



WEEK TWO – DECEMBER 2024 – PRESCHOOL

Bible Story: *Jesus Is Born | Luke 2:1-7*

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.

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

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: “Where Is Jesus?” Activity Page, cardstock, plastic cups, scissors, and clear tape

What You Do:

- Ask children to sit in a circle on the floor
- Set the three cups in a row on the floor.
- Hide the Jesus cutout under one of the cups.
- Explain to the children that you have hidden something special under one of the cups.
- Slide the cups around on the ground without lifting.
- Ask a child to select a cup, then lift it to see if Jesus is under their cup.
 - If not, slide the cups around again, and allow another child to select a cup.
- Repeat until you find Jesus.
- Once found, place Jesus under a different cup and play again.
 - Repeat as desired.
- Introduce the Bible Story.

What You Say:

- *“Friends, come find a spot at the circle. I have a game for us to play with these cups. I’ve hidden something very special under one of these cups. Let’s mix them up. (Move the cups around several times to mix them up.) Raise your hand if you would like to select a cup. (Pause.) [Child’s name], choose a cup. (Pause.) You chose the [place]. Lift the cup and let’s see if you found the special thing. (If the cup is empty, move cups around again and have another child guess. Repeat until Jesus is found.) You found something VERY special! It’s baby Jesus. Way to go! Let’s play again. (Hide Jesus*

under a different cup, and repeat as desired.) We searched for something very special—baby Jesus! We searched in a fancy hotel. We searched in a castle. And we searched in a place where animals sleep. In our Bible Story today, we'll learn about where Jesus was born. Come with me!"

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

Story Focus: Jesus is born to show the world that God loves us. Joseph and Mary travel a long way to the town of Bethlehem. When they finally get there, they need to find a place to stay, but there is no guest room for them. So, Joseph and Mary stay in a place where animals sleep. It is there that God's Son, Jesus, is born to show the world that God loves us.

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

Sing the Memory Verse

[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:

- Gather the children in your activity area.
- Review the Memory Verse and motions with the children.
- Encourage children to sing the words of the Memory Verse to the tune of "The Wheels on the Bus."
- Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

- **BEFORE THE ACTIVITY**
 - “Friends, come join me! We’re learning a great Memory Verse this month. Let’s say it together as we do the motions. ‘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.*) Great job, friends!”
- **DURING THE ACTIVITY**
 - “Now, let’s sing our Memory Verse together. Ready?
 - (*Sing to the tune of “The Wheels on the Bus.”*)
“God has given a son to us.
A son to us,
A son to us.
God has given a son to us.
Isaiah 9:6.”
 - “Nice job! Let’s sing it again! (*Repeat as desired.*) That was fun singing with you.”
- **AFTER THE ACTIVITY**
 - “The Bible teaches us that God gave us His Son, Jesus, to show the world how much God loves us! Jesus is special because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is God’s Son. Why is Jesus special? [Bottom Line] Jesus is God’s Son!**”

Craft Tube Nativity

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible Story, Bottom Line, or Memory Verse by creating a craft

What You Need: “Craft Tube Nativity,” “Nativity Background,” “Donkey Template,” and “Fun at Home” Activity Pages; cardstock; craft tubes, four per child; washable markers; glue sticks; scissors; gallon-sized resealable bags; and a permanent marker

What You Do:

- Write each child’s name on their bag.

- For each child, fold a craft tube in half, use the template to trace the outline, and cut.
- Unfold and fold in half the other direction.
- Straighten each donkey to stand, and fold down each tail.
- For each child, cut one tube 3”, and bend into a triangle.
- Encourage children to glue their pictures of Mary and Joseph to the two regular craft tubes and baby Jesus to the triangle-shaped tube.
- Then ask children to use the markers to draw the face on their craft tube donkey.
- Use the pieces to review the story.
- Review the Bible Story.

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Hey, friends! Come sit with me! We’re going to make a nativity!”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “First you need to glue Mary and Joseph to the two tall craft tubes up and down like this. *(Pause.)* Now glue the picture of baby Jesus to the triangle tube like this. *(Pause.)* Great job! The last thing for you to do is to draw the face on your donkey. *(Pause.)* Great job! Now we can use these as we review today’s story.”
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - “You can move and play with your nativity pieces as I talk. Today, our Bible Story begins when an angel told a woman named Mary that she was going to have a baby. This baby would be named Jesus, and He would be God’s Son! Not long after the angel visited Mary, Mary and Joseph had to travel a long way to the town of Bethlehem. It was so far that they might have ridden on a donkey! Can you put Mary on the donkey? *(Pause.)* When they got to Bethlehem, they needed to find a place to stay. *(Hold up the picture of the nativity background.)* The only place they could find was a place where animals sleep. While Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem, it was time for baby Jesus to be born. After Jesus was born, Mary wrapped Him in strips of cloth and placed Him in a manger. Now you know the true story of

Christmas and why Jesus is special! You can tell everyone that God loves us so much that God gave us Jesus! **Why is Jesus special?**
[Bottom Line] Jesus is God's Son.”