



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
DECEMBER 2024

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

## TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

### BIBLE STORY

We celebrate Christmas to show everyone that Jesus is special.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!**  
LUKE 1:26-33, 38, 2:1-20

### 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.*

Gift Grab  
Candles on the Cake  
SHOW of the Puppets

### 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.*

Party Piñata  
Story Show and Tell  
Birthday Party Charades  
Dance and Match  
Cake Story  
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 MOVE

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



#### 1. GIFT GRAB

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Gift bags, and individual stickers or adhesive foam hearts

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Put one item (a sticker or an adhesive foam heart) in each bag. Set the bags around the

room.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to run, grab a bag, and run back. Let children take the sticker or heart out of the bag and put it on. (Refill the bags and reset. Repeat as desired.)

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

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come stand with me over here. Look around the room—do you see all the gifts bags? We're going to play a game with them."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "When I count to three, I want you to go, grab one bag, and run back. There are enough bags for each of you. Ready? One, two, three! Run, grab a bag! (Pause.) Run back and sit down. Reach in your bag—what did you find? (Pause.) It's a gift for you! Put your sticker on. (Refill the bags and reset.) Let's do it again. One, two, three! (Repeat as desired.) I loved playing this game and giving each of you a little gift."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "God gave us a special gift, and we're going to hear about this gift in our Bible Story today. Let's go!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by moving and stopping as you count to three.

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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. STORY SHOW AND TELL**

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Story Show and Tell Large" and "Story Show and Tell Small" Activity Pages, cardstock, and scissors

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Story Show and Tell Large" on cardstock, one set per Small Group. Copy "Story Show and Tell Small" on cardstock and cut, one card per child.

and Tell Small" on cardstock and cut, one card per child.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Give each child a "Story Show and Tell Small" card. (If you have more than six children in your Small Group, there will be more than one of some cards.) Hold up the first "Story Show and Tell Large" picture. Ask children who have a matching card to stand next to you. If children are shy, encourage them to show and tell from their seat. Encourage children to talk about the picture on their card. Read the words in the picture to help retell the Bible Story. Continue with each card in order of the story.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Bottom Line.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Come sit with me. We're going to play a game called: Story Show and Tell."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "I'm going to give each of you a picture card. (Give each child a card.) Now, I'm going to show you a picture, and if you have the matching card, I want you to hold it up high so everyone can see.

(Show children the picture of the angel and Mary.) "Who has a card that matches mine? Hold them up high! (Pause.) Now it's Show and Tell time. If you have the matching card, come up and join me. (To the children with the matching cards.) Show everyone your card and tell us about it. (Encourage children to talk about the card, and then read the story words on the picture to retell a part of the Bible Story.) Thank you for telling me about the card! You can have a seat now. (Continue with the rest of the cards.)

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PRELUDE

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STORY

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HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

*(These are the story words that appear on the "Story Show and Tell Large" Activity Pages.)*

1. God sent an angel to tell Mary she was going to have a special baby named Jesus. Jesus is special because Jesus is God's Son.
2. Mary and Joseph had to travel a long way to the town of Bethlehem. When they got to Bethlehem, they stayed in place where animals sleep.
3. After Jesus was born, Mary wrapped Him in strips of cloth and placed Him in a manger.
4. God sent an angel to tell shepherds that Jesus had been born.
5. The shepherds ran to see baby Jesus and after they saw Him, then they ran to tell everyone about Jesus!
6. Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus' birthday.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Wow! We celebrate Christmas to show everyone that Jesus is special. Jesus is special because **Jesus is God's Son. Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son!** And since we celebrate Jesus' birthday at Christmas, let's sing 'Happy Birthday' to Jesus right now. Sing with me! (*Sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus together.*) Yay! (*Clap.*) Happy Birthday, Jesus!"



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### MADE TO MOVE

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



### 4. DANCE AND MATCH

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Dance and Match" and "Dance and Match Stickers" Activity Pages, cardstock, Avery® Labels #22807 or equivalent, ball pit balls, painter's tape, Hula Hoops®, music player, and this month's music

#### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Dance and Match" on cardstock, one set per Small Group. Copy "Dance and Match Stickers" on label paper, two sets per Small Group. Arrange Hula Hoops in a circle with the edges touching, leaving an opening in the middle of the circle. Place one picture in each hoop and tape to secure. Attach one sticker to each ball and place in the center of the hoop circle.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to run and dance around the edge of the hoop circle while the music plays, once it stops, ask children to jump into the hoop they are standing by. Encourage children to look at the picture in their hoop, find the ball with the matching picture, and place it in their hoop. Once everyone finds the matching ball, ask children to put the ball back into the center and step outside their hoop. Start music and repeat as desired.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review the Bottom Line.

#### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "It's been so fun celebrating Jesus' birthday with you today! I have another fun party game for us to play! Come join me around this circle of Hula Hoops!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "When the music plays, let's dance around the circle going this way. (*Point.*) When the music stops, I want you to jump in the hoop you are standing next to. Are you ready? (*Start music.*) Let's go! (*Pause music.*) Everyone, jump into your hoop. Look at the picture in your hoop. Now, look at the balls in the center. Find the ball with the matching picture and place it in your hoop. (*Pause.*) Did everyone find their match? Hooray! Put the balls back in the center, step outside your hoop and we'll play again! (*Repeat as desired.*) That was so fun!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Everyone, let's say: 'Happy Birthday, Jesus!' together. (*With children.*) Happy Birthday, Jesus! God loves us so much that God gave us His Son, Jesus! And we celebrate Christmas to show everyone that Jesus is special. **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son.**"

### BIBLE STORY

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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:** "Memory Verse Card" Activity Page from Week One in Bible, journal, fun-shaped pen, and birthday party 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

We celebrate Christmas to show everyone that Jesus is special.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!**  
**LUKE 1:26-33, 38, 2:1-20**

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 sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus 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 put birthday party stickers around Jesus' name in your prayer journal.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Pray with the children.

### MEMORY VERSE

"God has given a son to us."

**ISAIAH 9:6, NCV**

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "It's Small Group time! Today we're going to sing 'Happy Birthday' to Jesus while we walk to our Small Group spot. Are you ready to sing? Follow me! (Sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.) Yay! (Clap.) Happy Birthday, Jesus! 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, we heard the true story of Christmas. Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus' birthday! Jesus is special because **Jesus is God's Son!**

### KEY QUESTION

Why is Jesus special?

"Yay for Jesus! Yay for Jesus' birthday!! (Clap.) And the Bible verse we're 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.) 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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"Wonderful! (*Clap.*) 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, let's do something special for Jesus in our prayer journal. I'll write Jesus' name. J-E-S-U-S (*say the letters as you print them*) Now, when I call your name, you can pick a special birthday sticker to go around Jesus' name." (*Call each child's name and let them pick a birthday sticker to go around "JESUS" in the prayer journal.*)

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Wow! We made Jesus a special birthday page in our prayer journal! (*Hold up journal.*) Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, (*say each child's name*) and I celebrate Jesus' birthday, because Jesus is Your Son. Happy Birthday, Jesus! We love You! In Jesus' name. Amen."