



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

Jesus is born.
JESUS IS BORN.
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

God loves me.

PRELUDE: Setting the tone for the experience

See the **Getting Ready** pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today.

In the **Prelude** folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

SMALL GROUP

15
MIN

SOCIAL: Providing time for fun interaction

Offer one or more of these activities as preschoolers arrive.

Cookies in the Cookie Jar
All the People
Baby Care

LARGE GROUP

20
MIN

WORSHIP: Inviting people to respond to God

STORY: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

"Jesus Is"
Bible Story
Prayer

SMALL GROUP

25
MIN

GROUPS: Creating a safe place to connect

Offer as many of these activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow.

Best Gift
No Room
Nativity Scene
Baby Jesus

HOME: Prompting action beyond the experience

Going Home
Parent Cue Card (*print or email*)
Parent Cue App



PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



1. COOKIES IN THE COOKIE JAR

WHAT YOU NEED: "Cookies" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, cookie sheet, plastic spatula with dull edges, and a plastic jar

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Cookies" on cardstock and cut on the dotted lines, at least one cookie per child. Place the cookie cutouts on the cookie sheet. Remove the lid from the jar and place it about five feet from the cookie sheet.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Invite a child to use the spatula to scoop a cookie from the cookie sheet and carry it to the jar. Help the child place the cookie in the jar. Repeat the activity until each child has a turn to place a cookie the jar. Sanitize spatula between uses.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Remove one of each cookie to review last week's story and introduce this week's story. Save the "cookies" for next week.

WHAT YOU SAY:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Yum! Cookies!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Will you help me place all of these yummy cookies in our cookie jar? (*Point.*) Use the spatula to scoop up a cookie (*demonstrate*) and carry it to the jar. Let's see how many cookies we can put in the cookie jar."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Great job! We put all of our cookies in the jar! (*Remove an angel cookie and a gingerbread cookie.*) This cookie has an angel on it. (*Hold up angel cookie.*) This cookie is about last week's story when the angel came to Mary and told her she would have a baby. The baby was JESUS! This cookie has a gingerbread on it. We can pretend that this is Baby Jesus! Today, we'll hear a Bible story about when Jesus was born!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to eat cookies as you walk to the story area.

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PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY
an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



2. ALL THE PEOPLE

WHAT YOU NEED: Little People® Nativity playset or equivalent

WHAT YOU DO:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Place the playset in the activity area.

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DURING THE ACTIVITY: Allow the children to play with the playset together.

WHAT YOU SAY:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Hello, friends! Look at this really awesome playset we can play with today." (*Point.*)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "This is a stable like where Jesus was born! Let's play!" (*Do activity.*)

MEMORY VERSE

"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son."
JOHN 3:16, GNT

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today, we'll hear a story from the Bible that tells us all about when Jesus was born. I am so excited!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by chanting "Jesus is born" as you walk to the story area.

KEY QUESTION

Why is Jesus special?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is God's Son.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2020

SMALL GROUP
2 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO EXPLORE

an activity that channels a preschooler's innate curiosity into a discussion of the week's crucial concepts



3. BABY CARE

WHAT YOU NEED: Several baby dolls, baby blankets, baby clothes, and baby bottles

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Place all of the supplies in the activity area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to take care of the babies by feeding, changing, and loving on them.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "We have babies to take care of today." (*Point.*)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's work together to take care of our sweet babies. We can feed them, change them, and cuddle with them." (*Do activity.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today, we'll hear a Bible story about when Jesus was born! I can't wait to hear all about Baby Jesus."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by pretending to cradle a baby as you walk to the story area.

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



1. BEST GIFT

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Large box, markers, crayons, foam sticker pieces, stickers, and Jesus stickers.

NOTE: The size of the box depends on your class size. If you have many children, it's best to use a large appliance box. If you don't have many children, a smaller box will

work.

