



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.



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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: Bible, journal, a fun-shaped pen, birthday stickers

BIBLE STORY

Happy Birthday, Jesus!

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

“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.)

MEMORY VERSE

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

JOHN 3:16, GNT

“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!**”

KEY QUESTION

How do we know God loves us?

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.”

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.