



WEEK 4 - December 2019 - PRESCHOOL

Bible Story Focus: God gave us Jesus because He loves us.

Happy Birthday Jesus! • *Retell the Entire Christmas Story*

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. Party

Made to Explore: An activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

What You Need: Streamers, birthday hats, plush friends, and a plastic cake

Before the Activity: Lay all of the supplies in the activity area. Place the cake on a table, and place the plush friends all around the area.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to use the supplies to decorate the room for a party. Encourage the children to place the birthday hats onto the plush friends. Ask the children to stand around the cake and sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "We are going to have a PARTY!"

During the Activity: "We are going to have a party to celebrate that God gave us Jesus. We can use all of this cool stuff (*point*) to decorate for our party. (*Pause.*) We have some friends for our party (*point to plush friends*). Let's give them all birthday hats. (*Pause.*) Now let's stand around the cake and sing 'Happy Birthday' to Jesus!" (*Sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus.*)

After the Activity: "The decorations look awesome! I am so excited to celebrate that God gave us Jesus! Let's get ready to hear the Bible story of when Jesus was born!"

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by chanting, "Jesus is born," as you walk to the story area.

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

Story Focus: God gave us Jesus because He loves us. Retelling the Christmas story is the best way to celebrate Jesus' birthday and how much God loves us!

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

1. Memory Verse Celebration

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: Party hats, streamers, “Memory Verse Labels” Activity Page, and Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the “Memory Verse Labels” onto the label paper (one per child).

During the Activity: Give each child a party hat and a streamer. Encourage the children to wave their streamers as they say the memory verse together. Give each child a “Memory Verse Label” to add to the party hat and then say the verse again.

What You Say:

During the Activity: “Let’s add a label to your party hat. It says: *God has given a son to us, Isaiah 9:6 (NCV).* That’s our verse for this month. Let’s wear our hats, wave our streamers, and say our verse together.”

After the Activity: “Today we’re celebrating Jesus’ birthday! I’m so thankful that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus.** God gave us Jesus because He loves us! **How do we know God loves us? [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!**”

2. Pin the Bow

Live for God | Application Activity

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

What You Need: Butcher paper, wall tape, and bows (one per child)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Draw a large square on the butcher paper/or cute butcher paper to a square

During the Activity: Give each child a bow. Challenge the children to walk to the gift on the wall and place the bows on it. For older children, encourage them to close their eyes similar to the game “Pin the Tail on the Donkey.” Be sure each child gets a turn to place a bow on the gift.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Jesus is the best gift that we could ever get! God gave us Jesus!”

During the Activity: “There is a gift on the wall that needs bows on it. Let’s work together and place bows on the gift.” (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: “WOW! Our gift looks awesome! Jesus is the best gift. God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus. **How do we know God loves us? [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!**”

3. 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. You will also need a “Happy Birthday” sticker of some kind for each child.

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Small Group time, and I have a super fun idea for how to walk to our Small Group spot today!

“We have been learning that Christmas is all about Jesus’ birthday, right? Well, I think we should sing ‘Happy Birthday’ to Jesus while we walk to our Small Group spot. Let’s do it! Follow me and sing along.

(Sing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.)

“Yay! Happy Birthday, Jesus!

(Clap and cheer for Jesus.)

“Let’s sit down now so we talk about the true story of Christmas. One, two, three, sit down with me!

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

“We have been learning all about how **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus.**

“First, God sent an angel to tell Mary . . .

(Pause for children to respond.)

“Yes, God sent an angel to tell Mary she was going to have a special baby and His name would be Jesus.

“Next, Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem. There were no more rooms, so when Jesus was born, Mary wrapped Him and laid Him in a . . .

(Pause for children to respond.)

“Right again! Mary laid baby Jesus in a manger.

“After Jesus was born, God sent angels to tell some people who were watching sheep that Jesus had been born. What were the people watching sheep called?

(Pause for children to respond.)

“Yes! Shepherds! God sent angels to tell shepherds that Jesus had been born! The shepherds ran to see baby Jesus and then ran to tell everyone the good news that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus! How do we know God loves us?**”

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

SGL: “God loves us SO much that He gave us His Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever. THAT is what we are celebrating today! And the Bible verse we are learning will help us remember what Christmas is all about. 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 say that together with the 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: “That was SOOO good!

(Give each child a fist bump.)

“Now let’s sit down and write in our journal and pray.”

(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)

“Today we are going to do something extra special in our journal. I am going to give each of you a birthday sticker. I will write Jesus’ name really big on the page. Then, when I say your name, you get to put a birthday sticker by Jesus’ name and say, ‘Happy birthday, Jesus!’ It will be like our very own birthday card for Jesus!

(Write “JESUS” in print. Encourage each child to place a birthday sticker around “JESUS” and say, “HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS” when you call out their name.)

“This looks great! I love all of the stickers! Now we can 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, thank You for teaching us the true story of Christmas. I pray we always remember that Christmas is about You giving us the best gift ever, JESUS! We want to shout, ‘HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS,’ to everyone we see! We love You, God! In Jesus’ name, amen.”