



WEEK
FOUR
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 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.

All Aboard 
Train Car Decorating
Box of Lights

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways


"Silent Night," and "Happy Birthday Jesus"
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.

Party Verse
Birthday Cupcakes 
Gifts of Choice
Drive Your Train
Decorative Topper
Journal and Prayer

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.



WEEK
FOUR
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



1. ALL ABOARD*

WHAT YOU NEED: "Allergy Alert Poster," cardstock, cupcake tins, cupcake liners, Play-Doh®, birthday paper plates, birthday candles, and large gift bag

**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.*

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Print "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock and list "Play-Doh" then post at the door. Set out each party supply on separate tables or chairs. Spread them out around the room as much as possible. Gather the children to line up, one friend behind the other. Encourage children to place their hands on the shoulders of the friend in front of them to make a train.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Explain that your train will move around the room to collect all the party supplies for the "Birthday Cupcakes" Activity after Large Group. Hold the gift bag and stand at the front of the train as the engine. Then lead the children around the room to collect the cupcake tins, cupcake liners, cans of Play-Doh, birthday paper plates, and birthday candles. Once you've collected all the supplies, lead the children to a separate table or counter to deliver them.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce that today, we're celebrating Jesus' birthday in our Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, stand in a line behind each other, and let's make a train. Place your hands on the shoulders of the friend in front of you. Great! I'll be the train conductor and lead us around to pick up the party supplies around the room."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Chugga-chugga, choo-choo! Here we go! First, we need some cupcake pans. Follow me! In the bag they go! (Pause.) Next, we need . . . cupcake liners! Chugga-chugga, choo-choo! Here we go! Do you see them? (Pause.) There they are! In the bag they go! (Pause.) Next party item, Play-Doh! Chugga-chugga, choo-choo! Here we go! Chugga-chugga, in the bag they go! (Pause.) I see two more party supplies! Here we go! Chugga-chugga, choo-choo! Birthday plates! In the bag they go! (Pause.) Chugga-chugga, choo-choo! Birthday candles! In the bag they go! (Pause.) Let's chugga-chugga, choo-choo them over here. (Pause.) Choo-choo! All deliveries are done! Great job, friends."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "I'm so happy to celebrate Jesus' birthday! Did you know that God sent us Jesus because God loves us? It's true. We'll hear all about it in our Bible story today. Let's go."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by continuing to travel like the train from the activity, all the way to your storytelling area.

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.



WEEK
FOUR
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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



2. TRAIN CAR DECORATING

WHAT YOU NEED: Copy paper boxes, utility knife, red and green butcher paper, packing tape, dot markers, stickers, washable markers, and baby wipes; *Optional shoeboxes instead of copy paper boxes*

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Cut the bottom out of each copy paper box, one box for every two children. Cover each box with butcher paper, leaving the bottom and top open so children can hold the box around them like a train car. Tape the paper to the box. Set out the covered boxes and the decorating supplies on the table. *Option: Cut lids off shoeboxes if not two separate pieces.*

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage them to use the supplies provided to decorate their train cars. Set aside to be used for "The Train Game" activity after Large Group.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the celebration of Jesus' birthday that we'll hear about in today's story from the Christmas train.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, find a spot at the table! Do you see these boxes? You're going to turn them into fun train cars with some cool decorations!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "You can use the markers or stickers to decorate your train car any way you choose! (Pause.) Your train cars look awesome! Let's set our train cars over here so we can use them later."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "I'm so glad we're riding on the Christmas train this month as we celebrate Jesus' birthday! I can't wait for you to hear our Bible story today."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by calling out different train sounds for the children to mimic. Sounds: "PSSSST" steam from the steam engine, "Toot-toot" train whistle; "Chugga-chugga, chugga-chugga" sound of the train moving; "All Aboard!" conductor calling everyone to find their seats!

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.



WEEK
FOUR
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

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



3. BOX OF LIGHTS

WHAT YOU NEED: Clear storage container and lid, aluminum foil, battery-powered Christmas lights, Magna-Tiles®, paper, crayons, and clear packing tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Build a light box by lining the sides and bottom of the container with foil. Add the battery-

powered lights. Turn on the lights, replace the lid, and tape closed. Set the light box on the floor or table.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Offer Magna-Tiles and white paper and crayons on top of the light box for children to explore. Explore the shadow and light that the box creates.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the celebration of Jesus' birthday.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, gather here with me! Look at this neat box. It has special Christmas lights in it because today is extra special."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "What do you think will happen when you put this toy on top of the box? *(Pause.)* Wow, look how the light comes through. Try stacking different colors on top of each other. *(Pause.)* What about coloring on top of the box? *(Put a piece of paper on top of the box and give children crayons to color with.)* Draw a picture on the paper. *(Pause.)* How does it look to color on the box? These lights sure do make the toys look special."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That was an extra special activity because today is an extra special day. We're celebrating Jesus' birthday! Let's go hear our Bible story and celebrate! Follow me!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by singing "Happy Birthday."

