



WEEK 2 - December 2020 - PRESCHOOL

Today's Bible Story: Jesus is born.

Jesus Is Born • *Luke 2:1-7*

Memory Verse: "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son." John 3:16, GNT

Key Question: Why is Jesus special?

Bottom Line: Jesus is God's Son.

Basic Truth: God loves me.

Make it Fun

Activities to help kids transition into the classroom and set up the bible story.

-Where's the baby?

Make it True

Captivate kids with a bible story and help them understand how it connects to their world

-Large group time

Make it Stick

Activities and crafts that help kids personalize the story and apply the truths to their life.

-Whisper
-Baby in a manger
-Jesus in a manger
-Journal and prayer

First 15 min - MAKE IT FUN

1. Where's the Baby?

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

What You Need: A large plastic bin; raffia; "Things to Find" Activity Page, cardstock, and scissors

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place the raffia in the bin. Copy "Things to Find" on cardstock, cut apart, and hide the pictures among the raffia.

During the Activity: Let the children take turns digging through the raffia to pull out an item. Identify items as children pull them from the bin.

After the Activity: Place all items back in the bin and set aside for clean-up.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, I have some things hidden in this bin. One at a time, I want you to search through it and pull one item. We will talk about it together."

During the Activity: "Great job! You found a [animal's name]. What sound does the [animal's name] make? Right! (*Ask another child to search in the bin.*) Look, a baby! In our Bible story today, we'll hear about a very special baby."

After the Activity: "That was fun! You found ALL the animals and the baby. Our story is about a very special baby born in a stable with animals. It's the BEST story ever."

Transition: Move to Worship and Story by calling out an animal then the children make that animal sound and move like that animal.

Large group - MAKE IT TRUE

Large Group Overview:

Story Focus: Jesus is born. Week two, we learn how Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem to be counted for the census. When they got there, they had to stay in a stable. And that is where Jesus, God's Son, was born.

Last 20 min- MAKE IT STICK

1. Whisper It Verse

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: "Baby Jesus in the Manger" Activity Page, cardstock, wall tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Baby Jesus in the Manger" on cardstock, one per activity. Tape the Activity Page on the wall of your activity area at preschooler eye level.

During the Activity: Line up the children. Review this month's memory verse and motions below with the children. Then, encourage each child to tiptoe one at a time to the picture, whisper the verse to baby Jesus, then return to let another friend have a turn.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Who do you see in this picture? (*Pause.*) Baby Jesus! Do you think the baby is sleeping?"

During the Activity: "Let's say our verse together. Do you remember it from last week?"

"God (*point up*)
loved the world so much (*hug yourself*)
that he gave (*hands out with palms up*)
his only Son, (*rock arms like a baby*)
John 3:16. (*Open hands like a book.*)

"Great job! Now, let's take turns. I want you to tiptoe then whisper this verse to baby Jesus like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Remember, babies sleep a lot, so let's make sure we whisper. Don't worry, every friend will have a turn."

After the Activity: "God loved the world so much that He gave us Jesus! What a wonderful and special gift God gave to ALL of us. Tell me, **why is Jesus special?** [**Bottom Line**] **Jesus is God's Son.**"

2. Baby in a Manger

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 preschool safe baby bed or a basket, full sheets of tissue paper, and a baby doll

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place the bed or the basket at one end of the activity area to be the manger.

During the Activity: Have the children stand on the opposite side of the activity area from the manger. Encourage the children to wrap the doll in the tissue paper then hop across the activity area and lay the baby in the manger. Continue the activity until each child has had a turn to lay the baby in the manger.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “We heard an amazing story from the Bible today! Jesus is BORN”

During the Activity: “Let’s lay Jesus in the manger, just like Mary did. We can wrap Him up then hop to the manger to lay Him inside. *(Demonstrate.)* Let’s all give it a try!” *(Do activity.)*

After the Activity: “Friends, you did a great job! That was so fun. Jesus is born! **Why is Jesus special? [Bottom Line] Jesus is God’s Son!**”

3. Jesus in the Manger

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: “Baby Face” and “Jesus In the Manger” Activity Pages; Online® Labels #OL1025WX or equivalent; Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent; light blue construction paper; yellow construction paper; dessert size paper plates; tape; pen; and glue sticks; *Optional hole punch, yarn, and scissors*

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy “Baby Face” on the Online® Labels #OL1025WX paper, one per child. Copy “Jesus In the Manger” on the Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent, one per child. Cut blue construction paper into quarters, one quarter per child. Write child’s name on their plate.

