

Today's Bible Story: The Angel and Mary • Luke 1:26-33,38 An angel tells Mary about Jesus.

December 2025 • Week 1

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)*

rBackyard Older

Today's Suggested Schedule—December 2025, Week 1

Today's Bible Story: The Angel and Mary • Luke 1:26-33,38

An angel tells Mary about Jesus.

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).*

SUPPLIES NOT INCLUDED IN THE ACTIVITY BAGS:

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

Birth of Jesus Sensory Bin

- ☐ Kinetic sand
- ☐ Bin for sensory materials

Birth of Jesus Play Doh Mat (Not Walkertown)

- ☐ Play doh

Lesson Activities

Memory Verse with Motions

Bible Story Review- Ring the Bell

Application Activity-God Gave Us Jesus

Craft- Heart Angel Ornament

- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Clear tape
- ☐ Permanent marker

Application Activity-Color by Shape

- ☐ Blue, green, yellow, red crayons (some included in bags)

Journal and Prayer

Social Activities

1. Birth Of Jesus Sensory Bin

What You Need:

- ☐ Materials in bin labeled Birth of Jesus sensory bin
- ☐ Kinetic sand
- ☐ Bin to place sand and items in

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Make sure all supplies are in a bin and placed on a table so that kids can play with it.

During the Activity: Talk through the story using the points below.

What You Say:

- Talk about the pictures using the story sequence..
- What do you know about your own birth?
- How was the birth of Jesus special?
- Where were you born?
- Who celebrated your birth?
- Who celebrated the birth of Jesus?
- What did the angels do?
- What did the shepherds do after they saw Jesus?
- How do you celebrate the birth of Jesus?

Today's Bible Story: The Angel and Mary • Luke 1:26-33,38 An angel tells Mary about Jesus.

December 2025 • Week 1

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)

rBackyard Older

PlayDoh Mat Activity (South Fork and North Only)



What You Need:

- ☐ Play Doh
- ☐ Play Doh Mats

The Story, Luke 1:26-2: 1-39

The mat:

Includes a frame, a stable, a manger with Baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph and a star.

Talk about:

- * An angel visited Mary. The angel told Mary she would have a baby. The baby was Jesus!
- * Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem.
- * There was no room for Mary and Joseph. They had to stay with animals!
- * When Jesus was born, there was a bright star, and angels sang.
- * Shepherds were the first to see Jesus.
- * Later, the wise men brought gifts to Jesus.
- * Talk about what Jesus means to you.
- * Talk to the child about Christmas being a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus.
- * Talk about the Bible verse - God sent His Son, Jesus, to Earth for our salvation.

Would you rather:

- * See an angel or a stable?
- * Stay in a hotel or a stable?
- * Be a shepherd or an animal in the stable?
- * Get gold or a toy as a present?

Lesson Activities

1. Memory Verse with Motions

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Say the Memory Verse and demonstrate the motions for the children.

During the Activity: Teach the Memory Verse motions. Invite the children to do them with you several times.

After the Activity: Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come stand with me, and let me tell you our brand-new Memory Verse! Ready to hear it? 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.*)

During the Activity: "Now, let's learn the motions. The first part of our verse says: 'God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*) Put one hand up straight in front of you with your thumb almost touching your forehead like this. (*Straight, flat hand with thumb at your forehead.*) Then move your hand straight down in front of you like this, (*pull down*) and say, 'God.' (*Repeat with children.*) Great job!

"The next part of our verse says: 'Loved the world so much.' (*Cross arms over chest.*) Give yourself a hug, (*hug yourself*) and say, 'loved the world so much.' (*Pause.*) Now let's put that together. 'God (*flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down*) loved the world so much. (*Cross arms over chest.*) Great job!

"The next part of our verse says: 'That he gave his only Son.' (*Rock arms like a baby.*) Let's pretend we are holding a baby in our arms like this (*rock arms like a baby*) and say 'that he gave his only Son.' (*Repeat with children.*) Nice job! Now let's put that together. 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*) Super!

"Now the last part is: John 3:16. (*Open hands like a book.*) Put your hands together in front of you and open them like you are opening a book (*open hands like a book*) and say: John 3:16. (*Repeat with children.*) Great job! I think we are ready to do it all together! Ready friends? '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.*) Nice job. Let's do it again!" (*Repeat several times.*)

After the Activity: "The Bible teaches us that God loves us because [**Bottom Line**] God gave us Jesus. How do we know God loves us? [**Bottom Line**] God gave us Jesus."

