



Thank you Coaches and Volunteers for serving!



BIBLE STORY

The angel told Mary she would have a special baby.

THE ANGEL AND MARY
LUKE 1:26-33; 38, 46

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. Beanbag Toss

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

What You Need: "Toss" Activity Pages, white cardstock, floor tape, and several beanbags

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the "Toss" Activity Pages onto the cardstock. Tape the six pictures in a horizontal line about a foot apart on the floor.

During the Activity: Have the children stand about ten feet in front of the pictures. Challenge the children to toss the beanbags onto the pictures.

After the Activity: Be sure each child has a turn to throw a beanbag on each picture.

What You Say:

During the Activity: "There are six pictures on the floor. (*Point.*) They are pictures of a birthday cake, a birthday hat, balloons, confetti, party horns, and a picture of a woman named Mary. We are going to try to toss our beanbags onto the pictures. Are you ready?" (*Pause and play game.*)

After the Activity: "Great job! These pictures (*point*) are all about what we will be talking about this month. Today we will talk about the woman named Mary. In our Bible story today, we are going to hear about something AMAZING that happened to her."



2. Caring for Baby

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

What You Need: Baby dolls, a plastic bin, hooded baby towels, washcloths, diapers, bottle, burp clothes, board books, and a doll bed

(NOTE: Feel free to add any other baby care items that you have on hand to any of these stations.)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Set the baby care items around the room, consider grouping them based on the care activity (feeding, washing, bedtime).

During the Activity: Point out the different items and discuss how you use them to care for a baby. Encourage the kids to practice caring for the babies using all the supplies.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Raise your hand if you have a baby brother or sister. Do you help your mom or dad take care of the baby? Babies need a lot of love and care. Today I thought it would be fun to care for the baby dolls in our room. Do you see the baby things we have set up around the room? *(Point.)* Let's check them out!"

During the Activity: "I see some bottles and burp clothes, what would we do with these? *(Pause.)* Yes, feed the baby. How about these wash clothes and towels? *(Pause.)* Yes, we can give the baby a bath! What about these books? What could we do with these? *(Pause.)* That's right, we can read the baby a story and put them to bed! Let's practice taking care of these babies, make sure they get a bath, some food, and a bedtime story!"

After the Activity: "You did a wonderful job caring for our babies today. In our true Bible story, someone will find out that she will have a very special baby. Do you know who that might be? We will find out!"



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. Memory Verse with Motions

Hear from God | Memory Verse Review

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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Say the memory verse and do the following motions in front of the children.

*God (point up)
loved (hug yourself)
the world (raise arms overhead to form a circle)
so much (stretch arms out as far as possible)
that he gave (place hands together with palms up in front as if offering something)
his only (point up)
Son (hold arms as if cradling and rocking a baby).
John 3:16 (hold hands open like a book)*

During the Activity: Say the verse again with the motions and invite the children to do it with you. Repeat several times.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "I am going to say our new memory verse today. Everyone watch me! *God (point up) loved (hug yourself) the world (raise arms overhead to form a circle) so much (stretch arms out as far as possible) that he gave (place hands together with*



palms up in front as if offering something) his only (point up) Son (hold arms as if cradling and rocking a baby), John 3:16.” (Hold hands open like a book.)

During the Activity: “Now let’s do it all together! Are you ready?” (Say the verse together several times.)

*After the Activity: “Our memory verse tells us that God loves us SO much that He gave us Jesus! **Why is Jesus special? [Bottom Line] Jesus is God’s Son!”***

2. Flying Messages

Live for God | Application Activity

Made to Think: An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers

What You Need: Multiple colors of copy paper (one per child) and markers

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place the paper on a table or the floor in the activity area.

During the Activity: Tell the children that you will be sending messages just like in the Bible story. Ask the children to tell you messages that they would like to send. Suggest messages if the children seem stuck. Examples: God gave us Jesus, Mary will have God’s Son, I love you, it is almost time for [snack] time, we love our friends, and we love our families.

After the Activity: After the messages are written on the paper, help the children fold the paper into paper airplanes and fly them across the room. Repeat several times.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Today in our Bible story an angel gave Mary a wonderful message. Mary would have God’s Son! We are going to write messages too!”

During the Activity: “Here is some paper (*point*) that we are going to write our messages on. Let’s start writing. (*Do activity.*) Great job! Now let’s send our messages. We will make them into airplanes and fly them. So fun!” (*Finish activity.*)



After the Activity: “That was so fun sending those messages. The angel gave Mary an amazing message—she would have God’s Son! **Why is Jesus special? [Bottom Line] Jesus is God’s Son.**”

3. Invitation

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: “Invitation” Activity Page, white cardstock, glitter crayons, 4x6-inch envelopes in any color (one per child), scissors, and Christmas stickers

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the “Invitation” Activity Page onto the cardstock and cut on the dotted lines. Each child will need one half of an Activity Page. Fold each half into a card shape on the solid black line.

During the Activity: Give each child one half of the Activity Page and encourage them to color the birthday cake inside the card with the glitter crayons.

After the Activity: Place the card inside an envelope and ask the child to decorate the envelope with the stickers. Challenge the children to give the invitation to a friend and invite them to the Birthday Bash later in the month.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “We are going to have a BIRTHDAY BASH for Christmas! We would love for you to invite your friends to come and celebrate with us!”

During the Activity: “We are going to make an invitation that you can give to your friends to invite them to come to church with you.” (Do activity.)

After the Activity: “Great job! Your invitations look awesome! I am so excited to tell everyone that Jesus is God’s Son. **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: “Friends, I am so excited. We are celebrating Jesus’ birthday all month long! We are having a super special birthday bash because Jesus is SO special!

“Do you know why Jesus is so special? *(Pause.)*

“Well, I’m here to tell you.

“The true story about why Jesus is so special is right here in the Bible.

(Open the Bible.)

“It begins with an angel. You see, before Jesus was born, God sent an angel to give a message to a girl named Mary.

“Mary had never seen an angel before, so she was afraid. Show me what your face looks like when you’re afraid.

(Make a frightened face.)

“Ooo, those are really good afraid faces. Well, Mary was afraid when she saw the angel, but the angel told Mary, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary. God sent me to tell you that you are going to have a baby. His name will be Jesus. He will be very special because . . .’ and here comes the reason why Jesus is SO special. Listen carefully so you won’t miss it.

“Jesus is special because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is God’s Son! Wow! [Bottom Line] Jesus is God’s Son!** That is special! So every time I ask you, ‘**Why is Jesus special?**’ I want you to say, **[Bottom Line] Jesus is God’s Son! Got it? Why is Jesus special?”**



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

LEADER: "Perfect! Now, after the angel left Mary, she was so excited that she went to see her family. I would go see my family if I had exciting news too! Show me what your face looks like when you're excited.

(Make an excited face.)

"Your faces really look excited, and we should be excited, because now we know why Jesus is so special. Tell me: **Why is Jesus special?**"

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

LEADER: "Yes! Jesus is special because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is God's Son!** And that is why we celebrate Christmas. Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus' birthday. Christmas is like a SUPER big Birthday Bash for Jesus!

"God loves you and me so much that He gave us His Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever. Give yourself a big hug.

(Hug yourself.)

"God loves you *(point to children)* THAT much!

"Okay, friends, that's our story for today. Jesus is special because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is God's Son.** And that is why we want to give Jesus the biggest, best Birthday Bash ever!

"Let's pray and thank God for Jesus."

PRAYER

LEADER: "Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to be our friend forever. Thank You for loving us THAT much. I pray each person in here will follow Jesus and want to celebrate Him for being SO special. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."