



## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### BIBLE STORY

The shepherds run to see Jesus and then run to tell everyone about Jesus.

**THE SHEPHERDS**  
**LUKE 2:8-20**

### 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.*

- Shepherds Collecting Sheep
- Book Show and Tell
- Special Creations

### 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 "Silent Night (The King Is Born)"
- 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.*

- Tell All About It
- Sticker Story
- Fizzy Candy Canes
- Run and Tell Obstacle Course
- The Angels Filled the Sky
- 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  
**THREE**  
DECEMBER 2024

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. SPECIAL CREATIONS\***  
**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Allergy Alert Poster," cardstock, Play-Doh® in a variety of colors, and cookie cutters

*\*Note: 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**

The shepherds run to see Jesus and then run to tell everyone about Jesus.

**THE SHEPHERDS**  
**LUKE 2:8-20**

**WHAT YOU DO:**  
**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Allergy Alert Poster" on cardstock, list Play-Doh, and post at the door. Place the dough and cookie cutters on the table.  
**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Give each child a small amount of dough. Encourage them to create something special. Ask children to show and talk about their creations.  
**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Introduce the Bible Story.

**MEMORY VERSE**

"God has given a son to us."

**ISAIAH 9:6, NCV**

**WHAT YOU SAY:**  
**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Hello, friends! I'm so glad you're here today! It's always such a great day when we get to play and learn together. Come sit at the table with me."  
**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's make something special with the Play-Doh, and then we can show and tell all about what we create! Take some dough and create anything you want. You can use the cookie cutters or your hands—or both! (Pause.) WOW! I see some really cool creations. Raise your hand if you are ready to show and tell. (Pause.) Great! [Child's name], tell us what you made. (Pause.) That's fantastic. Let's all tell [child's name]: 'Thank you for sharing!' (With children.) Thank you for sharing. Who else is ready? (Continue with each child.) That was really fun!"

**KEY QUESTION**

Why is Jesus special?

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Today in our Bible Story, we're going to hear about shepherds who saw something amazing and ran and told everyone all about it. I can't wait to hear our story today!"

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus is God's Son.

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by encouraging children to show you different expressions: happy, surprised, sad, tired, etc.

**BASIC TRUTH**

God loves me.



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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



**1. TELL ALL ABOUT IT**  
[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]  
**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Tell All About It Label" Activity Page, Avery® Labels #5163 or equivalent, cardstock, clear tape, and fun stickers

*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**

The shepherds run to see Jesus and then run to tell everyone about Jesus.

**THE SHEPHERDS**  
**LUKE 2:8-20**

**WHAT YOU DO:**  
**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Tell All About It Label" on label paper, one label per child. Review the Memory Verse with the motions.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Pass out a piece of cardstock to each child. Help them roll it up into a cone shape to create a megaphone, and secure the edges with tape. Give each child a label to add to their megaphone. Say the Memory Verse together. Encourage children to add stickers to decorate their megaphones. As they finish, ask children to lift their megaphones to their mouths and repeat the Memory Verse together.

**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, we're learning an awesome Memory Verse this month about Jesus! Let's say it together as we do the motions. Ready? '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.) What a great verse!"

**KEY QUESTION**

Why is Jesus special?

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's make a megaphone so we can share the good news about the gift God gave us when He gave us Jesus! We can roll up our papers like this. (Demonstrate.) Let's tape it so it stays just like this. Now add a label—it has the words to our Memory Verse on it. Let's say our verse together. 'God has given a son to us,' Isaiah 9:6. Now you can add some stickers to decorate your megaphone! (Pause.) Your megaphones look great! Hold your megaphone up to your mouth, and let's say our verse one more time. 'God has given a son to us,' Isaiah 9:6. Great job!"

**BOTTOM LINE**

Jesus is God's Son.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "The Bible teaches us that God loves us so much that He gave us a very special gift. God gave us His Son, Jesus. 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 PLAY

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



### 2. STICKER STORY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Sticker Story Pictures" and "Sticker Story Stickers" Activity Pages, 11" x 17" paper, Avery® #6450 or equivalent, and painter's tape; *Optional: Butcher paper*

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Enlarge and copy "Sticker Story Pictures" on 11" x 17" paper, one set per Small Group. Copy "Sticker Story Stickers" on label paper, one set of stickers per child. Tape "Sticker Story Pictures" on wall(s) around the room.