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Place the box in the middle of the activity area. Place the Jesus stickers inside the box. If possible, close the box.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Invite the children to decorate the box with the markers, crayons, sticker foam pieces, and stickers. When the children are finished decorating, say the memory verse with them.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Open the box and give each child a Jesus sticker.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "We heard a Bible story about the BEST gift that God gave us!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "I see a gift box here. (Point.) I wonder what's inside? (Pause.) We should decorate the box before we open it. Let's make it look BEE-U-TI-FUL! (Do activity.) WOW! The gift looks amazing! Our memory verse tells us that God loves the world SO much that He gave us Jesus! Let's say our memory verse together then we can open the gift." (Finish activity.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Great job! Let's open the gift. (Open box.) Jesus stickers! One for everyone! Jesus is the best gift ever. **Jesus is God's Son. Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son!**"

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO IMAGINE
an activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role play to enhance their learning



2. NATIVITY SCENE

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, "Nativity Scene" Activity Pages, butcher paper, marker, cardstock, scissors, and glue or tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Nativity Scene" on cardstock and cut out. (You may need to make more than one copy of the animals so each child can have one animal to add to the story picture.) Draw a simple stable outline on the butcher paper. Tape the butcher paper to the wall at preschooler eye level.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Gather the children around the butcher paper. The children will tape/glue pieces of the story to the butcher paper as you review the Bible story together.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Come sit with me! We're going to make today's Bible story with these story pictures (hold up story picture cutouts) on this paper!" (Point to the stable on the butcher paper.)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "First, we have Mary. (Hold up Mary.) The angel told Mary she would have a special baby named Jesus. [Child's name], will you put Mary here in our stable? (Give Mary cutout to child to tape/glue to the butcher paper.) Thank you! Next, we have Joseph. (Hold up Joseph.) Mary and Joseph traveled all the way to a town called Bethlehem before Baby Jesus was born. [Child's name], will you put Joseph here in our stable? Thank you! When Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem, there were no rooms for them to sleep. Someone told them they could sleep in the stable where the animals slept. I need lots of helpers to put animals in our stable.

"When I call your name, I will give you an animal to put around our stable. (Call remaining children's names and give them an animal to tape/glue to the butcher paper.) Thank you! Then, the most exciting thing happened! Baby Jesus was born! (Hold up Baby Jesus in a manger and glue/tape it in the center of the stable between Mary and Joseph.) And **why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son!**"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Christmas is all about celebrating Jesus' birthday! (Point to Baby Jesus.) It's all about when Jesus was born. **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son!**"

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25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



3. NO ROOM

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Stable" Activity Page, cardstock, wall tape, and a preschool tunnel

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Stable" on cardstock, one per small group. Tape the Activity Page to a wall at preschooler level. Place the tunnel with the exit a few feet in front of the stable on the wall. Be sure the children have enough room to exit the tunnel without hitting the wall.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Have the children stand with you at the entrance of the tunnel. Ask them to knock on a table, floor, or wall nearby. After they knock, say, "No Room at the Inn," and instruct them to crawl through the tunnel toward the stable.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Mary and Joseph made a long journey, and they needed a place to stay. Mary was going to have a baby! They tried to find a place, but everyone said that there was NO ROOM! Poor Mary and Joseph! One innkeeper said that there was NO ROOM but that they could stay in a stable with the animals." (*Point to stable on wall.*)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's pretend that you are Mary and Joseph! I will be the innkeeper! Knock (*demonstrate*), and I will tell you that there is NO ROOM. You can crawl through the tunnel to the stable!" (*Do activity.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Way to go! Jesus was born in a stable. God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus! **Jesus is God's Son. Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son!**"

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CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE
an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



4. BABY JESUS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "God's Son" and "Jesus" Activity Pages; Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent; cardstock; light colored tissue paper; googly eye stickers; crayons; and scissors; optional chipboard

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "God's Son" on the label paper, one label per child. Copy "Jesus" on cardstock and cut out, one per child. Cut tissue paper sheets into quarters, one per child.

