

Today's Bible Story: The Shepherds • Luke 2:8-20 The shepherds run to Jesus.

December 2025 • Week 3

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 3

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The shepherds run to Jesus.

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Supplies NOT Included in the Activity Bags

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

Jesus Birth Sensory Bin

- ☐ Kinetic sand
- ☐ Bin for sensory items

Jesus Birth Play Doh Mat

- ☐ Play Doh

Lesson Activities

Memory Verse Activity- Verse RevEWE

Bible Story Review- Story Puzzles

Application Activity- In The Story

- ☐ Gather 3-5 items from around the room. (Block, toy food, truck, etc. Make it silly.)

Craft- Circle 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. Bible Verse Activity- Verse RevEWE

What You Need:

- ☐ No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Gather with the children in an open area and say the Memory Verse with the motions.

During the Activity: Say the verse together with the children in different ways.

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, come over here. Let's say our verse as we do the motions together. 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.*) Fantastic!"

During the Activity: "I love our Memory Verse; it tells us that God loves us. Let's say it super-duper loud this time. 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,' John 3:16. That was so loud! This time, let's say it's super soft. 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,' John 3:16. Let's try to say it like a baby. (*Pause.*) Oh, that was funny. Now let's say our verse like a sheep. (*Pause.*) Yes, baaa, baaa that was so good baaa, baaa. I loved saying our verse in all the different ways and remembering that God loves us."

After the Activity: "Today in our Bible Story, the shepherds ran (*run in place*) to find baby Jesus. They knew baby Jesus was the best gift ever. **How do we know that God loves us? [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!**"

2. Bible Story Review- Story Puzzles

What You Need:

- ☐ "Story Puzzles" Activity Pages

What You Do:

During the Activity: Gather the children around a table or on the floor. Divide the children into three groups. Give each group a puzzle to do together. When the puzzles are complete, look at the pictures together as you review the Bible story. *Option: Do all three puzzles together as one group.*

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Who wants to play a puzzle game? I have three puzzles for us to put together. I can't wait to see what pictures they make!"

During the Activity: "Let's look at puzzle number one. (*Put the puzzle together.*) What do you see? (*Pause for responses.*) You're right! There's an angel (*point*) and some shepherds (*point*) and some sheep! (*Point.*) God sent an angel to tell the shepherds the good news that Jesus had been born!

"Now let's look at puzzle number two. (*Put the puzzle together.*) What do you see? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes! I see shepherds running! After the angel told the shepherds Jesus had been born, they were so excited that they ran to see baby Jesus!

"We have one more puzzle to look at, puzzle number three. (*Put the puzzle together.*) What do you see? (*Pause for responses.*) Aww...it's baby Jesus. The shepherds found baby Jesus lying in a manger, just like the angel said they would."

After the Activity: "I love puzzles. But do you know who I love more than puzzles? (*Pause.*) I love Jesus! And I'm so glad God loved us so much that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus. How do we know God loves us? [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus! Yay! [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!**"

3. Application Activity- In the Story

What You Need:

- ☐ "In the Story" Activity Page
- ☐ Hat
- ☐ Items from around the room

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Gather 3-5 items from around the room. (Block, toy food, truck, etc. Make it silly.) Put cards and items in the hat.

During the Activity: Pull an item out of the hat and ask if it was in the story. Repeat with each item.

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends, let's play a fun game to help us remember the Bible Story."

During the Activity: "I'm going to pull something out of this hat, and you have to tell me if it was in the Bible Story. (*Reach in and pull out a silly item from the room.*) It's a [item]! Was that in our story? (Pause.) No, that wasn't in the story. Let's try again. (*Reach in, pull a card out, and show it to the children.*) Was this in our story? (Pause.) Yes, [picture] was in our story, great job! (*Continue with all the items.*) That was so fun. You found the shepherds and their sheep, the angels, Mary and Joseph, and baby Jesus."

After the Activity: "I love this true story from the Bible, because it reminds me of how much God loves me. Friends, **how do we know God loves us?** [**Bottom Line**] **God gave us Jesus.**"

Inclusive Pro-Tips:

- Encourage children to respond with a thumbs up or thumbs down.

4. Craft- Circle Ornament



What You Need:

- ☐ "Circle Ornament" Activity Page
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Yarn
- ☐ Permanent marker

What You Do:

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

During the Activity: Encourage children to color their picture.

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 has a circle shape. This fun ornament will help us remember the part of the true Christmas story when the shepherds ran to see Jesus. Color your picture. *(Pause.)* I see Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, and the shepherds. What animal do shepherds take care of? *(Pause.)* Sheep! That's right! We'll set these super cute ornaments in your cabbies, and then you can take them home."

After the Activity: "Today's true story from the Bible begins with some shepherds who were out in a field taking care of their sheep. One night, God sent an angel to give the shepherds a message. The angel said, "Don't be afraid! I bring you good news of great joy! God's Son, Jesus, has been born! Then more angels came and praised God and said: "Glory to God in the highest!" (Luke 2:14 NIV) The shepherds were excited, they ran and found baby Jesus in a manger just like the angel had said. They were so happy that the shepherds told EVERYONE that Jesus, God's Son, was born! Everyone who heard the good news about Jesus was amazed. The shepherds praised God because **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus! How do we know God loves us? [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!**"

5. Journal and Prayer

What You Need:

- ☐ Journal
- ☐ Fun-shaped pen

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Encourage the children to jog 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 make a list in the journal of what they would tell baby Jesus if they saw Him lying in a manger.

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're going to jog to our Small Group spot. Jogging is like slow running. Are you ready to jog with me? Let's go! (*Jog as you lead the children to your Small Group spot.*) Jogging got us here faster than walking! 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, the shepherds were so excited about Jesus being born that they didn't walk...they didn't jog...they RAN to see baby Jesus!"

"When the shepherds got to Mary and Joseph, they saw Jesus lying in a manger, just like the angel said. It was true! 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son!' John 3:16

"That's the Bible verse we are learning! '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.*)

"Wow! That was fantastic! (*Two thumbs up.*) Now let's sit down so we can write in our prayer journal and talk to God. (*Open journal.*) In our Bible Story, the shepherds ran to see baby Jesus, and they found Jesus lying in a manger, right where the angel said Jesus would be. I wonder what the shepherds said to baby Jesus.

"Hey! That gives me an idea! Let's write in our prayer journal what we would tell baby Jesus if we saw Him lying in a manger, like the shepherds did. Then we can use the list when we pray. When I say your name, tell me what you would tell baby Jesus if you saw Him lying in a manger, and I will write it in our journal. (*Assist when needed. Remember to print, as you write in the journal, so the children can recognize their names and the letters.*)

After the Activity: "This is so special! (*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

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that we got to hear more about the true story of Christmas and how You gave us Your Son, Jesus. If we were like the shepherds and saw baby Jesus, [child's name] would tell Him (*read what they wrote*), and [child's name] would tell Him... (*say this with each child*). You're the best, God. In Jesus name. Amen."