



WEEK THREE – DECEMBER 2018 – KINDER/FIRST

Bible Story: *Simply the Best* ▪ Luke 2:1-7

Bottom Line: *God gave us the greatest gift.*

Memory Verse: *“God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son. Anyone who believes in Him will not die, but will have eternal life.” John 3:16(NIRV)*

Life App: *Compassion – Caring enough to do something about someone else’s need*

Basic Truth: *I can trust God no matter what.*

Summary: In Week Three, we head to Luke 2:1-7 to the familiar moment when Jesus is born. Even though Jesus was born where the animals stayed, God took care of all the details. The Savior of the World was born, and God’s compassion for us was on full display.

8:50–9:00 | 10:20–10:30 | 11:50–12:00 – EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITIES

1. Early Arriver Idea

Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines & working as a group

What You Need: Cups; Miniature gift bows

What You Do:

- Lead kids in a shell game with the cups and bows.
 - Place the three cups upside down in a row.
 - Place one bow under one of the cups, making sure all the kids are watching you.
 - Tell kids to remember which cup the bow is under.
 - Then start moving the cups around, back and forth, switching their positions.
 - Go slowly for the first couple rounds, letting kids get the hang of watching where they think the cup with the bow is.
- If time allows, invite kids to lead the game!

What You Say:

*“At Christmastime, we give all kinds of gifts to each other. Long ago, [**Bottom Line**] **God gave US the greatest gift ever**, and our last gift is a hint about what He gave. (Kids will likely shout out, ‘Jesus!’, and that’s great!) [**Transition**] **Let’s go to Large Group and hear all about it.**”*

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

9:10–9:45 | 10:40–11:15 | 12:10–12:45 – LARGE GROUP

OVERVIEW:

Bottom Line: *God gave us the greatest gift.* God had been planning a rescue since the very beginning. Jesus was God’s greatest gift to make it possible for all people to be with God forever.

9:45–10:05 | 11:15–11:35 | 12:45–1:05 SMALL GROUP

1. Compassion Cards

[Application Activity]

Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through reenactment

What You Need: Index cards; markers; wrapping paper scraps; scissors; glue sticks; gift bows; gift tags

What You Do:

- Guide kids to close their eyes and think of someone they know who has a need. It could be their mom or dad, a neighbor, a new kid at school, a teacher or other school worker—anyone at all.
- Give each child an index card and set out the markers.
- Encourage kids to write or draw a gift of compassion that they can give to that person as a way to show God’s love.
 - The gift could be time or friendship, a hug, an act of kindness, or even a tangible gift.
- Next, set out the wrapping paper scraps and invite kids to cut pieces and glue them to the backs of their cards.
- They can fill the card or just add a few pieces—whatever they choose.
- Finally, let each child choose a bow and a gift tag.
- Guide them to stick the bows and tags to their “presents” and write the name of the person they want to give their gift to.
- Provide help as needed.

What You Say:

[Bottom Line] *“God gave us the greatest gift when He gave us Jesus. What are some ways you can give? (I can give a card to my nana. I can give a hug to my friend when she’s sad. When someone’s hurt, I can sit with them to help them feel better kind word. I can be a friend to someone who needs a friend. I can spend time with my little brother. I can tell my papa about Jesus. I can draw a picture for my mom.) Great ideas!*

[Make It Personal] *(Tell kids about a tangible or intangible gift you’ll give to show someone compassion.)*

*“So remember, since **God gave us the greatest gift**, we can give to others, too.”*

2. MV Mini

[Memory Verse Activity]

Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: “MV Mini” Activity Pages; scissors; zip-top bags;

What You Do:

- Give each child an “MV Mini” card.
- “Read” the verse with the kids.
- Unpack the amazing truth that God gave his one and only Son!
- Guide kids to cut along the lines, making a puzzle.
- Reassure kids that it’s okay if their cuts don’t follow the lines exactly. (The important thing is that they’re getting to practice their fine motor skills!)
- Help kids slide their puzzle pieces into a Ziploc bag.
- Encourage kids to give their puzzle to someone who needs to know how much God loves them.
- Finally, give each child a second “MV Mini” card and Ziploc bag.
- Again, guide kids to cut out the puzzles and put them in the bags. These will be puzzles for the kids to keep for themselves!
 - *NOTE: Be sure to distribute the second puzzles after the first ones are tucked safely in the gift bags. This will help keep the pieces from getting mixed and mingled!*

What You Say:

[Bottom Line] *“God gave us the greatest gift EVER! He gave us His one and only Son. Wow! Can you imagine how much God must love us that He gave us His only Son? Now that’s a great big love! Thank You, God, for Your love that’s bigger than words can say!”*

3. Pray and Dismiss

[Prayer Activity]

Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Self-adhesive gift bows

What You Do:

- Give each child a gift-wrapping bow to wear as a reminder that since **[Bottom Line]** **God gave us the greatest gift**, they can give and show compassion to others, too.
- Model and guide kids to hold their hands together, palms up, as if holding a gift.
- Lead kids to pray silently, thanking God for giving them the greatest gift ever: Jesus!
- Close the prayer time using the sample prayer below as a guide.

What You Say:

“Dear God, thank You SO MUCH for giving us Jesus—the greatest gift ever. Thank You for loving us so much that You gave Your one and only Son so that if we believe in Him we can live forever with You. Thank You for showing us Your incredible, amazing compassion. Help us see ways that we can give and show compassion to others, too. We love You, God! Amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to say today's Bottom Line and share one way they can give to others, too. Also, hand out the weekly Parent Cue card.