



Thank you Coaches and Volunteers for serving!



BIBLE STORY

Not everyone knew Jesus is
God's Son.

JESUS BORN IN A STABLE
LUKE 2:1-7

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. Animal Draw

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

What You Need: "Animal Draw" Activity Page, white cardstock, and scissors

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Animal Draw" on cardstock and cut on the dotted lines. You will have six different cards. Mix up the cards and place them face down in a stack.

During the Activity: Draw the top card and turn it over for everyone to see. Ask all of the children to act like the animal on the card. Continue the activity with the five remaining cards.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's be animals!"

During the Activity: "I am going to draw a card with an animal on it. When I show you the card, everyone act like the animal you see. Are you ready?" (*Pause and do activity.*)

After the Activity: "You were awesome animals! We are going to talk about animals today. I am so excited for our Bible story."



2. It's Christmas

Made to Imagine: An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning

What You Need: Felt tree, felt ornaments, felt star (Megan will make)

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Lay the tree out in an open area, or hang it on the wall. Spread the ornaments out around the tree.

During the Activity: Point out the empty trees and the ornaments, Encourage the children to use the decorations to decorate their Christmas tree. Repeat as desired.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "It is Christmas time!"

During the Activity: "Let's decorate our Christmas trees. (*Point.*) Be sure to put the star on top. (*Do activity.*) Christmas is Jesus' birthday!"

After the Activity: "Your trees look great! Christmas is Jesus' birthday. Jesus is God's Son. Today we are going to hear about when Jesus was born. I can't wait to hear our TRUE story from the Bible!"



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. God Loved

Hear from God | Memory Verse Review

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

What You Need: Jumbo craft sticks and washable markers

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Lay five craft sticks side by side on a table and draw a large heart over the five sticks to create a puzzle the children can put together. Repeat with five more crafts sticks and draw a heart in a different color. You'll need a heart craft stick puzzle for every four children.

During the Activity: Place the heart puzzles on the tables. Mix up each set of sticks so the children can put them back together. Encourage the children to work together to see if they can figure out what shape is on their craft sticks. Be prepared to help them if they need it. As they're working, repeat this month's memory verse.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Do you see the craft sticks in the center of your table? You can lay them on the table side by side like a puzzle. Let's work together to see if we can put our puzzle together."

During the Activity: "This month we're celebrating a very special birthday. Jesus was born on Christmas. Our verse tells us: *God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son*, John 3:16. The heart on our craft sticks reminds us that God loves us. And He showed his love to us by sending His Son, Jesus!"



After the Activity: "I love Christmas because we celebrate Jesus' birthday. **Why is Jesus special? [Bottom Line] Jesus is God's Son.** Let's say our verse together one more time. *God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, John 3:16.*"

2. Pin the Animals

Live for God | Application Activity

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

What You Need: "Animals" and "Large Stable" Activity Pages, white cardstock, poster board or butcher paper, pencil, wall tape, and scissors

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the "Animals" Activity Page on white cardstock and cut on the dotted lines. Enlarge the "Large Stable" Activity Page and copy it onto poster board. If you choose, you may use the pencil to sketch a stable onto the butcher paper instead of using the "Large Stable" Activity Page.

During the Activity: Hang the stable on the wall at preschool level. Place tape on the back of each animal. Challenge the children to work together to place all the animals in the stable. Be sure each child has a turn to place an animal.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Today we heard an amazing story about Jesus being born in a stable. There are animals in a stable."

During the Activity: "Let's work together to put the animals in the stable." (Point.) (Do activity.)

After the Activity: "Awesome! Now there are animals in our stable. I am so glad God gave us Jesus, His Son. **Why is Jesus special? [Bottom Line] Jesus is God's Son!**"



3. Oh, Christmas Tree!

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: Green party hats or green cardstock and clear tape; dot stickers or round jewel stickers; "Bible Story Week 2 Labels" Activity Page; and Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent

What You Do:

Before the Activity: If using cardstock instead of purchasing party hats, trace a large circle onto the paper. Cut the circle in half. Take a half circle and roll the corners of the flat end together to form a cone. Secure with tape. Repeat with the other half. You will need one cone or party hat per child. Copy the "Bible Story Week 2 Labels" onto the labels. Provide one label per child.

