



WEEK
THREE
DECEMBER 2020

SMALL GROUP
K-3

PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

**PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES**

MADE TO CONNECT

an activity that invites kids to share and collaborate with others while growing their understanding



Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Even though this year was a very difficult year, we can have hope because God loves us enough to send His Son to sacrifice for us. Thank and praise God for the gift of His precious Son. Ask God to help you find joy and hope this Christmas season, no matter the circumstances surrounding it. Pray that each of your kids would have a joyful, carefree, and fun Christmas Day.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

How He Loves
Jesus Is Born
Luke 2:1-7

EARLY ARRIVER

WHAT YOU NEED: Paper plates, and pencils

WHAT YOU DO:

- Give each kid a paper plate and a pencil.
- Instruct kids to place the paper plate on their head and draw a picture of something they want for Christmas this year.
- Give kids two minutes to draw.
- As they finish, let the kids show their drawings to the rest of the group to see if they can guess what it is.
- Repeat until everyone has a turn to share their drawings.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**God loved us so much that
He gave us a Savior.**

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**Today in the town of David a
Savior has been born to you.
He is the Messiah, the Lord.**
Luke 2:11, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Christmas—Celebrating Jesus,
God's greatest gift**

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.





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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

STORY

WORSHIP

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

How He Loves

Jesus Is Born
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VERSE TOWER

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse" Activity Page, Jenga® blocks, tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Divide the group into two teams.
- Make a masking tape starting line for each group.
- On the other side of the room mark where you'd like the kids to build their Jenga® towers. Make one tape line for each group.
- Guide each team to stand behind their starting line.
- Place twenty prepared blocks in random order on the floor next to each team's starting line.
- At your signal, the first kid from each team will decide which block to grab, carry it across the room, and place it on the floor.
- The word should face the front so it's visible.
- Relay style, the rest of the team will take turns grabbing a block, running to the end of the room, and stacking their block on top of the previous teammate's block to build a tower.
- Inform the group that the goal is to build a tower so you can read the verse—top to bottom! *(Let the kids figure out what this means on their own. They have to start with the last word first, followed by the second-to-last word, and so on.)*
- If a kid delivers the wrong block, the next kid in line has to bring it back and place it with their team's blocks at the starting line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

"You guys have really come a long way toward learning the verse this month! It can be really easy to lose sight of the real reason we celebrate Christmas. Our Christmas might look different this year because of what happened during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of you may not get what you wished for or have a chance to celebrate Christmas the way you have in the past. Even if your Christmas is different this year, there is one truth that won't ever change. And that's the truth that our Bible verse reminds us of. **God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior.** That's the most amazing gift of all. And it's worth celebrating at Christmas!"



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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and/or working as a group



GOD LOVED _____
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]
WHAT YOU NEED: Gift bag or box, and treats

WHAT YOU DO:

- Encourage the kids to sit in a circle.
- Select the kid with the closest birthday to today to sit in the center of the circle.
- Pass the gift bag around the circle as you say the Bottom Line, including the name of the kid in the center of the group like this: God loved [kid's name] so much that He gave [kid's name] a Savior.
- The kid holding the gift bag at the end switches places with the kid in the center.
- Repeat, giving each kid an opportunity to sit in the center as the kids say their name in the Bottom Line.
- Pass out the treats for the kids to enjoy.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

How He Loves
Jesus Is Born
Luke 2:1-7

WHAT YOU SAY:

"When you open gifts on Christmas morning, does someone look at the gift tags and pass out each person's gift before you start opening? Do you ever do that thing where you count up how many gifts you have to open to see who has the most? Sometimes, we forget that ALL of us, every single person, has already been given the best gift ever. And it's not a shirt that's itchy or a toy you will break or outgrow. God chose to send Jesus, His only Son, to us. We celebrate Christmas and give gifts as a reminder of the GREATEST gift of all. **God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior**, and that Savior is JESUS!"

