



WEEK  
**TWO**  
DECEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP  
**3-5** YEAR  
-OLDS

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus is born  
to show the world  
that God loves us.

**JESUS IS BORN**  
LUKE 2:1-7

### MEMORY VERSE

"God has given a son to us."

ISAIAH 9:6, NCV

### KEY QUESTION

Why is Jesus special?

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is God's Son.

### 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.*

Travel by Donkey  
Christmas Blocks  
Where Is Jesus?

### LARGE GROUP

20  
MIN

#### WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

#### STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"It's a Holy 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.*

Sing the Memory Verse  
Dig, Show, Tell  
Animal Rhymes  
Source of the Sound  
Craft Tube Nativity  
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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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. TRAVEL BY DONKEY

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Pool noodle, duct tape, large googly-eye stickers, brown felt, brown yarn, scissors, hot glue gun, measuring tape, permanent marker, and painter's tape; *Optional: Foam pipe insulation in place of pool noodle*

*Note: Use the hot glue gun before children arrive. Store it in another room, out of reach.*

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus is born to show the world that God loves us.

**JESUS IS BORN**  
**LUKE 2:1-7**

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Cut the pool noodle in half, two halves per Small Group. Cut felt into 4" x 2 1/2" donkey ear shapes, four per Small Group. Hot glue one ear on either side of each noodle, about 6" from one end. Fold each noodle over itself at the ears and wrap duct tape around the two pieces to secure it. Attach the large googly eyes on the front. Cut yarn into 16" to 18" lengths, about 15 per donkey. Separate the yarn into three sets of five pieces, and tie the sections of yarn around the noodle after the ears to make the mane. Create a path on the floor with painter's tape.

### MEMORY VERSE

"God has given a son to us."

**ISAIAH 9:6, NCV**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to ride the pool noodle donkey following the path.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Introduce the Bible Story.

### KEY QUESTION

Why is Jesus special?

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Well, hello everyone! It's great to see you today! Come line up behind me."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Look at these cute donkeys I made from a pool noodle! Let's go one at a time and ride them down this tape path. [Child's name], you're up first! Ride the donkey to the end of the path, then ride back. (Pause.) Hooray! Next friend! (Continue with each child.) Now that everyone had a turn, let's have two friends ride together! [Child's name], you ride the donkey on this side of the path, and [child's name], you ride on that side. Ready, go! (Continue with each child.) That was so much fun! Let's sit down and let our donkeys get some rest."

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is God's Son.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Today in our Bible Story, we are going to hear about some people who traveled a long way, and they might have traveled on a donkey. Let's go find out who it was!"

### BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by pretending to ride a donkey.



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PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION  
15 MINUTES

### MADE TO PLAY

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



### 2. CHRISTMAS BLOCKS

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Christmas Blocks" Activity Page, cardstock, and DUPLO® blocks

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Christmas Blocks" on cardstock, one set per Small Group. Place at the table with the blocks.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to follow the patterns to make the different shapes.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Introduce the Bible Story.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come sit with me at the table. I love to build with blocks. Want to build with me?"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Look at these patterns. We can make these Christmas shapes with the blocks! Choose a pattern, and let's see if we can build the shape. *(Help as needed.)* Wow, you did a great job! Let's try another one! *(Repeat as desired.)* Building the different shapes with you was very fun!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "In today's Bible Story, we're going to learn more of the true Christmas story, and I am so excited!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by making the shapes from the activity with your hands and body and encouraging the children to copy your moves.

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus is born to show the world that God loves us.

**JESUS IS BORN**  
**LUKE 2:1-7**

### MEMORY VERSE

"God has given a son to us."

**ISAIAH 9:6, NCV**

### KEY QUESTION

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### BASIC TRUTH

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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. WHERE IS JESUS?