Option: Make one copy of "Jesus" on cardstock, cut out, and use as a template to trace on the chipboard and cut out, one per child.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to add googly eyes and draw a face on their baby then wrap in tissue. Secure the tissue to the baby with the "God's Son" label.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about "Jesus is born."

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Today, we heard that a very special baby was born! What was his name? (Pause.) Jesus, that's right! Baby Jesus was born, and He is special because **Jesus is God's Son.**"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Mary and Joseph traveled by donkey to the city of Bethlehem. They were tired when they got there, but the inn was full! The innkeeper let Mary and Joseph stay in the stable with the animals. That night, there in the stable, Jesus was born! Mary wrapped the baby up and put him in a manger. Can you give your baby two eyes and draw a nose and a mouth? (Pause.) Mary wrapped up Baby Jesus. Take the tissue and wrap the baby. (Pause.) Great job. Add the label to keep your Baby Jesus wrapped up. (Pause.) The most special baby in all the world was born."

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Christmas is one of my favorite times of the year because we get to celebrate Jesus. Jesus, God's Son, was born. **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son.**"

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God loves me.



GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (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 2-year-olds arrive. Let one or two teachers lead small groups of children in activities throughout the room while another teacher greets parents and children at the door. At this age not all children will participate, but most will want to be part of the fun.

1. COOKIES IN THE COOKIE JAR

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Cookies" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Cookie sheet
- Plastic spatula with dull edges
- Plastic jar

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Cookies" on cardstock and cut on the dotted lines, at least one cookie per child.
- Place the cookie cutouts on the cookie sheet.
- Remove the lid from the jar and place it about five feet from the cookie sheet.

2. ALL THE PEOPLE

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Little People® Nativity playset or equivalent

3. BABY CARE

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Several baby dolls

- Baby blankets
- Baby clothes
- Baby bottles

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (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.

Prepare to offer one or more of the following activities after the Bible Story. Let one or two teachers lead small groups of children in activities throughout the room. At this age, not all children will participate, but most will want to be part of the fun.

1. BEST GIFT

[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:

- Large box
- Markers
- Crayons
- Foam sticker pieces
- Stickers
- Jesus stickers

NOTE: The size of the box depends on your class size. If you have many children, it's best to use a large appliance box. If you don't have many children, a smaller box will work.

2. NATIVITY SCENE

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bible



WEEK
TWO
DECEMBER 2020

SMALL GROUP

2 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

- "Nativity Scene" Activity Pages
- Butcher paper
- Marker
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Glue or tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Nativity Scene" on cardstock and cut out. (You may need to make more than one copy of the animals so each child can have one animal to add to the story picture.)
- Draw a simple stable outline on the butcher paper. Tape the butcher paper to the wall at preschooler eye level.

3. NO ROOM

[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:

- "Stable" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Wall tape
- Preschool tunnel

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Stable" on cardstock, one per small group.
- Tape the Activity Page to a wall at preschooler level.
- Place the tunnel with the exit a few feet in front of the stable on the wall. Be sure the children have enough room to exit the tunnel without hitting the wall.

4. BABY JESUS

[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:

- "God's Son" Activity Page
- "Jesus" Activity Page
- Avery® #5160 labels or equivalent
- Cardstock
- Light colored tissue paper

- Googly eye stickers
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Optional chipboard

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "God's Son" on the label paper, one label per child.
- Copy "Jesus" on cardstock and cut out, one per child.
- Cut tissue paper sheets into quarters, one per child.

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's Parent Cue card.
- Copy "Going Home" and hang on the door where Small Group Leaders can reference and remind parents of the Bottom Line and Memory Verse as parents pick up their children.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource, the **Parent Cue app**.

FIRST LOOK PINTEREST PAGE

- Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. <https://bit.ly/FirstLookPinterest>