



WEEK  
**FOUR**  
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 ARE THE WISE MEN?

**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](http://bit.ly/DIY_Nativity_Set)

## BIBLE STORY

The Wise Men come to see God's Son.

Take a picture of the Wise Men from the nativity set and print it (or have the photo on your phone to show children). Hide the Wise Men pieces somewhere in the classroom before children arrive. Make sure they are "hidden" so children can find them. Set up the rest of the nativity set on the table.

### WISE MEN

**MATTHEW 2:1-2, 9-11**

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Gather the children around the nativity set and talk about the different pieces. Explain that pieces are missing. Show them the photo of the missing pieces and challenge them to search around the room until they're found. When they do, celebrate and bring them back to place with the other nativity pieces.

## MEMORY VERSE

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

**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 Wise Men followed a star to find Jesus.

**JOHN 3:16, GNT**

## KEY QUESTION

Why is Jesus special?

### WHAT YOU SAY:

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

## BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is God's Son.

**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.)

## BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

"There are a few missing pieces. (Show the picture.) What do you see? (Pause.) Yes! The Wise Men! We have to find them. Search with me! (Pause.) Hooray! You found Wise Men! Way to go, friends!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "In our Bible story today, we'll hear how the Wise Men followed the star all the way to Jesus. Let's go!"

**TRANSITION:** Move to Worship and Story by pretending to follow a star as you walk to your story area.



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



**BIBLE STORY**

The Wise Men come to see God's Son.

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

**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.

**1. GOD LOVED THE WORLD**

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "God Loved the World" and "God Loved the World Jesus" Activity Pages; cardstock; scissors; dot markers; glue sticks; and a permanent marker

**WHAT YOU DO:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy "God Loved the World" on cardstock, one per child. Copy "God Loved the World Jesus" on cardstock and cut, one per child.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Encourage children to color the world with blue and green and the heart with red dot markers. Have children glue the picture of Jesus to the center of the heart.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Review the memory verse and motions.

**WHAT YOU SAY:**

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Friends, come sit with me at the table."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "On your paper is a picture of the world, and on the inside of the world is a heart. Color the world blue and green. (Pause.) Color the heart red. (Pause.) Great job! Our memory verse says, 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son.' Glue the picture of Baby Jesus to the heart. (Pause.) This is a picture of our memory verse. When I say our verse this time, point to the pictures of the words you hear. 'God loved (point to the heart) the world (point to the world) so much that he gave his only Son.' (Point to Jesus.) Your picture can help you remember our memory verse."

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "Let's do the motions as we say our verse 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.)

"Good job, friends! **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son.**"



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



## 4. CAMEL RIDES!

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

**WHAT YOU NEED:** "Camel Head" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, masking tape, and a pool noodle or wrapping paper tube; Optional classroom chair or preschool push car

### WHAT YOU DO:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** Copy the "Camel Head" on cardstock and cut out. Tape the camel head to the top of the pool noodle or wrapping paper tube. Option: Attach the "camel" to the preschool push car or chair.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Let the children take turns riding the camel. If using a chair, they can just pretend to ride. If using a preschool toy car, make sure an adult is the one doing the pushing as a child goes for a ride.

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** Talk about how the Wise Men probably traveled by camel following the star to find Jesus.

### WHAT YOU SAY:

**BEFORE THE ACTIVITY:** "Raise your hand if you've ever ridden a camel. (Pause.) No? Me neither! Would you like to ride one today? Yay! Don't worry friends, it's a pretend camel, and everyone will have a turn."

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** "[Child's name] take a ride on the camel! Wow! How was your first camel ride? (Pause.) Awesome! Next up, [child's name]. (Continue until each child has a turn.) That was so much fun!"

**AFTER THE ACTIVITY:** "The Wise Men most likely had some camels with them on their long, long journey to find Jesus! They traveled, following a star, to see someone so very special. Tell me, **why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son.**"

## BIBLE STORY

The Wise Men come to see God's Son.

### WISE MEN

**MATTHEW 2:1-2, 9-11**

## 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 Week One; journal; a fun-shaped pen; and Christmas reward stickers or a handstamp

**WHAT YOU DO:**

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

Group spot by pretending to ride camels.

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:** Talk about today's Bible Story, say the memory verse, and make a list of favorite gifts we've been given.

**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 ride a camel to our Small Group spot. Everyone, get on your camel and follow me! (*Pretend to ride a camel as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Whoa, camel! 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.*)

**DURING THE ACTIVITY:**

**SGL:** "In our Bible story, today, we learned how the Wise Men followed a special star all the way to Jesus. When they finally saw Jesus, they bowed down and worshipped Him. Then they gave Jesus gifts. The Wise Men knew Jesus is special. **Why is Jesus special?**"

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

**SGL:** "He sure is! And the Bible verse we've been learning tells us 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. (*Close Bible and lay it down.*)

"Let's stand up and say those words together one time 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.*)

**SGL:** "You. Sound. So good! Way to go! Now I need everyone to sit down. Anyone who wants to try to say that verse can give it a try. I have my [stickers/

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**WISE MEN**

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## (6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

handstamp] ready! (Give each child the opportunity to try to say the Bible verse.)

"Everyone, clap for [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, show me your [sticker/handstamp], and say, 'Happy Birthday, Jesus!' One, two, three!"

**CHILDREN AND SGL:** "Happy Birthday, Jesus!"

**SGL:** "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 make a list of favorite gifts we have been given. Think about it and be ready to tell us when I say your name. (Write down what each child says beside their name. Remember to print so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)

"These are great gifts! I will write JESUS on our list, too, because Jesus is the best gift God has ever given us!

"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 loving us so much that You gave us Your Son, Jesus. Merry Christmas, God! We love You! In Jesus' name, amen."