2. Bible Story Review- Ring the Bell

What You Need:

- ☐ Desk bell

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Sit in a circle on the floor with the children. Place a desk bell in the center of the circle.

During the Activity: Insert the child's name each time you sing the words, and that child will crawl to the bell, ring it, and crawl back to their spot. Continue singing until every child's name has been said. Repeat as time and interest allow.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: (Ring bell.) "Hey, friends! Come sit in a circle with me. We are going to play a game with this bell." (Ring the bell a few times and place it in the center of the circle.)

During the Activity: (Sing to the tune of "Farmer in the Dell.")

"The angel came to tell.

The angel came to tell.

God gave us Jesus! Yay!

[Child's name] ring the bell!"

(Continue with each child. And repeat as time and interest allow.) "That was fun! Thank you for playing that game with me. I like playing games that teach me that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus.**"

After the Activity: "Friends, we know God loves us because **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!** So, when I ask you, **how do we know God loves us**, we can all say, **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!** Let's try it! **How do we know God loves us? [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus! Yay! [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!**" (Ring bell.)

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Have all children sit in chairs around a table and place a bell on the table. Bring the bell to the child if they cannot reach.

3. Application Activity- God Gave Us Jesus

What You Need:

- ☐ No supplies needed.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Gather children on one side of the room with you.

During the Activity: Encourage children to run to the other side of the room when they hear you say "God gave us Jesus".

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Let's play a game! Everyone, come stand over here with me. This is going to be fun, but you have to listen for the special message I say."

During the Activity: "I am going to say a lot of words. Some might be silly, and you can laugh, but when I say "God gave us Jesus," I want you to run to the other side of the room. Are you ready? Do you have your listening ears on? Great! Here we go! Sheep, mail, pickles, cupcakes... **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!** (Pause as children run.) Great job! Stay where you are, and this time, when you hear those special words, run back over here. Baby, cheese, cow, diaper ... **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!** (Pause as children run.) Great job!"

After the Activity: "In today's Bible Story, Mary listened when the angel told her she was going to have a baby. Mary was going to have a baby! 'The baby is God's Son, and you will call him Jesus.' God showed us how much He loves us all by sending His Son, Jesus. And that is what we celebrate at Christmas **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus! How do we know God loves us? [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!**"

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- In place of "run" suggest another movement to include all children such as: cheer, clap, dance, move.

4. Craft- Heart Angel Ornament



What You Need:

- ☐ "Heart Angel" Activity Page
- ☐ "Heart Angel Label" Activity Page
- ☐ 5" heart cutouts
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ 1/8-inch satin ribbon
- ☐ Clear tape
- ☐ Permanent marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Write each child's name on their paper.

During the Activity: Encourage children to color their angel body then glue the angel to the center of the heart. Ask children to turn their angel over and place their label on the heart. Create a loop with a piece of ribbon and tape to the back of the angel's head.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Hello friends! Come join me at the table and let's create something super special to remember today's true story from the Bible."

During the Activity: "Today in our Bible Story, we learned that God sent an angel to give Mary a special message. Let's make an angel with this cutout (*hold up the angel cutout*) and this heart. (*Hold up the heart cutout.*) Hearts make us think of love, and we learned that God loves you and God loves me SO much. God gave us Jesus to be our friend forever! Glue your cutout to the heart. (*Pause.*) Great! Now you can color your angels and decorate them however you want! (*Pause.*) Wow! Super job! Now turn them over and add this label to the heart. (*Pause.*) Now I'll tape a loop of ribbon to the back so you can hang your special angels like a Christmas ornament."

After the Activity: "The true story of Christmas begins with God's love for us. God loved you even before you were born! God loves us SO much; God gave us Jesus to be our friend forever!

"It all started a long time ago when God sent an angel to give Mary a special message. Mary was afraid, but the angel said, 'Do not be afraid, Mary. I have good news! God wants you to know that you're going to have a baby. The baby is God's Son, and you will call him Jesus.'"

Today's Bible Story: The Angel and Mary • Luke 1:26-33,38 An angel tells Mary about Jesus.

