

Today's Bible Story: Jesus is Born • Luke 2:1-7 Jesus is the best gift.

December 2025 • Week 2

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)*

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Today's Suggested Schedule—December 2025, Week 2

Today's Bible Story: Jesus is Born • Luke 2:1-7

Jesus is the best gift.

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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 Activity- The Gift of Verse

Bible Story Review- Story Wrap

- ☐ Wrap the Nativity scene people and animals in wrapping paper

Application Activity- Pass the Gift

Craft- Best Gift Ornament

- ☐ Crayons

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?

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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 Activity- The Gift of Verse



What You Need:

- ☐ "The Gift of Verse" Activity Page

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Scatter, out of order in your area. This activity can be done sitting at a table or on the floor. Say the Memory Verse and do the motions together with the children.

During the Activity: Encourage children to find the five gifts and put them in numerical order. Flip one gift over at a time then the leader will read the words on the back. Once all five gifts have been flipped over, leader will read the entire verse. Say the verse and do the motions together. Reset and repeat as desired.

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come join me over here and let's say our Memory Verse and do the motions together. Everybody ready? Okay! Here we go! '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, everyone."

During the Activity: "Friends, I need your help finding the five gifts I brought today. Let's go look around! (*Pause.*) Hooray! Hooray! You found all five gifts! Look how pretty and colorful they are! (*Pause.*) Each present has a number on it. (*Point.*) Let's put them in order, one to five. Do you see the gift with the number one on it? (*Pause.*) There it is! What about the gift with the number two? (*Continue with each gift and line up numerically.*) Great job! Thank you for helping me find all the gifts and put them in order. Let's turn them over and see what's inside. (*Flip gift number one over.*) Gift number one says 'God loved the world' hmm, let's see what gift number two has inside. (*Flip gift number two over.*) It says, 'so much.' Let's keep going! (*Continue flipping each gift and reading the words.*) Now that we've opened each of the gifts, let's put the words together. (*Point to each gift as you say the words.*) 'God loved the world that he gave his only Son,' John 3:16. (*Repeat as desired.*) That was so fun opening all the gifts to find our Memory Verse together."

After the Activity: "And do you know what the very best gift God gave us is? (*Pause for responses.*) Jesus! That's right! Jesus is the best gift ever! God loves us so much that [**Bottom Line**] **God gave us**

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Jesus. And that is what we celebrate at Christmas! **How do we know God loves us? [Bottom Line]**
God gave us Jesus."

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Work as a group and repeat words slowly and several times to allow time for all children to process.

2. Bible Story Review- Story Wrap

What You Need:

- ☐ Fisher Price® Nativity set
- ☐ Christmas wrapping paper
- ☐ Large basket
- ☐ Clear tape
- ☐ Party hats

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Wrap each piece of the nativity set in wrapping paper. If you have other animals or multiple nativities, wrap them as well to give you more pieces for the children to unwrap. Place all the wrapped pieces in a basket.

During the Activity: Invite the children to sit in a circle with you. Give each child a party hat to wear. Place the basket of wrapped pieces in the center of the circle. Each time you sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus, call on one child to take a wrapped piece from the basket, open it, and then talk about how their piece goes with the Bible Story.

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Hey friends! Come sit with me. We're going to play a birthday party game because Christmas is when we celebrate Jesus' birthday!"

During the Activity: "First, let's all put on these birthday party hats. *(Pause.)* Yay, for Jesus' birthday! *(Clap.)* Now I'll put this basket right here. *(Place basket in the center of the circle.)* Listen for your name, because every time we sing Happy Birthday to Jesus, we will take turns unwrapping the Bible Story! Let's play!"

"Happy birthday, to You!
Happy birthday to You!
Happy birthday, dear Jesus.
Happy birthday, to You!"

"[Child's name], it's your turn to unwrap the Bible Story! Pick something from the basket and let's see what's inside. *(Wait for child to unwrap one of the pieces and then say the words below that go with it. Continue with each child.)*

[Mary] "God sent an angel to tell Mary she was going to have baby Jesus."

[Joseph] "Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem."

[Jesus] "Mary wrapped baby Jesus in cloths and laid Him in a manger. Jesus is special because Jesus is God's Son."

[Animal] "A [animal name] says [animal sound]."

[Shepherd] "God sent an angel to tell the shepherds that Jesus had been born. The shepherds ran to see baby Jesus."

[Angel] "God used angels to tell people about His Son, Jesus."

[Manger] "Animals eat food out of a manger. Mary laid baby Jesus in a manger."

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(Continue until every child has unwrapped an item or all items are unwrapped.)

After the Activity: "Look! We unwrapped the Bible Story about how **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!** Yay, Jesus! (Clap.) Now every time we think about Christmas, we can remember how God loved us so much **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus! How do we know God loves us? [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!** Yay, Jesus!"

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Lay a wrapping paper square over each piece of the nativity so children can easily move the paper to reveal the piece of the story.

3. Application Activity- Pass the Gift

What You Need:

- ☐ Music player
- ☐ Upbeat preschool music
- ☐ Gift box with lid
- ☐ Individual heart stickers

Inclusive Optional Supplies:

- ☐ Chairs

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Put the heart stickers, one per child, inside the gift box.