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**God loved us so much that
He gave us a Savior.**

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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Savior has been born to you.
He is the Messiah, the Lord.**
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MONTHLY LIFE APP

**Christmas—Celebrating Jesus,
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I can trust God no matter what.





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an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body



MEMORY VERSE HOPSCOTCH

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bibles, colored construction paper, and markers

WHAT YOU DO:

- Write out the words of today’s verse as indicated below—one phrase per piece of construction paper.
- “Today / in the town / of David / a Savior / has been born / to you. / He is / the Messiah, / the Lord,” / Luke 2:11.
- Create a hopscotch board on the floor by laying out ten verse phrases on the floor.
- Open the Bible to Luke 2:11. Call on a volunteer to read the memory verse to the group.
- Talk about the next phrase of the verse. *He is the Messiah.*
- ASK:
 - Do you know what “Messiah” means? *Messiah means “anointed one.” Special oil was poured over those who God chose for a special job (usually kings or prophets who spoke for God). Jesus came as the King of ALL Kings with the most important job of all—the promised Savior who God sent to save everyone.*
- Encourage the kids to hop, one at a time, along the hopscotch path as everyone repeats the verse.
- After you’ve reviewed the verse two or three rounds, allow the fourth kid to jump through the board then flip one page over to hide the words.
- Repeat the verse again, including the hidden words. Allow each kid who hops through the path to flip another page over.
- Continue in the same way until all pages are flipped and the group can say the verse from memory.

TODAY’S BIBLE STORY

How He Loves

Jesus Is Born
Luke 2:1-7

TODAY’S BOTTOM LINE

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He gave us a Savior.**

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

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**Christmas—Celebrating Jesus,
God’s greatest gift**

BASIC TRUTH

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WHAT YOU SAY:

“Whew! Raise your hand if you’re tired. That was a lot of hopping! Jesus came as our Savior, our Messiah or anointed, one to do something only He could do! Why did God send Jesus? Because He LOVES us. Christmas is about celebrating Jesus, the greatest gift EVER. This year, as you gather around the tree to open gifts, remember the BEST gift has already been given to you! **God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior.**”





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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that creates space
for personal processing
and application



PRAY AND DISMISS
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

- Gather the kids in a circle and teach them the five-finger prayer using the dialogue below.
- Kids will use their fingers to pray for each group of people as they repeat the Bottom Line.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

How He Loves
Jesus Is Born
Luke 2:1-7

WHAT YOU SAY:

"Have you ever heard of the five-finger prayer? Each finger represents a different group of people to pray for. I want you to point to each finger as I explain how to pray.

TODAY'S BOTTOM LINE

**God loved us so much that
He gave us a Savior.**

"Your thumb is for the people closest to you, like your family and friends.

"Your index or pointer finger is for people who instruct you or teach you, like your teachers, coaches, and leaders here at church.

MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

**Today in the town of David a
Savior has been born to you.
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Luke 2:11, NIV

"Your middle finger is the tallest. It's for the people who lead us, like government leaders.

"Your ring finger is the weakest finger. It's is for those who are sick or most in need.

MONTHLY LIFE APP

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"And finally, your little finger or pinky, is for you. So, let's pray together and point to our fingers as we go. I will say a sentence prayer for each group, then I want you to say, '**God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior.**'

(thumb) "For our parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, caregivers, brothers, and sisters, help them know this Christmas that . . ."

KIDS: "God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior."

BASIC TRUTH

I can trust God no matter what.

SGL: *(index finger)* "For our teachers, coaches, doctors, therapists, nurses, and first responders, help them know this Christmas that . . ."

KIDS: "God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior."

SGL: *(middle finger)* "For our leaders in government and business, help them know this Christmas that . . ."

KIDS: "God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior."





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PRELUDE SOCIAL STORY WORSHIP GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(PRAY AND DISMISS, CONTINUED)

SGL: (*ring finger*) "For those who are sick, hurting, or in need, help them know this Christmas that . . ."

KIDS: "God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior."

SGL: (*little finger*) "For each of us, we ask that You help us remember this Christmas that . . ."

KIDS: "God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior."

SGL: "Thank You for loving us SO much that You sent Jesus for everyone. In Jesus' name we pray, amen."

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage them to retell the Christmas story at home as we celebrate that **God loved us so much that He gave us a Savior.**

