



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 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.

Who Lives in the Stable?

Building Tracks

Where Was Jesus Born?

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 Train

Christmas Story Bag

Draw the Story

Is This the Right Place?

Scripture Wrapped Manger

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

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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. WHO LIVES IN THE STABLE?

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

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

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Call out an animal that you might find in a stable, such as a cow, horse, sheep, dog, donkey, chicken, rooster, etc. Encourage children to move around the room pretending to be that animal.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce today's Bible story by talking about something amazing that happened in a stable.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, join me over here and spread out. I'll call out an animal name, and you can move around the room acting like that animal. These are animals that you might find in a stable. A stable is a place where animals live."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Okay, friends, are you ready? Act like a cow. Moo! (Pause.) Good job! Wow, you moved and sounded just like cows! You might find a cow living in a stable. Let's do another animal. Act like a donkey. Hee-haw! (Continue with different animals.) You are amazing! It really sounded like we had all those animals in our room!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "There is a stable in our story today, and we'll hear about something amazing that happened there. I can't wait!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story like the different animals from the activity.

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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. BUILDING TRACKS

WHAT YOU NEED: Jumbo craft sticks, popsicle sticks, Little People® figures, and small toy animals

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Demonstrate how to create train tracks with the jumbo craft sticks as the rails and the popsicle sticks as the railroad ties.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to make train tracks across the entire table and then walk the Little People figures and animals down the train track. Continue as long as there is interest.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce today's Bible story and how some people traveled a long way.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, let me show you how to make something awesome. I'll lay my craft sticks across from one another. Now I'll put these popsicle sticks across to connect them. What do you see? (*Pause.*) Yes! I made a train track!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's make our train track go all the way across this table. Can you help me build it? (*Create track.*) Now our little friends and animals can travel along the track. They must be traveling a long way. Where do you think they're going? (*Pause.*) Did we get everyone across the table? Great job. Let's take our track apart and build it going a different way."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Our friends and animals traveled a long way on our train track. Today, we'll hear about some people who traveled a long way, but they didn't ride a train. I can't wait to see what they rode!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to build train tracks as you walk.

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LUKE 2:1-7

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MADE TO IMAGINE

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



3. WHERE WAS JESUS BORN?

WHAT YOU NEED: Play tents, pillows, toy tea set, and toy animals; *Optional flat bedsheets and classroom tables instead of tents*

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Set up the play tents in your activity area. Place the pillows out in tent one, the tea set in

tent two, and the animals in tent three. *Option: Drape the flat sheets over your classroom tables to create three separate tents.* Gather the children and point out the three different tents.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead children to the first tent and talk about what they see. Let the children find a cozy spot to snuggle up with the pillows. Point out how comfortable it is inside the tent. Then lead them to the second tent. Talk about what they see. Role-play with the tea set and talk about how fancy it is. Finally, lead them to the third tent and talk about what they see. Encourage them to play with the animals inside the tent. Once you've introduced them to the three separate areas, invite them to play in any tent they choose.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children together and introduce today's Bible story. Talk about how Jesus wasn't born in a comfortable place or a fancy place like tents number one and two. But He was born surrounded by animals!

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, gather here with me! What do you see? (Pause.) Yes! I see three tents in our room today. Follow me, and let's travel and explore each one."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (Travel to the first tent.) "Look inside. What do you see? (Pause.) Isn't this a comfy spot? Let's snuggle up with a pillow. It's nice and quiet and warm and comfy in here!"

(Travel to second tent.) "Oh! What do you see in this tent? (Pause.) Yes! It's a fancy tea set. Would you like to have a spot of tea? I'll share some with you. (Pretend to pour the tea) This is lovely and so very fancy!"

(Travel to the third tent.) "What's inside this tent? (Pause.) Whoa! All kinds of animals. Can you name them? What sounds do they make? Tell me, is it smelly in a barn full of animals? And I don't see any pillows or fancy tea sets!"

"Come back outside with me. (Pause.) Now that we've seen all three tents, you're free to play in any tent you wish. Have fun, and let's make sure we share what we find inside with our friends. (Pause.) That was fun! On the count of three, I want everyone to come out from the tents and sit here with me. Ready? One, two, three! Good listening, friends."

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



BIBLE STORY

Jesus is born.

JESUS IS BORN
LUKE 2:1-7

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible story today, we'll hear about the night Jesus was born! But He wasn't born in a comfy place or a fancy place! When Jesus was born, His family stayed in a place surrounded by animals! Let's go hear all about it."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to snuggle a big pillow, have a spot of tea, and be different animals that might have been there the night Jesus was born.