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Where Is Jesus?" Activity Page, cardstock, plastic cups, scissors, and clear tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Where Is Jesus?" Activity Page on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group. Tape the pictures of a hotel, castle, and stable to a cup, one

picture per cup. Set the three cups in a row on the table. Hide the Jesus cutout under one of the cups.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Explain to the children that you have hidden something special under one of the cups. Slide the cups around on the table without lifting. Ask a child to select a cup, then lift it to see if Jesus is under their cup. If not, slide the cups around again, and allow another child to select a cup. Repeat until you find Jesus. Once found, place Jesus under a different cup and play again. Repeat as desired.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Introduce the Bible Story.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come find a spot at the table. I have a game for us to play with these cups."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "I've hidden something very special under one of these cups. Let's mix them up. (*Move the cups around several times to mix them up.*) Raise your hand if you would like to select a cup. (*Pause.*) [Child's name], choose a cup. (*Pause.*) You chose the [place]. Lift the cup and let's see if you found the special thing. (*If the cup is empty, move cups around again and have another child guess. Repeat until Jesus is found.*) You found something VERY special! It's baby Jesus. Way to go! Let's play again. (*Hide Jesus under a different cup, and repeat as desired.*) We searched for something very special—baby Jesus! We searched in a fancy hotel. We searched in a castle. And we searched in a place where animals sleep."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "In our Bible Story today, we'll learn about where Jesus was born. Come with me!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by pretending to search for baby Jesus. Give prompts to look up high and down low, around the corner, over a big hill, etc.

### BIBLE STORY

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**JESUS IS BORN**  
**LUKE 2:1-7**

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO MOVE

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



### 1. SING THE MEMORY VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

*Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.*

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus is born to show the world that God loves us.

**JESUS IS BORN**  
**LUKE 2:1-7**

### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Gather the children in your activity area. Review the Memory Verse and motions with the children.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to sing the words of the Memory Verse to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

### MEMORY VERSE

"God has given a son to us."

**ISAIAH 9:6, NCV**

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come join me! We're learning a great Memory Verse this month. Let's say it together as we do the motions. 'God (flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down) has given (pretend to give a gift) a son (rock baby) to us;' (point to self twice) Isaiah 9:6. (Open hands like a book.) Great job, friends!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Now, let's sing our Memory Verse together. Ready?"

### KEY QUESTION

Why is Jesus special?

(Sing to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus.")

"God has given a son to us.  
A son to us,  
A son to us.  
God has given a son to us.  
Isaiah 9:6."

"Nice job! Let's sing it again! (Repeat as desired.) That was fun singing with you."

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is God's Son.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "The Bible teaches us that God gave us His Son, Jesus, to show the world how much God loves us! Jesus is special because **Jesus is God's Son. Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son!**"

### BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

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



**2. DIG, SHOW, TELL**  
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]  
**WHAT YOU NEED:** Deluxe version toy nativity set, plastic bin, and paper shreds; *Optional: "Printable Nativity" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, tape, and blocks or craft tubes in place of nativity set*

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus is born to show the world that God loves us.

**JESUS IS BORN**  
**LUKE 2:1-7**

**WHAT YOU DO:**  
**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Place each piece of the nativity set in a bin covered with crinkle paper.

*Option: Copy "Printable Nativity" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group. Tape each cutout to a block or craft tube.*

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to take turns digging through the paper to find one piece of the nativity. Each time a child finds a piece of the nativity set, encourage them to show and tell about the piece they found and place it on a table. Repeat as desired.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Bible Story and Bottom Line.

**MEMORY VERSE**

"God has given a son to us."

**ISAIAH 9:6, NCV**

**WHAT YOU SAY:**  
**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Come here, everyone! We are going to play dig, show, and tell!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "There are things from our Bible Story hiding in this box. We'll take turns digging in the bin and showing and telling about what you find. [Child's name], dig through the paper, and pull out one thing from the bin. Show and tell us about what you found. (Use the following words to assist the children as they show and tell.)

**KEY QUESTION**

Why is Jesus special?

Joseph: "Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem."  
Mary: "Mary was baby Jesus' mom."  
Baby Jesus: **"Jesus is God's Son."**  
Shepherds: "An angel told shepherds when God's Son, Jesus, was born."  
Angel: "God sent an angel to tell shepherds that Jesus was born. Then lots of angels praised God!"  
Manger: "Animals eat out of mangers. When Jesus was born, Mary wrapped Jesus and laid Him in a manger."  
Animal: "Jesus was born in a place where (animal name)'s sleep."

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus is God's Son.

**BASIC TRUTH**

God loves me.

"I had fun playing dig, show, and tell with you! I love learning about Jesus, because Jesus is SO special!"



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PRELUDE

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** *(Move the pieces of the nativity as you talk about them.)* "God sent an angel to tell Mary that she was going to have a baby named Jesus, and He would be God's Son! Not long after the angel visited Mary, 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. The only place they could find was a place where animals sleep. While Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem, it was time for baby Jesus to be born! Mary wrapped Him in strips of cloth and placed Him in a manger. God gave us Jesus to SHOW the world how much God loves us. **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son!** That's right! **Jesus is God's Son!** Yay! *(Clap.)* **Jesus is God's Son!**"



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO THINK

an advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers



### 3. ANIMAL RHYMES

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** No supplies needed

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Gather the children to spread out in your activity area.

