



WEEK
THREE
DECEMBER 2021

LARGE GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS
STAGE

PRELUDE SOCIAL **WORSHIP** STORY GROUPS HOME

10 MINUTES

BIBLE STORY

The angels tell about Jesus.
("S" is for Shepherd.)

THE SHEPHERDS
LUKE 2:8-21

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.

LARGE GROUP

ENGAGE CHILDREN'S HEARTS THROUGH A DYNAMIC AND INTERACTIVE WORSHIP, BIBLE STORY, AND PRAYER EXPERIENCE IN A LARGE GROUP SETTING.

WORSHIP

WHAT YOU NEED: Paperclip "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Isaiah 9:6, NCV. You need a music player and this month's worship song, "What Christmas Is About," which is included in your monthly files. The dance moves video for "What Christmas Is About" is available on OrangeKidsMusic.com or in your media package if you subscribe. You also need "Special Delivery," which is available at OrangeKidsMusic.com, iTunes®, and Spotify®. The dance moves video for this song is available at OrangeKidsMusic.com.

WORSHIP LEADER: "Hello, friends! Are you ready for worship time? It's my favorite time of the week! We can sing and dance with everything we've got because God is AWESOME and He loves you and me. **How do we know God loves us?**"

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: "**God gave us Jesus.**"

WORSHIP LEADER: "That's right! Up on your feet, and let's sing together.

Lead children in singing "What Christmas Is About," this month's worship song.

"Christmas is about who? (Pause.) Christmas is about Jesus! The Bible teaches us that 'God has given (point up) a son (rock the baby) to us (thumbs to chest),' Isaiah 9:6. (Open hands like a book.) Say it with me.

Lead the children to say the verse with the motions.

"Great job, everyone! God gave us Jesus because He LOVES us so. **How do we know God loves us?**"

CHILDREN AND WORSHIP LEADER: "**God gave us Jesus.**"

WORSHIP LEADER: "He sure did! C'mon and clap your hands. C'mon let's make some noise. Sing this with me!

Lead children in singing "Special Delivery."

"That was so fun! Remember, God loves you, and **God loves me.** We know that's true because **God gave us Jesus.**"



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INTRO SKETCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Christmas decorations (including the tree with angel topper and Baby Jesus ornament); Christmas alphabet sweatshirt; Christmas or black pajama pants; silly string; and goggles with attached snorkel

WHAT YOU DO: Decorate the story area for Christmas, making sure the angel topper and Baby Jesus ornament are on the tree where the children can see them.

The host enters wearing a Christmas alphabet sweatshirt and pajama pants. They carry the goggles, snorkel, and silly string then lay them on the floor.

HOST: "Hi, friends! Welcome to [your environment's name]! I'm [your name], and I'm having a pajama party tonight! We're going to make Christmas cookies and watch Christmas movies! I'm so excited that I went ahead and put on my Christmas pajamas. (Pose while pointing to sweatshirt.) Can you see what's on my shirt? Pause.) Alphabet letters!

Point to the letter A on the shirt.

"Look! Here's the letter A!

Walk to the angel topper on the tree and point to it.

"'A' is for angel!

Walk to the front of the story area and point to the letter J on the shirt.

"Oh, and look. Right here is the letter J.

Walk to the Baby Jesus ornament and take it off of the tree for the children to see.

"'J' is for Jesus!

Put the ornament back on the tree and walk to the front of the story area.

"What other letters do you see? I see the letter S right here.

Point to the letter S on the shirt.

"'S' is such a fun letter. 'S' is for . . .

Put the goggles and snorkel on and pretend to swim around the story area.

" . . . swimming!

Take the goggles and snorkel off.

"What else starts with the letter S?

Hold up the can of silly string and spray it as you say the line below.



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"I know! 'S' is for . . . SILLY STRING!

Put the can of silly string down.

"I love playing with silly string. It's fun to say, too. Sssssilly sssssstring. Do you hear all of those 'S' sounds? I hope our Bible story has words in it that start with the letter S.

"Sssssee you later! Bye!"

Host exits carrying the goggles, snorkel, and can of silly string.



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BIBLE STORY

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible; small table; confetti popper; toy castle; toy nativity scene with Mary, Joseph, Baby Jesus, animals, and shepherds; plush giraffe; plush frog; and a plush sheep; *Optional Story Images*

WHAT YOU DO: Preset the table near the middle of the story area but out of the way for Intro Sketch. Place the toy castle, nativity set, giraffe, frog, and sheep on the floor by the table.

