

Small Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

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 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Race the Shapes
2. Follow
3. Star Path

Large Group (20 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Worship
- Bible Story
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. God Loved the World
2. Sparkly Star
3. Shine the Story
4. Wise Men Walk
5. Story Star Ornament
6. Journal and Prayer

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Going Home
- Memory Verse Card
- Parent Cue Card (print or email)
- [Parent Cue App](#) and ParentCue.org



Today's Bible Story

The Wise Men

The wise men follow a star to Jesus.

Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

Key Question

How do we know God loves us?

Bottom Line

God gave us Jesus.

Memory Verse

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

John 3:16 GNT



Inclusive Pro Tips

This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a special need, learning difference, or disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive pro-tips. Check out the additional Special Needs resources included.

SOCIAL 1/3

Race the Shapes

What You Need

- ☐ Easel paper, two rolls
- ☐ Heart, square, circle, and star 4-5-inch cutouts, two of each per Small Group
- ☐ Chairs, two per Small Group
- ☐ Optional: Paper towel rolls in place of easel paper



Inclusive Pro Tips

If children are unable to move with their feet, place activity on a long table and move the paper towel with their hands or arms.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Place two chairs next to each, about three feet from each other in an open area of the room.
2. Unroll about five feet of each roll of paper and tuck the remaining underneath each chair.
3. Each strip should run parallel to one another.
4. Place the star shapes at the end of each strip, then working toward the chair and leaving about 12-inches between each shape, place the circle, the square, and then the heart.

During the Activity

1. Encourage two children to sit in either chair.
2. When you say, 'Go,' children will move the shapes closer to them by stepping and dragging the paper strip with their feet.
3. The first one to get the four shapes to their chair wins. Encourage everyone to celebrate.
4. Reset the paper strips and play again, allowing every child to have a turn.
5. Replace the paper strips as needed if they tear.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come stand here with me! There are two long strips of paper on the floor. Both papers have four shapes on them. **(Point to each one.)** Hearts, squares, circles, and stars. These are all the shapes we've been learning about. Let's play a game to see who can get all the shapes to them first. I'll call on two friends to sit in the chairs like this. **(Sit in one of the chairs).** When I say, 'Go!' I want you to pull the paper to you with your feet like this, until all the shapes reach your chair. **(Demonstrate, being careful not to rip the paper.)** But remember, you can ONLY use your feet."

Continue on the next page →

SOCIAL 1/3

Race the Shapes

What You Need

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- ☐ Heart, square, circle, and star 4-5-inch cutouts, two of each per Small Group
- ☐ Chairs, two per Small Group
- ☐ Optional: Paper towel rolls in place of easel paper



Inclusive Pro Tips

If children are unable to move with their feet, place activity on a long table and move the paper towel with their hands or arms.

During the Activity

"Are you ready to play? **[Child's name]**, come sit in this chair. And **[child's name]**, sit in this one. Ready, set, go! Pull the paper with your feet! **(Pause.)** The shapes are getting closer! Keep moving! **(Pause.)** Wow! **[Child's name]** got the shapes to you first! Let's celebrate both our friends. **(Continue with each child and repeat as desired.)** That was fun playing the shape game with you!"

After the Activity

"Today, in our Bible Story, we're going to hear about a special star **(hold one of the stars in the sky)** that God put in the sky to show them the way to find Jesus."

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by holding the star over your head and walk to your designated area.

SOCIAL 2/3

Follow

What You Need

- ☐ Butcher Paper
- ☐ Washable markers
- ☐ Pool noodles
- ☐ Container
- ☐ Craft knife

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Tongs

Note

Use the craft knife before children arrive and store it out of reach in another room.



Inclusive Pro Tips

Provide tongs for children to use to pick up and place the pool noodle slides.

Allow children to build shapes flat or in 3D—both options work for learning.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Cover the table with butcher paper and secure with tape.
2. Draw a large heart, square, circle, and star in four different colors on the paper.
3. Cut the pool noodles into 1-inch to 2-inch slices, at least one pool noodle per shape.
4. Place pool noodle slices in the containers and place on the table.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to follow the outline to assemble the shape with the pool noodle slices.
2. Children can work independently, in pairs, or in a small group.
3. As they build, encourage them to follow the outline and celebrate when all the shapes are complete.
4. Reset and allow children to change seats to complete other shapes.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, today we're going to use these pieces of pool noodle to build some shapes! You'll need to look at the shapes on the table and follow the outline to complete each one. Are you ready?"

