



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

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

1. Gathering Sheep

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: Floor tape, pool noodle, and ping-pong balls, cardboard box

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Use the floor tape to create a three-foot square. This will be your sheep pen. Scatter the ping-pong balls on the floor around the sheep pen to represent the sheep.

During the Activity: Give a pool noodle to a child. Encourage children to use the pool noodle to “herd” the sheep (ping-pong balls) into the pen (box) through the opening. Scatter the balls again and repeat for each child.

After the Activity: Gather all the pool noodles and balls and set them aside.

What You Say:

During the Activity: “Oh, no! It looks like all the sheep have escaped the pen. Let’s use this pool noodle to scoot the sheep back through the opening into the pen.”

After the Activity: “That was SUPER fun! You make great shepherds. Shepherds take care of sheep. In our Bible story today, we’ll hear about some shepherds that were taking care of their sheep when something crazy happened. I can’t wait for you to hear all about it!”

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by continuing to pretend to herd sheep

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

Story Focus: The angels tell about Jesus. God sent Jesus for each and every one of us, even the shepherds. Yes, shepherds – the bottom rung of the social ladder during that time. God sent angels into the starry, starry night, on the very same day Jesus was born, to tell shepherds that, “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.”

They were so excited they hurried to find this baby! Can you imagine the wonder as they looked into the eyes of the long awaited Messiah?

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

1. Pass the Baby

Hear from God | Memory Verse Review

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: Small baby doll and a baby blanket

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Wrap the baby doll in the blanket.

During the Activity: Have the children sit in a circle. Pass the baby around the circle as you say the memory verse. Repeat several times.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus."

During the Activity: "We have a baby just like baby Jesus! (*Hold up.*) Let's pass him around our circle while we say our Memory Verse." (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: "Awesome job! God loves us so much that He gave us His Son, JESUS! **How do we know God loves us? [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!**"

2. Sheep Roundup

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Think: An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

What You Need: Plastic cups, bag of cotton balls, and one die

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Lay all of the cotton balls in the activity area.

During the Activity: Give each child a cup. Ask one child to roll the die. Identify the number that is rolled with the children. Ask the children to place that number of cotton balls inside their cup. Continue the activity until the cups are full of cotton balls.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's be shepherds! Look at all of the sheep." (*Point.*)

During the Activity: "We can use these cups (*hold up*) as pens for our sheep! We need to know how many sheep we need to put in the pen. (*Ask a child to roll the die.*) Let's count the numbers of dots on the die. (*Count with the children.*) There are [three] dots! Let's put three sheep in our pens. (*Pause.*) Nice work! Now let's roll again!" (*Continue until cups are full or cotton balls are all gone.*)

After the Activity: "WOW! You have a lot of sheep in the pen! You are great shepherds! God sent an angel to tell the shepherds the good news that Jesus is born! God gave us

His Son, Jesus! **How do we know God loves us? [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!**”

3. Message

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, Bottom Line, or memory verse by creating a craft

What You Need: “Message” Activity Page, cardstock, crayons, markers, and stickers

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the Activity Page on cardstock and fold it on the lines. You will have a card with writing on the front and inside the card when folded.

During the Activity: Give each child a card. Encourage the children to decorate the card with the crayons, marker, and stickers.

After the Activity: Be sure the child decorates both the inside and outside of the card.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “God sent an angel to give the shepherds a very important message!”

During the Activity: “We are going to make a card that you can give to anyone you would like. Inside the card there is a very important message. *(Read from card)* God gave us Jesus. Use the crayons, markers, and stickers to decorate your card.” *(Do activity.)*

After the Activity: “Your cards are so beautiful! You may give your card to anyone you would like. This will give them the special message that God gave us His Son, Jesus! **How do we know God loves us? [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!**”

4. Journal and Prayer

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

Made to Reflect: An activity that encourages personal application and prayer

What You Need: Paperclip “Memory Verse Card” in your Bible at Isaiah 9:6, NCV. Provide a journal and a fun-shaped pen for each small group.

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Small Group time. Today we are going to pretend to be SHEEP! What do sheep say?”

CHILDREN and SGL: “Baaa, baaa!”

SGL: “That’s right! Sheep say baaa, baaa! Let’s go baaa, baaa, baaa all the way to our small group spot. Follow me, little sheep!

(Pretend to be sheep as you lead the children to your small group spot.)

“That was so fun! You make great sheep! Now we can sit and rest while we talk about the shepherds who took care of sheep in our Bible story today. One, two, three, sit down with me!

(Open the Bible and lay it open in front of the children.)

“The shepherds in our story today had some very special visitors one night. Do you remember who they were? *(Pause.)* Yes! Angels! What did the angels tell the shepherds? *(Pause.)* You are SO smart! Yes, the angels told the shepherds that Jesus had been born!

“The shepherds got so excited that they ran to see baby Jesus. After they saw Him, they ran and told everyone that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!**

“They could have told everyone the Bible verse we have been learning because it says this.

(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.)

“*God has given a son to us, Isaiah 9:6.*”

(Close Bible and lay it down.)

SGL: “Let’s stand up and pretend we are shepherds and we are telling everyone, ‘God has given a son to us!’ Put your hands around your mouth like this *(cup hands around mouth)* and shout with me!”

CHILDREN and SGL: “God has given a son to us! God has given a son to us! God has given a son to us!”

SGL: “Awesome! Now let’s say it with our hand motions.”

CHILDREN and SGL: “*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 the verse with motions a few times.)*

SGL: “Yay! *(Clap for the children.)* Let’s sit down and write in our journal and pray.

(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

“Today we are going to make a list of people we can tell **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus**, just like the shepherds did. When I say your name, tell me one person you can tell **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus**.

(Say each child’s name and write down what they say. Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

“This is a great list! We can use it when we pray. Would anyone like to pray before I do?”

(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)

Prayer

SGL: “Dear God, we want everyone to know that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus**. Please help [child’s name] tell [person’s name] **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus**. *(Repeat for each child.)* We love You, God! In Jesus’ name, amen.”