



WEEK
THREE
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. NATIVITY SEARCH

WHAT YOU NEED: Little People® nativity figures

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Hide the nativity figures around the room. Place the empty stable on the table.

BIBLE STORY

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

THE SHEPHERDS
LUKE 2:8-21

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children around the stable and point out its emptiness. Challenge the children to search the room to find the missing nativity figures. If they find one nativity piece, they may bring it back to the stable and have a seat so that more friends have a chance to search. Arrange the nativity figures once they're all found. Retell the story that's been told so far this month and give hints about what comes next using the dialogue below.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Set the stable and nativity pieces on the counter or another out of the way surface for display.

MEMORY VERSE

"God has given a son to us."

ISAIAH 9:6, NCV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come over here with me. Look, our stable is empty! What's missing? (Pause.) Yes! All the nativity pieces are hidden around the room. Let's go search for them so we can put them back in the stable."

KEY QUESTION

How do we know
God loves us?

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "You found Mary and Joseph. The angel (*hold up the angel*) told Mary (*hold up Mary*) she would have a baby and His name would be Jesus! He would grow up to do amazing things. This was VERY good news! Mary and Joseph (*hold up Mary and Joseph*) had to travel all the way to Bethlehem where Joseph was from. They needed a place to stay. But there wasn't any room.

"An innkeeper told Mary and Joseph (*hold up Mary and Joseph*) they could stay in his stable with all the animals. (*Hold up the animals and lead the children to make animal noises for each one.*) And in that stable, among all the animals, a very special baby was born. What is His name? (*Pause and hold up Jesus in the manger.*) Yes, Jesus! God loves us SO much that He gave us Jesus. Today, we'll find out about a group of people who heard the good news about Jesus' birth. And I'll tell you a BIG secret: they heard this news from an angel (*hold up the angel*), too!"

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "You did an awesome job of finding all these nativity pieces! Let's head to Large Group to find out who heard the good news about Jesus!"

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story like you're searching for the Large Group room or space!



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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. LETTER WALK

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Paper plates; music player; the monthly song, "What Christmas Is About;" and a marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Write A's, J's, and S's on the plates, alternating them to try and have an equal number of

each letter. Place the plates in a pathway in an A-J-S pattern on the floor of the activity area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Play the music and encourage the children to walk on the pathway of plates. Turn off the music after about 20 seconds and ask the children to stop on a plate. Call out one of the three letters. All of the children standing on that letter say the memory verse together. Then say it as a class. Repeat several times, calling out different letters each time.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "I see letters on our floor! I see 'A,' 'J,' and an 'S.' In our Bible stories this month, 'A' is Angel, 'J' is for Jesus, and 'S' is for Shepherd."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Our letters make a pathway for us to walk on while we listen to music. When the music stops, everyone FREEZE on the letter you're on. Are you ready? (Do activity then turn off music.) Everyone FREEZE on your letter. If you're on the letter J, let's say our memory verse. (Continue the activity.) Way to go! Now everyone say it!" (Finish activity and repeat.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Our memory verse tells us that **God gave us Jesus! How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!**"

BIBLE STORY

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

THE SHEPHERDS
LUKE 2:8-21

MEMORY VERSE

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God gave us Jesus.

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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. CUP SHEPHERD

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Cup Shepherd Parent Note" Activity Page; cardstock; solid color paper party cups; large smiley face stickers; solid color dessert napkins; craft tape; pipe cleaners; cotton balls; scissors; and a permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Cup Shepherd Parent Note" on cardstock and cut apart, one per child. Cut napkins into five strips, one strip per child. Poke a hole halfway down the cup, all the way through the other side. Write child's name on their cup.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to turn their cup upside down and add the smiley face sticker. Help children push the pipe cleaner through the cup and bend each end to make arms. Lay the napkin strip over the bottom of their cup and tape on with craft tape. Give each child a few cotton balls to act out being a shepherd. Show children how to flip the cup and put the sheep in to take home.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story. Place a "Cup Shepherd Parent Note" inside each child's cup and set aside for pick-up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Today we learned that 'S' is for . . . Shepherd! Great job! Let's make our own shepherd to help us tell the story."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "This cup will be the body of our shepherd. Turn your cups upside down like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Now add your smiley face sticker towards the top of the cup. (*Pause.*) Take your pipe cleaner and push it through one hole, through the cup, and out the other side. (*Pause.*) We'll bend the ends to make them into arms. (*Pause.*) Now lay the napkin over the top of the cup and tape to secure. (*Pause.*) Super! Now it's time for your shepherd to watch his sheep. (*Give each child two to three cotton balls.*) Use your shepherd to play with your sheep. (*Pause.*) Nice. Tell me again, 'S' is for . . . Shepherd! Okay, flip your shepherd upside down and put your sheep in the cup to take home."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In our story, we heard that an angel came to the shepherds while they were out in the field one night. The angel told them 'I bring you good news of great joy! Jesus is born!' Then the sky filled with angels who started praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the Highest!' The shepherds ran to find Baby Jesus. When they found Him, they were amazed! They wanted everyone to know that Jesus was born. They ran and told everyone that God gave us Jesus. And that's how we know God loves us. God 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, and a fun-shaped pen

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll make a surprised face like this (*make a surprised face with hands on each side of your face*)

while we walk to our small group spot; because 'S' is for surprised! Show me your surprised faces. (*Look around.*) Wow! Those are great surprised faces. Keep them just like that and follow me! (*Make a surprised face as you lead the children to your small group spot.*)

"We made it! Now let's sit down and talk about something else that begins with 'S' that was 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 shepherds. 'S' is for Shepherd. When the shepherds heard the good news that Jesus was born, they ran to see Baby Jesus. Then they ran to tell everyone that **God gave us Jesus!**

"God loves you and **God loves me** so much that He gave us Jesus! **How do we know God loves us?"**

CHILDREN AND SGL: "God gave us Jesus!"

SGL: "He sure did! 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.*) Let's stand up and say that Bible verse 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: "Wonderful! (*Give fist bumps.*) Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*)

"Since the shepherds told people that **God gave us Jesus**, we'll make a list of people we can tell that **God gave us Jesus**. When I say your name, tell me one person you want to tell that **God gave us Jesus**, and I'll write it in our prayer journal. (*Say each child's name and write down what they say. Remember to print the names so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

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(4. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

“This is a great list of people! Let’s use it when we pray. 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 that we get to hear about how You gave us Jesus. Help us to tell *(read the list the children made)* how You gave everyone Jesus because You love everyone so much. Merry Christmas, God! We love You! In Jesus’ name, amen.”

