2-4 Year-Olds Small Group

December — Week 4

December — Week 4

Small Group Leader Guide

Preschool Timetable









Today's Bible Story

The Wise Men Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

The wise men follow a star to 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





This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a special need, learning difference, or disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive protips. Check out the additional Special Needs resources included.





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December — Week 4

MOVE ACTIVITY

Star Parade

What You Need

Yellow star wands





What You Do

During the Activity

- 1. Hold up the star wand and ask the children to follow the star as you walk around the room.
- 2. Encourage children to take turns leading the Star Parade.
- 3. Continue until all children have had a turn.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say

Before the Activity

"Today we're going to have a Star Parade! (Hold up the star wand.) Line up behind me."

During the Activity

"Follow me and let's march! (Hold the star up high and start marching around the room.) Look at you following the star! Great job! It's fun to be the leader of the star parade too! [Child's name] it's your turn to hold the star and lead us. (Continue until all kids have had a turn.) You all did a great job marching in our Star Parade and following the star!"

After the Activity

"You all did a great job marching in our Star Parade and following the star! Today in our Bible Story, we'll hear about some wise men who followed a star to find a special gift. Let's go!"

Transition -> Move to Worship and Story by carrying the star wand and encouraging the children to continue following the star.

Inclusive Pro Tips

Allow children who are not ready to walk independently to be pushed in a stroller or wagon while holding the star.

December — Week 4

Memory Verse with Motions

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

☐ No Supplies Needed

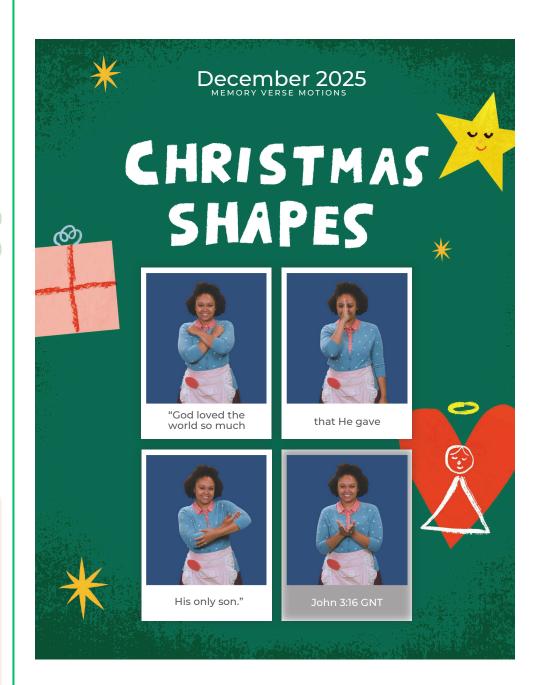


Inclusive Pro Tips

Invite children to say it with you or repeat words after you.

Set out the picture cutouts made from the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF for children to hold up or point to as an alternative to saying or repeating the verse out loud.

If using this version, adjust wording in What You Say section accordingly.



2-4 Year-Olds

Small Group

December — Week 4

CREATE ACTIVITY

Sparkly Star

Bible Story Review



Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- "Sparkly Star" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Wooden star cutouts
- Sparkly pipe cleaners
- Scissors
- Hole punch



Inclusive Pro Tips

Allow children to fill star with yellow dot markers or dot stickers instead of wrapping with pipe cleaner.

What You Do

Before the Activity

- 1. Copy "Sparkly Star" on cardstock and cut, one cutout per child.
- 2. Punch a hole punch on each card in the designated spot.

During the Activity

- 1. Give each child a wooden star.
- 2. Put an assortment of sparkly pipe cleaners in the center of the table
- 3. Encourage children to wrap pipe cleaners around their star. Assist when needed.
- 4. As the children finish wrapping their stars with pipe cleaners, thread one pipe cleaner through the hole in the star and the hole in the cutout.
- 5. Twist the ends of the pipe cleaner together to make a loop.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

Continue on the next page ->

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Faith Skills

Hear from God Pray to God

Talk about God Live for God

What You Need

☐ "Sparkly Star" Activity Page ☐ Cardstock
■ Wooden star cutouts
Sparkly pipe cleaners
Scissors
☐ Hole punch

Inclusive Pro Tips



Allow children to fill star with yellow dot markers or dot stickers instead of wrapping with pipe cleaner.

² What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hey everyone! Come sit with me! We are going to make sparkly star ornaments today!"

During the Activity

"First, everyone needs a star. (Give each child a wooden star.) Who remembers what the wise men followed in our Bible Story today? (Pause.) Yes! A star! God put a special star in the sky to show the wise men how to get to Jesus. Let's make our stars special with these sparkly pipe cleaners. Just wrap the pipe cleaners around your star, like this. (Demonstrate and assist while the children work.) What did the wise men do when the star stopped over Jesus' house? (Pause.) You're right! The wise men worshiped Jesus and gave him gifts. When you're done wrapping your star, I have a label and a loop that will make your star into an ornament. Then you can take it home and when you look at it remember that [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus."

After the Activity

"I want everyone to hold up their star ornament really, really high, like a star in the sky. Ooo...they look so sparkly! I hope every time you see your special star; you remember that God loved the world so much that [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus! How do we know God loves us? [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!"







Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Say

Dear God, Jesus is special because Jesus is Your Son. And You loved the world SO much that You gave us Your Son. Wow! I'm so glad we know the true story of Christmas so we can know that You love us. If we were the wise men in our story today, we would give Jesus (read the list the children made) to show Him how much we love Him. Thank You for a wonderful Christmas with my friends (say each child's name). We love You, God. In Jesus' name. Amen."

DECEMBER-W4

SAMPLE



GOD LOVED THE WORLD SO MUCH THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY SON.

JOHN 3:16, GNT

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Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11

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