The storyteller enters, carrying a Bible and a confetti popper.

STORYTELLER: “Well, hello everyone! Merry Christmas! I’m [your name], and I’m here to tell you the next part of the Christmas story. And guess what! It has a word that starts with the letter S! Our story has SHEPHERDS in it! You can read all about it right here in the Bible.

Pick up the Bible for the children to see then lay it open on the table.

“Okay, so the true story of Christmas happened a long, long, loooong time ago when Jesus was born. Now, because Jesus is God’s Son, you would think that He was born in a very special place like a . . .

Get the toy castle and place it on the table for the children to see.

“. . . CASTLE! And there would be a big party with . . . (pop the confetti popper) . . . lots of confetti and lots and lots of people!

Pause for things to settle.

“But that’s not what happened.

Take the castle away and replace it with a toy nativity set.

(Option: Display Story Image W3 01)

“Jesus was born in a stable where animals live. There wasn’t a party or a lot of people. It was just Mary (*hold up the Mary figure*), Joseph (*hold up the Joseph figure*), and some animals. (*Hold up two animal figures*.)

“Do you think that is the end of the Christmas story? (*Pause for response*.) No, that is not the end of the Christmas story. You see, God wanted EVERYONE to know that His Son, Jesus, was born.

(Option: Display Story Image W3 02)

“So, on that very same night, God sent a special message to some shepherds out in a field. There’s our word! ‘S’ is for SHEPHERDS! Say that with me!”

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: “‘S’ is for SHEPHERDS!”

STORYTELLER: What do you think a shepherd’s job is? (*Pause*.) They take care of a certain kind of animal. Do you think shepherds take care of giraffes?



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Hold up the plush giraffe.

"No, not giraffes. Do shepherds take care of frogs?"

Hold up the plush frog.

"No, not frogs. What animal do shepherds take care of? (Pause.) That's right! Sheep! Shepherds take care of sheep. What sound does a sheep make?"

Baa like a sheep along with the children.

"You sound great! Good job!"

(Option: Display Story Image W3 03)

"Okay, back to the Christmas story. While the shepherds took care of their sheep, an angel appeared in the sky and said to the shepherds, 'I bring you GOOD NEWS of great JOY! Jesus is born!'"

"Then, the whole sky was full of angels who started praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest!'"

(Option: Display Story Image W3 04)

"When the shepherds heard this good news, they ran to find Baby Jesus. When they found Him, they were amazed! They wanted everyone to know that Jesus was born. So they ran and told everyone that **God gave us Jesus**, and that's how we know God loves us. **God gave us Jesus!**"

"So when I ask, '**How do we know God loves us?**', you say, '**God gave us Jesus!**' Let's try it! **How do we know God loves us?**"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "God gave us Jesus!"

STORYTELLER: "Again! How do we know God loves us?"

CHILDREN AND STORYTELLER: "God gave us Jesus!"

STORYTELLER: "Yay! God gave us Jesus! Okay friends, it's time to pray. Let's close our eyes and talk to God together."

PRAYER

STORYTELLER: "Dear God, thank You for loving everyone and wanting them to know that You gave us Jesus. Help us tell everyone that You gave us Jesus, just like the shepherds did. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

"I'll see you next time. Bye!"

The Storyteller exits with the Bible, toy castle, giraffe, frog, and sheep. The nativity set and figures are left on the table for the Host.



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OUTRO SKETCH

What You Need: Nativity set from Story

The Host enters smiling.

HOST: "Wow! The shepherds were so excited when they saw Baby Jesus that they told everyone **God gave us Jesus!**"

"I think I got the story. Did you get it? (Pause.) If you did, give me two thumbs-up (*demonstrate*) and say, 'Got it!' (Pause.) Get it?"

CHILDREN AND HOST: "Got it!"

HOST: "Good! Now we know a word from the Christmas story that begins with the letter S! 'S' is for (*hold up a shepherd from the nativity set*) . . ."

CHILDREN AND HOST: "SHEPHERD!"

HOST: "It's almost time for my pajama party. I can't wait to be like the shepherds and tell all of my friends that **God gave us Jesus.** Merry Christmas!"

The Host exits, waving and smiling at the children.