



TODAY'S SUGGESTED SCHEDULE

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The angels tell about Jesus.

THE SHEPHERDS
LUKE 2:8-20

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.

Follow
Cookie Play
Sensory Bin

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.

Around the World
Good News
Stop and Go
Candy Cane Crook

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. FOLLOW

WHAT YOU NEED: Pool noodle cut in half

WHAT YOU DO:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Have the children line up behind you.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Lead the children around the room while holding the noodle. Explain that you are a shepherd, and the noodle is your shepherd's staff.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Allow the children to take turns as the shepherd and lead the other children. Allow the child who is the shepherd to hold the staff. Sanitize the noodle between children.

WHAT YOU SAY:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "I am a shepherd, and you can all be my little sheep."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "My job is to lead my sheep around, so follow me! This is my shepherd's staff that helps me lead my sheep. (*Hold up noodle then do activity.*) Awesome; you are sweet little sheep! Would someone else like to be the shepherd and hold the staff?" (*Finish activity.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Great job! You are great sheep and great shepherds. Today, we'll hear a Bible story about how the shepherds got a special message! I wonder what it could be!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by telling the children that you are the shepherd again and to follow you.

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THE SHEPHERDS
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KEY QUESTION

Why is Jesus special?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is God's Son.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



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. COOKIE PLAY

WHAT YOU NEED: "Cookies" Activity Page (from Week 2), cardstock, scissors, cookie sheet, and sticker magnets

Note: When using magnets with preschoolers be sure you use large magnets that are stuck onto the cardstock securely to prevent swallowing. If you have children who might be a swallow risk, do not use the magnets and just

play with the cookies on the cookie sheet. If using magnets, please always have adult supervision.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The angels tell about Jesus.

THE SHEPHERDS
LUKE 2:8-20

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Cookies" onto the cardstock and cut on the dotted lines. If you saved the cookies from Week 2, use them, too. Place a magnet on the back of each cookie. Place the cookies on the cookie sheet. You will need one cookie sheet full of cookies per four children.

MEMORY VERSE

"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son."

JOHN 3:16, GNT

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Invite children to play with the cookies as you review the Bible stories from weeks one and two using the pictures on the cookies to lead the discussion.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "We have cookies again!"

KEY QUESTION

Why is Jesus special?

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Our cookies stick to the pan. (*Demonstrate.*) You may play with them and move them around while we talk about our Bible stories from this month. This cookie (*hold up*) has an angel on it. It reminds me of our Bible story when we learned that the angel came to Mary and told her she would have a baby. God told her that the baby would be His Son! The baby was JESUS! This cookie (*hold up*) has a gingerbread person on it. We can pretend that this is Baby Jesus! Mary and Joseph stayed in a stable with the animals since there was no room in the inn. Jesus was born in the stable, and Mary laid Him in a manger."

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is God's Son.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "It's time to hear more of the story of how God gave us Jesus. Today, we'll hear a Bible story about how the angels shared the wonderful news that Jesus was born!"

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by chanting this month's Bottom Line as you walk to the story area.



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. SENSORY BIN

WHAT YOU NEED: Cotton balls, Christmas foam pieces that include candy canes, and a medium-sized tub

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Fill the tub with the cotton balls. Hide all of the foam pieces in the cotton in the tub.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to stick their hands in the tub and try to find a foam piece. Identify the pieces that children pull out. When a child pulls out a candy cane, explain that a candy cane looks like a shepherd's staff. Repeat the activity until all of the foam pieces have been found.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Let's look into the bin and see what we can find!"
(Point to the bin.)

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "There are Christmas items in our bin. Reach in the bin and see what you find! (Do activity.) Wow! I see a [Christmas object]! Oh, wow! There is a candy cane. A candy cane looks like a shepherd's staff! A shepherd uses a staff to lead his sheep. Keep looking for more Christmas items." (Continue and finish activity.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Nice work! You found so many Christmas items including the candy canes. We'll hear a Bible story about shepherds who used staffs. Staffs look like candy canes. I am so excited for our Bible story today!"

