

3-5 YEAR -OLDS

TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

BIBLE STORY

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

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

MEMORY VERSE

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

JOHN 3:16, GNT

KEY QUESTION

How do we know God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive. Star Projector Track Shapes It's a Wrap!

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

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.

Order of the Train
Pass the Train
Gift Finders
Line Up the Story
Wise Men Pop-Up
Journal and Prayer

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home Memory Verse Card Parent Cue Card (*print or email*) Parent Cue App

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

BIBLE STORY

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

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

MEMORY VERSE

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

JOHN 3:16, GNT

KEY QUESTION

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BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



1. STAR PROJECTOR

WHAT YOU NEED: Opaque white paper cup, utility knife, clear packing tape, permanent black and yellow or gold markers, and flashlight; *Optional night light or small lamp*

WHAT YOU DO:

the bottom of the paper cup. Place a piece of packing tape securely across the bottom of the cup. Use the permanent black marker to draw the outline of a large star on the tape and color the inside with the yellow or gold marker. Gather children near an empty wall with the cups and flashlight.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: If possible, dim or turn off the lights. Turn on the flashlight and shine it through the cup to project the star onto the wall. Ask children to follow the star as you move it around on the wall.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Explain that our Bible story tells us about a special star the wise men followed all the way to Baby Jesus!

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, stand here at the wall with me."

PURING THE ACTIVITY: "What do you see on the bottom of this cup? (Pause.) Yes, a star! I want to show you something SUPER cool. (Dim lights if possible and shine the flashlight through the cup onto the wall.) What do you see? A star! Watch as it gets closer and bigger, or smaller and farther away. (Pause.) Follow the star. (Pause.) Great job, friends. That was fun!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible story today, we'll hear about a very special star that led to someone VERY special! Come with me to hear the last part of the true Christmas story."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by continuing to shine the flashlight "star" for the children to follow.

3-5 YEAR -OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

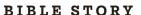
GROUPS

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



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

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

MEMORY VERSE

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

JOHN 3:16, GNT

KEY QUESTION

How do we know God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



2. TRAIN TRACK SHAPES

WHAT YOU NEED: "Train Track Shapes" Activity Page, cardstock, train cars, and Little People® figures

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Train track Shapes" on cardstock, one set per small group. Place train track shapes on the table and set the cars and Little People on the table.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to roll the train or walk the figures around the shaped track. Ask children to move around the table to the different road shapes.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce following a special star that we'll hear more about in today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, find a spot at the table. What do you see? (*Pause.*) Train tracks! But the tracks are different shapes. (*Point to one of the shapes.*) Look, this road is a [shape's name]!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Pick a train car or person and move it over your track. Follow the shape of your track. (*Pause.*) Super-duper! Let's move to a different track shape. (*Help children move as needed.*) Pick a train car or a person and take them along the track! (*Repeat as desired.*) Great job! You rolled your train cars and walked the people all around these shapes."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "This month, we've been celebrating God's love for us and the birth of Jesus! In today's Bible story, we'll hear about some very special men who followed a star to help them find and celebrate Jesus!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by singing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."

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



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

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

MEMORY VERSE

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

JOHN 3:16, GNT

KEY QUESTION

How do we know God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



3. IT'S A WRAP

WHAT YOU NEED: Wrapping paper, clear tape, safety scissors, gift bows, and medium boxes

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Lay all the supplies out in the activity area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Ask each child to wrap their box. Help the children cut or tear the paper, wrap it around their box, and tape it. Encourage children to pick a bow and place it on top. Place the wrapped gifts where parents and friends can see them at pick-up time.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce that the wise men brought Jesus gifts in today's Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come to the table. We have all these boxes and gift wrap. Will you help me wrap them? (*Pause.*) Fantastic! Thank you!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I'm here to help if you need. Cut the paper and wrap it around the box. Tape the paper on and look! You wrapped a gift! Pick out a bow and put it on top. (*Pause.*) WOW! I am so excited to see these beautiful gifts!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today, we'll hear a Bible story about three wise men who brought gifts to someone very special. I can't wait to hear our story today!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to carry a gift as you walk to the story area.