During the Activity

"Nice job building your shapes. **(Pause.)** You're doing a great job following the outline. What shapes do you see everyone building? **(Pause for responses.)** That's right! I think I see a heart, a star, a square, and a circle! Let's put all the pool noodle slices back in the container and we can move to another shape!" **(Repeat as desired.)**

Continue on the next page →

SOCIAL 2/3

Follow

What You Need

- ☐ "Follow" Activity Page,
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Pool noodles
- ☐ Container
- ☐ Craft knife

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Tongs

Note

Use the craft knife before children arrive and store it out of reach in another room.

**After the Activity**

"Friends! You followed the outlines and built some amazing shapes! In our true story from the Bible today, some very wise people followed something too. It was one of the shapes you built today! Let's go find out what they followed, and who they found!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by using your hands as binoculars to look all around for the same shapes you built.

Inclusive Pro Tips

Provide tongs for children to use to pick up and place the pool noodle slides.

Allow children to build shapes flat or in 3D—both options work for learning.

SOCIAL 3/3

Star Path



What You Need

- ☐ Butcher paper
- ☐ 1-inch to 2" wooden or plastic stars
- ☐ Washable markers
- ☐ Masking tape
- ☐ Baby wipes

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Dot marker, toy car, or small sponge ball
- ☐ Dry erase board
- ☐ Dry erase marker



Inclusive Pro Tips

Allow children to push the star using different tools like a large dot marker, toy car, or a small sponge ball if markers are difficult to grasp or control.

Using a small dry erase board, provide a simple visual card showing a star path (**dotted line**) and an image of a child pushing the star forward to model the expected motion.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Give each child a star and a colorful marker.
2. Tape the butcher paper to the table.
3. Draw a large heart in the middle of the paper.
4. Create a few start lines on either end of the paper and outline simple winding "paths" with dashed black or gray lines to the heart.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to place their star at the start line.
2. Help uncap their marker and ask children to place the tip of their marker on the paper against the star at the back of it.
3. Encourage children to push the star along the dotted path until they reach the heart in the middle.
4. Reset and repeat as desired.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hello friends! Today we're going to go on a star adventure by following these dotted line paths. Let's see where they lead!"

During the Activity

"Place your star on the table at one of the start lines. (**Demonstrate.**) Uncap your markers and place the tip on the paper right behind the star. Push the star with your marker along the dotted path. (**Pause.**) Look how carefully you're following the path! You are doing a great job staying on the path. Keep going until you get your star to the end of your path. (**Pause.**) You did it! Great job following the star path today friends! You got your stars the heart! Hearts make us think of love."

After the Activity

"Today we're going to hear a Bible Story about some very wise men who followed a star path too! I wonder what they found at the end of their path? Let's go find out!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by pretending to push a star with your feet or your finger in the air.

GROUPS 1/6

God Loved the World



Memory Verse Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "God Loved the World" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Blue and green washable ink pads
- ☐ Heart stickers
- ☐ Baby wipes
- ☐ Permanent marker

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Blue and green dot markers



Inclusive Pro Tips

Provide blue and green dot markers for children that prefer not to put ink on their hands.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "God Loved the World" on cardstock, one per child.
2. Write each child's name on their paper.
3. Say the Memory Verse and do the motions together with children.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to fill in the world outline with blue and green fingerprints.
2. Clean hands then ask children to add their sticker to the middle of the world.

After the Activity

Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

Friends, come stand with me, and let's say our verse as we do the motions together. Ready? It goes like this. 'God **(flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down)** loved the world so much **(cross arms over chest)** that he gave his only Son,' **(rock arms like a baby)** John 3:16. **(Open hands like a book.)** Great job friends!"

During the Activity

"Now sit down with me at the table. Use your fingerprints to fill in the world on your paper. Press your fingertip on the blue ink pad and press it on your paper. **(Pause.)** Do the same with the green ink pad. **(Pause.)** Fill the whole world. **(Pause.)** Clean your hands and now add this sticker to your world. **(Pause.)** It's a heart and hearts make us think of love! God loves us so much, **[Bottom Line]** God gave us Jesus!"

