



WEEK 5 - December 2019 - PRESCHOOL

Bible Story Focus: The wise men come to see God's Son.

The Wise Men • *Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11*

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. Follow the Star

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

What You Need: "Star" Activity Page; cardstock; a paint stick or ruler; and clear tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Star" on cardstock and cut on dotted lines. Tape the star cutout onto one end of the paint stick or ruler.

During the Activity: Hold up the star and lead the children around the room. When you return to where you started, pass the star to a child to lead the class around the room. Give each child an opportunity to be the leader.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Do you see the star? Let's follow the star around the room. We'll take turns and allow everyone to be the leader."

After the Activity: "Great leading and following! We'll hear about some people who followed a star to find something very special in our Bible story today. I can't wait!"

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by holding the star as the children follow you.

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

Story Focus: The wise men come to see God's Son. They looked into the starry, starry night and followed God's lead all the way to the child, who they rightly called, 'King of the Jews.' They came and presented their gifts and worshiped the One who had come to be the Savior of the world. We can only imagine the wonder on their faces as they finally saw what had been prophesied for so, so long.

May we all pause under our own starry, starry night this year and remember the wonder of what we are celebrating. God gave us Jesus.

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

1. Cover the Star

Talk About God | Bible Story Review

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: “Wise Men Follow the Star” Activity Page; cardstock; and large and small star stickers

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the “Wise Men Follow the Star” Activity Page onto cardstock (one per child). Place the large and small star stickers on the table.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to place the large star sticker on the Activity Page, covering the outline of the star on the page. Then encourage them to add several small stickers to the sky surrounding the large star.

What You Say:

During the Activity: “Do you see the star at the top of your page? Let’s add a large star sticker to the page over the star on your page. You can also add a few small stickers in the sky too.”

After the Activity: “What did the wise men follow to find Jesus? *(Pause.)* Yes! They followed the star right to Jesus, God’s only Son! Tell me: **How do we know God loves us? [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus.**”

2. Parachuting Stars

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: A parachute and foam stars of various colors (including just one yellow star)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Lay out the parachute in the activity area. Scatter the stars, including just ONE yellow star, around the surface of the parachute.

During the Activity: Lead the children to stand around the perimeter of the parachute. Encourage them to bend down to grab the parachute with both hands and stand up. Lead the children to wave their arms to move the stars across the surface. As they wave the parachute, children should keep their eyes on the yellow star.

What You Say:

During the Activity: “Let’s lift up the parachute—make sure you use both hands—and shake it gently. Find the yellow star and follow it with your eyes as the stars move.”

After the Activity: “Set the parachute down gently. That was fun! The wise men followed the star, and where did it lead? *(Pause.)* Yes, the star led them to Jesus. Jesus is the BEST gift. I’m so glad **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus. How do we know God loves us? [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!**”

3. Shooting Star

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: “Shooting Star” and “Star Parent Note” Activity Pages; copy paper; cardstock; metallic crayons; curling ribbon in different colors; craft sticks (one per child); clear tape; and scissors

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the “Shooting Star” Activity Page onto the cardstock and cut on the dotted lines. Each child will need one star. Copy the “Star Parent Note” Activity Page onto the copy paper and cut on the dotted lines.

During the Activity: Give each child a star and the crayons. Encourage the children to color their star with crayons. Tape the ribbons to the edges of the star so that they hang off the star. Then tape the craft stick to the back of the star as a handle.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “In our Bible story today, we heard that God put a special star in the sky so that the wise men could follow it and find Jesus.”

During the Activity: “We are going to make a star that we can follow too! First, we are going to color our stars (*hold up crayons*). (*Do activity.*) WOW! Your stars look fantastic! We are going to put handles on our stars so that we can follow them.” (*Finish activity.*)

After the Activity: “Awesome! Take your star home and walk around and ask your family to follow the star just like the wise men did. God put the star in the sky so that the wise men could find God’s Son. **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. You will also need a star sticker for each child to place in the journal as well as a hand stamp or reward sticker for saying their Bible verse.

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Small Group time, and we are going to pretend to be wise men following a star to our Small Group spot. I’m going to put a star sticker on my finger like this.”

(Place a star sticker on the tip of your pointer finger and hold it up for the children to see.)

“There. Now I’m going to hold it up so you can follow it. Ready, wise men? Follow the star!

(Hold the star sticker up for the children to follow as you lead them to your Small Group spot.)

“We made it! You did a great job following the star. Now let’s sit down so we can talk about the Bible story we heard today. One, two, three, sit down with me!

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

“In today’s Bible story, God made a special star for the wise men to follow. They followed the star all the way to Jesus. When they found Jesus, they knew He was special, so they worshipped Him and gave Him gifts.

“We know Jesus is special because Jesus is God’s Son. **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus** to be our friend forever. That’s how we know God loves us. **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus. How do we know God loves us?”**

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

SGL: “We have also learned a Bible verse to help us remember that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus**. 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.)

“Let’s stand up and say that together with the hand motions one time. And then if anyone wants to try and say it, I have my stickers/hand stamp ready!”

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.)*

SGL: “Way to go! You can sit back down and when it’s your turn to say the Bible verse you can stand up and say it.

(Say each child’s name. Make sure to give each child the opportunity to say the verse on his own. Have your stickers/hand stamp ready to give when they say it.)

"I am so proud of you, [child's name]! Here is your sticker/hand stamp!

(Give a high five to each child after they say the verse.)

"Now it's time to write in our journal and pray.

(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen. Have a star sticker ready to give to each child.)

"Today we are going to add another sticker to our journal. I am going to give each of you a star sticker. I will write your names in our journal. Then, when I say your name, you get to put a star sticker by your name and say, **[Bottom Line] 'God gave us Jesus!'**

(Write each child's name. Encourage each child to place a star sticker by their name and say, "God gave us Jesus," when you call out their name. Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

"Look at all of the stars! I love it! 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 a place where we can come and learn about how much You love us. Thank You for *(name each child)*. I am so glad they get to hear that You love them so much You gave them Jesus to be their friend forever. We love You, God! In Jesus' name, amen."