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

BIBLE STORY

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

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

MEMORY VERSE

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

JOHN 3:16, GNT

KEY QUESTION

How do we know God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



1. ORDER OF THE TRAIN

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Order of the Train" Activity Page, cardstock, and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Order of the Train" on cardstock and cut, one per small group. Spread pieces

around the room. Do the motions as you say the verse together.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Ask children to find the five pieces of the train and bring them to you or another leader. Each time a piece is found, stop and say the verse together. Put the train pieces in order as you talk through the Christmas story. Say the verse with the motions.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, join me over here. Let's say our verse and do the motions 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.*) Great job friends!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "The Christmas train with pictures of the true story of Christmas is scattered all over the room. I need your help putting it back together. When I say, 'Christmas,' I want you to look for the five pieces. When you find a piece, say, 'Train!' When you hear, 'Train,' freeze where you are, and we'll say the verse together. Ready? Christmas! (Pause.) Yay, you found a train piece! Say, 'Train' as loud as you can. Train! Everyone, freeze and say the verse with me. 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,' John 3:16. Awesome! (Take the pieces as the children find them.)





3-5 YEAR -OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

"Okay, we have all five pieces! Let's go back and put them together in order. The first piece of the train is the . . . engine! That's right! We'll put that piece right here. (*Place engine picture on the floor or table with ample space behind it to house the remaining pieces.*) Look at the pictures on each train piece. Which picture happened first? (*Pause.*) That's right! The angel told Mary she would have a baby, Baby Jesus! Put that train piece behind the engine. (*Pause.*) What happened next? Baby Jesus was born! Put that train piece next. (*Pause.*) Then what happened? The angels told the shepherds that Baby Jesus was born, and they went to see Him. Put that train piece next. (*Pause.*) What happened at the end of the Christmas story? The wise men followed a special star to find Jesus! Put that train piece last. (*Pause.*) Super job, friends! Now let's stand up and say our verse one more time with the motions. God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*) loved the world (*cross arms over chest*) so much (*pull hands away from each other*) that he gave his only Son,' (*rock arms like a baby*) John 3:16." (*Open hands like a book.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "I loved hearing the true story of Christmas and learning that God loved us so much that He gave us His Son, Jesus. How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus."

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT 25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

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

BIBLE STORY

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

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

MEMORY VERSE

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

JOHN 3:16, GNT

KEY QUESTION

How do we know God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



2. PASS THE TRAIN

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Pass the Train" Activity Page, cardstock, and two toy train cars

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Pass the Train" on cardstock, one per small group.

buring the activity: Lay the train pictures on the floor, in order as they happened in the story. Sit in a circle with the children around the train pictures. Place one toy train on top of the first train picture. Give the other toy train to one of the children. The children will tell one part of the Christmas story and then pass the train car to the next child. Move the train car on the floor from one train picture to the next to help the children know what part of the story is next. When you get to the last train picture, go back to the first one and keep the story going! Continue passing the train car around the circle until every child has a turn. Repeat the activity as long as time and interest allow.

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

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hey, everyone! Come sit with me. We're going to play a train game!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "We got to hear ALL of the true story of Christmas in our Bible story today. We started with the angel and Mary (put a train car on the angel and Mary train picture) and went all the way to the wise men. (Move the train car over the train pictures and stop on the wise men train picture.)

"We're going to play a game where we pass the train. When it's your turn to hold the train, you get to tell us the part of the Christmas story that this train (hold up your train car) is sitting on. These story pictures will help us remember each part of the Christmas story. Let's play!"

(Note: Use the story words on the train pictures to help prompt the children when it is their turn.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Wow! You did a fantastic job of telling the true story of Christmas! Way to go! I love learning about how much God loves us! And how do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!"

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

BIBLE STORY

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

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

MEMORY VERSE

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

JOHN 3:16, GNT

KEY QUESTION

How do we know God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



3. GIFT FINDERS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Gift Finders" Activity Page, cardstock, and washable markers

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the "Gift Finders" on cardstock, one per child. Place on the table with the markers.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to sit at the table. Point to the Activity Page and encourage the children to look through the images to find the hidden "gifts" on the page and circle them with the marker. After a few minutes, let the children share the pictures they circled as they talk about some gifts they might choose to give others.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, find a spot at the table! I have a fun find-it game for you today!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's look at these pictures and choose some things we would give someone to show them we love them. Circle the gifts you find. (*Pause.*) Tell me what pictures you circled. (*Pause.*) Those are neat gifts. Who would you give that gift to? (*Pause.*) What other gifts did you find on your paper? (*Repeat as desired.*) These are all wonderful gifts!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "God gave us the most special gift ever to show us He loves us! God gave us Jesus. How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!"

