



WEEK  
**TWO**  
DECEMBER 2022

SMALL GROUP  
**Preschool**

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. WHERE IS BABY JESUS?

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Little People® nativity set and a camera or smartphone; Optional "Manger Scene Art" in the Christmas Extras folder and cardstock

### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Option: Create your own nativity

set by printing the "Manger Scene Art" (in the Christmas Extras folder) on cardstock. Cut images apart, and attach them to objects that will allow the pieces to stand up, such as toilet paper tubes, blocks, tissue boxes, etc. Save for the rest of the month. Check our Pinterest boards for some simple ideas. [bit.ly/DIY\\_Nativity\\_Set](https://bit.ly/DIY_Nativity_Set)

Take a picture of Baby Jesus from the nativity set and print or photocopy it. Hide the Baby Jesus figure somewhere in the classroom before children arrive. Make sure it's "hidden" where they can find it. Set up the rest of the nativity set on the table.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Gather the children around the nativity set and talk about the different pieces. Explain that the most important piece is missing. Show them the photo of the missing piece and challenge them to search around the room until they find it. When they do, celebrate and set it in its place with the other nativity pieces.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Set up the nativity set on a counter, if possible, where children can see it but it's out of reach. Talk about how we'll hear a story about when Baby Jesus was born.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, stand around the table with me!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "This is a nativity set! This set tells the story of a very important birth. We celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas. Let's talk about the people who were there on the night Jesus was born. (Pick up and identify each piece.) The most IMPORTANT piece is missing! (Show the picture.) Baby Jesus is missing! We have to find Him. Come search with me! (Encourage children to search with you.) Hooray! You found Baby Jesus! Great job!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's put Baby Jesus next to Mary and Joseph. (Pause.) Today is all about celebrating Jesus' birth. It's going to be so fun! Let's go hear the Christmas story."

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by carefully walking as you pretend to gently hold a baby.

## BIBLE STORY

Jesus is born.

**JESUS IS BORN**  
**LUKE 2:1-7**

## MEMORY VERSE

"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son."

**JOHN 3:16, GNT**

## KEY QUESTION

Why is Jesus special?

## BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is God's Son.

## BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT  
25 MINUTES

**MADE TO IMAGINE**  
an activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning



**BIBLE STORY**  
  
Jesus is born.  
  
**JESUS IS BORN**  
**LUKE 2:1-7**

**MEMORY VERSE**  
  
"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son."  
  
**JOHN 3:16, GNT**

**KEY QUESTION**  
  
Why is Jesus special?

**BOTTOM LINE**  
  
Jesus is God's Son.

**BASIC TRUTH**  
  
God loves me.

**2. TELL THE STORY**  
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]  
**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Nativity Pieces" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, three rectangular toy blocks, and tape

**WHAT YOU DO:**  
**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "Nativity Pieces" on cardstock and cut out, one set per small group. Tape the

Mary and Joseph pictures vertically to two rectangular blocks and tape the Baby Jesus picture horizontally to a block.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Use the block nativity pieces to tell the Bible story. Then, allow the children to take turns using the pieces to tell the story.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Talk about how Christmas is when we celebrate that Jesus was born.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**  
**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Hi, friends! Come sit with me. We're going to use these blocks to tell today's Bible story!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "In our Bible story today, we heard about when Jesus was born. I'll use these blocks to tell the story again.

"This is Mary. (Hold up the Mary block.) This is Joseph. (Hold up the Joseph block.) Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem. (Move the Mary and Joseph blocks like they are walking.) When Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem, there were no rooms. So they had to sleep where animals live. (Lay Mary and Joseph on their side like they're sleeping.)

"While they were there, it was time for Jesus to be born. (Set the Mary and Joseph blocks upright.) After Jesus was born, Mary wrapped Him up and laid him in a manger. (Place the Jesus block between Mary and Joseph.) It was such a special time. Jesus was born! **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son.**

"Now who wants a turn telling the story? (Allow the children to take turns using the blocks to tell the Bible story.) Great job of retelling the story!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "I love hearing about when Jesus was born! **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son!"**



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### MADE TO MOVE

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



## 1. LULLABY MEMORY VERSE

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** Baby doll, soft lullaby or Christmas music, and a music player

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Gather the children to sit in a circle in your activity area.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Review the memory verse with the motions below. Then hand the baby doll to a child in the circle. Remind them to gently rock the baby. Play lullaby or Christmas music. Encourage the children to pass the baby gently and carefully around the circle while the music plays. Stop the music randomly and lead the children to repeat the memory verse. Repeat, gently passing the baby, playing the music, and stopping it at random times as interest and time allow.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Talk about how special Jesus is.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, sit in a circle with me."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "Do you remember our memory verse for this month? Let's say it together."

