



### WEEK 3 - December 2020 - PRESCHOOL

**Today's Bible Story:** The angels tell about Jesus.

The Shepherds • *Luke 2:8-20*

**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.*

-Match it up

#### 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.*

-World bounce  
-Shepherding  
-Lord God in the highest  
-Journal and prayer

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## **First 15 min - MAKE IT FUN**

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### **1. Match It Up**

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

**What You Need:** "Christmas Pictures: Large" and "Christmas Pictures: Small" Activity Pages, cardstock, scissors, and wall tape

#### **What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Copy "Christmas Pictures: Large" on cardstock, one per activity. Copy "Christmas Pictures: Small" on cardstock and cut apart, three to four sets per activity. Tape "Christmas Pictures: Large" on the walls of your activity area at preschooler eye level.

*During the Activity:* Shuffle the "Christmas Pictures: Small" cards and place in a stack face down in the center of your small group area. Encourage the children to select a card from the stack, find the matching picture on the wall and run to it, then back to the center. Allow each child to take a turn until every match on the wall is found. If you run out of cards before each child has had a turn, reshuffle and continue.

*After the Activity:* Collect all cards and set aside for clean-up.

#### **What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* "Friends, come over here with me! Do you see the pictures I hung around the room? I have pictures in this stack that match the pictures on the wall! One at a time, I want you to grab a picture then run with it to its matching picture. Then, you can head back to the center to let another friend have a turn."

*During the Activity:* "Go ahead and select a picture! Oh look, it's a [picture's name]. Do you see a matching picture on the wall? Run to it!"

*After the Activity:* "That was fun! Let's talk about these pictures. This month we've been talking about how God gave us Jesus! (*Hold up the picture of the angel.*) An angel told Mary (*hold up the picture of Mary*) that she would have a baby. (*Hold up the picture of the baby Jesus.*) In today's story, some shepherds run (*hold up the picture of the sheep*) to see Baby Jesus. Let's find out what happened!"

**Transition:** Move to Worship and Story by pretending to herd sheep like a shepherd.

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## Large group - MAKE IT TRUE

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### Large Group Overview:

Story Focus: The angels tell about Jesus. Week three, we hear how the angels shared the Good News about Jesus to shepherds who are watching sheep in a field nearby. Those shepherds ran as quickly as they could to go see this baby. After seeing Jesus, they went and told everyone in town so they would know about the special baby too!

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## Last 20 min- MAKE IT STICK

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### 1. World Bounce

#### 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:** Inflatable globe and a parachute or sheet

#### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Lay the parachute flat on the floor. Place the globe on top of the parachute.

*During the Activity:* Ask the children to stand around the parachute with you and invite them to each pick up a section of the parachute. Invite the children to shake their arms so that the parachute moves very fast. Encourage the children to bounce the globe high. Repeat several times.

#### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Our memory verse tells us that God loves the world so much that He gave us Jesus."

*During the Activity:* "Let's play with the parachute! We're going to bounce the world on the parachute. God loves the whole world so much! God gave us Jesus!" (*Do activity.*)

*After the Activity:* "God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus! **[Bottom Line] Jesus is God's Son! Why is Jesus special? [Bottom Line] Jesus is God's Son!**"

### 2. Shepherding

#### 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:** Candy canes (in plastic), cotton balls

#### What You Do:

*During the Activity:* If you have a large class, you may want to divide them in half and allow only one half of the children to play at a time. Give each child five or six cotton balls to lay in front of

them. When you say, “Go,” the children will bend over and use only their staffs (candy canes) to move their sheep (cotton balls) from one side of the room to the other then back as they announce the good news: Jesus is born!

*After the Activity:* Collect all the candy canes. Have the children help you collect all the cotton balls for clean-up.

### **What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* “Friends, come over here with me! I have a candy cane for you, BUT do not eat it! We’re going to use these like shepherds’ staffs. And these cotton balls will be our sheep. I’ll give you a few cotton balls. I want you to use your ‘staff’ to move the cotton balls all the way to this side of the room and all the way back like this. (*Demonstrate.*) As you move your sheep, I want you to say, ‘Jesus is born!’ just like the shepherds told everyone about Jesus!”