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by chanting this month's Bottom Line as you walk to the story area.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

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**THE SHEPHERDS
LUKE 2:8-20**

MEMORY VERSE

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KEY QUESTION

Why is Jesus special?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is God's Son.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



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. AROUND THE WORLD

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: A large world map OR blue butcher paper, markers, scissors, and floor tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Place the map in the center of the activity area. If using butcher paper, cut out a large

circle and draw land on it, then tape it securely to the floor.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Have the children stand around the map. Ask the children to walk around the map while saying the memory verse. Repeat several times.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "The whole world is on our floor (*point*). Our memory verse tells us that God loves the world so much that He gave us Jesus."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's all walk around the world while we say our memory verse. (*Do activity.*) Great job! Let's do it again!" (*Finish activity.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "You did a fantastic job! God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus! **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son!**"

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The angels tell about Jesus.

THE SHEPHERDS
LUKE 2:8-20

MEMORY VERSE

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

KEY QUESTION

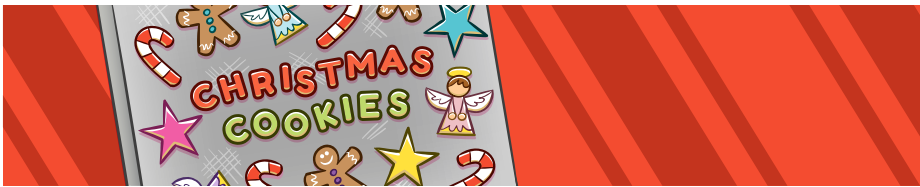
Why is Jesus special?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is God's Son.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



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. GOOD NEWS
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]
WHAT YOU NEED: Bible, cotton balls, and toy nativity set

WHAT YOU DO:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Place the toy nativity on one end of the room. Invite the children to gather around you on the opposite end of the room.

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY

The angels tell about Jesus.
THE SHEPHERDS
LUKE 2:8-20

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Give each child a cotton ball to hold. Pretend the cotton balls are sheep. Guide the children in acting out the Bible story by pretending to be shepherds, running to see baby Jesus then running from place to place repeating the Bottom Line together.

WHAT YOU SAY:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Come here! I want to talk about today's Bible story." (*Hold up Bible.*)

MEMORY VERSE

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

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Our Bible story was about the birth of Baby Jesus! Let's pretend we're shepherds while we talk about the Bible story.

"If we are shepherds, we need sheep. Let's pretend these are little sheep. (*Give each child a cotton ball to hold.*) What do sheep say? Baa-baa! Baa-baa! That's right! Shepherds take care of their sheep. So, make sure you take care of your little sheep. (*Pretend to pet the sheep.*) There, there little sheep. I'll take care of you.

KEY QUESTION

Why is Jesus special?

"Okay, the angel told the shepherds that Baby Jesus was born. Let's go see Baby Jesus. Follow me! (*Walk quickly to the toy nativity to see Jesus.*) Look, It's Baby Jesus! **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son! Yes! Jesus is God's Son.** This is GOOD NEWS! We need to go tell everyone! Take care of your little sheep and follow me. (*Walk quickly from place to place in the room announcing the GOOD NEWS.*) **Jesus is God's Son! Jesus is God's Son! Jesus is God's Son!**"

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is God's Son.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Everyone sit with me. Do you still have your little sheep? Good job! We did just like the shepherds in the Bible story did and told everyone the GOOD NEWS that **Jesus is God's Son! Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son!**"

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



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



3. STOP AND GO

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Stop" and "Go" Activity Pages, cardstock, scissors, two large craft sticks, and clear tape

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Stop" and "Go" on cardstock and cut on the dotted lines, one set per small

group. Tape each cutout to a craft stick to make one angel puppet and one Jesus puppet.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Have the children stand in front of you. When you show the children the angel puppet, ask them to stop and listen. When you show them the Jesus puppet, ask them to run in place. Repeat several times.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "We heard a Bible story today about angels who gave the shepherds a special message. The shepherds stopped and listened to the angels then ran to see Jesus!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "When I hold up the angel, (*demonstrate*) you STOP and LISTEN. When I hold up Jesus, (*demonstrate*) you RUN in place like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Are ready?" (*Do activity.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "That was so much fun! We stopped and listened to the angels, and we ran to see to Jesus just like in our Bible story! Everyone wanted to see Jesus! **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son!**"

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KEY QUESTION

Why is Jesus special?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus is God's Son.

