



WEEK
ONE
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 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.

Emotion Motions!
Chilly Choo Choo
Angel Launch

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"Silent Night" and "Jesus Is"
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
Message on the Move
Deliver the Message
A Special Message!
Jesus Is the Present
Journal and Prayer

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

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. EMOTION MOTIONS!

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Gather children in an open area of the room.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to sing and do the motions to "If You're Happy and You Know It" as you call out different emotions.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce Mary from today's Bible story and how Mary received some surprising news

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hi, friends! It's so great to see you today! Will you join me? We're going to play a fun game I think you might know, but just a little differently today!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Everyone, spread out and wiggle all your sillies out. (Pause.) We'll sing and do the motions to 'If You're Happy and You Know It!' Do you know that song? (Pause.) Great! I'll add a few new emotions and actions I want you to do. Are you ready? (Pause.) Okay, let's go!

"If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands. (Clap, clap.)
If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands. (Clap, clap.)
If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it. (Smile and point to your cheeks.)
If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands. (Clap, clap.)

"Here is a new emotion.

"If you're scared and you know it, cover your eyes. (Cover eyes.)
If you're scared and you know it, cover your eyes. (Cover eyes.)
If you're scared and you know it, then your face will surely show it. (Cover eyes.)
If you're scared and you know it, cover your eyes. (Cover eyes.)

"If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet. (Stomp, stomp.)
If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet. (Stomp, stomp.)
If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it. (Smile and point to your cheeks.)
If you're happy and you know it, stomp your feet. (Stomp, stomp.)

"If you're surprised and you know it, shout, 'Oh, wow!' (Shout, "Oh, wow!")
If you're surprised and you know it, shout, 'Oh, wow!' (Shout, "Oh, wow!")
If you're surprised and you know it, then your face will surely show it. (Hands to the side of your face and mouth wide open.)

BIBLE STORY

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an activity that uses a preschooler's
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them learn



If you're surprised and you know it, shout, 'Oh, wow!' (*Shout, "Oh, wow!"*)

If you're sad and you know it, wipe your tears. (*Wipe tears.*)

If you're sad and you know it, wipe your tears. (*Wipe tears.*)

If you're sad and you know it, then your face will surely show
it. (*Wipe tears.*)

If you're sad and you know it, wipe your tears. (*Wipe tears.*)

BIBLE STORY

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

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

If you're happy and you know it, shout, 'Hooray!' (*Shout, "Hooray!"*)

If you're happy and you know it, shout, 'Hooray!' (*Shout, "Hooray!"*)

If you're happy and you know it, then your face will surely show it. (*Smile and
point to your cheeks.*)

If you're happy and you know it, shout, 'Hooray!' (*Shout, "Hooray!"*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today in our Bible story, we'll hear about a young girl
named Mary. She got some surprising news! Can you show me your surprised
faces? (*Pause.*) Great faces, everyone! Let's go hear about what Mary did when
she was surprised."

MEMORY VERSE

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

JOHN 3:16, GNT

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by having the children make different
faces (scared, happy, excited, sleepy, silly, angry, etc.).

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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. CHILLY CHOO CHOO

WHAT YOU NEED: Plastic bin, toy trains, small paper cups or ice cube trays, spray bottles, spoons, preschool tongs or tweezers, water, paper towels, and freezer; *Optional snow (if your area has snow)*

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Place a toy train in a paper cup or ice cube tray. Add enough water to cover the bottom half and freeze. Prepare at least one night in advance. Add the frozen trains, non-frozen trains, and ice cubes to the bin. Prepare a few spray bottles with lukewarm water.

Option: If your area has snow, incorporate it in the activity.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to explore the trains and ice. Dry hands and play surface.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Christmas Train that will deliver each story that makes up the true story of Christmas.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, join me at the table. I have something very exciting for you to play with today!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Look! What do you see in the bin? (*Pause.*) Trains! How fun! And some of the trains are frozen! And look, there are ice cubes, too! How do the frozen trains move? Move the frozen trains and the regular trains around in the bin. You can also spray the ice cubes and frozen trains with the spray bottles to help melt them. (*Pause.*) Are the trains and ice cold to touch? (*Pause.*) Yes, they are. Does it melt when you add water? (*Pause.*) Can you get the train out of the ice? That was a chilly bin that we just played with. Did you have fun with the trains? (*Pause.*) Hooray!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, we are going to learn the true story of Christmas, and each week, the Christmas Train will deliver our story! It's going to be so fun!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to be a chilly train, a hot train, a slow train, and a fast train.

