



WEEK FOUR - DECEMBER 2018

Bible Story: Start Spreading the News (Shepherds Visit) • Luke 2:8-20

Bottom Line: Share the good news about Jesus.

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 should treat others the way I want to be treated.

9:00-9:10 | 10:30-10:44 - KIDS ARRIVE

Team Welcomes Kids *(Providing Time for Fun Interactions)*

Summary: We finish our month on compassion in 1 John 4:9-12, where we read about God’s great love for us when He sent Jesus to pay the price for our sins. John reminds us that no one has ever seen God, but when we show love to others, people see God through us.

This week, we want to help kids connect their compassion to the source of compassion. We show love to others, not just because it’s a good thing to do, but also because it’s what God did for us and what God calls us to do for others.

9:10-9:35 | 10:40-11:05 - LARGE GROUP

"Je-sus loves me.

2 lap pats – 2 claps

Je-sus loves me.

2 lap pats – 2 claps

Jesus loves [child’s name]"
shout out the name

1. Early arrivers

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

What You Do:

- Invite kids to place their offerings in a container.
- Lead kids in a few rounds of “telephone.”
 - Guide everyone to sit together in a circle.

- Start off by whispering a phrase or sentence into the ear of the kid next to you.
- Instruct that kid to then whisper the same phrase into the ear of the next kid.
- Continue until you get to the end.
- The last kid should say the phrase out loud and see if it matches your original phrase.
- Add fun (and giggles!) by incorporating tongue twisters and alliteration:
 - Giant giraffes juggle ginormous jellybeans.
 - The cool kangaroo crunched the Christmas cookie.
 - Sheep should sleep in a shed.
 - Shepherds shear their shaggy sheep.

What You Say:

“You all made great eggs and caterpillars and snowflakes and seeds and tadpoles and clouds! [Transition] In our Bible story today, we’ll about something else that comes first. Let’s go find out what it is.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

*Bible Story - INTRO, Story, OUTRO Videos (whatever works best for your few)
Worship SONGS*

9:35-10:05 | 11:05-11:35 - SMALL GROUP

GROUPS

(Creating a Safe Place to Connect)

2. Happy Birthday, Jesus!

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

Made to Create: an activity that explores spiritual ideas through the process of drawing, building, and designing

What You Need: Party hats and/or other party items, paper plates, paper cups, snacks kids can create, Christmas music

What You Do:

- Lead kids to work together to host (and enjoy!) a “birthday party” for Jesus.
- Kids can set the table(s), start the music, distribute the party items, and arrange the decorations.
- Be sure every child plays a role.
- When everything’s ready, serve the drinks and set out the snacks and/or snack ingredients.
- As kids enjoy making and eating the treats, encourage them to recall as much of the story as possible.
- Ask prompting questions as necessary. Key points:
 - Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem.
 - While they were there, the time came for Mary’s baby to be born. Mary and Joseph named the baby boy Jesus, just like God told them to.

- Mary wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.
- End the party by singing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus.

What You Say:

“The shepherds were SO excited to hear about the message of Jesus! They couldn’t wait to tell everyone what they had heard and seen. Who do you know who needs to hear the good news about Jesus? What is something good God has done that you can tell them? *(Pause.)* So, this week, remember to **[Bottom Line]** share the good news about Jesus.”

3. TREE ACTIVITY

What You Need: Foam trees, craft supplies

What You Do:

- Decorate trees
- Talk about how the Christmas Tree represents the Christmas story
 - Lights = Jesus, the Light of the World
 - Star = Star guided the shepherds and wise men
 - Tree = Symbol of the cross Jesus would die on
 - Gifts under tree = Gift of Salvation

What You Say:

“So, this week, remember to **[Bottom Line]** share the good news about Jesus.”