*During the Activity:* “Who is ready for their sheep? I will know your ready when your candy cane is up like this. (*Hold candy cane in front of you with both hands.*) Looks like everyone is ready to play!”

*After the Activity:* “Sheep herding is hard work. Great job, shepherds! Why do you think the shepherds were so excited to tell everyone about Jesus? (*Pause.*) Yes! Jesus is special! **Why is Jesus special? [Bottom Line] Jesus is God’s Son.**”

### **3. Glory to God in the Highest**

#### **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:** “Shepherds” and “Angels” Activity Pages, cardstock, blue and green markers, cotton balls, glue sticks, and scissors

#### **What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Copy “Shepherds” on cardstock, one per child. Copy “Angels” and cut out, one per child.

*During the Activity:* Encourage the children to color the sky blue and the grass green. Glue the angels to the sky and the cotton balls to the grass.

*After the Activity:* Retell the Bible story.

#### **What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* “Today we learned that angels came to deliver another special message. This time, they came to tell the shepherds that Jesus was born.”

*During the Activity:* “Look on your paper. Do you see the shepherds? (*Pause.*) They’re out in the field. Can you color the ground green? (*Pause.*) Great! Now the sheep have grass to eat. These cotton balls look like sheep. Glue some on your paper. (*Pause.*) Great! Now color the sky blue. (*Pause.*) When the shepherds were out in the field tending their sheep, an angel came and told them that Jesus had been born! They were so excited to see Jesus. But before they went, the

sky filled with angels saying 'Glory to God in the highest!' Glue your angels to the sky. *(Pause.)* The shepherds went to see Jesus. When they saw him, they knew they had to tell everyone that Jesus had been born."

*After the Activity:* "The shepherds were amazed and excited that Jesus had been born. Everyone who heard was amazed. They knew that Jesus was special because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is God's Son. 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 Bible at John 3:16, journal, fun-shaped pen, and candy cane cookie cutter

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** "It's Small Group time! Today, we're going to pretend we're sheep and say, 'Baa-baa' all the way to our small group spot. Follow me little sheep! *(Repeat "Baa-baa" as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.)*

"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 very exciting news! An angel told the exciting news to shepherds who were out in a field watching their sheep. Do you remember what the exciting news was? *(Pause for response.)* Yes! The angel told the shepherds that Jesus is here and they should go see Him! And **why is Jesus special?**"

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

**SGL:** "Yes! Jesus is special because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is God's Son.** The Bible verse we have been 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.)*

"Wow! God's love for us is SO big that He sent His Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever! 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:** “Yay! *(Clap)* You sound great! Now, let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. *(Hold journal, fun-shaped pen, and the candy cane cookie cutter for the children to see.)*

**SGL:** “This candy cane cookie cutter reminds me of a shepherd’s crook. See how it’s curved like the long sticks shepherds use to take care of their sheep? When I see a candy cane, I think of how the angel told the shepherds the good news about Jesus. After they saw Baby Jesus, they ran and told the good news to everyone else! They wanted everyone to know about Jesus! I think we should make a list of people we can tell about Jesus. Think of someone you know who you can tell the good news that God loved us so much He gave us Jesus!

“Are you ready? When I say your name, you get to hold the candy cane cookie cutter and tell me one person you can tell about Jesus. I will write the name in our prayer journal, then you’ll give the candy cane cookie cutter to the next child whose name I call. The only person who can talk is the person holding the candy cane cookie cutter. Got it? Okay, get ready and listen for your name.”

*(Say each child’s name. Make sure they get to hold the candy cane cookie cutter. Write down what they say. Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*

**SGL:** “Thank you for doing that! Let’s use the list we made when we talk to God. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

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

### **Prayer**

**SGL:** “Dear God, Thank You for the people who have told us the good news that Jesus is Your Son and He wants to be our friend forever. Help [child’s name] tell [name listed] about Jesus, and help [child’s name] tell [name listed] about Jesus, and *(continue with each child)*. We want everyone to know the good news that Jesus is Your Son and He wants to be their friend forever. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”