Optional: Punch hole at the top of the plate. Cut length of yarn for each child to use as a hanger.

During the Activity: Have children put the “Jesus In the Manger” label on the back of their plate then flip over. Encourage children to tear pieces of the yellow paper and glue to their plate. Roll the blue paper into a tube and tape to secure. Glue the paper roll to the yellow paper. Add “Baby Face” sticker to the blue paper roll.

After the Activity: Talk about how Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger of hay.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Where did we learn that Baby Jesus was born? *(Pause.)* That’s right, Baby Jesus was born in a stable where the animals stayed. When Jesus was born, Mary wrapped him up and laid him in a manger.”

During the Activity: “Let’s make a picture of Baby Jesus in the manger. First, add your sticker to the back of your plate then flip it over. *(Pause.)* Now, tear the yellow paper into strips and glue it to your plate. *(Pause.)* This will be the hay that Baby Jesus laid on in the manger. Roll the blue piece of paper and tape the ends together like this. *(Demonstrate.)* Glue the blue paper roll on top of the yellow paper.

(Pause.) Add the face sticker. *(Pause.)* This is Baby Jesus. The most special baby was born! Happy Birthday, Jesus! Let's say it together. Happy Birthday, Jesus!" *(Repeat.)*

After the Activity: "God loves us so much that He gave us His Son, Jesus. The most special baby in all the world was born, and that's why we celebrate Christmas. **Why is Jesus special?** **[Bottom Line] Jesus is God's Son.**"

4. Journal and Prayer

Pray to God | Prayer Activity

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

What You Need: Paperclipped "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at John 3:16, journal, fun-shaped pen, one gingerbread man cookie cutter, and a sheet of birthday stickers

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today, we're going to pretend to ride a donkey to our small group spot, just like Mary may have ridden when she and Joseph went to Bethlehem. Climb on your donkey and ride with me! *(Pretend to ride a donkey as you lead the children to your small group spot.)*

"Whoa, donkey! Whew! We made it. Let's sit down and talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me! *(Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.)*

"Our Bible story, today, was about Mary and Joseph travelling all the way to Bethlehem before Baby Jesus was born. Do you remember what happened when Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem? *(Pause for response.)* You're right. The only place left for them to sleep was a stable where animals stay. And that's where a very special baby was born. What was the baby's name? *(Pause for response.)* Yes, Jesus! And **why is Jesus special?**"

CHILDREN and SGL: **[Bottom Line] "Jesus is God's Son!"**

SGL: "You got it! **[Bottom Line] Jesus is God's Son.** The Bible verse we're learning says . . . *(Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.)*

"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, John 3:16. (Close Bible and lay it down.) Let's stand up and say that together with the motions."

CHILDREN and SGL:

"God *(point up)*
loved the world so much *(hug yourself)*
that he gave *(hands out with palms up)*
his only Son,' *(rock arms like a baby)*
John 3:16." *(Open hands like a book.)*

(Repeat the verse with motions a few times.)

SGL: "God loved everyone in the whole wide world so much that He gave us His Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever! That is what the true story of Christmas is all about. And that is why Jesus is SO special! **Why is Jesus special?**"

CHILDREN and SGL: [Bottom Line] “Jesus is God’s Son!”

SGL: “Okay, let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Hold journal, fun-shaped pen, and the gingerbread man cookie cutter up for the children to see.)*

“Jesus’ very first birthday happened in a stable with Mary and Joseph, and the animals, of course. I thought that since Christmas is about celebrating Jesus’ birthday, we could put birthday stickers in our journal. When we pray, we can tell Jesus happy birthday! So, when I say your name, you get to hold the gingerbread man cookie cutter while I write your name in our journal. Then, you can put a birthday sticker beside your name and say, ‘Happy birthday, Jesus!’ Now remember, the only person who can talk is the person holding the gingerbread man cookie cutter. Got it? Okay, get ready and listen for your name.”

(Say each child’s name. Make sure they get the gingerbread man cookie cutter to hold. Write their name and give them a birthday sticker to put beside their name while they say, “Happy birthday, Jesus.” Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

SGL: “Let’s tell Jesus happy birthday one more time together.”

CHILDREN and SGL: “Happy birthday, Jesus!”

SGL: “Now, would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

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

Prayer

SGL: “Dear God, this is such a special time of year because Jesus is special, and it’s His birthday! Thank You for loving us so much that You gave us Your Son, Jesus. Help us celebrate Him every day! We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

