



WEEK
ONE
DECEMBER 2024

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

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. MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS [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

God sends an angel to tell Mary she is going to have His Son, Jesus.

THE ANGEL AND MARY
LUKE 1:26-33, 38

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Say the Memory Verse and demonstrate the motions for the children.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Teach the Memory Verse motions. Invite the children to do them with you several times.

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 stand with me, and let me tell you our brand-new Memory Verse! Ready to hear it? It goes like this: '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.)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Now, let's learn the motions. The first part of our verse says: 'God!' (Flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down.) Put one hand out in front you with you like this. (Hand out in front of you like you are signaling stop.) Now turn your hand and put your thumb on your forehead like this (rotate your hand and place your thumb on your forehead). Then, move your hand down in front of your face like this. (Flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down.) Great, let's do that together. Hand up, thumb on your forehead, and pull down. Say, 'God' with me. (With children.) 'God.' (Flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down.)

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is God's Son.

"The next part of our verse says: 'Has given!' (Pretend to give a gift.) Hold both hands in front of you. Then, move them forward like this (pretend to give a gift) and say: 'Has given!' (With children.) 'Has given!' (Pretend to give a gift.) Wonderful! Now let's put that together. 'God (flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down) has given!' (Pretend to give a gift.) Great job!

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

"The next part says: 'A son.' Cross your arms, move them side to side like this (rock baby), and say: 'A son.' (With children.) 'A son.' (Rock baby.) Can we do all three together? 'God (flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down) has given (pretend to give a gift) a son.' (Rock baby.)



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"The next part says: 'To us!' Tap your thumbs to your chest two times like this (*point to self twice*) and say: 'To us!' (*With children.*) 'To us!' (*Point to self twice.*) Can we do all four together? '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.*)

"Now the last part is: 'Isaiah 9:6!' (*Open hands like a book.*) Put your hands together in front of you, open them like you are opening a book (*open hands like a book*), and say: 'Isaiah 9:6!' (*With children.*) 'Isaiah 9:6!' (*Open hands like a book.*) Great job! I think we are ready to do it all together! Ready, friends? '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.*) Nice job. Let's do it again!" (*Repeat several times.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "The Bible teaches us that God gave us a very special gift. God gave us His Son, Jesus. God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus. Jesus is special because **Jesus is God's Son. Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son.** Let's say that one more time, friends. **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son."**



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MADE TO PLAY

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



2. MESSAGE FOR MARY

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Message for Mary" Activity Page, copy paper, and letter-size envelopes; *Optional:* "Message for Mary Fun at Home" Activity Page, cardstock, letter-size envelopes, and scissors

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Message for Mary" on copy paper, one set for every four children. Make enough copies so every child has one picture. Number the envelopes 1-4.

Fold the pictures and place them in the following numbered envelopes:

- 1 - Angel
- 2 - Mary
- 3 - Baby Jesus
- 4 - Heart

Option: Copy "Message for Mary Fun at Home" Activity Page on cardstock and cut, one set per child. Put one set per child in an envelope to send home.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a prepared envelope. Tell the children to open their "message." As you review the Bible Story, the children will hold up their picture when you talk about it. After you review the story, tell the children to fold their message and put it back in the envelope so you can play again. Repeat as desired.

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

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hey, friends! Come sit with me! We're going to talk about today's Bible Story!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "First, everyone needs an envelope. (*Pass out envelopes.*) Inside your envelope is a message that tells part of today's Bible Story. Open your envelope and look at your message. (*Pause.*) Wow! I see an angel and Mary and baby Jesus and a heart! Hearts make me think of love. Get ready to show me your message when I say the words ANGEL, MARY, BABY JESUS, or LOVE as we review. Here we go!

BIBLE STORY

God sends an angel to tell Mary she is going to have His Son, Jesus.