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15 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

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



3. ANGEL LAUNCH

WHAT YOU NEED: "Angel Launch" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, small empty water bottles with lids, plastic straws, smoothie straws, and hot glue gun; *Optional* stomp rocket

NOTE: Use the hot glue gun before children arrive and store it in another room, out of reach.

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MEMORY VERSE

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KEY QUESTION

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BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Angel Launch" on cardstock and cut, two to four per small group. With the hot glue gun, make a hole in the center of the lid to match the diameter of the straw. Feed the straw into the hole. Add a little bit of glue where the straw and lid connect. Make several bottles for each group. Cut the smoothie straws in half, and for each, glue one end closed. Glue one smoothie straw in the middle of each angel picture with the glued end towards the center. Glue the top and side together.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Slide the angel on the bottle straw and launch it away from the children by giving the bottle one quick hard squeeze. Repeat as desired.

NOTE: Water bottles can deform easily after being squeezed multiple times. If needed, blow into the straw to reform the bottle. It will be helpful to have one or two bottles as backups.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the angel who brings an important message in our Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hello, friends. Join me over here. I have something super-cool to show you!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "What is this a picture of? (*Hold up the angel.*) That's right, it's an angel! Watch this. (*Point angel away from the children and launch it.*) The angel flew! Let's make it fly again. Will you help me? [Child's name], come up, and let's make the angel fly. Can everyone help me count to three? When we say three, squeeze the bottle hard. Ready? One, two, three! (*Help squeeze the bottle if needed.*) Go pick up the angel and bring it back. Next friend, your turn. (*Continue with each child.*) That was so cool!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today, we'll hear a story about an angel that came to bring an important message! I can't wait to hear it!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by asking children to move how they think angels move.



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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. 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.

BIBLE STORY

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have His Son, Jesus.

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

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

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: 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: "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: "The Bible 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!"**

KEY QUESTION

How do we know
God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



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



2. MESSAGE ON THE MOVE

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Message on the Move Jesus" and "Message on the Move Mary" Activity Pages, cardstock, scissors, and painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Message on the Move Jesus" on cardstock and cut, one picture per child and leader. Copy "Message on the Move Mary" on cardstock, one per small group. Tape the Mary picture to a wall at the children's eye level.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give yourself and each child a cutout of Jesus to hold. Stand with the children at the wall opposite the Mary picture. You and the children will pretend to be the angel, taking a special message to Mary as you "drive" different forms of transportation and end with a choo-choo train. Continue to play as time and interest allow.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how Jesus is special because Jesus is God's Son.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Everyone, line up with me by this wall. We're going to play a game!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Today, in our Bible story, God sent an angel to tell Mary a special message. Mary was going to have Baby Jesus! Let's pretend we're the angel God sent to Mary. We have different ways we can get to her. This picture of Baby Jesus will be the special message the angel gave to Mary. (Give yourself and each child a Baby Jesus cutout.)

"I'll call out what we will pretend to drive to take the message to Mary. If it's an airplane, we will pretend to drive an airplane. If it's a motorcycle, we will pretend to drive a motorcycle. Got it? (Pause.) Okay, listen for what we'll drive to Mary. Let's drive a tractor to give the message to Mary! (Move to the picture of Mary making tractor noises if desired.) That was fun! Everyone, back to the wall. (Pause.) This time, let's drive a race car! (Continue calling out different forms of transportation for the children to pretend to take to Mary like airplanes, horses, boats, etc. Repeat those the children enjoy most. Play as long as time and interest allow.) Okay, one more time! Let's move like a train! Chugga-chugga, choo-choo! Fantastic friends! Let's sit down with Mary."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "The angel's message to Mary about Baby Jesus was special because Jesus is God's Son. God loves you and me so much that God gave us His Son, Jesus! That's how we know God loves us! **God gave us Jesus! How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!**"

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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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO THINK

an advanced activity specifically
designed for older preschoolers



3. DELIVER THE MESSAGE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Deliver the Message" Activity Page,
copy paper, yarn, envelope, craft tube or pool noodle piece,
scissors, and masking tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Deliver the Message" on copy paper, one per small group. Fold and place in the envelope. Tape the envelope to a craft tube or pool noodle piece. Make sure you tape the envelope so that you can still open it to pull out the paper. Cut a five-foot length of yarn. Run the yarn through the center of the tube then knot the ends. Lay the yarn on the floor of your activity area, arranging it in a circle with the tube in front of the leader. Ask children to sit in a circle on the floor around the yarn circle.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how God sent an angel to Mary with a very special message. Point out the envelope. Ask the children to pick up the yarn in front of them. Pass the envelope to the friend next to you and encourage that child to pass it to the next friend. Continue passing it until it gets back to you. Remove the paper from the envelope and read the special message the angel gave to Mary!