During the Activity: Give each child a hat or green paper cone to decorate with the stickers like a Christmas tree. Pass out the labels for each child to place on the bottom of their trees.

What You Say:

During the Activity: (Hold up the hat/cone.) "Do you know what this looks like? (Pause.) A Christmas tree! But where are the ornaments? Let's add some stickers/jewels to decorate our trees!"

After the Activity: "I LOVE your Christmas trees. Great job, friends! On your label it says, 'Birthday Bash!' and 'Jesus is God's Son.' On Christmas, we celebrate Jesus' birthday. Tell me: **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: “Hello friends! I’m super excited about Christmas and the special Birthday Bash we’re planning for Jesus! Which reminds me, our Bible story today is about Jesus and the day He was born.

“It’s all right in here. *(Hold up the Bible.)*

“Now lots of times, when a baby is born now, they are born in a hospital with doctors and nurses and everything is clean and safe.

“But Jesus was born a long, long time ago, and it was very different.

“I would think Jesus would be born in the nicest, biggest, bestest hospital ever with lots and lots of important people there to take care of Him. I mean, after all, **[Bottom Line] Jesus is God’s Son.** That’s why Jesus is SO special. **Why is Jesus special?”**

CHILDREN and LEADER: **[Bottom Line] “Jesus is God’s Son!”**

LEADER: “He sure is, but it wasn’t like that all. There was no hospital or doctors or anything like that.

(Open the Bible and hold it.)

“Our story begins with Joseph and Mary, Jesus’ mommy. Mary was riding on a donkey. Can you make a donkey sound? Say, ‘Hee-haw, hee-haw, hee-haw.’ Try that with me.”

CHILDREN and LEADER: “Hee-haw, hee-haw, hee-haw.”



LEADER: “Good job! This donkey carried Mary all the way to a town called Bethlehem. When Mary and Joseph got there, you would think the entire town would be there to welcome them and throw a party because Jesus, God’s Son, was about to be born.

“But there was no one to welcome them.

“There was no one to help them.

“There was no party.

“The people didn’t know that the baby Mary was about to have was SO special.

“So, when Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem and knocked on the door of a place to stay . . .

“Knock with me!”

(Pretend to knock on a door.)

CHILDREN and LEADER: “Knock, knock, knock!”

LEADER: “Knock louder!”

CHILDREN and LEADER: “Knock, knock, knock!”

LEADER: “The people said there was no more room, but they could stay in the stable with the animals if they wanted.

“Can you guess what kind of animals might have been in the stable with Mary and Joseph? I’ll make the sound and you say out loud what animal you think it is.”

“Moooooo. *(Pause.)* Yes! A cow! What about this one?

“Bawk, bawk, bawk. *(Pause.)* Right again! It’s a chicken.



“Okay, let’s try one more. What is this? Baa, baa, baa! *(Pause.)* You are so good at this. It’s a sheep!

“The stable wasn’t a nice, clean hospital, but it was a warm, safe place for Mary and Joseph to rest, and it wasn’t long before this sound was in the stable.

(Make a sweet crying baby sound.)

“What makes that sound? *(Pause.)*

“Yes, a baby. Baby Jesus was born right there in the stable. The most special baby, in the whole world, had been born, and the only people who knew were Mary and Joseph.

“There wasn’t a big party, but all that was about to change.

(Smile with excitement.)

“But you’ll have to come back next time to hear about it.

(Close Bible.)

“Before I go, tell me one more time: **‘Why is Jesus special?’**”

CHILDREN and LEADER: [Bottom Line] “Jesus is God’s Son!”

LEADER: “You got it! And that’s our story for today. Jesus is special because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is God’s Son**. Let’s pray and thank God for Jesus.”

PRAYER

LEADER: “Dear God, thank You for Jesus. Thank You that we can know Jesus’ story and that Christmas is all about His birthday. Thank You for loving us SO much that You gave us Jesus to be our friend forever. He is SO special! We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.”