After the Activity

"Let's say our verse together one more time. 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,' John 3:16. God loves us so much **[Bottom Line]** God gave us Jesus! How do we know God loves us? **[Bottom Line]** God gave us Jesus."

GROUPS 2/6

Sparkly Star

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Sparkly Star" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Wooden star cutouts
- ☐ Sparkly pipe cleaners
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Hole punch

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Yellow dot markers or dot stickers

Note

When purchasing wood star cutouts, look for stars that already have an ornament hole in them.



Inclusive Pro Tips

Allow children to fill star with yellow dot markers or dot stickers instead of wrapping with pipe cleaner.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Sparkly Star" on cardstock and cut, one cutout per child.
2. Punch a hole punch on each card in the designated spot.

During the Activity

1. Give each child a wooden star.
2. Put an assortment of sparkly pipe cleaners in the center of the table.
3. Encourage children to wrap pipe cleaners around their star. Assist when needed.
4. As the children finish wrapping their stars with pipe cleaners, thread one pipe cleaner through the hole in the star and the hole in the cutout.
5. Twist the ends of the pipe cleaner together to make a loop.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hey everyone! Come sit with me! We are going to make sparkly star ornaments today!"

During the Activity

"First, everyone needs a star. **(Give each child a wooden star.)** Who remembers what the wise men followed in our Bible Story today? **(Pause.)** Yes! A star! God put a special star in the sky to show the wise men how to get to Jesus. Let's make our stars special with these sparkly pipe cleaners. Just wrap the pipe cleaners around your star, like this. **(Demonstrate and assist while the children work.)** What did the wise men do when the star stopped over Jesus' house? **(Pause.)** You're right! The wise men worshipped Jesus and gave him gifts. When you're done wrapping your star, I have a label and a loop that will make your star into an ornament. Then you can take it home and when you look at it remember that **[Bottom Line]** God gave us Jesus."

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3-5 year-Olds

Small Group

December — Week 4

GROUPS 2/6

Sparkly Star

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Sparkly Star" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Wooden star cutouts
- ☐ Sparkly pipe cleaners
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Hole punch

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Yellow dot markers or dot stickers

Note

When purchasing wood star cutouts, look for stars that already have an ornament hole in them.



After the Activity

"I want everyone to hold up their star ornament really, really high, like a star in the sky. Ooo...they look so sparkly! I hope every time you see your special star; you remember that God loved the world so much that [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus! How do we know God loves us? [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!"

Inclusive Pro Tips



Allow children to fill star with yellow dot markers or dot stickers instead of wrapping with pipe cleaner.

GROUPS 3/6

Shine the Story

MADE TO
↓
Think

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Flashlights
- ☐ Foam star, heart, crown, and gift shaped stickers

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Second set of foam stickers



Inclusive Pro Tips

Present a second set of each shape to give a visual reference that children can point to.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Attach a foam sticker to the lens of each flashlight.
2. Dim the lights in the room slightly.

During the Activity

1. Shine the light on the wall one at a time.
2. Ask the children to name the shape they see and talk about what it reminds them of from the story.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Let's use our flashlights to look for special shapes. Each one reminds us of something from today's Bible story!"

During the Activity

"I'm going to shine the flashlights at the wall. (*Shine the heart shape.*) Look! What shape is it? (*Pause for responses.*) That's right! It's a heart. Hearts remind us of love. God loves us so much that [*Bottom Line*] God gave us Jesus! (*Shine the star shape.*) Look! What shape is it? (*Pause for responses.*) That's right! It's a star! The star reminds us that the wise men followed a star to find Jesus! (*Shine the crown shape.*) Look! What shape is it? (*Pause for responses.*) That's right! It's a crown! The crown reminds us of the wise men. We have one last shape. (*Shine the gift shape.*) Look! What shape is it? (*Pause for responses.*) That's right! It's a gift! What gift did God give us? Yes! [*Bottom Line*] God gave us Jesus! That was so much fun!"

After the Activity

"Wow! You did a great job identifying all the shapes from today's Bible Story! My favorite shape is the heart and the gift because they remind us that God loves us so much that [*Bottom Line*] God gave us Jesus! How do we know that God loves us? [*Bottom Line*] God gave us Jesus!"