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story and how God gave us Jesus because God loves us!

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, do you see the circle of yarn on the floor? Let's sit down in a big circle around the outside of the yarn. Everyone, sit down and put your hands in your lap. Ready? Three, two, one, find a seat! Great job!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Today, in our Bible story, an angel gave a very special message to Mary! Let's fly the message (*point to the envelope*) around the circle. Everyone, carefully pick up the yarn in front of you to make one big circle. (*Pause.*) Great job! [Child's name], here comes the special message. When it comes to you, pass it to the next friend by sliding it along the yarn. We can fly the message around the circle by passing it from friend to friend! (*Pause.*) Great job, friends! The message made it all around the circle! Let's read the special message the angel gave to Mary! (*Pull out the message.*) It's a picture of Baby Jesus! It says, 'Mary, you will have a baby, and the baby is God's Son!' Wow! So exciting!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "God loves you and me SO much that God gave us His only Son, Jesus! **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!**"

BIBLE STORY

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

THE ANGEL AND MARY
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MEMORY VERSE

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25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



4. A SPECIAL MESSAGE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Images to Find" Activity Page,
cardstock, envelopes, and painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Images to Find" on
cardstock and cut, two sets per small group. Place each

separate image in an envelope and make a tape loop to attach each one to the
wall at a preschooler's eye level.

Encourage children to line up, one friend behind the other, in the center of your
activity area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: One at a time, call each child by name to run to the
wall, select an envelope, and run back. Once the child arrives, encourage them to
open the envelope and show the group for all to identify. Each time a child opens
an envelope with a picture of Baby Jesus, repeat the dialogue below to lead
them to say the Bottom Line.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, stand here with me and make a straight
line, one friend behind the other. In our Bible story, God sent an angel to tell Mary
a special message. Do you remember what the angel told Mary? (Pause.) Yes! The
angel told Mary she was going to have a special baby named Jesus!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's play a game where we try to find the angel's
message. When I say your name, run down and pick an envelope, then bring
it back. Then you can open it to see the message. [Child's name], run and pick
an envelope off the wall. Now bring it back. (Pause.) Open your envelope and
show everyone the message inside. (Pause.) Wow! It's [picture's name]! Was
that the angel's message? (Listen and respond accordingly.) Next friend, [child's
name], run and pick an envelope! (Pause.) Show us your message. It's Jesus! You
found the angel's message. **How do we know God loves us? God gave us
Jesus!**" (Continue with each child.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "I'm so glad that God sent an angel with a special
message! The angel told Mary she would have a special baby named Jesus!
Jesus is special because Jesus is God's Son. Tell me again, **how do we know
God loves us? God gave us Jesus.** That's right! I'm SO glad **God gave us
Jesus!**"

BIBLE STORY

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MEMORY VERSE

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SOCIAL

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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



5. JESUS IS THE PRESENT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Jesus Is the Present" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, crayons or washable markers, small white craft feathers, heart stamps, washable ink pads, glue sticks, baby wipes, and permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Jesus Is the Present" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper and fold on the lines.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to color their paper, glue a feather to the angel, and stamp hearts around Baby Jesus.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come sit with me at the table. Today in our Bible story, who delivered God's important message to Mary? (Pause.) An angel! That's right! I have a special picture for you to create today that will help you remember today's story."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Your paper looks like a present. Who do you see on your paper? (Pause.) It's the angel and Mary. Color your paper. (Pause.) Glue a feather to the angel. (Pause.) What was the important message the angel told Mary? (Pause.) Yes! She was going to have a baby and His name would be Jesus. Jesus is God's Son. Open your paper. Who's inside? Baby Jesus! That's the best present of all! Stamp hearts all around Jesus. (Pause.) Now close your paper and help me review today's story."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Our Bible story is about the true story of Christmas, and it begins with a girl named Mary. God had an important message for her. God sent an angel to give Mary an important message! 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 would be SO special because . . . Jesus is God's Son! Wow! God loves you and me SO much that God gave us His only Son, 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 REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, Bible, journal, and a fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per small group. Place one card in your Bible at John 3:16. Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead the children to pretend to fly like angels to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you. Review the memory verse and motions, then encourage the children to help you make a list of gifts they can give others.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll fly like angels to our Small Group spot. Follow me, little angels! (*Fly like an angel as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Here we are! Let's sit down so we can talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) "In our Bible story, God sent an angel to tell Mary that she would have His Son, Jesus. That's how God gave Jesus to the world! I have a Bible verse we can learn that talks about how God gave Jesus to the world. It says, '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.*) And God's only Son is Jesus!"

