



CHRISTMAS – DECEMBER 2024 – PRESCHOOL

Bible Story: *Happy Birthday, Jesus!* | Luke 1:26-33,38; 2:1-20

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: N/A (use ASL Video on flatironskidmin.com)

What You Do:

- Gather the children to stand in the activity area and spread out a bit.
 - Show the Pinterest video if desired.
- Teach the children to say 'Happy Birthday, Jesus' in American Sign Language using the directions below.
 - Happy: Place both hands just in front of the chest and brush hands toward the chest and upward. Make sure to smile!
 - Birthday: With your right hand, touch your middle finger to your chin and then your chest.
 - Jesus: Touch the middle finger of your right hand to the palm of your left hand and then the middle finger of your left hand to the palm of your right.
- Talk about how we celebrate Jesus' birthday at Christmas.

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - "Friends, come stand here with me. I'm SO glad to see you today. Let's spread out a bit so you have plenty of room around you."
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - "Let's learn how to say 'Happy Birthday, Jesus' in sign language. Sign language is the language some people use to communicate. Watch me closely so you can learn. The first word is 'happy.' Say, 'Happy' with me. Happy. (*Place both hands on chest and brush hands upward. Make sure to smile!*) The next word is 'birthday.' Say, 'Birthday' with me. Birthday. (*With your right hand, touch your*

middle finger to your chin and then your chest.) The last word is ‘Jesus.’ Say, ‘Jesus’ with me. Jesus. (Touch the middle finger of your right hand to the palm of your left hand, then the middle finger of your left hand to the palm of your right.) Now let’s say it together using our words and hands. (Repeat as many times as desired.) Great job, friends!”

- **AFTER THE ACTIVITY**
 - “We celebrate Jesus’ birthday on Christmas. I’m so glad God sent us Jesus. Jesus is SO special. **Why is Jesus special? [Bottom Line] Jesus is God’s Son.**”

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

Story Focus: We celebrate Christmas to show everyone that Jesus is special. What do we do on the day someone is born? We celebrate with a birthday party! So, that’s exactly what we’re going to do for Jesus. It’s time for us to show and tell Jesus how special He is! So, pull out the hats, cupcakes, party horns, and confetti, and we will retell the story of Jesus’ birth. Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus’ birthday. We celebrate Christmas to show everyone that Jesus is special. Jesus is special because Jesus is God’s Son.

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

Show + Tell Charades

[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: “Show & Tell Charades” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Place the six cards in a stack face down
- Ask the children to stand in front of you.
- Choose a child to go first and ask them to draw the top card from the stack.
- Ask the child to act like the animal pictured on the card.
- Encourage the other children to guess the animal.
 - Continue playing until all of the cards have been drawn and every child has had a turn to act like an animal.
- If you have more children than cards, shuffle the cards and start over.

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “We’re going to be animals!”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “We have cards with animals on them. When it’s your turn, you can draw a card and act like the animal on the card. We will try to guess which animal you are. Are you ready? *(Call on one child to choose a card. Encourage them to act like the animal on the card while the other children try to guess the animal. Once children guess the animal, call on another child. Continue playing until all children have had a turn.)* Great job, friends! You did a great job acting like animals, and you are awesome guessers! That was so much fun!”
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - “In our Bible story, there was a stable. A stable is where animals live. And who was born in the stable with animals? That’s right—Jesus! And today we are celebrating Jesus because Jesus is special. **Why is Jesus special? [Bottom Line] Jesus is God’s Son!**”

Story Show + Tell

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: “Story Show and Tell Large” and “Story Show and Tell Small” Activity Pages

What You Do:

- Give each child a “Story Show and Tell Small” card.
 - (If you have more than six children in your Small Group, there will be more than one of some cards.)
- Hold up the first “Story Show and Tell Large” picture.
- Ask children who have a matching card to stand next to you.
 - If children are shy, encourage them to show and tell from their seat.
- Encourage children to talk about the picture on their card.
- Read the words in the picture to help retell the Bible Story.
- Continue with each card in order of the story.
- Review the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

- *BEFORE THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Come sit with me. We’re going to play a game called: Story Show and Tell.”
- *DURING THE ACTIVITY*
 - “I’m going to give each of you a picture card. *(Give each child a card.)* Now, I’m going to show you a picture, and if you have the matching card, I want you to hold it up high so everyone can see. *(Show children the picture of the angel and Mary.)* “Who has a card that matches mine? Hold them up high! *(Pause.)* Now it’s Show and Tell time. If you have the matching card, come up and join me. *(To the children with the matching cards.)*
 - Show everyone your card and tell us about it. *(Encourage children to talk about the card, and then read the story words on the picture to retell a part of the Bible Story.)* Thank you for telling me about the card! You can have a seat now. *(Continue with the rest of the cards.) (These are the story words that appear on the “Story Show and Tell Large” Activity Pages.)*

- *God sent an angel to tell Mary she was going to have a special baby named Jesus. Jesus is special because Jesus is God’s Son.*
 - *Mary and Joseph had to travel a long way to the town of Bethlehem. When they got to Bethlehem, they stayed in place where animals sleep.*
 - *After Jesus was born, Mary wrapped Him in strips of cloth and placed Him in a manger.*
 - *God sent an angel to tell shepherds that Jesus had been born.*
 - *The shepherds ran to see baby Jesus and after they saw Him, then they ran to tell everyone about Jesus!*
 - *Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus’ birthday.*
- *AFTER THE ACTIVITY*
 - “Wow! We celebrate Christmas to show everyone that Jesus is special. Jesus is special because **[Bottom Line] Jesus is God’s Son. Why is Jesus special? [Bottom Line] Jesus is God’s Son!** And since we celebrate Jesus’ birthday at Christmas, let’s sing ‘Happy Birthday’ to Jesus right now. Sing with me! (*Sing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus together.*) Yay! (*Clap.*) Happy Birthday, Jesus!”