During the Activity: Ask children to sit in a circle. Pass the gift box around as you play the music. Pause the music and ask children to stop passing the gift. Instruct whoever is holding the gift to open the box, take out one sticker, and replace the lid. Encourage everyone to say the Memory Verse with the motions together. Start the music and continue until each child has a turn.

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come over and sit in a circle on the floor with me. I have a fun game for us to play."

During the Activity: "We are going to pass this gift box from friend to friend as the music plays. When the music stops, whoever is holding the box gets to do something special. Everyone will get a turn. Are we ready? Great! *(Start music.)* I'll pass the gift next to me, and you pass it next to you. Keep going around the circle. *(Pause the music.)* [Child's name] you're holding the gift. Open it up and see what's inside. *(Pause.)* Heart stickers! Hearts make us think of love! Take one sticker then close the box. Let's all say our verse together as we do the motions. Ready? '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. *(Start music)* Pass the gift. *(Continue until each child has a turn.)* That was so much fun, and look, you all have hearts to remind you that God loves you!

After the Activity: "The Bible teaches us wonderful things like how much God loves us! God loves us so much that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!** Jesus is the best gift ever! **How do we know God loves us? [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!**"

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Place chairs in a circle to play.

4. Craft- Best Gift Ornament



What You Need:

- ☐ "Best Gift Ornament" Activity Page
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Craft sticks already glued together
- ☐ Yarn
- ☐ Permanent marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Best Gift Ornament" on cardstock and cut one cutout per child. Fold each cutout in half as indicated and glue to sides together. Hot glue four craft sticks together at the ends to create a square frame.

Punch a small hole at the top and bottom of each cutout. Cut yarn in 8-inch lengths, two per child. For each child, thread one length of yarn halfway through each hole and tie each side to the top and bottom craft sticks. The yarn should be taut but have enough give not to cause the paper to rip. Tie a bow from the excess at the top and trim the excess from the bottom.

During the Activity: Encourage children to color both sides of their picture. Demonstrate how to hold the frame and gently twist the picture to make it spin.

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Come to the table and let's create a super special Christmas ornament."

During the Activity: "We're going to make an ornament today that looks just like a gift. This fun ornament will help us remember what the very best gift is. Do you remember what the very best gift is? *(Pause for responses.)* That's right! Jesus is the very best gift! Look! There's baby Jesus on your ornament. Color your picture, and then I'll show you how to make it spin. *(Pause.)* Okay, hold your frame with one hand and twist the picture like this *(demonstrate)*, then let go and watch it spin! *(Pause.)* Wow! You really made the best gift ornament!"

After the Activity: "Today's true story from the Bible begins when Mary and Joseph traveled a long, long way to the town of Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph probably walked all the way to Bethlehem or Mary might have ridden on an animal like a donkey because she was about to have a baby!"

Once Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem, they stayed in a place that had a manger. A manger is something animals eat out of. There might have been some animals there too! This place isn't fancy, but this is where God gave us something very special. A very special baby was born, and He was God's Son, Jesus! What a special gift! Jesus is the best gift ever! God loves us so much that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!** Happy Birthday, Jesus! **How do we know God loves us? [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!"**

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Provide adaptive crayons

5. Journal and Prayer

What You Need:

- ☐ Journal
- ☐ Fun-shaped pen

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

Encourage the children to pretend they are carrying a gift 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 ask the children to help you make a list in the journal of gifts they want to give other people for Christmas.

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 pretend we are carrying a gift while we walk to our Small Group spot. Are you going to carry a small gift (*act like you are holding a small gift in one hand*) or a BIG gift? (*Act like you are holding a huge gift with both hands.*) Pick up your gift and get ready to follow me! (*Pretend you are carrying a gift as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*)

Whew! We made it! 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 gave everyone in the world the best gift ever! (*Pause.*) Do you remember the gift God gave us? Yes! **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!** And Jesus is the best gift!"

"Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem. When they got there, baby Jesus was born! Mary wrapped baby Jesus and placed Him in a manger. A manger is where the animals ate their food. Wow! Just think about it! 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son.' John 3:16. That's A LOT of love! And that's how we know God loves us!"

"The Bible verse we are learning talks about how we know God loves us. 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.*) Did you hear that? God loves us so much **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!** 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.*)

"Yay! (*Clap.*) And that is what we celebrate at Christmas! 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.*) In our Bible Story, God gave us the best gift—His Son, JESUS! That is why we give gifts to each other at Christmas. We give to others the way God gave to us. Let's make a list in our journal of gifts we want to give other people for Christmas. Then we can use the list when we pray. When I say your name, tell me one gift you would like to give someone at Christmas, and I will write it in our

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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 some wonderful gifts! *(Hold up journal.)* Let's pray and talk to God. 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 giving us the best gift, JESUS! We know you love us because You gave us Your Son, Jesus. Please help us give to others the way You give to us, so people will know we love them too. [Child's name] wants to give a (what they listed). [Child's name] wants to give a (what they listed). [Child's name] wants... (continue saying this for each child) You are the best, God, and we love You very much. In Jesus' name. Amen."