GROUPS 4/6

Wise Men Walk



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Wise Men Walk" Activity Page
- ☐ "Wise Men Walk Cards" Activity Page
- ☐ "Wise Men Walk Jesus" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Black construction paper
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Painter's tape

Inclusive Pro Tips



Adapt the path to table level with cards or let children point to shapes rather than walking.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Wise Men Walk" on cardstock, three sets per Small Group.
2. Copy "Wise Men Walk Cards" on cardstock and cut, four sets per Small Group.
3. Copy "Wise Men Walk Jesus" on cardstock, one per Small Group.
4. Set up the game path on the floor alternating the "Wise Men Walk" Activity Pages and black construction paper.
5. Secure each paper to the floor with tape.
6. Tape "Wise Men Walk Jesus" at the end of the path.
7. Shuffle the "Wise Men Walk Cards" nearby for children to draw from on each turn.

During the Activity

1. Encourage each child to take turns drawing a card and move to the first space with that shape on the game board.
2. Along the way, when they land on special shapes (like the star or gift), prompt them with the special words.
3. Celebrate when children reach Jesus at the end.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Today we're going to go on a special trip just like the wise men! They followed a star to find someone very special! Let's the follow the Wise Men Walk and see where it leads!"

Continue on the next page →

GROUPS 4/6

Wise Men Walk



Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Wise Men Walk" Activity Page
- ☐ "Wise Men Walk Cards" Activity Page
- ☐ "Wise Men Walk Jesus" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Black construction paper
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Painter's tape

Inclusive Pro Tips



Adapt the path to table level with cards or let children point to shapes rather than walking.

During the Activity

"[Child's name] pick a card. What shape did you get? (*Pause for responses.*) Wow! You got a **[shape]**! Go stand on the first **[shape]**. Use the words below:

1. Star – "What did the wise men follow?"
→ (Answer: A star!)
2. Gift – "What did the wise men give Jesus?"
→ (Answer: Special gifts!)
3. Crown – "Who is Jesus?"
→ (Answer: Jesus is the best gift from God.)
4. Heart – "How do we know God loves us?"
→ (Answer: God gave us Jesus.)

(*Continue rotating through each child, encouraging children to move up one non-shape space.*) Yay! Great job friends! You found Jesus just like the wise men!"

After the Activity

"God put a special star in the sky to show the wise men the way to find Jesus. They followed the star until they found Jesus! When the wise men saw Jesus, they bowed down, worshipped Jesus, and gave Him very special gifts. How do we know God love us? **[Bottom Line]** He gave us Jesus."

GROUPS 5/6

Story Star Ornament

MADE TO
↓
Create

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Story Star Ornament" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Yarn
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Hole punch
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Permanent marker

Inclusive Pro Tips



Provide adaptive crayons

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Story Star Ornament" on cardstock and cut, one set per child.
2. Fold each child's paper in half along the line.
3. Punch a hole at the top and bottom of each child's star.
4. Cut yarn in 8-inch lengths, two per child.
5. For each child, thread one piece of yarn through the hole at the top of their star and knot the ends.
6. Thread the other piece of yarn through the hole at the bottom and tie a knot.
7. Write each child's name on their star.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to color both sides of their picture.
2. Ask children to flip their picture over and rub glue all over the back of their paper.
3. Help children fold their paper and sandwich the end of the yarn inside.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come to the table and let's create a super special star ornament."

Continue on the next page →

During the Activity

GROUPS 5/6

Story Star Ornament

MADE TO
↓
Create

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Story Star Ornament" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Yarn
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Hole punch
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Permanent marker

Inclusive Pro Tips



Provide adaptive crayons

"We're going to make a special ornament today. This fun ornament will help us remember when the wise men followed a special star God put in the sky to find Jesus.

Color the pictures on your paper. **(Pause.)** Flip your paper over and rub glue all over the back. **(Pause.)** Great job! Now let's fold your pictures up with the end of the yarn inside. **(Help fold each child's picture with the yarn inside.)** Hold your ornament up by the loop. **(Pause.)** See how the wise men are following the star on one side and on the other they're at Jesus' house! What a neat ornament!

After the Activity

"Today's true story from the Bible begins with some wise men who believed God's words and knew that God was giving us someone very special. God put a special star in the sky to show the wise men the way. They followed the star until it stopped over Jesus' house! Jesus is the special person God gave us! When the wise men saw Jesus, they bowed down, worshipped Jesus, and gave Him very special gifts. We can worship Jesus too because God loves us so much **[Bottom Line]** God gave us Jesus! How do we know God loves us? **[Bottom Line]** God gave us Jesus!"

