



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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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. 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.

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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. 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 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

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**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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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.

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**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

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### 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 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

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**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

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

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."