BASIC TRUTH

God loves me.



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. CANDY CANE CROOK
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: "Candy Cane" and "Crook" Activity Pages; Avery®#5160 labels or equivalent; red cardstock; cotton balls; glue sticks; and scissors; Optional hole punch and yarn

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Candy Cane" on red cardstock and cut out, one per child. Copy "Crook" on label paper, one per child. Optional: punch a hole at the top of the candy cane and knot a loop of yarn through it.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to make stripes of glue on the candy cane shape and cover them with cotton balls to make the white stripes of a candy cane. Add the "Crook" Label to the back. Talk about how the candy cane is like the shape of a shepherd's crook.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Talk about how the angels came to the shepherds to tell them that Jesus, God's Son, had been born.

WHAT YOU SAY:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "What does this shape look like? (Pause.) It could be a hook, or a 'J' (hold it up like the letter J), or a candy cane!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "In our Bible story today, we learned about some shepherds. Shepherds take care of sheep. They use a crook to guide the sheep where they want them to go. Well a crook looks a lot like a candy cane. Let's make this look like a candy cane by adding some white stripes. Glue some lines on your candy cane then cover them with cotton balls. (Pause.) Wow! Super job. Now, flip it over, and let's add this label so you can know where to find our story in the Bible. (Pause.) Perfect!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "The shepherds in our Bible story were visited by one angel who told them the wonderful news that Jesus, God's Son, had been born. Then the sky was filled with angels praising God and saying 'Glory to God in the highest!' When the angels left, the shepherds quickly went to find Baby Jesus in the manger. Once they saw Him, they knew that everyone needed to know that Jesus was born. **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son.**"

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY
The angels tell about Jesus.
THE SHEPHERDS
LUKE 2:8-20

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.



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. FOLLOW

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Pool noodle cut in half

2. COOKIE PLAY

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Cookies" Activity Page (from Week 2)
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Cookie sheets, one per four children
- Sticker magnets

Note: When using magnets with preschoolers be sure you use large magnets that are stuck onto the cardstock securely to prevent swallowing. If you have children who might be a swallow risk, do not use the magnets and just play with the cookies on the cookie sheet. If using magnets, please always have adult supervision.

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Cookies" onto the cardstock and cut on the dotted lines. If you saved the cookies from Week 2, use them, too.
- Place a magnet on the back of each cookie. Place the cookies on the cookie sheet(s).

3. SENSORY BIN

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

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Cotton balls
- Christmas foam pieces that include candy canes
- Medium-sized tub

WHAT YOU DO:

- Fill the tub with the cotton balls.
- Hide all of the foam pieces in the cotton in the tub.

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. AROUND THE WORLD

[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:

- A large world map that can be stepped on, i.e. a rug or other durable material
- OR supplies to make your own world map
 - blue butcher paper
 - markers
 - scissors
 - floor tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Place the map in the center of the activity area.
- If using butcher paper, cut out a large circle and



WEEK
THREE
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

draw land on it, then tape it securely to the floor.

2. GOOD NEWS

[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
- Cotton balls
- Toy nativity set

3. STOP AND GO

[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:

- "Stop" Activity Page
- "Go" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Two large craft sticks
- Clear tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Stop" and "Go" on cardstock and cut on the dotted lines, one set per small group.
- Tape each cutout to a craft stick to make one angel puppet and one Jesus puppet.

4. CANDY CANE CROOK

[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:

- "Candy Cane" Activity Page
- "Crook" Activity Page
- Avery®#5160 labels or equivalent
- Red cardstock
- Cotton balls
- Glue sticks
- Scissors
- *Optional hole punch and yarn*

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Candy Cane" on red cardstock and cut out, one per child.
- Copy "Crook" on label paper, one per child.
- *Optional: punch a hole at the top of the candy cane and knot a loop of yarn through it to make an ornament.*

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>