to the

wall opposite each other at child's eye level.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to run to the star or the heart
as you repeat the dialogue below. Repeat as time and interest allow.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come stand with me. Do you see the pictures
on the wall? What shapes do you see? (Pause.) A heart and a star, that's right!
Let's play a game!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Everyone point to the star. (Pause.) There it is! Run to
the star! (Pause.) God gave the wise men a special star to show them where Jesus
was. Everyone, point to the heart. (Pause.) There it is! Run to the heart! (Pause.)
Hearts remind me of love! God loves us so much He gave us Jesus! Alright, let's
run back to the star! (Pause.) The wise men followed the star to find Jesus and
gave Him gifts! Great job. Run back to the heart! (Pause.) **How do we know
God loves us? God gave us Jesus!"**

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In our story, we learned about some people called
'wise men.' They were waiting for Jesus to be born because they knew Jesus was
God's Son. After Jesus was born, God put a special star in the sky to help show
the wise men the way to Jesus so they could celebrate Him. The wise men knew
they could follow the star to get to Jesus. It was a long journey, but when they
got there, they were so happy to see Jesus. They gave Jesus gifts and worshipped
Him. That's what the true story of Christmas is all about. God loves us so much
that He gave us Jesus! **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. TRAIN CONNECTION

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Train Connection" Activity Page, cardstock, posterboard, washable markers, glue sticks, scissors, baby wipes, and a permanent marker; *Optional sentence strips in place of posterboard*

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Train Connection" on cardstock and cut, one set per child. Cut posterboard into four-inch wide by twenty-inch long strips, one per child. Fold each posterboard strip in four-inch sections, five total. Write each child's name on their paper strip.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to color each train car then glue as directed to their paper strip, making sure the bottom edge of the train cars doesn't go past the bottom edge of the strip. Review the Bible story.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come to the table, and let's make a Christmas train with the pictures from the true story of Christmas."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Color your train cars. (Pause.) There is a train car with a picture of Mary and an angel. That's the start of the Christmas story! The train car with a picture of Baby Jesus in the manger is the next part of the story! That's when Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem and Jesus was born in a stable with the animals. The next train car has a shepherd and a sheep. That's the part of the story that comes next. The shepherds were out in the field taking care of their sheep when an angel appeared and told them that Jesus had been born. Then the sky filled with angels singing 'Glory to God in the highest.' Then there is one last train car with a picture. It's the wise men! God put a star in the sky that helped the wise men find Jesus. They traveled a long, long way to bring gifts and celebrate Him."

"Now that all your train cars are decorated, let's add them to this paper. Find the engine car, it looks like this. (Hold up the engine car.) Glue it to this part of your paper. (Point.) Next to the engine, glue the train car with Mary and the angel. (Pause.) The next train car is the one with Baby Jesus in the manger. Glue that one on. (Pause.) Which train car comes next? That's right, the shepherd with his sheep. Glue that one on. (Pause.) Then the last train car is the wise men. (Pause.) Super job! (Stand up each child's train.) Now you have the whole Christmas story on your Christmas train!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That's what the true story of Christmas is all about. God loved us so much that He gave us His Son, Jesus. And we can celebrate Jesus all year long. **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus."**

BIBLE STORY

The wise men go to see Jesus,
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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. TUNNEL STAR

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Tunnel Star" Activity Page
- Yellow cardstock
- Yarn
- Tape
- Scissors
- Small Christmas-wrapped gift box
- Preschool tunnel

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Tunnel Star" on yellow cardstock and cut, one per small group.
- Cut a six-inch length of yarn, one per small group.
- Tape one end of the yarn to the back of the star and tape the other end of the yarn to the top of one end of the tunnel.
- Place the tunnel in the middle of the activity area.

2. TRACKS IN WATER

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Baking sheet with raised edges
- Water
- Toy trains
- Butcher paper
- Paper towels

WHAT YOU DO:

- Cover the table with butcher paper.
- Fill the bottom of the pan with enough water to cover the bottom.
- Place in your activity area with the trains.

3. SEEK AND FIND

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Clean, wide-mouthed plastic bottles (like sports drink bottles)—one for every two children
- Blue-colored rice or beans
- Sequin stars
- Mini box ornaments like these: a.co/d/5GAX9qT
- Hot glue gun
- Optional raw white rice or dry lima or garbanzo beans, gallon resealable bags, blue food coloring, vinegar, measuring cups and spoons, wax paper, and air-tight storage container

WHAT YOU DO:

- Option: Make blue rice and/or beans if you do not already have blue rice or beans from previous activities. Divide rice and/or beans into bags, and add a teaspoon of vinegar for each cup of rice/beans and as many drops of food coloring as desired. Seal bag and shake to distribute the color. Spread rice/beans out on wax paper to dry, one hour to overnight. Once dried, pour into container. Save for future use.
- Place a mini present into each plastic bottle, add a few star sequins, add rice or beans, close the bottle securely, and shake.
- Add a bead of hot glue around the closed lid of each bottle to secure, one bottle per two children.

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.



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GETTING READY

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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. PASS THE PRESENT

[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:

- "Gift" Activity Page
- "Memory Verse Stickers" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Avery® #5294 labels or equivalent

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Gift" on cardstock, one per small group.
- Copy "Memory Verse Stickers" on label paper, one per child.

2. TRAIN PUZZLE

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Train Puzzle" Activity Page
- 11"x17" paper
- Scissors
- Optional laminator

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Train Puzzle" on 11"x17" paper and cut, one set per small group.
- Option: Laminator the pieces and cut.

3. GOD GAVE US JESUS

[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:

- "God Gave Us Jesus" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Painter's tape or sticky tack

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "God Gave Us Jesus" on cardstock.
- Tape the pictures to the wall opposite each other at child's eye level.

4. TRAIN CONNECTION

[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:

- "Train Connection" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Posterboard
- Washable markers
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Baby wipes
- Permanent marker
- Optional sentence strips in place of posterboard

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Train Connection" on cardstock and cut, one set per child.
- Cut posterboard into four-inch wide by twenty-inch-long strips, one per child.
- Fold each posterboard strip in four-inch sections, five total.
- Write each child's name on their paper strip.

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