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

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25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



1. MEMORY VERSE TRAIN

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Lead the children to gather in your activity. Review the motions and repeat the memory verse together.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead the children to line up, one friend behind the other, and place their hands on the shoulders of the friend in front of them to form a train. Stand at the front of the train and lead the children around the room, repeating the phrase, "Chugga-chugga, choo-choo." Intermittently, call out the word "love," and everyone will freeze and say the memory verse together.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is born.

JESUS IS BORN
LUKE 2:1-7

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, gather here with me. 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.*) Good job, friends!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's make a train! Everyone, line up, one friend behind the other. Now place your hands on the shoulders of the friend in front of you to make a train. I'll stand at the front and lead the train. When you hear the word 'love,' I want us to freeze our train and say the verse together. Let's go! Chugga-chugga, choo-choo. Say that with me. Chugga-chugga, choo-choo. (*Repeat a few times.*) Love! 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,' John 3:16. Great job! Let's start our train again! Chugga-chugga, choo-choo. (*Repeat as desired.*) Way to go, friends!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "I'm so glad God sent Jesus to show us how much God loves us! Jesus is special because Jesus is God's Son! **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!"**

MEMORY VERSE

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

JOHN 3:16, GNT

KEY QUESTION

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BOTTOM LINE

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BASIC TRUTH

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2. CHRISTMAS STORY BAG

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Christmas Story Bag Cards" Activity Page; cardstock; scissors; four baskets, buckets, or boxes; painter's tape; and small solid color paper gift bags

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Christmas Story Bag Cards" on cardstock, one set per child. Create train tracks on the floor around your area with painter's tape. Space the four baskets along your train tracks. Put the Angel and Mary story cards in one basket, the Mary and Joseph story cards in a second basket, the Jesus is Born story cards in a third basket, and the parent note in a fourth basket.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a gift bag. Pretend to ride a train around the room, saying, "Chugga-chugga, choo-choo" as you go. Tell the children to put a card in their bag as you come to each basket. Review that part of the story before moving to the next basket.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how Christmas is when we celebrate that Jesus was born.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Who wants to go on a pretend train ride with me? (Pause.) Come get in line!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "We heard more about the true story of Christmas in our Bible story today. I have story cards for you to collect in these baskets along the train tracks. Let's pretend we're riding a train and collect the story cards in this bag. (Give each child a bag.) Ready? Here we go! Chugga-chugga, choo-choo! We've come to our first stop. Everyone, take one card. (Pause.) Look! This card has an angel and Mary on it. Put your card in your bag. God sent an angel to tell Mary she would have a baby named Jesus. Jesus is special because Jesus is God's Son! Let's keep riding!"

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.

"Chugga-chugga, choo-choo! We've come to our second stop. Everyone, take one card. (Pause.) This card has a picture of Mary and Joseph on it. Put your card in your bag. Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem. When they got there, they



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

had to sleep in a room where animals sleep, because there were no other rooms. Let's keep riding! Chugga-chugga, choo-choo! We've come to our third stop. Everyone, take one card. (Pause.) This card has a picture of Baby Jesus on it. Put your card in your bag. When Jesus, God's Son, was born, Mary wrapped Him in strips of cloth and laid Him in a manger. Okay, we've got one more stop to make. Let's ride! Chugga-chugga, choo-choo! We've come to our last stop. Everyone, take one card. (Pause.) This card is a note and has fun games you can play with your Christmas story cards when you get home."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, we know that God loves us A LOT because **God gave us Jesus. How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!**"



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO THINK

an advanced activity specifically
designed for older preschoolers



3. DRAW THE STORY

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Draw the Story" Activity Page,
cardstock, and washable markers

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Draw the Story" on
cardstock, one per child. Write each child's name at the top of their page. Set
papers at each space and place the markers in the center of the table.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Point out the three sentences and the boxes on their
page. Read each sentence, one at a time, and encourage the children to draw a
picture in the box to represent that sentence.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come sit at the table! Today, we learned
about the night Jesus was born! Do you see the words there on the page? I'll read
the words then I want you to draw a picture in each box. You can use the markers
on the table."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Everyone, point to the first sentence at the top.
(Pause.) Great job! It says, 'God sent an angel to Mary with a special message.
She would have a baby, Jesus, God's Son!' Now draw a picture! You can draw
Mary or an angel.

"Now point to the middle part of the page. Do you see the second sentence?
(Pause.) Good! It says, 'Mary and Joseph traveled a long way to Bethlehem. Mary
rode on a donkey!' You can draw Mary riding the donkey.