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus is born to show the world that God loves us.

**JESUS IS BORN**  
**LUKE 2:1-7**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Repeat the rhymes below as children mimic the movements and name the animal you describe.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Bottom Line and Bible Story.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come join me over here and spread out."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "I'm going to say a rhyme about an animal. You can move around like the animal I describe. Everyone ready? I have a long mane. I gallop and neigh. I'm usually black, white, or grey. What am I? (Pause.) You're right! A horse! I waddle when I walk with flippers on my feet. I quack out loud to anyone I meet. What am I? (Pause.) Yes, a duck! I cock-a-doodle doo to wake you up. I like to strut like I'm big stuff. What am I? (Pause.) A rooster! I'm man's best friend, loyal, and true. I like to bark and wag my tail too. What am I? (Pause.) A dog, that's right! I move at a very slooooooow pace. I have a shell, but it doesn't cover my face. What am I? (Pause.) A turtle! I like to roar long and loud. I'm called king of the jungle, standing tall and proud. What am I? (Pause.) A lion! I like to climb trees and say 'meow.' If you stroke my fur, I like to purr. What am I? (Pause.) That's right, a cat! I travel in herds with a wooly coat. I like to say 'baa,' but I'm not a goat. What am I? (Pause.) A sheep!

"Friends, you did a great job figuring out all those animals today!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Mary and Joseph stayed in a place where animals sleep on the night Jesus was born. Mary wrapped baby Jesus in strips of cloth and placed Him in a manger. God loved the world so much that God gave us His Son, Jesus! Jesus is SO special. **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son!**"

### MEMORY VERSE

"God has given a son to us."

**ISAIAH 9:6, NCV**

### KEY QUESTION

Why is Jesus special?

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is God's Son.

### BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

### MADE TO MOVE

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



### 4. SOURCE OF THE SOUND

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Source of the Sound" Activity Page, cardstock, painter's tape, smartphone, and sound effects (provided in the Small Group folder)

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Source of the Sound" on cardstock, one set per Small Group. Tape each picture to the walls around the room at child's height. Download sound effects from the Small Group folder and have them ready to play on your smartphone or music player.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Play a sound and encourage the children to walk to the picture that matches the sound. Confirm if they are correct, and then call them back to the middle of your activity area. Continue with each sound and its matching picture. Repeat as desired.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Bible Story and Bottom Line.

### BIBLE STORY

Jesus is born to show the world that God loves us.

**JESUS IS BORN**  
**LUKE 2:1-7**

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come join me over here! Do you see the pictures around the room? What do you see? A baby, a sheep, a donkey, and a cow."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Now that you've named all the pictures, I'm going to play a sound, and I want you to walk to the picture that you think made the sound. Ready? Here we go! (Play the sheep baaing.) Walk to the picture you think makes that sound. (Pause.) That's right, that was a sheep baaing. (Continue with each sound.) That last sound was a baby crying. You did a fantastic job matching all the sounds to the pictures."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Jesus was born in a place where animals sleep. Mary wrapped Him in strips of cloth and placed Him in a manger. God loves us SO much that God gave us Jesus! **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son!**"

### MEMORY VERSE

"God has given a son to us."

**ISAIAH 9:6, NCV**

### KEY QUESTION

Why is Jesus special?

### BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is God's Son.

### BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



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



**5. CRAFT TUBE NATIVITY**  
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]  
**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Craft Tube Nativity," "Nativity Background," "Donkey Template," and "Fun at Home" Activity Pages; cardstock; craft tubes, four per child; washable markers; glue sticks; scissors; gallon-sized resealable bags; and a permanent marker; *Optional: Wrapping paper tubes in place of craft tubes*

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus is born to show the world that God loves us.

**JESUS IS BORN**  
**LUKE 2:1-7**

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Craft Tube Nativity" on cardstock and cut, one set per child. Copy "Nativity Background" on cardstock, one per child. Copy "Donkey Template" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group. Copy "Fun at Home" on cardstock and cut, one per child. Write each child's name on their bag. For each child, fold a craft tube in half, use the template to trace the outline, and cut. Unfold and fold in half the other direction. Straighten each donkey to stand, and fold down each tail. For each child, cut one tube 3", and bend into a triangle.

