



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



2. BUILDING TRACKS

WHAT YOU NEED: Jumbo craft sticks, popsicle sticks, Little People® figures, and small toy animals

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Demonstrate how to create train tracks with the jumbo craft sticks as the rails and the popsicle sticks as the railroad ties.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to make train tracks across the entire table and then walk the Little People figures and animals down the train track. Continue as long as there is interest.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce today's Bible story and how some people traveled a long way.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, let me show you how to make something awesome. I'll lay my craft sticks across from one another. Now I'll put these popsicle sticks across to connect them. What do you see? (Pause.) Yes! I made a train track!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's make our train track go all the way across this table. Can you help me build it? (Create track.) Now our little friends and animals can travel along the track. They must be traveling a long way. Where do you think they're going? (Pause.) Did we get everyone across the table? Great job. Let's take our track apart and build it going a different way."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Our friends and animals traveled a long way on our train track. Today, we'll hear about some people who traveled a long way, but they didn't ride a train. I can't wait to see what they rode!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to build train tracks as you walk.

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

How do we know
God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

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. CHRISTMAS STORY BAG

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Christmas Story Bag Cards" Activity Page; cardstock; scissors; four baskets, buckets, or boxes; painter's tape; and small solid color paper gift bags

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Christmas Story Bag Cards" on cardstock, one set per child. Create train tracks on the floor around your area with painter's tape. Space the four baskets along your train tracks. Put the Angel and Mary story cards in one basket, the Mary and Joseph story cards in a second basket, the Jesus is Born story cards in a third basket, and the parent note in a fourth basket.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a gift bag. Pretend to ride a train around the room, saying, "Chugga-chugga, choo-choo" as you go. Tell the children to put a card in their bag as you come to each basket. Review that part of the story before moving to the next basket.

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

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Who wants to go on a pretend train ride with me? (Pause.) Come get in line!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "We heard more about the true story of Christmas in our Bible story today. I have story cards for you to collect in these baskets along the train tracks. Let's pretend we're riding a train and collect the story cards in this bag. (Give each child a bag.) Ready? Here we go! Chugga-chugga, choo-choo! We've come to our first stop. Everyone, take one card. (Pause.) Look! This card has an angel and Mary on it. Put your card in your bag. God sent an angel to tell Mary she would have a baby named Jesus. Jesus is special because Jesus is God's Son! Let's keep riding!"

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

How do we know God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

"Chugga-chugga, choo-choo! We've come to our second stop. Everyone, take one card. (Pause.) This card has a picture of Mary and Joseph on it. Put your card in your bag. Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem. When they got there, they



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

had to sleep in a room where animals sleep, because there were no other rooms. Let's keep riding! Chugga-chugga, choo-choo! We've come to our third stop. Everyone, take one card. *(Pause.)* This card has a picture of Baby Jesus on it. Put your card in your bag. When Jesus, God's Son, was born, Mary wrapped Him in strips of cloth and laid Him in a manger. Okay, we've got one more stop to make. Let's ride! Chugga-chugga, choo-choo! We've come to our last stop. Everyone, take one card. *(Pause.)* This card is a note and has fun games you can play with your Christmas story cards when you get home."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, we know that God loves us A LOT because **God gave us Jesus. How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!**"



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO REFLECT
an activity that encourages personal application and prayer



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

How do we know God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE

God gave us Jesus.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER
[PRAY TO GOD | PRAYER ACTIVITY]
WHAT YOU NEED: "Memory Verse Card" from Week One in Bible, journal, and fun-shaped pen

WHAT YOU DO:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: If you do not have the "Memory Verse Card" in your Bible, copy "Memory Verse Card" on cardstock and cut, one per small group. Place one card in your Bible at John 3:16. Keep this card in your Bible all month.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead the children to pretend to ride a donkey to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you. Review the memory verse and motions, then encourage the children to tell you different places they can sleep as you write them down.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Pray with the children using the list you made in the journal.

WHAT YOU SAY:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "It's Small Group time! Today, we'll pretend to ride donkeys to our Small Group spot. Get on your donkey and follow me! (*Pretend to ride a donkey, making donkey sounds as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Whoa, little donkey! Everyone, get off your donkey and sit down so we can talk about today's Bible story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: (*Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.*) "Today in our Bible story, Mary and Joseph had to go all the way to a place called Bethlehem. When they got there, they had to sleep in a room where animals stay because there were no rooms anywhere else. Then, the most wonderful thing happened! Jesus, God's Son, was born! And that's what we celebrate at Christmas. God loves us so much that **God gave us Jesus!**"

"We're learning a Bible verse that talks about how **God gave us Jesus**. It says, 'God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*) loved the world (*cross arms over chest*) so much (*pull hands away from each other*) that he gave his only Son,' (*rock arms like a baby*) John 3:16. (*Open hands like a book.*) Stand up with me, and let's say that Bible verse together. Just say what I say and do what I do. 'God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*) loved the world (*cross arms over chest*) so much (*pull hands away from each other*) that he gave his only Son,' (*rock arms like a baby*) John 3:16. (*Open hands like a book.*)"



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2023

SMALL GROUP
3-5 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

(6. JOURNAL AND PRAYER, CONTINUED)

“Yay! God loves us so much that **God gave us Jesus!** Now let’s sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Since Mary and Joseph had to sleep in a room where animals stayed, let’s make a list of different places you can sleep. It could be a sleeping bag, airplane, couch, car, hotel, on a beach, or even a barn where animals sleep! When I say your name, tell me one place you can sleep, and I’ll write it in our prayer journal.” (*Remember to print as you write in the journal so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “Look at all the different places we can sleep! Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (*Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.*) Dear God, there are so many different places people can sleep. We can sleep in (*read the list the children made*) or a room where animals stay, like Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus did. Thank You that where we sleep doesn’t change how special we are. It didn’t change how special Jesus is! Jesus will always be special because Jesus is Your Son! Thank You, God, for giving us Jesus. We love You. In Jesus’ name, amen.”