



WEEK
THREE
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 THE SHEPHERD?

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

Take a picture of the shepherd and the sheep from the nativity set and print it (or have the photo on your phone to show children). Hide the shepherd and sheep figures somewhere in the classroom before children arrive. Make sure they are "hidden" where children can find them. 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 something is missing. Show them the photo of the missing pieces and challenge them to search around the room until they find them. When they do, celebrate and bring them back to set them among the other nativity pieces.

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

WHAT YOU SAY:

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

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "This is a nativity set. This set tells the story of a very important birth. Who is the baby you see? (Pause.) Yes! That's Baby Jesus. 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.)"

"There are a few missing pieces. (Show the pictures.) What do you see? (Pause.) Yes! A shepherd and his sheep! We have to find them. Search with me! (Pause.) Hooray! You found the shepherd and his sheep! Way to go, friends!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible story today, we'll hear about the shepherds who were out in the field watching their sheep when they heard the GOOD NEWS about a very special birth. Let's go!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by walking and "baaing" like sheep.

BIBLE STORY

The shepherds run to Jesus.

THE SHEPHERDS
LUKE 2:8-22

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 MOVE

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



1. GO AND TELL

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Go and Tell" Activity Page, copy paper, and painter's tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Go and Tell" on paper, one set per small group. Tape one of the four pages in

each corner of the activity area at preschooler level.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Stand together in the middle of the activity area. Leader will call out a picture and children will go to that picture and say and do the motions for the memory verse. Return to the middle of the activity room for leader to call out a different picture. Repeat as many times as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how the shepherds in our story were so excited about Baby Jesus that they ran to tell everyone about Him.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come stand with me. There are different pictures around the room. Do you see them? There is a picture of a playground (*point*), a school (*point*), a church (*point*), and a grocery store. (*Point.*) Let's go to these places and say and do the motions to our memory verse to tell everyone there that **Jesus is God's Son!**"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Listen closely for the picture I call out. Let's go and tell at the playground! Run! Yay, we made it! Ready?"

"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! Run back to the middle. Let's go and tell at the grocery store! Run! Yay, we made it! (*Continue with the other pictures and repeat as many times as desired.*) Awesome job!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In our story today, the shepherds were so excited that Baby Jesus was born that they ran and told everyone about Jesus. They knew that Jesus was special because **Jesus is God's Son! Why is Jesus Special? Jesus is God's Son!**"

BIBLE STORY

The shepherds run to Jesus.

THE SHEPHERDS
LUKE 2:8-22

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God loves me.



PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY **GROUPS** HOME

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MADE TO MOVE

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



4. SLEEPING SHEEP

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Cotton balls and a parachute or sheet

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Lay the parachute flat on the floor.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Invite children to stand around the parachute with you and pick up a section of the parachute. Place the cotton balls on the parachute and tell the children that they are sheep. Encourage children to shake their arms so that the parachute moves very fast and the sheep are "running." Then have children stop moving their arms so the sheep can sleep. After about ten seconds, ask the children to make the sheep run again. Repeat several times.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how in our story, we heard about the shepherds in the field taking care of their sheep when the angel told them Jesus had been born.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, come join me around the parachute. I have a game for us to play with the parachute and these cotton balls."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's pretend these cotton balls are sheep. (Add the cotton balls to the parachute.) And we can be the shepherds. Everybody, grab the edge of the parachute. Let's move our arms fast to make the sheep run. (Pause.) Great job! The sheep are tired from all that running, so let's stop moving our arms and let them sleep. (Pause.) Sheep, it's time to wake up! Let's make them run again! (Repeat as many times as desired.) That was so much fun! Let's put the parachute down and have a seat."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "In our story today, we heard how the shepherds were out in the field taking care of their sheep when an angel appeared and told them that Jesus had been born. Then, the whole sky filled with angels! How amazing! The shepherds ran to see Baby Jesus. Then they ran to tell everyone that Jesus had been born. God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus. **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son.**"

BIBLE STORY

The shepherds run to Jesus.

THE SHEPHERDS
LUKE 2:8-22

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 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 previous weeks; journal; and a fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Move with children to the Small Group spot by running in slow motion.

BIBLE STORY

The shepherds run to Jesus.

THE SHEPHERDS
LUKE 2:8-22

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Talk about today's Bible Story, say the memory verse, and make a list of people you can share the good news of Jesus' birth with.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Pray together.

MEMORY VERSE

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

JOHN 3:16, GNT

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll run to our Small Group spot, like the shepherds did when they went to see Baby Jesus. Only we're going to run in sloooooow mooooootion. Just do what I do and follow me! (*Run in slow motion with big, pumping arms and slow, exaggerated steps as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*)"

"That was fun! Now let's sit down and talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!" (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*)

KEY QUESTION

Why is Jesus special?

DURING THE ACTIVITY:

SGL: "In our Bible story, today, we learned about when an angel told shepherds that Baby Jesus had been born. The shepherds knew Baby Jesus was special so they ran to see Him! **Why is Jesus special?"**

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is God's Son.

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

SGL: "And the Bible verse we're learning tells us why God gave us His only 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. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*)"

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

"God loves us! That's why God gave us His only Son, Jesus! 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 (*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.*)

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



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(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

SGL: "Hearing you say that Bible verse makes me excited like the shepherds! Okay, 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 ran to tell everyone the good news that Jesus had been born, we'll make a list of people who we can tell the good news about Jesus. So when I say your name, tell me one person you can tell about God's Son, Jesus. (*Write down what each child says beside their names. Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*) Look at all of these people! Way to go!

"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, we want everyone to know that You love us so much that You gave us Your Son, Jesus. Help [child's name] go and tell [name they listed] about Jesus. Help [child's name] go and tell [name they listed] about Jesus. (*Continue with each child.*) We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."