



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2021

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



1. TRAVEL

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed.

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Have the children stand in front of you.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Challenge the children to travel around the room in the following ways: pretend to fly on air plane, pretend to drive car, pretend to ride on a train, pretend to ride on a boat, and pretend to ride a horse or donkey. Repeat as desired.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hey, friends! I love to travel. We can all travel in so many different ways! Let's all pretend to travel around our room."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Let's pretend to travel on an airplane. Hold your arms out, and let's fly! (*Do activity.*) Great job! Now, let's travel by car. Everyone, drive your car! (*Do activity.*) This is so much fun! Let's travel by train. (*Continue the activity.*) Way to go! Now, let's travel on a boat. Watch out for the waves! Let's travel one last time. Let's pretend to travel on a horse, or even a donkey! Saddle-up!" (*Finish activity.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "WHEW! Traveling makes me tired! Today in our Bible story, two special people traveled somewhere very far. I can't wait to hear how they got there!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to ride a donkey to the area.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus is born.
("J" is for Jesus.)

JESUS IS BORN
LUKE 2:1-7

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.





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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



2. SCOOT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Baby Jesus" Activity Page, cardstock, two large hearts, and wall tape

NOTE: You only need two of the large hearts for this activity but it might be a good idea to have a few extra on hand in case they are torn or damaged during the activity.

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JESUS IS BORN
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WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Baby Jesus" on cardstock; one per activity. Hang it on a wall at preschooler level.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Place the hearts on the floor side by side, about five feet in front of the picture on the wall. Challenge a child to place one foot on each of the hearts and scoot on them to the picture on the wall. Challenge the child to not pick up their feet and move with the hearts. Continue the activity until all of the children have had a turn to scoot on the hearts.

MEMORY VERSE

"God has given a son to us."

ISAIAH 9:6, NCV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "God loved us so much that He gave us Jesus! Hearts remind me of love, so let's scoot on hearts to the picture of Baby Jesus! (Point.)"

KEY QUESTION

How do we know
God loves us?

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (Demonstrate.) "You can put one foot on each heart and scoot your feet so that the hearts move with you! Let the hearts take you to Baby Jesus! Just like God's love gave us Jesus!" (Do activity.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Awesome job! God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus! **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus.**"

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY **GROUPS** HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE

an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



3. "J" IS FOR JESUS ORNAMENT

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "'J' is for Jesus Ornament" and "Baby J" Activity Pages; light blue cardstock; cardstock; raffia; glue sticks; yarn; hole punch; scissors; and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "'J' is for Jesus Ornament" on light blue cardstock and cut out, one per child. Copy "Baby J" on cardstock and cut out, one per child. Punch a hole where indicated on each ornament. Cut yarn into six-inch lengths, one per child. Loop and knot yarn through each ornament. Write child's name on the back of their ornament. Cut raffia into two-inch lengths.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to glue Baby Jesus to the center of their ornament then glue raffia under Him. Talk about "J" is for Jesus.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "What a great story we learned today of God's love for us. God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's make an ornament today. On your ornament is 'J' is for Jesus. Glue the picture of Baby Jesus to your ornament. (Pause.) Now glue the hay under Baby Jesus. (Hold up raffia pieces.) These look fantastic! You can take these home and hang them on your tree."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "We heard how Mary and Joseph had to go all the way to Bethlehem to be counted. It was a long trip and Mary was pregnant, so she rode on a donkey. Once they got there, they tried to find a place to stay but all the rooms in the inn were full! But the nice innkeeper let them stay in his stable with the animals. Something amazing happened in that stable. A very special baby boy was born, and Mary named Him Jesus. 'J' is for Jesus. God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus. **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus.**"

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MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



4. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Paperclipped "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible at Isaiah 9:6, journal, a fun-shaped pen, and Happy Birthday or present stickers

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time!

Today, we'll jump to our small group spot; because 'J' is for jump! Start jumping and follow me! (*Jump as you lead the children to your small group spot.*) Okay, you can stop jumping now. Whew! Let's sit down and talk about something else that begins with the letter J in today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me! (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*)

"Today's Bible story was about when Jesus was born! 'J' is for JESUS! Mary and Joseph looked and looked and finally found a stable to stay in. And it was in that stable that **God gave us Jesus**, because He loves us SO much! **How do we know God loves us?**"

CHILDREN AND SGL: "**God gave us Jesus!**"

SGL: "Yes! And the Bible verse we're learning will help us remember that **God gave us Jesus**. It says . . . (*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.*)

"That verse is talking about Jesus! Let's stand up and say it together with the motions. Just say what I say and do what I do."

CHILDREN AND SGL: "'God has given (*point up*) a son (*rock the baby*) to us (*thumbs to chest*),' Isaiah 9:6." (*Open hands like a book.*)

(*Repeat the verse with motions a few times.*)

SGL: "Good job! (*Give high fives.*) Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*)

"Today, we'll tell Jesus 'Happy Birthday!' I will write 'JESUS' real big in our journal. When I say your name, you can put a birthday sticker around Jesus' name. After you put the sticker around Jesus' name, I want you to say, 'Happy Birthday, Jesus!' Get ready and listen for your name.

(*Write JESUS in large letters on a page in the journal. Say each child's name and give them a birthday sticker to put around JESUS. Encourage them to say, "Happy Birthday, Jesus!"*)

"That was so special! We all told Jesus 'Happy Birthday,' because Christmas is

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(4. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

all about when Jesus was born! Would anyone like to pray before I pray?"

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

PRAYER

SG1: "Dear God, Thank You that we get to learn about the true story of Christmas. Thank You that Jesus was born and He wants to be our friend forever. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

