



## WEEK ONE – DECEMBER 2024 – PRESCHOOL

**Bible Story:** *The Angel + Mary | Luke 1:26-33, 38*

**Key Question:** *Why is Jesus special?*

**Bottom Line:** *Jesus is God's Son*

**Memory Verse:** *"God has given a son to us." Isaiah 9:6, NCV*

**Basic Truth:** *God loves me.*

**Series Overview:** Show and Tell is always a favorite. Children have so much fun looking for the most special thing they can find to show their friends, and what each child shares helps teachers and friends get to know them a little bit better by seeing what is most valuable to them. This month, we're taking a look at the ultimate Show and Tell. God showed the world how much He loves us by giving us Jesus. That is what we celebrate at Christmas, and that is what we will continue to show the world through our actions and tell with our words.

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**9:00 - 9:15 | 11:00 – 11:15 | EARLY ARRIVERS ACTIVITY**

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**Opening Small Group Activity**

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

**What You Need:** White butcher paper; white colored pencils; crayons

**What You Do:**

- Ask children to sit in a circle on the floor
- Place a piece of white butcher paper in the center of your group
- Draw a large heart in the middle of the paper.
- Write “Jesus” inside the heart with a white crayon.
- Set out coloring pencils
- Encourage children to color entire paper to reveal the special message in the heart.
- Introduce the Bible Story.

**What You Say:**

- *“Hello! It’s great to see you today! Come sit at the table with me. Will you help me find the message on the table? We need to color the whole paper to find the special message. Take a crayon, and let’s get coloring! (Pause.) Wow! I see something! Let’s keep coloring to find out what it is. (Pause.) What do you see? (Pause.) It’s a heart! The special message is a heart with Jesus’ name inside! Friends, today we are going to hear a Bible Story about a very special message. Let’s go find out what the message is!”*

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**9:15 - 9:50 | 11:15 – 11:50 – LARGE GROUP**

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**Story Focus: God sends an angel to tell Mary she is going to have God’s Son, Jesus.** God has an important message to tell Mary so God sends an angel to Mary.

When Mary first sees the angel, she is afraid, but the angel says, “Do not be afraid.” The angel tells Mary that she is going to have a special baby named Jesus. Jesus is special because Jesus is God’s Son.

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**9:50 – 10:10 | 11:50 – 12:10 – SMALL GROUP**

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**Memory Verse With Motions**

**[Hear From God | Memory Verse Review]**

*Move: an activity that uses a preschooler’s natural desire to move to help them learn*

**What You Need:** N/A

**What You Do:**

- Say the memory verse and teach the motions to the children
- Repeat the verse with the motions and invite the children to do it with you.
- Repeat several times.
- Review the Bottom Line.

**What You Say:**

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
  - “Friends, come stand with me, and let me tell you our brand-new Memory Verse! Ready to hear it? It goes like this: ‘God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*) has given (*pretend to give a gift*) a son (*rock baby*) to us,’ (*point to self twice*) Isaiah 9:6. (*Open hands like a book.*)
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
  - “Now, let’s learn the motions. The first part of our verse says: ‘God.’ (*Flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down.*) Put one hand out in front you with you like this. (*Hand out in front of you like you are signaling stop.*) Now turn your hand and put your thumb on your forehead like this (*rotate your hand and place your thumb on your*