"Okay, now point to the bottom of the page. This is the last sentence. (Pause.)
It says, 'Mary and Joseph stayed in a stable with animals.' Jesus was born and
Mary placed him in a manger filled with hay. You can draw Jesus in the manger."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Wow! I love your drawings. Good job, friends. God
sent an angel with a special message. Mary would have a baby, God's Son, Jesus!
Mary and Joseph traveled a long way to Bethlehem. Mary rode a donkey. Then
Mary and Joseph stayed in a stable with animals. Jesus was born, and Mary
placed Him in a manger filled with hay! I'm so glad that God loves us so much
that 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
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JOHN 3:16, GNT

KEY QUESTION

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God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



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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. IS THIS THE RIGHT PLACE?

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Right Place?" Activity Page, cardstock,
painter's tape, and Little People® Baby Jesus figure

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Right Place?" on
cardstock, one set per small group. Tape pictures around
the room at preschooler eye level. Gather the children and point out the different
pictures of places around the room.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Select a child to hold the Baby Jesus and guide them
to the first picture. Ask, "Is this where Baby Jesus was born?" Give Baby Jesus to
another child and guide them to the next picture and repeat until the last picture
you go to is the stable. After asking the question and the children answer "yes,"
celebrate together!

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how Jesus was born surrounded by animals
and God gave us Jesus to show that God loves us!

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, gather here with me! Look around the room.
There are some pictures of different places on the wall."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's travel to each picture and take Baby Jesus with
us. [Child's name], will you carry Jesus to the first place? Be careful as you carry
Him. What place do you see? (Pause.) That's right, it's a [building's name]. Was
Jesus born here? (Pause.) No, He wasn't born in a [building's name]! Let's keep
searching. [Child's name], gently hand Baby Jesus to [child's name], and let's go
to the next picture. (Continue until you get to the stable.) What place do you see?
(Pause.) It's a stable! Was Jesus born in a stable? (Pause.) Yes! Jesus was born in
a stable surrounded by animals! Show me your happy dance! (Pause.) Amazing!"
(Repeat as desired until each child has a turn to carry Baby Jesus.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus wasn't born in a tall building or a fire station or
a big castle! Jesus was born in a stable surrounded by animals! I'm so glad God
loves us and gave us His Son, Jesus. **How do we know God loves us? God
gave us Jesus.** That's right! I'm SO glad **God gave us Jesus!**"

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is born.

JESUS IS BORN
LUKE 2:1-7

MEMORY VERSE

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JOHN 3:16, GNT

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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



5. SCRIPTURE WRAPPED MANGER

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Scripture Wrapped Manger" Activity Page, tan cardstock, raffia or yellow paper shreds, mini slotted clothespins, muslin, scissors, glue sticks, baby wipes, and permanent marker; *Optional light-colored crepe paper streamers in place of muslin*

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is born.

JESUS IS BORN
LUKE 2:1-7

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Scripture-Wrapped Manger" on tan cardstock and cut, one per child. Fold each child's paper as indicated and write their name on the bottom. Cut muslin into 1 ½" to 2" wide by 6" strips. *Option: Cut crepe paper streamers into 6" strips.*

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to glue their manger together following the order given by the leader. Add raffia or paper shreds. Ask children to wrap the Baby Jesus clothespin in the cloth or crepe paper and place in the manger.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, sit with me at the table. I have something very special for you to make today."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Today, we heard the part of the Christmas story when Baby Jesus was born! Was Baby Jesus born in a fancy hotel? (Pause.) No. Where was Baby Jesus born? Baby Jesus was born in a stable where animals live. Mary wrapped Baby Jesus in cloths and laid Him in a manger of hay. We're going to turn this piece of paper into a manger. Follow my directions. Find the sections with a heart and a star on them and rub some glue on them both. (Pause.) Tuck the section with the star behind the section with the heart. (Pause.) Now attach the loose end with writing on top of the heart. (Pause.) Press them together to help them stick.

"Now do the same thing on the other side. Find the sections with a triangle and a circle on them and rub some glue on them both. (Pause.) Tuck the sections with the triangle behind the sections with the circle. (Pause.) Now attach the loose end with writing on top of the circle. (Pause.) Press them together to help them stick. Super-duper! Now you have a manger! What was in the manger in our story? (Pause.) Hay! That's right. Take some of this raffia and add it to your manger. Now all we need is Baby Jesus! Let's pretend this clothespin is Baby Jesus. Wrap the clothespin in the cloth and lay Him in the manger. (Pause.) These look amazing. Great job!"