"'God (*point up*) loved the world so much (*hug yourself*) that he gave (*hands out with palms up*) his only Son (*rock arms like a baby*),' John 3:16. (*Open hands like a book.*)"

"Great job! (*Gently rock the baby doll.*) The baby is sleeping. Can you gently rock the baby? (*Pass the baby to the child next to you.*) When you hear the music, I want you to carefully pass the baby to the friend next to you. Let's be very gentle as we pass the baby. (*Start the music.*) Rock the baby with the music. (*Pause the music.*) The music stopped. Say the memory verse with me."

"'God (*point up*) loved the world so much (*hug yourself*) that he gave (*hands out with palms up*) his only Son (*rock arms like a baby*),' John 3:16. (*Open hands like a book.*) Let's pass the baby, again. (*Start the music. Continue until each child has a turn rocking the baby doll.*) Nice job, friends."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "When you hold a baby, you must be very careful and very gentle. I am sure that Mary and Joseph were very careful as they held Baby Jesus. He is SO-SO special! **Why is Jesus special?** Because **Jesus is God's Son.**"

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## MADE TO REFLECT

an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



## 6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER

[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Memory Verse Card" paperclipped in Bible from Week 1; journal; fun-shaped pen; and sheets of birthday stickers

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Lead children to your Small

Group spot by pretending to be barn animals.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Talk about today's Bible story, say the memory verse, and write Jesus' name in the journal for the children to add a birthday sticker around it.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Pray together.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:**

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll pretend to be barn animals. You can be a cow, a horse, a sheep, or even a chicken! Pick the kind of barn animal you want to be and pretend to be that animal while you follow me. Let me hear you, barn animals! (*Pretend to be a barn animal and make the sound as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*)"

"Whoa there, animals! We made it! You can be children now. It's time to sit down and talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:**

**SGL:** (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) "In our Bible story today, we heard the story about when Baby Jesus was born. Mary and Joseph knew Jesus was special because **Jesus is God's Son. Why is Jesus special?**"

**CHILDREN AND SGL: "Jesus is God's Son!"**

**SGL:** "And the Bible verse we're learning will help us remember why God gave us His Son, Jesus. It says . . . (*Turn the pages of your Bible to the Memory Verse Card.*) 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,' John 3:16. God loved the whole world so much that He gave us His Son, Jesus! (*Close Bible and lay it down.*) Wow! That means God loves you and **God loves me!** Who loves you?"

**CHILDREN AND SGL: "God loves me!"**

**SGL:** "Let's stand up and say the Bible verse with the motions. Just say what I say and do what I do."

**CHILDREN AND SGL:** "'God (*point up*) loved the world so much (*hug yourself*)"

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## (6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

that he gave (*hands out with palms up*) his only Son (*rock arms like a baby*),’ John 3:16.” (*Open hands like a book.*)

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

**SGL:** “You sound so good! Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.*) The day we are born is what we call our birthday. Birthdays are fun because we get to have a party and celebrate! Since our Bible story was about when Jesus was born, we’ll do something special for Jesus’ birthday.

“I’ll write Jesus’ name in our journal, like this. (*Write “JESUS” in the middle of your page. Remember to print so the children can recognize the letters.*) Now, when I call your name, you can pick a birthday sticker to go around Jesus’ name! (*Call each child and let them choose a birthday sticker to go around Jesus’ name.*) Look at what we made! It’s a special ‘happy birthday’ page for Jesus! Let’s pray and thank God for Jesus.

“Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*)

### **AFTER THE ACTIVITY:**

**SGL:** “Dear God, thank You for Jesus. We are so glad Jesus was born and He wants to be our friend forever. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”