



Thank you Coaches and Volunteers for serving!



BIBLE STORY

Happy Birthday Jesus!

THE CHRISTMAS STORY
LUKE 1:26-33, 38,
46; 2:1-18

MEMORY VERSE

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

JOHN 3:16, GNT

KEY QUESTION

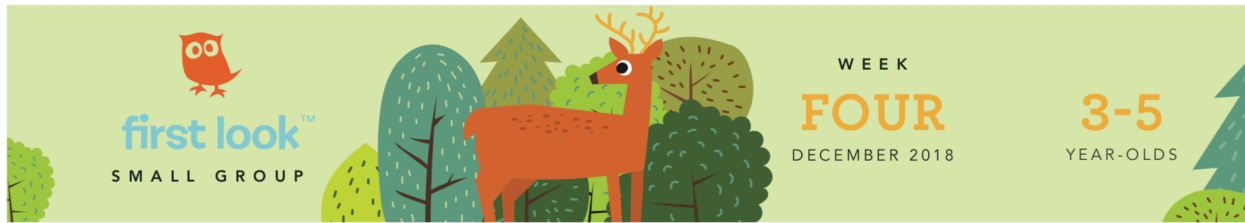
Why is Jesus special?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is God's Son.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my
friend forever.



Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Prepare to offer one or more of the following activities as your 3-, 4-, or 5-year-olds arrive. Let one or two teachers lead activities in different areas of the room while another teacher greets parents and kids at the door.

1. Little People Search

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

What You Need: Little People® Nativity Set

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place the stable in the middle of the activity area. Scatter the people and animals around the room in plain sight.

During the Activity: Direct the children to find all of the pieces of the nativity set. Ask them to work together to bring the pieces back to the stable.

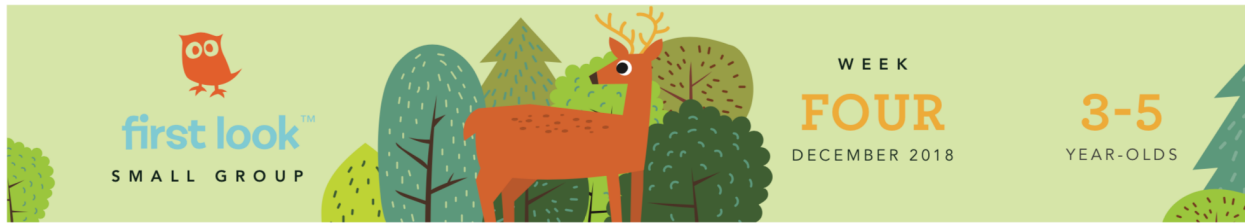
After the Activity: Encourage the children to play with the nativity set.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "We get to play with the nativity playset today! (*Point to stable.*) OH, NO! The pieces are everywhere!"

During the Activity: "Let's work together to find all of the pieces. I see some over there. (*Point.*) Let's be sure to find all of them!" (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: "WOW! That was close! I am so glad that you found all of the pieces. Now we can play with the nativity set together. (*Finish activity.*) We are going to hear the ENTIRE Christmas story from the Bible today. I am so excited!"



2. Birthday Bash

Made to Explore: An activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts

What You Need: Streamers, birthday decorations, and wall tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Lay all of the decorations and streamers in the activity area.

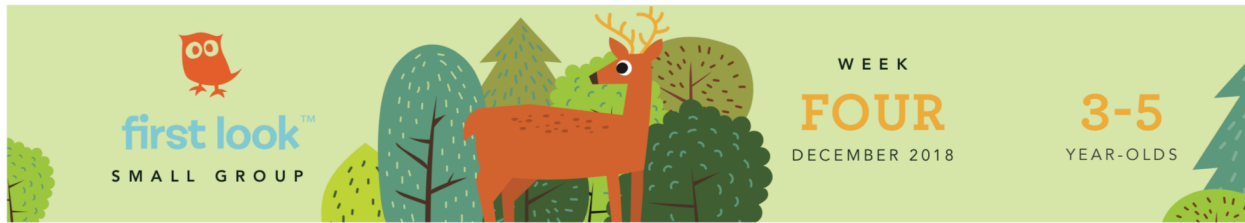
During the Activity: Encourage the children to use the decorations to decorate the activity area. Be sure to have an adult nearby to help with tape and any other frustrations. Be sure every child has a turn to help decorate.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Christmas is Jesus' birthday! Let's celebrate!"

