



WEEK 3 - December 2019 - PRESCHOOL

Bible Story Focus: The angels tell about Jesus.

The Shepherds • *Luke 2:8-20*

Memory Verse: "God has given a son to us." Isaiah 9:6, NCV

Key Question: How do we know God loves us?

Bottom Line: God gave us Jesus.

Basic Truth: God loves me.

Summary: The very first Christmas was a string of God planned events that came together to create a wonder-filled story that would be told again and again and again. God sent His Son to earth in the form of a human baby who grew to be someone like no other. Ultimately, He gave His life for us.

This month, we celebrate the beautiful gift of Jesus. We want preschoolers to say again and again that, 'God gave us Jesus.' We want it to live deep within their hearts so they grow to trust that God loves them with a love so great that He gave them His one and only Son, Jesus, to be their friend forever.

9:00-9:10 | 10:30-10:40 | 12:00-12:10 - FREE PLAY

SFX: High-energy music from Spotify playlist "PreK Walk-in"

9:10-9:25 | 10:40-10:55 | 12:10-12:25 - MAKE IT FUN

SFX: Play low-energy music from Spotify playlist "PreK Small Groups"

9:25-9:45 | 10:55-11:15 | 12:25-12:45 - MAKE IT TRUE

LARGE GROUP SCRIPT:

Bible Story

What You Need: Bible; The Story Stars from Weeks One and Two; the Story Star for Week Three (with double-sided tape on the back)

(Storyteller enters carrying a Bible and the Story Star for Week Three.)

Optional Story Images can be found in the Large Group Images folder. (02_LG35_Stage_Images) They can be used in conjunction with this script.

STORYTELLER: "Hello, everyone! Happy almost Christmas!

"I'm [Storyteller's name], and I'm here to tell you MORE about the true story of Christmas.

(Open the Bible and lay it aside. Walk to the Story Stars from Weeks One and Two, pointing to the pictures as they are mentioned.)

"Let's go over what we know so far. We know that God sent an angel to tell Mary she was going to have a special baby. And the special baby's name would be . . ."

(Cup hand behind ear for the children to say the name.)

CHILDREN and STORYTELLER: "JESUS!"

STORYTELLER: "Right!"

(Option: Story Image W3 01)

"And we know that Mary and Joseph had to travel all the way to Bethlehem, and that's where the special baby was born. And the special baby's name is . . ."

CHILDREN and STORYTELLER: “JESUS!”

STORYTELLER: “Right again!”

(Hold up the Story Star for Week Three for the children to see. Point to the shepherds as you mention them.)

“Now for today’s part of the Christmas story and our new Story Star! This star has shepherds on it. I’ll put it right here so we can look at it while we listen to the story.

(Tape the Story Star onto your backdrop.)

“Now we have three story stars in our starry, starry night. I love it!

(Option: Story Image W3 02)

“Okay, back to our story. There were some shepherds out in a field taking care of a certain kind of animal. What kind of animal do you think the shepherds were taking care of?

“Do you think the shepherds were taking care of elephants? Hold your arm like this and pretend to be an elephant.

(Hold an arm out in front of your face and swing it side-to-side like an elephant trunk.)

“No. *(Laugh.)* Not elephants! Do you think the shepherds were taking care of penguins?

(Waddle back and forth like a penguin.)

“No. *(Laugh.)* Not penguins! So what were the shepherds watching in the fields?
(Pause.) Yes, the shepherds were watching SHEEP!

“What sound does a sheep make? Will you make a sheep sound with me? Here we go!”

CHILDREN and STORYTELLER: “Baaaa baaaa!”

(Continue making sheep sounds together for a few seconds.)

STORYTELLER: “You make great sheep!

(Option: Story Image W3 03)

“While these shepherds were watching their sheep, an angel came to talk to them. The angel said, ‘I bring you good news of great joy! JESUS IS BORN!’

“Then suddenly, the whole sky was full of angels singing and praising God! They sang, ‘Glory to God in the highest!’ The shepherds were SO excited they ran to see baby Jesus!