GROUPS 6/6

Journal and Prayer

MADE TO
↓
Reflect

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Journal
- ☐ Fun-shaped pen
- ☐ Gold star stickers

Note

You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Encourage the children to hold their hands up in the air and twinkle them like stars as you lead them to your Small Group spot.
2. Sit down and gather the children around you.

During the Activity

1. Review the Bible Story and Memory Verse Hand Motions, then encourage the children to make a list in the journal of gifts they would give Jesus if they were one of the wise men.

After the Activity

Pray with children using the list you made in the journal.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"It's Small Group time! Today we are going to make twinkle stars with our fingers while we walk to our Small Group spot. Hold your hands up high and make twinkle stars with your fingers, like this. **(Hold your hands high and twinkle your fingers as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.)**

That was fun! Now let's sit down and talk about today's Bible Story. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

During the Activity

(Open the Bible and lay it in front of the children.) "In our Bible Story, today, God put a special star in the sky for the wise men to follow. Do you remember who the wise men found when they followed the special star? **(Pause for responses.)** Yes! Jesus! When the star stopped, it was over the house where Jesus lived. What did the wise men do when they saw Jesus? **(Pause for responses.)** You're right! The wise men worshipped Jesus and gave Jesus gifts. They knew Jesus was special. And we know Jesus is special, because Jesus is God's Son. Just like it says in the Bible verse we've been learning! It says, 'God **(flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down)** loved the world so much **(cross arms over chest)** that he gave his only Son,' **(rock arms like a baby)** John 3:16. **(Open hands like a book.)**

Continue on the next page →

GROUPS 6/6

Journal and Prayer

MADE TO
↓
Reflect

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Journal
- ☐ Fun-shaped pen
- ☐ Gold star stickers

Note

You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.

"Let's stand up and say that Bible verse together. Just say what I say and do what I do! 'God (**flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down**) loved the world so much (**cross arms over chest**) that he gave his only Son,' (**rock arms like a baby**) John 3:16. (**Open hands like a book.**) That was wonderful! (**Two thumbs up.**) I think you're ready to say that verse all by yourself. I want everyone to sit down, and we will take turns saying it. Who wants to go first? I have gold stars for everyone who tries to say the Bible verse! (**Hold up star stickers.**) Way to go, [**child's name**]! (**Give two thumbs up.**) You get a gold star! (**Say and do this with each child as they try and say the Bible verse.**) I'm very proud of you for trying to say that Bible verse. When I count to three, I want everyone to stand up and point to your gold star. One, two, three! (**Pause to look.**) Yay! (**Clap.**)

"Now let's sit back down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (**Open journal.**) In our Bible Story, wise men followed a special star all the way to Jesus. When the wise men saw Jesus, they worshipped Him and gave Him gifts. Hmm... let's make a list of gifts we would give Jesus if we were one of the wise men. Then we can use the list when we pray. When I say your name, tell me one gift you would give Jesus if you saw Him, like the wise men did, and I will write it in our journal. (**Remember to print, as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.**)

After the Activity

"These are such sweet gifts! (**Hold up journal.**) Let's pray and talk to God about them. Would anyone like to pray before I pray? (**Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.**) Dear God, Jesus is special because Jesus is Your Son. And You loved the world SO much that You gave us Your Son. Wow! I'm so glad we know the true story of Christmas so we can know that You love us. If we were the wise men in our story today, we would give Jesus (**read the list the children made**) to show Him how much we love Him. Thank You for a wonderful Christmas with my friends (**say each child's name**). We love You, God. In Jesus' name. Amen."

Getting Ready

Social

Encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and engage with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing fun, age-appropriate, hands-on activities that introduce new concepts they will hear in the Bible Story.

Offer one or more of the following activities as preschoolers arrive. Let one or two Small Group Leaders lead activities in different areas of the room while another leader greets parents and children at the door.

Groups

Create a safe place to connect through activities written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line 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.

Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or offer two activities at once and allow half the children to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

Pinterest

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies.

https://bit.ly/FL_ChristmasShapes

Social

Race the Shapes

- ☐ Easel paper, two rolls
- ☐ Heart, square, circle, and star 4-5-inch cutouts, two of each per Small Group
- ☐ Chairs, two per Small Group
- ☐ Optional: Paper towel rolls in place of easel paper

1. Place two chairs next to each, about three feet from each other in an open area of the room.
2. Unroll about five feet of each roll of paper and tuck the remaining underneath each chair.
3. Each strip should run parallel to one another.
4. Place the star shapes at the end of each strip, then working toward the chair and leaving about 12-inches between each shape, place the circle, the square, and then the heart.

Follow

- ☐ Butcher Paper
- ☐ Washable markers
- ☐ Pool noodles
- ☐ Container
- ☐ Craft knife
- ☐ Masking tape

Inclusive Optional Supplies:

- ☐ Tongs
1. Cover the table with butcher paper and secure with tape.
 2. Draw a large heart, square, circle, and star in four different colors on the paper.
 3. Cut the pool noodles into 1-inch to 2-inch slices, at least one pool noodle per shape.
 4. Place pool noodle slices in the containers and place on the table.

Continue on the next page →

Getting Ready

Social

Encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and engage with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing fun, age-appropriate, hands-on activities that introduce new concepts they will hear in the Bible Story.

Offer one or more of the following activities as preschoolers arrive. Let one or two Small Group Leaders lead activities in different areas of the room while another leader greets parents and children at the door.

Groups

Create a safe place to connect through activities written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line 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.

Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or offer two activities at once and allow half the children to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

Pinterest

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies.

https://bit.ly/FL_ChristmasShapes

Star Path

- ☐ Butcher paper
- ☐ 1-inch to 2" wooden or plastic stars
- ☐ Washable markers
- ☐ Masking tape
- ☐ Baby wipes

Inclusive Optional Supplies:

- ☐ Dot marker, toy car, or small sponge ball
- ☐ Dry erase board
- ☐ Dry erase marker

1. Give each child a star and a colorful marker.
2. Tape the butcher paper to the table.
3. Draw a large heart in the middle of the paper.
4. Create a few start lines on either end of the paper and outline simple winding "paths" with dashed black or gray lines to the heart.

Groups

God Loved the World

- ☐ "God Loved the World" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Blue and green washable ink pads
- ☐ Heart stickers
- ☐ Baby wipes
- ☐ Permanent marker

Inclusive Optional Supplies:

- ☐ Blue and green dot markers

1. Copy "God Loved the World" on cardstock, one per child.
2. Write each child's name on their paper.

Continue on the next page →

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Shine the Story

- ☐ Flashlights
- ☐ Foam star, heart, crown, and gift shaped stickers

Inclusive Optional Supplies:

- ☐ Second set of foam stickers

1. Attach a foam sticker to the lens of each flashlight.
2. Dim the lights in the room slightly.

Wise Men Walk

- ☐ "Wise Men Walk" Activity Page
- ☐ "Wise Men Walk Cards" Activity Page
- ☐ "Wise Men Walk Jesus" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Black construction paper
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Painter's tape

1. Copy "Wise Men Walk" on cardstock, three sets per Small Group.
2. Copy "Wise Men Walk Cards" on cardstock and cut, four sets per Small Group.
3. Copy "Wise Men Walk Jesus" on cardstock, one per Small Group.
4. Set up the game path on the floor alternating the "Wise Men Walk" Activity Pages and black construction paper.
5. Secure each paper to the floor with tape.
6. Tape "Wise Men Walk Jesus" at the end of the path.
7. Shuffle the "Wise Men Walk Cards" nearby for children to draw from on each turn.

Continue on the next page →

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Story Star Ornament

- ☐ "Story Star Ornament" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Yarn
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Hole punch
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Permanent marker

Inclusive Optional Supplies:

- ☐ Adaptive crayons
1. Copy "Story Star Ornament" on cardstock and cut, one set per child.
 2. Fold each child's paper in half along the line.
 3. Punch a hole at the top and bottom of each child's star.
 4. Cut yarn in 8-inch lengths, two per child.
 5. For each child, thread one piece of yarn through the hole at the top of their star and knot the ends.
 6. Thread the other piece of yarn through the hole at the bottom and tie a knot.
 7. Write each child's name on their star.

Journal and Prayer

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Journal
- ☐ Fun-shaped pen
- ☐ Gold star stickers

Home

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's Parent Cue Card.
- Copy the Memory Verse Card to hand out or make available to parents.
- Copy "Going Home" and hang it 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](#) and ParentCue.org.