During the Activity: "We have really cool decorations for our Birthday Bash. (*Point.*) Let's work together to decorate for the celebration!"

After the Activity: "Nice work! It looks great! We are ready for our BIRTHDAY BASH. We are going to hear the Christmas story from the Bible today. Merry Christmas!"



Connecting: Making the Story Apply to Them (Small Groups, 25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

1. Christmas Banners

Talk About God | Bible Story Review

Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, Bottom Line, or memory verse by creating a craft

What You Need: Poster paper or butcher paper, markers, Christmas stickers

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Write a Christmas message (Merry Christmas, Happy Birthday Jesus, etc.) on the paper in large print. Lay the paper out on the tables or on hard flooring.

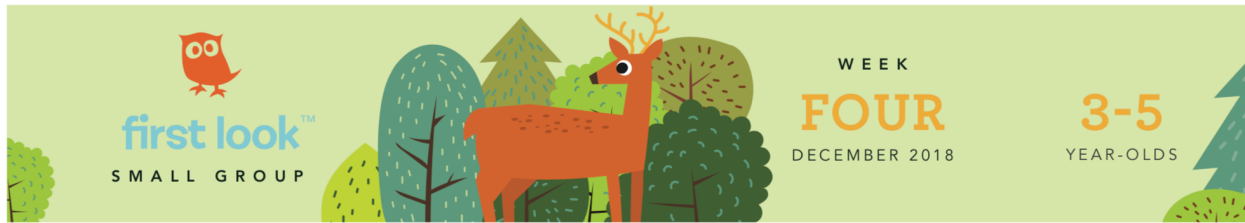
During the Activity: Encourage the kids to decorate the poster with markers, stickers, etc. Help them decorate around the words so that it is still readable. Make sure each child gets a chance to add something to the poster. Retell the Bible story as you make the banner.

*Keep the finished banner to hang up on Christmas Eve

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “We are going to make a BIG banner to celebrate Jesus’ Birthday! It has a special message on it, but it needs some decoration.”

During the Activity: “Alright friends, here’s our birthday banner! Let’s add some super fun decorations to the banner. Make sure that we can still read the special message, but add lots of stickers and color some great pictures. I love when we work together to make something great. Does everybody remember our whole big Christmas story? What happened first? *(Pause.)* Yes! The angel told Mary she would have a baby and He would be God’s Son. Then what happened? *(Pause.)* Yes! Jesus was born in a stable where the animals lived. What next? *(Pause.)* Yes! The angels appeared in the sky and told the shepherds the wonderful news that Jesus was born! I love this story and I love learning it with all of you. It’s so fun to celebrate that God gave us Jesus. **Why is Jesus special? [Bottom Line] Jesus is God’s Son!**”



2. Birthday Bash Hats

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, Bottom Line, or memory verse by creating a craft

What You Need: “Birthday Bash Party Hat” and “Party Hat Labels” Activity Pages, white cardstock, Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent, sentence strips (one per child), stickers, washable markers, a stapler, and glue sticks

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the “Birthday Bash Party Hat” onto cardstock and cut out one per child. Copy the “Party Hat Labels” onto the labels so each child will have one label. Staple each hat to the middle of a sentence strip. Set out the supplies so the children can reach them.

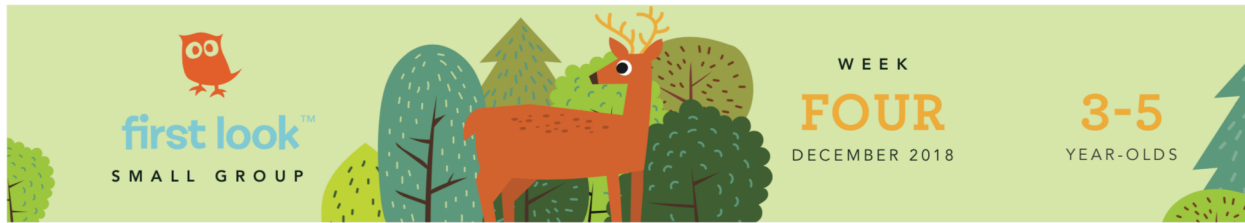
During the Activity: Pass out a sentence strip hat to each child to decorate. Encourage the children to add a label to the sentence strip.