"Stand up with me, and let's say that Bible verse together! Just say what I say and do what I do. '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.*) Yay! We just said one of my favorite Bible verses together!"

"Now, let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) **God gave us Jesus** because God loves us. **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!** That's right! And Jesus is the best gift EVER! Let's make a list of gifts we can give people to show them we love them. When I say your name, tell me a gift you can give someone, and I'll write it in our prayer journal. (*Remember to print as you write in the journal so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*) This is a great list of gifts!"

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

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

"Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You gave us Jesus. Thank You for Christmas so we can celebrate Jesus by giving each other gifts like (*read the list the children made*). Help us show people we love them the way You show people You love them. You're the best, God. In Jesus' name, amen."



WEEK
ONE
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 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. EMOTION MOTIONS!

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. CHILLY CHOO CHOO

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Plastic bin
- Toy trains
- Small paper cups or ice cube trays
- Spray bottles
- Spoons
- Preschool tongs or tweezers
- Water
- Paper towels
- Freezer
- Optional: If your area has snow, incorporate it in the activity.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Place some toy trains in paper cups or ice cube trays and add enough water to cover the bottom half and freeze. Prepare at least one night in advance.
- Add the frozen trains, non-frozen trains, and ice cubes to the bin.
- Prepare a few spray bottles with lukewarm water.

3. ANGEL LAUNCH

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Angel Launch" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Small empty water bottles with lids
- Plastic straws
- Smoothie straws
- Hot glue gun
- Optional Stomp Rocket®

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Angel Launch" on cardstock and cut, two to four per small group.
- With the hot glue gun, make a hole in the center of the lid to match the diameter of the straw.
- Feed the straw into the hole.
- Add a little bit of glue where the straw and lid connect.
- Make several bottles for each group.
- Cut the smoothie straws in half, and for each, glue one end closed.
- Glue one smoothie straw in the middle of each angel picture with the glued end towards the center.
- Glue the top and side together.

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



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natural desire to move to help them learn

WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed.

2. MESSAGE ON THE MOVE

[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:

- "Message on the Move Jesus" Activity Page
- "Message on the Move Mary" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Message on the Move Jesus" on cardstock and cut, one per child and leader.
- Copy "Message on the Move Mary" on cardstock, one per small group.
- Tape Mary to a wall at the children's eye level.

3. DELIVER THE MESSAGE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Think: An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Deliver the Message" Activity Page
- Copy paper
- Yarn
- Envelope
- Craft tube or pool noodle piece
- Scissors
- Masking tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Deliver the Message" on copy paper, one per small group.
- Fold and place in the envelope.
- Tape the envelope to a craft tube or pool noodle piece. Make sure you tape the envelope so that you can still open it to pull out the paper and read the special message.
- Cut a five-foot length of yarn.
- Run the yarn through the center of the tube then knot the yarn ends.

- Lay the yarn on the floor of your activity area, arranging it in a circle.

4. A SPECIAL 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:

- "Images to Find" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Envelopes
- Scissors
- Painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Images to Find" onto cardstock and cut apart, two sets per small group.
- Place each image in a separate envelope.
- Tape each envelope to the wall at a preschooler's eye level.

5. JESUS IS THE PRESENT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Jesus Is the Present" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Crayons or washable markers
- Small white craft feathers
- Heart stamps
- Washable ink pads
- Glue sticks
- Baby wipes
- Permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Jesus is the Present" on cardstock and cut, one per child.
- Write each child's name on their paper and fold on the lines.

6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal



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application and prayer

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Bible
- Journal (Check out the new Ollie journal at bit.ly/3B4Z71j.)
- Fun-shaped pen (Check out the new Ollie Pen at bit.ly/3Nwj0Wh.)

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per small group.
- Place "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at John 3:16.

- 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

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's Parent Cue card.