



WEEK
FOUR
DECEMBER 2021

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts



1. DECORATING GIFTS

WHAT YOU NEED: Butcher paper, washable markers, permanent marker, and wall tape or sticky tack

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Cut butcher paper to fit the top of each classroom table. Around the perimeter of the paper, draw a large outline of a gift with a simple bow at

each spot of the table. Write "GOD GAVE US JESUS" in large block letters in the center of the butcher paper. Scatter the washable markers around the table.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to gather around the table, select a gift, and decorate it with the markers.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: If you have wall space, use the wall tape to hang the page on the wall for display as the children finish. Collect all markers and set aside for clean-up.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, gather around the table. What do you see? Gifts! Let's use the markers to decorate and color the gifts together."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Right here it says, (point) **God gave us Jesus.** Jesus is the BEST gift ever! Let's hang this up so we can enjoy your artwork."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to wrap a BIG, BIG box. Encourage the children to wrap the paper around the box, use the tape to secure it, tie a big bow, and place a gift tag on the top.

BIBLE STORY

The wise men come to see God's Son. ("W" is for Wise Men.)

THE WISE MEN
MATTHEW 2:1-2, 9-11

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. MEMORY VERSE WALKING

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Floor tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Tape a large "W" on the floor in your activity area. Make the "W" large enough for the whole class to walk along as you repeat the memory verse

BIBLE STORY

The wise men come to see God's Son. ("W" is for Wise Men.)

together.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Point out and identify the "W" on the floor. Remind the children that "W" is for Wise Men. Lead the children to walk along the tape as you repeat the verse with the motions together.

THE WISE MEN
MATTHEW 2:1-2, 9-11

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come with me! Let's gather around this letter. Does anyone remember what this letter is? (Pause.) Yes! It's a 'W' for Wise Men."

MEMORY VERSE

"God has given a son to us."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's walk along the 'W' on the floor and say our memory verse together. It says, 'God has given (point up) a son (rock the baby) to us (thumbs to chest),' Isaiah 9:6." (Open hands like a book.)

ISAIAH 9:6, NCV

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That was fun! 'God has given a son to us,' and His name is Jesus! **God gave us Jesus. How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus.**"

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



3. ALPHABET BOOK

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Alphabet Book" Activity Page; copy paper; heart stamps; red washable inkpads; animal stickers; one-inch angel stickers; big star stickers; smaller star stickers; scissors; wet wipes; stapler; and a permanent marker

BIBLE STORY

The wise men come to see God's Son. ("W" is for Wise Men.)

THE WISE MEN
MATTHEW 2:1-2, 9-11

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Alphabet Book" on copy paper and cut, one set per child. Assemble a book for each child and put two-three staples along the straight edge of each book. Write child's name on their book.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to put heart stamps all over the "A" is for Angel page; animal stickers on the "J" is for Jesus page; an angel sticker on the "S" is for Shepherd page; and one big star and little stars on the "W" is for Wise Man page.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible story.

MEMORY VERSE

"God has given a son to us."

ISAIAH 9:6, NCV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "What a wonderful day it's been together! Let's make an alphabet book to help us remember all the wonderful ways God showed that He loves us."

KEY QUESTION

How do we know God loves us?

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "What letter is the very first letter in your book? (Pause.) Yes! It's the letter A. 'A' is for Angel. God sent an angel to tell Mary she would have a baby and His name would be Jesus. Jesus was going to do amazing things. Add heart stamps all over you're 'A' page. (Pause.)

"Great! Now turn the page. What letter do you see? (Pause.) The letter J! 'J' is for Jesus! God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus. Jesus was born in a stable surrounded by Mary and Joseph and lots of animals. Add the animal stickers to the 'J' page. (Pause.)

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

"Turn the page to the letter S. (Pause.) 'S' is for Shepherd. God sent an angel to tell the shepherds that Jesus was born. Add your angel sticker to the top of the 'S.' (Pause.)

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

"Turn to the last page and tell me what this letter is. (Pause.) It's a 'W.' 'W' is for Wise Men. The wise men followed a big bright star all the way to Jesus' house. Add one big star sticker and some little star stickers to the 'W' page. (Pause.) Nice job, friends."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today, we learned about the wise men. They knew that God was sending someone





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very special, and they wanted to see Him. One night, they saw a big, bright, beautiful star in the sky, and they started following it. They followed it for a long time until the star stopped over a house. When they got to the house, the wise men found Jesus! They knew He was the one they were looking for! Jesus was the one God sent to show His love for everyone. The wise men bowed down and worshipped Jesus and gave Him their very best gifts. They celebrated Jesus' birth. They knew that God gave us Jesus because He loves us so much. **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, journal, fun-shaped pen, and rewards stickers or a handstamp

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

Today, we'll wiggle all the way to our small group spot, because 'W' is for wiggle! Okay friends, wiggle this way! (*Wiggle as you lead the children to your small group spot.*) That was fun! Now, let's sit down and talk about something else that begins with the letter W in today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me! (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*)

BIBLE STORY

The wise men come to see God's Son. ("W" is for Wise Men.)

"Today's Bible story was about some wise men. 'W' is for Wise Men! The wise men followed a special star all the way to Jesus. It wasn't Jesus' birthday or Christmas time, but the wise men still wanted to celebrate Jesus, worship Him, and give Him gifts. They knew Jesus is very special. They knew that **God gave us Jesus.**

THE WISE MEN
MATTHEW 2:1-2, 9-11

"We can celebrate Jesus every day, too, because God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus. **How do we know God loves us?"**

MEMORY VERSE

"God has given a son to us."

CHILDREN AND SGL: "God gave us Jesus!"

ISAIAH 9:6, NCV

SGL: "That's right! 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.*)

KEY QUESTION

How do we know God loves us?

SGL: "Let's stand up and say that together one time, then anyone who wants to say it can have a turn."

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

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.*)

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

SGL: "You sound awesome! (*Give two thumbs-up.*) Now, sit down, and anyone who wants to try to say it can give it a try. I have my [stickers/handstamp] ready! (*Give each child the opportunity to try to say the Bible verse.*)

"Yay, [child's name]! Here is your [sticker/handstamp]! (*Repeat with each child as they try to say the Bible verse.*)

"Okay everyone, when I count to three, I want you to stand up and show me your [sticker/handstamp]. One, two, three! (*Pause to look.*) Woo-hoo! (*Give fist bumps to the children.*)



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(4. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

“Now, let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*) I want you to think about the present you would give Jesus if He had a birthday party. If you could give Jesus anything, what would you give Him? Think about it. When I say your name, tell me what birthday present you would give Jesus. Then I will write it beside your name 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.*)

“This is a fun list! I think Jesus would really like your gifts! And the BEST gift you could ever give Jesus is to be His friend and love Him the way He loves you. That’s why **God gave us Jesus**—to be our friend forever!

“Let’s pray and thank God for giving us Jesus to be our friend forever. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

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

PRAYER

SGL: “Dear God, Jesus is the best gift EVER, because Jesus is the best friend EVER! If we could give Jesus birthday presents, we would give Him things like (*read the list the children made*). But we know what Jesus really wants is for us to be His friend and love Him the way He loves us. I pray every person here will do that one day. You’re the best, God, and we love You very much. In Jesus’ name, amen.”