MEMORY VERSE

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AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “The true story of Christmas begins with a girl named Mary. God sent an angel with an important message for Mary. The angel said that Mary would have a baby and that baby would be Jesus, God’s Son! WOW! God loves us so much that He gave us His son Jesus.

“Well not long after that, 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 only place Mary and Joseph could find was a stable full of animals That is where Baby Jesus was born! Mary wrapped Him up and placed Him in a manger full of straw. God loves us so much that God gave us His Son, Jesus! **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus.”**



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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" from Week One in Bible, journal, and fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible, copy "Memory Verse Card" on

cardstock and cut, one per small group. Place one card in your Bible at John 3:16. Keep this card in your Bible all month.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead the children to pretend to ride a donkey to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you. Review the memory verse and motions, then encourage the children to tell you different places they can sleep as you write them down.

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 pretend to ride donkeys to our Small Group spot. Get on your donkey and follow me! (Pretend to ride a donkey, making donkey sounds as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.) Whoa, little donkey! Everyone, get off your donkey and 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.)

"Today in our Bible story, Mary and Joseph had to go all the way to a place called Bethlehem. When they got there, they had to sleep in a room where animals stay because there were no rooms anywhere else. Then, the most wonderful thing happened! Jesus, God's Son, was born! And that's what we celebrate at Christmas. God loves us so much that **God gave us Jesus!**

"We're learning a Bible verse that talks about how **God gave us Jesus.** 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.) 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.)

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.



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25 MINUTES

(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

“Yay! God loves us so much that **God gave us Jesus!** Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Since Mary and Joseph had to sleep in a room where animals stayed, let’s make a list of different places you can sleep. It could be a sleeping bag, airplane, couch, car, hotel, on a beach, or even a barn where animals sleep! When I say your name, tell me one place you can sleep, 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.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “Look at all the different places we can sleep! Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, there are so many different places people can sleep. We can sleep in (*read the list the children made*) or a room where animals stay, like Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus did. Thank You that where we sleep doesn’t change how special we are. It didn’t change how special Jesus is! Jesus will always be special because Jesus is Your Son! Thank You, God, for giving us Jesus. We love You. In Jesus’ name, amen.”



WEEK
TWO
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. WHO LIVES IN THE STABLE?

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. BUILDING TRACKS

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Jumbo craft sticks
- Popsicle sticks
- Little People® figures
- Small toy animals

3. WHERE WAS JESUS BORN?

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Three play tents
- A few pillows
- Toy tea set
- Several toy animals
- Optional three large flat bedsheets and classroom tables instead of tents

WHAT YOU DO:

- Set up the three play tents in your activity area.
- Set up the pillows in tent one, the tea set in tent two, and the animals in tent three.
- Option: Drape the three bedsheets over your classroom tables to create three separate areas.

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 TRAIN

[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.



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2. CHRISTMAS STORY BAG

[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:

- "Christmas Story Bag Cards" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Four baskets, buckets, or boxes
- Painter's tape
- Small solid color paper gift bags with a handle—one per child

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Christmas Story Bag Cards" on cardstock, one set per child.
- Create train tracks on the floor around your area with painter's tape.
- Space the four baskets along your train tracks.
- Put the Angel and Mary story cards in one basket, the Mary and Joseph story cards in a second basket, the Jesus is Born story cards in a third basket, and the parent note in a fourth basket.

3. DRAW THE STORY

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Draw the Story" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Washable markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Draw the Story" on cardstock, one per child.
- Write each child's name on their paper and put around the table.
- Place the markers in the center of the table.

4. IS THIS THE RIGHT PLACE?

[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:

- "Right Place?" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Painter's tape
- Little People® Baby Jesus figure

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Right Place?" on cardstock, one set per small group.
- Tape pictures around the room at preschooler eye level.

5. SCRIPTURE WRAPPED MANGER

[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:

- "Scripture-Wrapped Manger" Activity Page
- Tan cardstock
- Raffia or yellow paper shreds
- Mini slotted clothespins
- Muslin
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Baby wipes
- Permanent marker
- Optional light-colored crepe paper streamers in place of muslin

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Scripture Wrapped Manger" on tan cardstock and cut, one per child.
- Fold each child's paper as indicated and write their name on the bottom.
- Cut muslin into 1 ½" to 2" wide by 6" strips.
- Option: Cut crepe paper streamers into six-inch strips.



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6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Memory Verse Card" from Week One in 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:

- If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" from Week One, copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per small group then paperclip it in the Bible at John 3:16.
- **NOTE:** Keep the Memory Verse Card in your Bible all month.

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