THE ANGEL AND MARY
LUKE 1:26-33, 38

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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“God sent an ANGEL (*hold up angel*) to tell MARY (*hold up Mary*) a very special message. Show me your angel and Mary if you have them. (*Pause.*) Good job! Okay, you can put your messages down. The ANGEL (*hold up angel*) told MARY (*hold up Mary*) that she was going to have God’s Son, JESUS! (*Hold up baby Jesus.*) Show me the angel, Mary, and baby Jesus if you have them. (*Pause.*) Yay! You can put your messages down. God LOVES (*hold up heart*) us so much, He gave us His Son, JESUS! (*Hold up baby Jesus.*) Hold up your heart and baby Jesus if you have them. (*Pause.*) Yay! God loved (*hold up heart*) us so much, He gave us Jesus (*hold up baby Jesus*)! And Jesus is special, because **Jesus is God’s Son. Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God’s Son!** That was fun! Now put your messages back in your envelopes and give them to me. I’m going to shuffle them so we can play again. I wonder which message you’ll get this time!”

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “Wow! God sent an angel to tell Mary she was going to have God’s Son, Jesus! That’s why Jesus is so special! Because **Jesus is God’s Son!** So, when I ask you, ‘**Why is Jesus special?**’ I want you to say, ‘**Jesus is God’s Son.**’ Ready? **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God’s Son.**”



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4. JESUS IS GOD'S SON

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Child-safe step stool, and toy or inflatable microphone

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Place the step stool and microphone in your activity area.

BIBLE STORY

God sends an angel to tell Mary she is going to have His Son, Jesus.

THE ANGEL AND MARY
LUKE 1:26-33, 38

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage each child to run to you. Then, help children stand on the "stage" (step stool) with the microphone and say, "**Jesus is God's Son!**"

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: "Friends, we have a very important message to share, and I need your help. When I call your name, I want you to run to me. I'll help you up on the stage and with this microphone, you'll tell everyone that **Jesus is God's Son!**"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Is everyone ready? (Pause.) Great! [Child's name], run to me! (Help child onto the stool.) Take the microphone and tell everyone that '**Jesus is God's Son!**' (Repeat with child.) Great job! (Help off the stool.) Run back to the group! (Continue with each child and repeat as desired.) Thank you, friends! You did a great job spreading the news that **Jesus is God's Son!**"

KEY QUESTION

Why is Jesus special?

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In today's Bible Story, we learned that God sent an angel to tell Mary that she was going to have a baby, and that baby would be Jesus! Jesus is special because **Jesus is God's Son! Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son!** Great job."

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is God's Son.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
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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, cardstock, scissors, Bible, journal, a fun-shaped pen, and a sheet of heart 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

God sends an angel to tell Mary she is going to have His Son, Jesus.

THE ANGEL AND MARY
LUKE 1:26-33, 38

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per Small Group. Place one card in your Bible at Isaiah 9:6. *Note: Keep this card in your Bible all month long.*

Encourage children to pretend they are delivering a special message like the angel in the Bible Story 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 Bible Story and Memory Verse Hand Motions. Write "God Loves Me" at the top of a page in your journal, and as you write each child's name, give them a heart sticker to put by their name.

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're going to pretend we are delivering a special message, like the angel delivered a message in our Bible Story. Follow me, little angels! (*Put your hand around your mouth like you're declaring a message through a megaphone as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Here we are! Now 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, God sent an angel to tell Mary she was going to have baby Jesus. Jesus is special because **Jesus is God's Son!** So, every time I ask you, '**Why is Jesus special?**' I want everyone to say, '**Jesus is God's Son!**' Let me hear you say it! **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son! Yay! Jesus is God's Son!**"

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



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"Today, we are going to begin learning a new 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.) Way to go! (Give high fives.) Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (Open journal.)

"Since God loves us SO much, God gave us Jesus. Today we are going to do something special in our prayer journal. First, I am going to write 'God Loves Me' at the top of the page. (Write 'God Loves Me.')

Okay, when I say your name, I will write it down. Then you can put one of these heart stickers (hold up stickers) by your name and say, '**God loves me!**'" (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.) God loves (say each child's name again)! Let's pray and tell God thank You because God loves us so much God gave us His Son, 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 loving us so much that You gave us Your Son, Jesus. Please help (say each child's name) remember how much You love us. You're the best, God! In Jesus' name. Amen."