After the Activity: Help each child wrap the sentence strip around his/her head so you can size it appropriately. Then staple the ends of the sentence strip together and hand the hat back to the child.

What You Say:

During the Activity: “We’re going to create a special birthday hat to help us celebrate Jesus’ birthday.”

After the Activity: “Let’s all put on our special party hats and say, ‘Happy birthday, Jesus!’ (Pause as children follow directions.) What a fun Birthday Bash. I’ve had so much fun celebrating Jesus’ birthday with you. **Why is Jesus special? [Bottom Line] Jesus is God’s Son.**”



BIBLE STORY

Choose an engaging adult to tell the Bible story. This person should be able to command the attention of preschoolers and control the group through animated storytelling. These scripts are written to be "told" and not "read." Advanced preparation is necessary.

What You Need: A Bible

LEADER: "I feel like I should start by telling you merry Christmas!"

"Merry Christmas, friends, and happy birthday, Jesus! The big day is finally here! We are ready to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Today we are throwing the biggest, bestest Birthday Bash for Jesus! We are celebrating Jesus being born today because He is SO special.

"Does anyone remember why Jesus is so special? *(Pause.)* Yes, Jesus is special because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is God's Son.**

"I thought that I would tell you the true story of Christmas since we're celebrating Jesus' birthday, so here I go.

"The first part of the Christmas story when God sent an angel to give Mary a special message. The angel told Mary that she was going to have a baby and His name would be Jesus. Jesus would be special because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is God's Son. Why is Jesus special?"**

CHILDREN and LEADER: [Bottom Line] "Jesus is God's Son!"

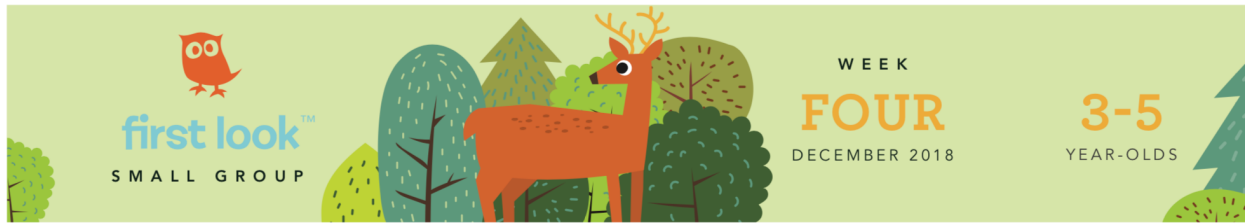
LEADER: "Great job! Now for part two. After the angel told Mary she was going to have a special baby, she and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem. When they got to Bethlehem, there was no room for them to sleep. So, even though Jesus would be the most special baby ever, He was born in a stable filled with animals and hay.

"Can you make a crying baby noise with me?

(Lead the children in crying like a little baby.)

"You make very good baby cries! Good job!

"The third part of the story tells us an angel who went to tell the shepherds the good news that God's Son, Jesus, had been born.



“One night, while shepherds were watching their sheep, an angel told them, ‘I have good news for all the people. Jesus has been born! You must go and see the baby!’

“Then lots and lots of angels filled the sky and began singing and praising God. It was a celebration! It was the biggest, bestest Birthday Bash ever, all because Jesus was born. God’s Son was here. It was Jesus’ birthday!

“Since we’re celebrating Jesus’ birthday, I think we should sing ‘Happy Birthday’ to Him. Will you sing ‘Happy Birthday’ to Jesus with me? It will be the perfect way to end this Christmas story.

(Lead the children in singing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus.)

“Yay, Jesus! And that, my friends, is the true story of Christmas. Let’s pray.”

PRAYER

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for teaching us the true story of Christmas. I pray we never stop celebrating how special Jesus is. Thank You for all of my friends here today who came to celebrate Jesus’ birthday. I pray that we will all understand how special Jesus is and that He truly is Your Son. Thank You for sending Jesus to be a friend forever. We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.

“Merry Christmas, everyone! And happy birthday, Jesus!”