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

BIBLE STORY

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

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

MEMORY VERSE

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

JOHN 3:16, GNT

KEY QUESTION

How do we know God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



4. LINE UP THE STORY

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Line Up the Story Stickers" Activity Page, Avery® #5294 labels or equivalent, ball pit balls, shoe boxes or shoe box containers, craft tubes, and painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

on label paper, two or more sets per small group. Place one set of stickers on three ball pit balls and the other set on three craft tubes. Place the balls and tubes in the box. Create more than one set for multiple groups. Tape a straight line on the floor on one side of the room and tape another straight line about five feet opposite the first line.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage one child to carry the box from the start line to the finish line, remove the tubes, and stand them up in order of the pictures. Ask that child to place the matching ball on the tubes. When complete, everyone shouts, "**God gave us Jesus!**" Ask the child to pack all the pieces back in the box and carry it to the next child in line to repeat. Continue with each child. Option: Ask two friends to work together.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story by pulling out each ball and talking about that part of the story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Oh I'm so excited to play this game with you today! Come stand with me at this line."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Each of you will get a turn to walk this box down to the other line. When you get there, open the box (open box and show the children the tubes) and take out these tubes. Then put them in order of the Christmas story. You'll match the pictures on the balls to the tubes. When you complete it, we'll all shout, 'God gave us Jesus!' Pack the box and bring it back to the next friend. (Continue until all the children have had a turn.) That was so fun! Thanks for playing with me today!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, what a wonderful story the true story of Christmas is. Today, we learned the end of the Christmas story, when some people called 'wise men' (pull out the ball and tube with the wise men on it and set it in front of you) traveled from far away to see Jesus. They were waiting for Jesus to be born because they knew Jesus was God's Son. After Jesus was born, God put a special star in the sky (pull out the ball and tube with the star on it and set it next to the wise men) to help show the wise men the way to Jesus so that they could celebrate Him. They knew they could follow the star to get to Jesus. It was a long journey, but they finally got there! The wise men were SO happy to see Jesus. (Pull out the ball and tube with the wise men with gifts on it and set it in front of you.) They gave Jesus gifts and worshipped Him. God loved us so much that He gave us His Son, Jesus. And we can celebrate Jesus all year long. How



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

BIBLE STORY

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

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

MEMORY VERSE

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

JOHN 3:16, GNT

KEY QUESTION

How do we know God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



5. WISE MEN POP-UP [LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Wise Men Pop-Up" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, crayons, glittery foam star stickers, glue sticks, and permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Wise Men Pop-Up" on cardstock, one per child. Fold and cut each child's picture where indicated. Write each child's name on their picture.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to color the big picture and the picture of the wise men. Ask children to glue the wise men to the tab on their paper. Help align each cutout. Encourage children to find the star on their paper and cover it with the special star sticker.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, join me at the table to create a fun picture of today's story."

men, and you have this page. It's the background for the wise men. (Pause.)
Great! Now do you see this tab right here? (Point to the tab.) Rub some glue on this part and stick the picture of the wise men to it. (Help and adjust as needed.)
Good job! Now what did God put in the sky for the wise men to follow? (Pause.) A special star! That's right! Look at these super special stars I have for you to add to your paper. (Hold up a foam glitter star.) Cover the star on your paper with the special star. (Pause.) Fantastic! Now you have a pop-up picture of the wise men from today's Bible story."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today, we heard the last part of the true story of Christmas. The part of the story when the wise men followed a special star that God put in the sky to help show them the way to Jesus so they could celebrate Him. The wise men knew they could follow the star to get to Jesus. It was a long journey, but they finally got there! The wise men were SO happy to see Jesus. As soon as they saw Him, they gave Jesus gifts and worshipped Him. That's what the true story of Christmas is all about. God loved us so much that He gave us His Son, Jesus. And we can celebrate Jesus all year long. How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus."



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

BIBLE STORY

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

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

MEMORY VERSE

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

JOHN 3:16, GNT

KEY QUESTION

How do we know God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER [PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" from Week One in Bible, journal, fun-shaped pen, reward stickers or hand stamp; and "Pass the Train" Activity Page pictures from the "Pass the Train" Activity

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.

puring the activity: As you lead the children to your Small Group spot, pretend you're the train engine and they are the train cars. Line up and "chuggachugga, choo-choo" all the way 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 their favorite parts of the Christmas story.