*Option: Cut four pieces of butcher paper to be twice the size of the four "Sticker Story Pictures," and tape each on the wall(s) around the room at child's height. Tape each of the four "Sticker Story Pictures" on top of the larger piece of butcher paper to give children more space to put their stickers and to prevent stickers being placed on your wall(s).*

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Describe the story picture, and ask children to find the picture on the wall(s). Read the story words on the picture, then give children a sticker to add to the picture. Repeat for the next three story pictures.

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

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Come here, everyone! There are four story pictures on the wall(s). I'm going to describe a picture, and then I want you to help me find it. Ready?"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "The first story picture is of an angel talking to Mary. Can you find the picture? Point to it when you find it. (Pause.) You found it! Let's run to the picture together. (Run to the picture, and read the story words.) Ooh, let's add some stickers of baby Jesus since the angel told Mary about baby Jesus. (Give each child a baby Jesus sticker to add to the story picture.) Great job!

"Let's find the next picture. It has baby Jesus, Mary, and Joseph in a place where animals sleep. Can you point to the picture? (Pause.) That's it! Let's run to the picture together. (Run to the picture, and read the story words.) Uh-oh! This picture is missing the animals. Let's add some animal stickers to complete the picture. (Give each child an animal sticker to add to the story picture.) That looks so good!

"The next picture has shepherds and their sheep. Help me find the picture. (Pause.) You found it! Let's run to the picture together. (Run to the picture, and read the story words.) Let's fill the sky with angel stickers. (Give each child an angel sticker to add to the story picture.) Fantastic!

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

"Okay, everybody run with me to the last picture. (*Run to the last picture, and read the story words.*) I see baby Jesus and Mary and Joseph, but we need to add the shepherds because they ran to see baby Jesus." (*Give each child a shepherd sticker to add to the story picture.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "In today's Bible Story, we learned that God sent an angel to tell some shepherds that Jesus was born. Then, the whole sky filled with angels praising God and singing, 'Glory to God in the highest.' The shepherds were so excited, they ran to see baby Jesus! Then after they saw baby Jesus, they went to tell everyone that Jesus is born! Jesus is special because **Jesus is God's Son. 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: You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.*

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#### 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 sheep as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Memory Verse and Hand Motions. Then, encourage the children to help you make a list of people they can tell the good news that Jesus was born, like the shepherds did.

**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're going to pretend that I am a shepherd, and you are sheep—like the shepherds and sheep in our Bible Story. What does a sheep say? (Pause.) That's right! Sheep say, 'baa-baa!' Follow me, little sheep! It's time to walk to our small group spot. (Pretend to be a shepherd while you guide your "sheep" to your Small Group spot.) You make great sheep! Now let's sit down and 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, God sent an angel to tell the shepherds that His Son, Jesus, had been born. The shepherds were so excited that they ran to see baby Jesus! They knew Jesus was special because **Jesus is God's Son. Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son!**

"Yay! (Clap.) **Jesus is God's Son!** And we're learning a Bible verse that 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.) Let's stand up and 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.)



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25 MINUTES

"You sound so good! Give a friend a high five! Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) After the shepherds saw baby Jesus, they ran to tell other people that God's Son, Jesus, had been born. Let's make a list of people we can tell: **'Jesus is God's Son.'** When I say your name, tell me one person you can tell: **'Jesus is God's Son.'**" (*Remember to print as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Look at all of these people! (*Hold up journal.*) Let's pray and ask God to help us tell them: **'Jesus is God's Son!'** Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, we know You love us because You gave us Your Son, Jesus. Help [child's name] tell [person in journal], and [child's name] tell [person in journal], and [child's name] . . . (*continue with each child*) that **Jesus is God's Son.** We want everyone to know You love us so much that You gave us Your Son, Jesus. We love You, God. In Jesus' name. Amen."