*forehead*). Then, move your hand down in front of your face like this. (*Flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down.*) Great, let's do that together. Hand up, thumb on your forehead, and pull down. Say, 'God' with me. (*With children.*) 'God.' (*Flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down.*) The next part of our verse says: 'Has given.' (*Pretend to give a gift.*) Hold both hands in front of you. Then, move them forward like this (*pretend to give a gift*) and say: 'Has given.' (*With children.*) 'Has given.' (*Pretend to give a gift.*) Wonderful! Now let's put that together. 'God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*) has given.' (*Pretend to give a gift.*) Great job! The next part says: 'A son.' Cross your arms, move them side to side like this (*rock baby*), and say: 'A son.' (*With children.*) 'A son.' (*Rock baby.*) Can we do all three together? 'God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*) has given (*pretend to give a gift*) a son.' (*Rock baby.*) The next part says: 'To us.' Tap your thumbs to your chest two times like this (*point to self twice*) and say: 'To us.' (*With children.*) 'To us.' (*Point to self twice.*) Can we do all four together? 'God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*) has given (*pretend to give a gift*) a son (*rock baby*) to us.' (*Point to self twice.*) Now the last part is: 'Isaiah 9:6.' (*Open hands like a book.*) Put your hands together in front of you, open them like you are opening a book (*open hands like a book*), and say: 'Isaiah 9:6.' (*With children.*) 'Isaiah 9:6.' (*Open hands like a book.*) Great job! I think we are ready to do it all together! Ready, friends? 'God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*) has given (*pretend to give a gift*) a son (*rock baby*) to us,' (*point to self twice*) *Isaiah 9:6.* (*Open hands like a book.*) Nice job. Let's do it again!"

*(Repeat several times.)*

- **AFTER THE ACTIVITY**
  - "The Bible teaches us that God gave us a very special gift. God gave us His Son, Jesus. God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus. Jesus is special because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is God's Son. Why is Jesus special? [Bottom Line] Jesus is God's Son.** Let's say that one more time, friends. **Why is Jesus special? [Bottom Line] Jesus is God's Son.**"

## Message for Mary

### [Talk About God | Bible Story Review]

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

**What You Need:** “Message for Mary” Activity Page, copy paper, and letter-size envelopes;

### What You Do:

- Give each child a prepared envelope.
- Tell the children to open their “message.”
  - As you review the Bible Story, the children will hold up their picture when you talk about it.
  - After you review the story, tell the children to fold their message and put it back in the envelope so you can play again.
- Repeat as desired.
- Review the Bible Story and Bottom Line.

### What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
  - “Hey, friends! Come sit with me! We’re going to talk about today’s Bible Story!”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
  - “First, everyone needs an envelope. *(Pass out envelopes.)* Inside your envelope is a message that tells part of today’s Bible Story. Open your envelope and look at your message. *(Pause.)* Wow! I see an angel and Mary and baby Jesus and a heart! Hearts make me think of love. Get ready to show me your message when I say the words ANGEL, MARY, BABY JESUS, or LOVE as we review. Here we go! God sent an ANGEL *(hold up angel)* to tell MARY *(hold up Mary)* a very special message. Show me your angel and Mary if you have them. *(Pause.)* Good job! Okay, you can put your messages down. The ANGEL *(hold up angel)* told MARY *(hold up Mary)* that she was going to have God’s Son, JESUS! *(Hold up baby Jesus.)* Show me the

angel, Mary, and baby Jesus if you have them. *(Pause.)* Yay! You can put your messages down. God LOVES *(hold up heart)* us so much, He gave us His Son, JESUS! *(Hold up baby Jesus.)* Hold up your heart and baby Jesus if you have them. *(Pause.)* Yay! God loved *(hold up heart)* us so much, He gave us Jesus *(hold up baby Jesus)*! And Jesus is special, because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is God’s Son. Why is Jesus special? [Bottom Line] Jesus is God’s Son!** That was fun! Now put your messages back in your envelopes and give them to me. I’m going to shuffle them so we can play again. I wonder which message you’ll get this time!”

- **AFTER THE ACTIVITY**
  - “Wow! God sent an angel to tell Mary she was going to have God’s Son, Jesus! That’s why Jesus is so special! Because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is God’s Son!** So, when I ask you, ‘**Why is Jesus special?**’ I want you to say, **[Bottom Line] ‘Jesus is God’s Son.’** Ready? **Why is Jesus special? [Bottom Line] Jesus is God’s Son.**”