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

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll pretend we're the Christmas story train when we go to our Small Group spot. I'll be the train engine, and you will be the train cars. Come on, everyone! Chugga-chugga, choo-choo with me! (Say "Chugga-chugga, choo-choo" and move your arms in a circle by your side like train wheels as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.) Choo-choo! Time to stop! 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, wise men followed a special star so they could find Jesus. They knew God had given us Jesus, so when they found Jesus, they worshipped Him and gave Him gifts.

"The Bible verse we've been learning 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.)

"God's only Son is Jesus! Let's stand up and say that verse together one time with the motions. Then, if you want to say it by yourself, you can! 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.)



3-5 YEAR -OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

"That was wonderful! Let's sit down so anyone who wants to say that Bible verse can give it a try. I have my [stickers/hand stamp] ready! (Give each child the opportunity to try to say the Bible verse.)

"Everyone, clap for [child's name]! Here is your [sticker/hand stamp]! (Repeat with each child as they try to say the Bible verse.) I'm very proud of you for trying to say that Bible verse! When I count to three, I want everyone to stand up and show me your [sticker/hand stamp]. One, two, three! (Pause to look.) Yay! (Clap.)

"Let's sit back down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. Now that we have heard all of the true story of Christmas, let's make a list of our favorite parts of the story. You can use these story pictures to help you think. (Lay out the "Pass the Train" story pictures in front of the children.) Okay, look at these pictures. When I say your name, tell me one of your favorite parts of the true story of Christmas." (Remember to print as you write in the journal so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "There is so much to love about the true story of Christmas because all of it shows 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! And that is what Christmas is all about!

"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 the true story of Christmas. Thank You that (say each child's name) got to hear it and learn about how much You love them. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

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 handson 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. STAR PROJECTOR

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Opaque white paper cup
- · Utility knife
- · Clear packing tape
- Permanent black and yellow or gold markers
- Flashlight
- Optional night light or small lamp

WHAT YOU DO:

- Use the utility knife to cut out the bottom of the cup.
- Cover the bottom of the cup with a piece of clear packing tape.
- Use the black permanent marker to draw a large outline of a star and fill it with the gold or yellow marker.

2. TRAIN TRACK SHAPES

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Train Track Shapes" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- · Train cars
- Little People® figures

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Train track Shapes" on cardstock, one set per small group.
- Place train track shapes on the table and set the cars and Little People on the table.

3. IT'S A WRAP

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Wrapping paper
- Clear tape
- Safety scissors
- Gift bows
- Empty, medium boxes—one per child

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. ORDER OF THE 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:

- · "Order of the Train" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Order of the Train" on cardstock and cut, one set per small group.
- · Spread pieces around the room.



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

2. PASS THE TRAIN

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Pass the Train" Activity Page
- Cardstock

concepts

Two toy train cars

WHAT YOU DO:

 Copy "Pass the Train" on cardstock, one per small group.

3. GIFT FINDERS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Gift Finders" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Washable markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Gift Finders" on cardstock, one per child.
- Set out the pages and markers on the table.

4. LINE UP THE STORY [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:

- "Line Up the Story Stickers" Activity Page
- Avery® #5294 labels or equivalent
- Ball pit balls
- Shoe boxes or shoe box containers
- Craft tubes
- Painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Line Up the Story Stickers" on label paper, two or more sets per small group.
- Place one set of stickers on three ball pit balls and the other set on three craft tubes.
- Place the balls and tubes in the box.
- · Create more than one set for multiple groups.
- Tape a straight line on the floor on one side of the room and tape another straight line about five feet opposite the first line.

5. WISE MEN POP-UP [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:**

- "Wise Men Pop-Up" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Crayons
- · Glittery foam star stickers
- Glue sticks
- Permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Wise Men Pop-Up" on cardstock, one per child.
- Fold and cut each child's picture where indicated.
- Write each child's name on their picture.

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

GETTING READY

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

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
- "Pass the Train" Activity Pages from the "Pass the Train" activity
- Journal (Check out the new Ollie journal at <u>bit.</u> ly/3B4Z71j.)
- Fun-shaped pen (Check out the new Ollie Pen at bit.ly/3Nwj0Wh.)
- Reward stickers or stamps

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.

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. <u>bit.ly/FL_ChristmasTrain</u>