**MEMORY VERSE**

"God has given a son to us."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to glue their pictures of Mary and Joseph to the two regular craft tubes and baby Jesus to the triangle-shaped tube. Then ask children to use the markers to draw the face on their craft tube donkey. Use the pieces to review the story.

**ISAIAH 9:6, NCV**

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Bible Story.

**KEY QUESTION**

Why is Jesus special?

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Come join me at the table, let's make a nativity!"

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus is God's Son.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "First you need to glue Mary and Joseph to the two tall craft tubes up and down like this. (Pause.) Now glue the picture of baby Jesus to the triangle tube like this. (Pause.) Great job! The last thing for you to do is to draw the face on your donkey. (Pause.) Great job! Now we can use these as we review today's story."

**BASIC TRUTH**

God loves me.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "You can move and play with your nativity pieces as I talk. Today, our Bible Story begins when an angel told a woman named Mary that she was going to have a baby. This baby would be named Jesus, and He would be God's Son! Not long after the angel visited Mary, Mary and Joseph had to travel a long way to the town of Bethlehem. It was so far that they might have ridden on a donkey! Can you put Mary on the donkey? (Pause.) When they got to Bethlehem, they needed to find a place to stay. (Hold up the picture of the nativity background.) The only place they could find was a place where animals sleep. While Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem, it was time for baby Jesus to be born. After Jesus was born, Mary wrapped Him in strips of cloth and placed Him in a manger. Now you know the true story of Christmas and why Jesus is special! You can tell everyone that God loves us so much that God gave us Jesus! **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son.**"



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**MADE TO REFLECT**  
an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



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

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page from Week One in Bible, a journal, and a fun-shaped pen

*Note: Ask parents for children's birthdates before Small Group if you do not know them.*

**BIBLE STORY**

Jesus is born to show the world that God loves us.

**JESUS IS BORN**  
**LUKE 2:1-7**

*Note: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.*

**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 Isaiah 9:6. Keep this card in your Bible all month. Encourage the children to pretend to be farm animals as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

**MEMORY VERSE**

"God has given a son to us."

**ISAIAH 9:6, NCV**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Memory Verse and Hand Motions. Then, encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of their birthdays.

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

**KEY QUESTION**

Why is Jesus special?

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "It's Small Group time! Today we are going to pretend we are farm animals, like in our Bible Story. You can be a cow—moo-moo! You can be a sheep—baa-baa! You can be a chicken, cluck-cluck! You can be a donkey—hee-haw, hee-haw! You can pretend to be whatever farm animal you want to be! Choose your farm animal and let me hear you while we walk to our Small Group spot. Follow me, farm animals! (*Pretend to be a farm animal as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) We made it! You can be children again so we can sit down and talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus is God's Son.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) "In our Bible Story today, Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem. Do you remember what happened when they got to Bethlehem? (*Pause.*) Yes, baby Jesus was born! Where did Mary lay baby Jesus? (*Pause.*) She sure did! Mary made a baby bed out of a manger, and that is where Mary laid baby Jesus. Christmas is when we celebrate that Jesus was born! Jesus is special and He deserves a special birthday, because **Jesus is God's Son!** That's right! Jesus is special because **Jesus is God's Son! Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son!**

**BASIC TRUTH**

God loves me.



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

"You got it! And the Bible verse we are learning will help us remember that God gave us His Son, Jesus. It says, 'God (flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down) has given (pretend to give a gift) a son (rock baby) to us,' (point to self twice) Isaiah 9:6. (Open hands like a book.) Stand up with me and we will say that Bible verse together! Just say what I say and do what I do. 'God (flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down) has given (pretend to give a gift) a son (rock baby) to us,' (point to self twice) Isaiah 9:6. (Open hands like a book.) You sound awesome! (Give fist bumps.)"

"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, we are going to write down all of our birthdays in our prayer journal. First, I'll write down Jesus' birthday. (Write Jesus: December 25.) Now, when I say your name, I want you to tell me your birthday. (Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Look! (Hold up journal.) We have everyone's birthday! Let's pray. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.) Dear God, thank You that (say each child's name) was born and that we can celebrate each of them on their birthday. Thank You that Jesus was born. Help us remember that Christmas is all about celebrating Jesus' birthday. We love You, God. In Jesus' name. Amen."