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.



WEEK
FOUR
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



1. PARTY VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Party horns or blowers and a
permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Write each child's name on their
party horn or blower. Do the motions as you say the memory

verse together. Give each child a party horn.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to say the memory verse together.
At the end, ask children to blow their party horns and celebrate! Repeat as
desired.

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

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

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, please join me. Let's do the motions as we
say our 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.*)
Nice job! Today, we get to celebrate with these fun party blowers."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "We're going to say our memory verse together and
at the end, we will blow our party horns to celebrate! Okay friends, let's say our
memory verse together. 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,'
John 3:16. Blow your horns! (*Pause.*) Awesome! Freeze your horns, and we'll say
the verse again. 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,' John
3:16. Blow your horns! (*Repeat as desired.*) Wow friends, that was SO much fun,
saying our memory verse and celebrating Jesus."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today's Bible story was all about the birth of Jesus
and God's love for us. We know that God loves us because God sent us Jesus!
How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus! Let's say that one
more time. **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!** Great job,
friends."

KEY QUESTION

How do we know
God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



WEEK
FOUR
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE

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



2. BIRTHDAY CUPCAKES*

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Allergy Alert Poster," cardstock, cupcake tins, cupcake liners, Play-Doh®, birthday paper plates, birthday candles, and large gift bag.

**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

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

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

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: If you did not do the "All Aboard" preparation activity, print "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock and list Play-Doh then post at the door. Place all party supplies in the large gift bag. Sit with the children and pull out the supplies.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to make birthday cupcakes for Jesus. Give them a candle to go on top of their cupcakes then lead the children in singing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus' birthday.

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 this gift bag full of fun party stuff. Let's see what's inside. *(Pull out the supplies.)* We can make something really special with these things. Let's make a special birthday cupcake for Jesus' birthday!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "As I review our story, I want you to make a super-special cupcake with your Play-Doh. Our Bible story today was about the true story of Christmas. It all began when God sent an angel to tell Mary she would have a baby. The baby would be Jesus, God's Son! After that, Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem. When they got to Bethlehem, they had to stay in a room where animals slept because there were no other rooms. And that is where Jesus was born! On that same night, God sent angels to tell shepherds out in a field that Jesus had been born. The shepherds were so excited that they ran to see Baby Jesus! And now here we are, celebrating Jesus' birthday!"

"Your birthday cupcakes look great! We can put them on these birthday plates. I have a candle you can add to it, too! *(Pause.)* Now we're ready to sing 'Happy Birthday' to Jesus! Sing with me! Happy birthday to Jesus! Happy birthday to Jesus! Happy birthday to Jesus! Happy birthday to Jesus! Happy birthday, to Jesus!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Christmas is all about celebrating Jesus' birthday! God loves you and me SO much that **God gave us Jesus! 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.



WEEK
FOUR
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO THINK

an advanced activity specifically
designed for older preschoolers



3. GIFTS OF CHOICE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Gifts of Choice" Activity Page, copy paper, magazines or sales flyers, scissors, butcher paper, and glue sticks

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Gifts of Choice" on paper and cut apart, three pictures per child. Cut out several pictures of items you might give as a gift from magazines or sales flyers, three per child. Lay the butcher paper on the table. Set all the gift images and glue sticks on the table.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to pick two or three pictures of items they would give to someone they love. Once they've chosen their items, invite the children to glue them to the butcher paper to create a collage.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how we give gifts at Christmas to show others we love them and that God showed his love for us by giving us Jesus!

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, gather around the table! I have a question for you. Do you know why we give gifts at Christmas? (Pause.) We give gifts to show others we love them! Christmas is about God giving us the BEST gift ever—Jesus—to show how much He loves us."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Take a look at all the pictures on the table. I want you to pick out three things that you might give to someone in your family. You can glue them to the page. What pictures did you choose? Tell me about who you would give the gifts to. (Repeat with each child.) Wow! Look at all these fun gifts you picked out! Great job!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "We give gifts at Christmas to the people we love. We celebrate Christmas because God gave us Jesus to show us that He loves us.

