

Today's Suggested Schedule—December 2025, Week 2

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

Jesus is the best gift.

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 Activity Bags

Memory Verse Activity- Special Gift

- Crayons or dot markers

Bible Story Review- Story Wrap

- Tape
- Fisher Price nativity scene
- Will need to rewrap them between services
- bucket

Application Activity- Birthday Jump

- Floor tape

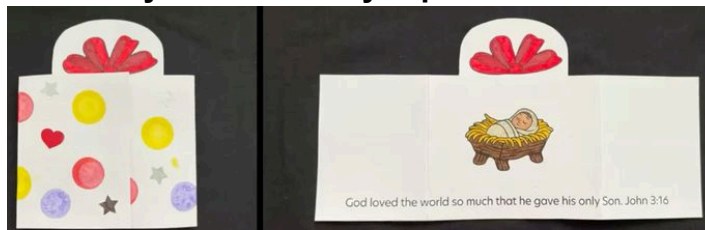
Craft- Present Squared

- Gluesticks
- crayons

STORY SUMMARY

Mary and Joseph travel a long way to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to God's Son, Jesus. Mary wraps baby Jesus in cloth and lays Him in a manger. God loves us so much that God gave us Jesus! How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus.

1. Memory Verse Activity- Special Gift



What You Need:

- ☐ “Special Gift” Activity Page
- ☐ Crayons, or dot markers
- ☐ Stickers
- ☐ Washable self-inking stamps
- ☐ Baby wipes
- ☐ Permanent marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Fold each child’s paper and write their name. Say the Memory Verse and do the motions with the children.

During the Activity: Encourage children to decorate the outside of their gift and say the verse together. Then ask children to open the gift and color the baby Jesus. When complete, say the verse as you do the motions together.

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

What You Say:

“Friends, come stand with me, and let’s say our verse 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.*) That was great! Now let’s sit down at the table to make something special!”

During the Activity

“Look! It’s a gift! Decorate the outside of your gift with the markers, stickers, and stamps. While you are decorating, let’s say the words to our verse. (*With children.*) ‘God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,’ John 3:16. Great job saying the verse with me. Wow! These gifts look so wonderfully special! But wait, open your gift and see what’s inside. (*Pause.*) It’s Jesus! Hooray! Jesus is the most wonderfully special gift because God gave us Jesus! Decorate the inside of your gift too. (*Pause.*) Now close your present and let’s say our verse one more time with the motions. ‘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.”

After the Activity

“The Bible teaches us that a very special baby was born, and He was God’s Son, Jesus! Happy Birthday, Jesus! Jesus is the best gift ever! God loves us so much that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus. How do we know God loves us? [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus.**”

2. Bible Story Review- Story Wrap

What You Need:

- ☐ Fisher Price® Nativity set
- ☐ Christmas wrapping paper
- ☐ Large basket or bucket
- ☐ 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.”

(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. Birthday Jump

What You Need:

- ☐ Painter's tape

What You Do: Create a large square on the floor with tape.

During the Activity: Encourage children to walk the square along the tape line and when prompted, jump into the square.

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

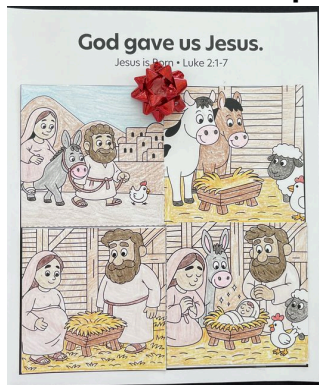
What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Friends do you see this really big square on the floor? I think we should pretend that it is a really big gift box. Maybe it's a birthday present. Everyone, come stand on the lines. We are going to walk around the square and when I say 'Happy Birthday Jesus,' you jump into the box."

During the Activity: "Let's walk! (*Pause.*) Happy Birthday, Jesus! Jump in the box! (*Pause.*) Great job. Hey, I have a question. **How do we know God loves us?** Because **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus.** Jesus is the best gift! Go back the tape line and let's do it again. (*Repeat as desired.*) That was so fun."

After the Activity: "Today in our Bible Story, we learned that Jesus was born and is the best gift ever! God loves us so much that God gave us Jesus! **How do we know God loves us? [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!**"

4. Craft- Present Squared



What You Need:

- ☐ “Present Squared” Activity Page
- ☐ “Present Squared Pictures” Activity Page
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Gift bows, one per child
- ☐ Permanent marker

What You Do:

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

During the Activity: Encourage children to color each story picture, then glue them, in order, to their big present as you review the Bible Story. Once all the pictures are glued to the big picture, ask children to add a bow to the top

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: “In front of you are four pictures that tell today’s Bible Story. Color each picture. *(Pause.)* Fantastic! Okay, find the picture of Mary and Joseph. They had to travel a long way to a town called Bethlehem. Glue that picture in the square with one dot. *(Point.)* Okay, now find the picture of Mary and Joseph and the manger. *(Pause.)* We learned that a manger is something animals eat out of. This is where Mary and Joseph stayed when they got to Bethlehem. Glue this picture to the square with two dots. *(Point.)* The next picture I want you to find is the one with the horse, cow, and sheep. *(Pause.)* There might have been some animals there too! Like a horse, or a cow, or a sheep that ate from that manger. Glue this picture to the square with three dots. *(Point.)* This place isn’t fancy, but this is where a very special baby was born, and He was God’s Son, Jesus! Mary wrapped baby Jesus in cloth and laid Him in a manger. Glue your picture of baby Jesus to the last square. *(Point.)* Hooray! Now let’s finish the story present by adding a bow on top! *(Pause.)* Nice job, friends!”

After the Activity: “God gave us something very special. God loves us so much that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus.** Jesus is the best gift ever! Happy Birthday, Jesus! Say that with me. Happy Birthday, Jesus! **How do we know God loves us? [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus.**”