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## GETTING READY

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

### SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and engage with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing fun, age-appropriate, hands-on activities that introduce new concepts they will hear in the Bible Story.

*Offer one or more of the following activities as preschoolers arrive. Let one or two Small Group Leaders lead activities in different areas of the room while another leader greets parents and children at the door.*

#### 1. TRAVEL BY DONKEY

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

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- Pool noodle, one per Small Group
- Duct tape
- Large googly-eye stickers
- Brown felt
- Brown yarn
- Scissors
- Hot glue gun
- Measuring tape
- Permanent marker
- Painter's tape
- *Optional: Foam pipe insulation in place of a pool noodle*

##### WHAT YOU DO:

- Cut the pool noodle in half, two halves per Small Group.
- Cut felt into 4" x 2 ½" donkey ear shapes, four per Small Group.
- Hot glue one ear on either side of each noodle, about 6" from one end.
- Fold each noodle over itself at the ears and wrap duct tape around the two pieces to secure it.
- Attach the large googly eyes on the front.
- Cut yarn into 16" to 18" lengths, about 15 per donkey.
- Separate the yarn into three sets of five pieces, and tie the sections of yarn around the noodle after the ears to make the mane.

- Create a path on the floor with painter's tape.

#### 2. CHRISTMAS BLOCKS

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

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Christmas Blocks" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- DUPLO® blocks

##### WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Christmas Blocks" on cardstock, one set per Small Group.
- Place the patterns at the table with the blocks.

#### 3. WHERE IS JESUS?

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

##### WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Where Is Jesus?" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Plastic cups
- Scissors
- Clear tape

##### WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Where Is Jesus?" Activity Page on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.
- Tape the pictures of a hotel, castle, and room with animals to a cup, one picture per cup.
- Set the three cups in a row on the table.
- Hide the Jesus cutout under one of the cups.

### 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.



WEEK  
**TWO**  
DECEMBER 2024

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

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. SING THE MEMORY VERSE

[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

### 2. DIG, SHOW, TELL

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- Deluxe version toy nativity set
- Plastic bin
- Paper shreds
- *Optional: "Printable Nativity" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, tape, blocks or craft tubes in place of a nativity set*

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Place each piece of the nativity set in a bin covered with crinkle paper.
- *Option: Copy "Printable Nativity" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group. Tape each cutout to a block or craft tube.*

### 3. ANIMAL RHYMES

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

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

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- No supplies needed

### 4. SOURCE OF THE SOUND

[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:**

- "Source of the Sound" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Painter's tape
- Smartphone or music player
- Sound effects (*provided in the Small Group folder*):
  - 1\_Baby Cooing
  - 2\_Sheep
  - 3\_Donkey
  - 4\_Cow

**WHAT YOU DO:**

- Copy "Source of the Sound" on cardstock, one set per Small Group.
- Tape each picture to the walls around the room at child's height.
- Download sound effects from the Small Group folder and have them ready to play on your smartphone or music player.

### 5. CRAFT TUBE NATIVITY

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**Made to Create:** An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible Story, Bottom Line, or Memory Verse by creating a craft

**WHAT YOU NEED:**

- "Craft Tube Nativity" Activity Page
- "Nativity Background" Activity Page
- "Donkey Template" Activity Page
- "Fun at Home" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Craft tubes, four per child
- Washable markers
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- Gallon-sized resealable bags, one per child
- Permanent marker
- *Optional: Wrapping paper tubes in place of craft tubes*



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## GETTING READY

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

### WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Craft Tube Nativity" on cardstock and cut, one set per child.
- Copy "Nativity Background" on cardstock, one per child.
- Copy "Donkey Template" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group.
- Copy "Fun at Home" on cardstock and cut, one per child.
- Write each child's name on their bag.
- For each child, fold a craft tube in half, use the template to trace the outline, and cut. Unfold and fold in half the other direction. Straighten each donkey to stand, and fold down each tail.
- For each child, cut one tube 3", and bend into a triangle.

### 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" Activity Page from Week One in Bible
- Journal (Check out the Ollie journal at [bit.ly/3B4Z71j](http://bit.ly/3B4Z71j).)
- Fun-shaped pen (Check out the Ollie Pen at [bit.ly/3Nwj0Wh](http://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. Place it in the Bible at Isaiah 9:6.  
*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\\_ShowAndTell](http://bit.ly/FL_ShowAndTell)