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

MEMORY VERSE

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

JOHN 3:16, GNT

KEY QUESTION

How do we know
God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



WEEK
FOUR
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

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



4. DRIVE YOUR TRAIN

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Drive Your Train" Activity Page,
cardstock, painter's tape, and decorated train cars from
"Train Car Decorating" activity

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Drive Your Train" on
cardstock, one set per small group. Tape each picture around the room at a
preschooler's eye level. Set the train cars out in your activity area. Encourage the
children to stand near a train car in your activity area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Point out the pictures around the room. Lead children
to "drive" their train cars to the correct picture as you review the Bible story.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story and remind the children that
God gave us Jesus because He loves us.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, stand next to our train cars! Let's play a
train game with the train cars you decorated! I'll read a part of the Christmas
story. Then you drive your train car to the picture that goes to that part of the
story. Ready?"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "God sent an angel to tell Mary she would have
Jesus, God's Son. *(Pause as children drive to the picture of Angel and Mary).* Great
job! Come back to the middle. Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem where
they had to stay in a stable, and that is where Baby Jesus was born. *(Pause as
children drive to the picture of the manger scene.)* You've got it! Okay, come back
here with me.

"God sent angels to shepherds to tell them Jesus had been born! *(Pause as
children drive to the picture of shepherds, sheep, and angels.)* That's right!
Now, chug, chug, chug back this way. The shepherds ran to see Baby Jesus, and
they found him in a manger just like the angels said. *(Pause as children drive to
the picture of the shepherds with Baby Jesus.)* You found them all! Way to go,
friends."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "God sent an angel to Mary to tell her she would have
Jesus, God's Son! Mary and Joseph traveled a long way to Bethlehem and stayed
in a stable where Jesus was born. God sent angels to tell the shepherds about
Jesus' birth. So they ran to see this special baby lying in a manger, just like the
angel had said. I'm SO glad God gave us Jesus! Why? Because God loves us. **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

MEMORY VERSE

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

JOHN 3:16, GNT

KEY QUESTION

How do we know
God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



WEEK
FOUR
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



5. DECORATIVE TOPPER

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Decorative Topper" and "Decorative Topper Parent Note" Activity Pages, cardstock, scissors, cake pop sticks or wooden chopsticks, washable markers, stickers, washi tape, and a pen

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Decorative Topper" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Copy "Decorative Topper Parent Note" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Write each child's name on the back of their paper.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to decorate their cake topper. Turn train over and tape the cake pop stick or one chopstick to the back.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "What a wonderful day it is to celebrate! Merry Christmas! Jesus' Birthday is here! Let's make a special decoration for the top of a birthday cake."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Decorate your Christmas train with the markers and stickers. (Pause.) Great job. Flip your train over and tape this stick on. (Help as needed.) Flip it back over, and let's sing 'Happy Birthday' to Jesus. (Sing together.) Great job, everyone!"

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 this baby would be Jesus, God's Son! Not long after that, Mary and Joseph had to travel a LONG way to the town of Bethlehem. When they got to Bethlehem, they stayed in a stable full of animals, and that's where Baby Jesus was born. That night in a field, some shepherds were taking care of their sheep when an angel appeared in the sky. The angel said, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news!' And the angel told the shepherds that God's Son, Jesus had been born and they could find him in a manger. Then the sky filled with angels praising God saying, 'Glory to God in the highest!' The shepherds ran as fast as they could to find Jesus."

"God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus. And Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus' birthday! **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

MEMORY VERSE

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

JOHN 3:16, GNT

KEY QUESTION

How do we know
God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



WEEK
FOUR
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

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, a fun-shaped pen, birthday stickers, and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible, copy 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. Cut a row of stickers for each child.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead the children in doing a conga line as they chant, "Hap-py birth-day, Je-sus!" to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you. Review the memory verse and motions, then write "Happy birthday, Jesus!" in your journal and give the children birthday stickers to decorate around it.

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 do a conga line to our Small Group spot while we say, 'Hap-py birth-day, Je-sus!' Line up behind me and do what I do! (Lead the children in a conga line as you chant "Hap-py birth-day, Je-sus!" all the way to your Small Group spot.) That was fun! Now 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 today, we heard the true story of Christmas about how **God gave us Jesus** and why Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus' birthday. You see, God loves you and me so much that He gave us His one and only Son, Jesus. That's A LOT of love!

"We have been learning a Bible verse that will help us remember how much God loves us. 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! We're going to 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

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.