“Let’s pretend to run like the shepherds. Move your arms like this. (*Pump arms.*) Got it? Okay, here we go! We are running with the shepherds to go see baby Jesus!

(Pump your arms like you’re running in place.)

“Run! Run! Let’s go see baby Jesus! Run! Run! Let’s go see baby Jesus!

(Stop pumping your arms.)

“Whew! We made it! We can stop running now.

(Option: Story Image W3 04)

“When the shepherds saw baby Jesus, they were AMAZED! There He was, just like the angel said! The shepherds were so happy, they ran again. This time they ran to go tell everyone that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!**

“Let’s pretend we are running with the shepherds again to go tell everyone that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!** Move your arms like this (*pump arms*), and here we go! We are running with the shepherds to tell everyone **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!**

“Hey everyone, **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!** Hey everyone, **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!**”

(Stop pumping your arms.)

“Great job! We can stop running now. Whew! We’ve gotten our exercise today!

“God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus! God loved Mary and Joseph and the shepherds, and He loves me, and He loves you! We know God loves us because **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus! How do we know God loves us?**”

CHILDREN and STORYTELLER: [Bottom Line] “God gave us Jesus!”

STORYTELLER: “And THAT is why we celebrate Christmas. Because **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!**”

“Okay, friends, now we have THREE big Story Stars! Count them with me.

(Point to the Story Stars as you count them.)

“One, two, three! Three Story Stars. Come back next time, and we will add star number four! So exciting!

“Okay, let’s close our eyes now and talk to God.”

PRAYER

STORYTELLER: “Dear God, thank You for loving us SO much that You gave us Jesus to be our friend forever. Help us tell everyone that Christmas is all about Jesus, just like the shepherds did. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.

“Bye, friends! See you next time!

(Storyteller exits with the Bible. Host enters excitedly.)

CG: Bible Story Wrap-Up Video

Worship: Inviting People to Respond to God

Engage kids’ hearts through dynamic and interactive worship in a Large Group setting.

WORSHIP LEADER: “Welcome, friends! This month is all about Christmas! At Christmas, God gave us Jesus because He loves us. **How do we know God loves us?**”

CHILDREN and WORSHIP LEADER: *[Bottom Line]* “**God gave us Jesus.**”

WORSHIP LEADER: “Let’s thank God for this very special gift—the reason we celebrate Christmas. Jesus is what Christmas is all about.

(Lead children in singing “What Christmas Is About,” this month’s worship song.)

“Great job, friends! God sent us Jesus because He loves us! **How do we know God loves us?**”

CHILDREN and WORSHIP LEADER: *[Bottom Line]* “**God gave us Jesus.**”

WORSHIP LEADER: “Yes! God loves you *(point to different children)* and you and you SO much. Our memory verse reminds us that *[Bottom Line]* **God gave us Jesus!** Let’s practice our memory verse. *God (point arms straight up) has given (cup both hands in front of you like you are giving something) a son (rock your arms like you’re holding a baby) to us (point your thumbs to your chest),* Isaiah 9:6. *(Hold hands open like a book.)* Can you say it with me?”

CHILDREN and WORSHIP LEADER: “God (point arms straight up) has given (cup both hands in front of you like you are giving something) a son (rock your arms like you’re holding a baby) to us (point your thumbs to your chest), Isaiah 9:6.” (Hold hands open like a book.) (Repeat several times.)

WORSHIP LEADER: “Good job, friends! Let’s celebrate as we sing ‘Christmas Party’ together.

(Lead children in singing “Christmas Party.”)

“Great singing. **How do we know God loves us?**”

CHILDREN and WORSHIP LEADER: *[Bottom Line]* “God gave us Jesus.”

Dismiss children to small groups.

9:45-10:05 | 11:15-11:35 | 12:45-1:05 MAKE IT STICK

SFX: Play low-energy music from Spotify playlist “PreK Small Groups”