December 2025 • Week 1

Key Question: How do we know God loves us?

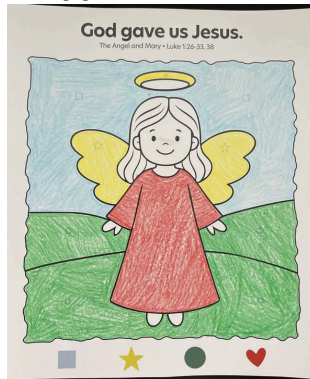
Bottom Line: God gave us Jesus.

Memory Verse: *"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son" (John 3:16 GNT)*

rBackyard Older

"When God sent the angel to Mary, God showed us how much He loves all of us by sending His Son Jesus. And that is what we celebrate at Christmas! ***[Bottom Line]* God gave us Jesus. How do we know God loves us? *[Bottom Line]* God gave us Jesus.**"

5. Application Activity- Color by Shape



What You Need:

- ☐ "Color by Shape" Activity Page
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Permanent marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Write each child's name on their paper.

During the Activity: Point out the shape key on the paper. Review the shapes and their corresponding colors from the key. Encourage children to follow the key on the paper to color the picture.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come find a spot at the table! I have a fun page for us to color."

During the Activity: "It's a color-by-shape picture. That means that each spot with a shape has a color that goes with it. Look at the key at the bottom. (*Point to the key.*) Do you see the heart? What color is next to the heart? (*Pause for responses.*) That's right! So, in the picture, when you see a heart, color it red. So let's match up the shapes and colors to see what's on our page! Can you find the square? What color is next to the square? (*Pause.*) That's right, it's blue. Color the spaces with a square, blue. What color do you color a space if it has a star? (*Pause.*) Yes! Yellow! And the last shape is a circle! Tell me what color will you fill the spaces with a circle? (*Pause.*) Green! You got it! Okay, get coloring! (*Pause.*) Look at the beautiful angel you created! (*Pause.*) Great job!"

After the Activity: "In today's true story from the Bible, we learned that God sent an angel to give Mary a special message. The angel told Mary she was going to have a special baby. That baby is God's Son, Jesus. God showed us how much He loves all of us by sending His Son, Jesus. And that is what we celebrate at Christmas! **How do we know God loves us? [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!**

6. Journal and Prayer

What You Need:

- ☐ Bible
- ☐ Journal
- ☐ Fun-shaped pen

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

Encourage the children to cup their hands around their mouths and say the Bottom Line as you lead them to your Small Group spot. Sit down and gather the children around you.

During the Activity: Review the Bible Story and Memory Verse Hand Motions, then encourage the children to help you make a list in the journal of people they can tell **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus.**

After the Activity: Pray with children using the list you made in the journal.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "It's Small Group time! Today we are going to cup our hands around our mouth, like this (*demonstrate*), and say **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus**, like the angel told Mary in our Bible Story. Get your hands ready and follow me! (*Cup your hands around your mouth and repeat [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Here we are! Now we can 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 sent an angel to tell Mary something very special. Do you remember what the angel told Mary? (*Pause.*) Yes! The angel told Mary that she was going to have God's Son, Jesus! 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son.' John 3:16 God loved you (*point to child*) so much that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus.** God loved you (*point to child*) so much, **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus.** (*Continue with each child.*) That's how we know God loves us because **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!**

"Hey! That reminds me of the new Bible verse we are going to start learning today! 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.*) Let's say that together! Just stand up and 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.*)

"Yay! **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!** (*Clap.*) And that is what Christmas is all about! God loved us so much **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!** Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) Since the angel told Mary that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus**, let's make a list of people we can tell that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!** Then we can use the list when we pray. When I say your name, tell me one person you can tell **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus**, 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.*)

Today's Bible Story: The Angel and Mary • Luke 1:26-33,38 An angel tells Mary about Jesus.

December 2025 • Week 1

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)

rBackyard Older

After the Activity: "Look at all the people we can tell that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!** (*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, thank You for the true story of Christmas, about how You loved the world so much You gave us Your Son, Jesus. Wow! That's a lot of love! Please help [child's name] tell (person they listed) that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus** and [child's name] tell (person they listed) that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus** and [child's name] tell... (continue saying this with each child). We love You, God! In Jesus' name. Amen."