WEEK
FOUR
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

"Yay! **God gave us Jesus!** Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Since Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus' birthday, I'll write 'Happy birthday, Jesus' in our prayer journal, like this. (*Write "Happy birthday, Jesus." Remember to print as you write in the journal so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

"Now for the fun part! I have birthday stickers for you to put around 'Happy birthday, Jesus' to make it extra special. (*Give each child a row of stickers and allow them to take turns adding their stickers to the journal.*) Wow! Look at all the birthday stickers! You really did a great job of making this look extra special! Let's sing 'Happy Birthday' to Jesus, one more time! (*Lead the children in singing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus.*) Celebrating Jesus' birthday is a wonderful reminder of how much God loves us. God loves us so much that **God gave us Jesus! How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!**"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Now let's pray and thank God for giving us Jesus. 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 this special time called Christmas—a time for us to celebrate Jesus' birthday! Help us remember that Christmas is about celebrating when You gave us Your only Son, Jesus. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."



WEEK
FOUR
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. ALL ABOARD

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Allergy Alert Poster"
- Cardstock
- Cupcake tins—two or three per small group
- Cupcake liners—one per child
- Play-Doh®—one container per child
- Birthday plates—one per child
- Birthday candles—one per child
- Large gift bag with handles

WHAT YOU DO:

- Print "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock and list "Play-Doh" then post at the door.
- Set each of the items out on separate tables or chairs around the room.

2. TRAIN CAR DECORATING

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Copy paper boxes—one for every two children
- Utility knife
- Red and green butcher paper
- Packing tape
- Dot markers
- Christmas stickers
- Washable markers
- Optional shoeboxes instead of copy paper boxes

WHAT YOU DO:

- Cut out the bottom out of each copy paper box, one per two children.
- Cover each box with butcher paper, leaving the bottom and top open so children can hold the box around them like a train car. Tape the paper to the box.
- Set out the covered boxes and the decorating supplies on the table.
- Option: Cut lids off shoeboxes if not two separate pieces.

3. BOX OF LIGHTS

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Clear storage container and lid (clear lid)
- Aluminum foil
- Battery-powered Christmas lights
- Magna-Tiles®
- Paper
- Crayons
- Clear packing tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Build a light box by lining the sides and bottom of the container with foil. Add the battery-powered lights. Turn on the lights, replace the lid, and tape closed. Set the light box on the floor or table.



WEEK
FOUR
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

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. PARTY VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Party horns or blowers—one per child plus leaders
- Permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Write each child's name on their party horn or blowout.

2. BIRTHDAY CUPCAKES*

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Cupcake tins—two or three per small group
- Cupcake liners—one per child
- Play-Doh®—one container per child
- Birthday plates—one per child
- Birthday candles—one per child
- Large gift bag with handles
- "Allergy Alert Poster"
- Cardstock

WHAT YOU DO:

- Place all the party supplies in the large gift bag.
- **If you did not do the "All Aboard" activity to collect supplies,** copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list

Play-Doh®, and post at the door.

3. GIFTS OF CHOICE

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Gifts of Choice" Activity Page
- Copy paper
- Magazines or sales flyers
- Scissors
- Butcher paper (table-length piece)
- Glue sticks

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Gifts of Choice" on paper and cut, three pictures per child.
- Cut out images of different items you might give someone as a gift from magazines or sales flyers, three per child.
- Place the piece of butcher paper, cut out images, and glue sticks on the table.

4. DRIVE YOUR TRAIN

[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:

- "Drive Your Train" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Painter's tape
- Decorated train cars from "Train Car Decorating" activity

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Drive Your Train" on cardstock, one set per small group.
- Tape each picture around the room at a preschooler's eye level.
- Set the train cars out in your activity area.



WEEK
FOUR
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

5. DECORATIVE TOPPER

[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:

- "Decorative Topper" Activity Page
- "Decorative Topper Parent Note" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Cake pop sticks or wooden chopsticks (8-inch)
- Washable markers
- Stickers
- Washi tape
- Pen

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Decorative Topper" on cardstock and cut, one per child.
- Copy "Decorative Topper Parent Note" on cardstock and cut, one per child.
- Write each child's name on the back of their paper.

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.)
- Birthday stickers
- Scissors

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.**
- Cut a row of stickers for each child.

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's Parent Cue card.
- Copy the Memory Verse card to hand out or make available to parents.
- Copy "Going Home" and hang it on the door where Small Group Leaders can reference and remind parents of the Bottom Line and memory verse as parents pick up their children.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource, the **Parent Cue app**.

FIRST LOOK PINTEREST PAGE

- Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. bit.ly/FL_ChristmasTrain