

GROUPS 1/6

Verse RevEWE

Memory Verse Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

→ No supplies needed

Inclusive Optional Supplies

☐ Noise-canceling headphones

Inclusive Pro Tips

Offer noise-canceling headphones for children that may be sensitive to loud noises.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Gather with the children in an open area and say the Memory Verse with the motions.

During the Activity

1. Say the verse together with the children in different ways.

After the Activity

Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

② 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 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!"

3-5 Year-Olds

Small Group

December — Week 3

GROUPS 2/6

Story Puzzles

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Story Puzzles" Activity Pages
- ☐ 11-inch x17-inch paper
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Gallon-sized resealable bags



① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Story Puzzles" on 11-inch x17-inch paper and cut, one set per Small Group.
2. Place each puzzles' pieces in a separate baggie.
3. Label the baggies 'Puzzle 1,' 'Puzzle 2,' and 'Puzzle 3.'

During the Activity

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

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

Continue on the next page →

GROUPS 2/6

Story Puzzles

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- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Gallon-sized resealable bags



② 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 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!"

GROUPS 3/6

In the Story

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

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

MADE TO
↓
Think

USES MINIMAL
SUPPLIES

Inclusive Pro Tips



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

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "In the Story" on cardstock and cut, one set per Small Group.
2. Gather 3-5 items from around the room. (Block, toy food, truck, etc.. Make it silly)
3. Put cards and items in the hat.

During the Activity

1. Pull an item out of the hat and ask if it was in the story.
2. Repeat with each item.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② 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"

GROUPS 5/6

Circle Ornament

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Circle Ornament" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Small white pom-poms
- ☐ 3.94-inch clear refillable ornaments, one half per child
- ☐ Yarn
- ☐ Craft glue
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Hole punch
- ☐ Permanent marker



① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Circle Ornament" on cardstock and cut, one cutout per child.
2. Punch a hole at the top of each child's paper.
3. Cut yarn in 8-inch lengths, one per child.
4. For each child, thread their yarn through the hole and knot the ends.
5. Write each child's name on their paper.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to color their picture.
2. Ask children to put a few pom-poms on their picture then trace the outline of the circle on their paper with glue.
3. Help children align one ornament half on the glue.
4. Set aside to dry.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

Continue on the next page →

GROUPS 5/6

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- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Small white pom-poms
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- ☐ Craft glue
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Hole punch
- ☐ Permanent marker



② 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! These little pom-poms look like sheep. Let's count out three sheep. One, two, three! Great job! Put those to the side and we'll add them later. Trace the circle **(point)** with the glue. **(Pause.)** Put those sheep inside the circle, and now I'll help you add this circle on top of the glue. **(Position a half of the ornament on top of the glue.)** We'll let these super cute circle ornaments dry and then you can take it 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 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!"