

Week 3



December 14th/15th

OVERVIEW CARD

Happy Birthday, Jesus

Key Question:
Bottom Line:
Memory Verse:

How do we know God loves us?
God gave us Jesus.
“God has given a son to us.”
Isaiah 9:6, NCV

Bible Story:

Happy Birthday, Jesus
The Christmas Story Review
Luke 1:26-2:18

Coloring Page:

Happy Birthday, Jesus

Music:

Merry Christmas to You
Great Big God
Look, Look, Everyone

Story:

Happy Birthday Jesus
by Michelle Medlock Adams

Service Time:

68 minutes



December Memory Verse -
“God has given a son to us.”
Isaiah 9:6, NCV

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ACTIVITY

Happy Birthday, Jesus

Balloon Race

What You Need: “Big Balloons” and “Little Balloons” from the Activity Pages on the Website, white cardstock, scissors, and painter’s tape.

What You Do:

Before the activity: Make one copy of “Big Balloons” on white cardstock. Make enough copies of “Little Balloons” on white cardstock so that each child has at least one little balloon.

During the activity: Tape the six “Big Balloon” pictures to the wall, in various spots around the room, at the children’s eye level. Gather the children together in the middle of the room, and give them each one of the “Little Balloons” with a small piece of tape on the back. Tell them when you say “Go!” they should find the matching “Big Balloon” and put their balloon beside it on the wall. Continue doing this until all of the “Little Balloons” have been taped to the wall.

What You Say:

Before the activity: “I want you to look around the room and point to the picture of a red balloon. *(Pause.)* Way to go! Now point to the blue balloon. *(Pause.)* Good job! Do you see a green balloon? *(Pause.)* Yes! *(Do this for all six colors of balloon pictures.)* We’re going to play a game with the balloon pictures. When I say, ‘Go!’ I want you to take the little balloon picture I give you and stick it next to the big balloon that is the same color. Got it? On your mark! Get set! GO!” *(Repeat as many times as desired.)*

At the end of the activity: “Let’s count and see how many little balloons are next to each big balloon. *(Count balloons together.)* Wow! We have a lot of balloons! Do you know what balloons remind me of? *(Pause.)* Parties! And guess what! Today we are going to have a party because we’re celebrating Jesus’ birthday!”



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ACTIVITY

Happy Birthday, Jesus

Beach Ball Birthday Fun

What You Need:

Happy Birthday Jesus beach ball and parachute.

What You Do:

Arrange children in a circle around the parachute. Have each child pick up the edge of the parachute so that it is completely off the ground. Ask the children to slowly move their arms up and down to make a rippling effect. Direct them to go faster and then slower. Once the children have mastered the technique, toss the beach ball on the parachute and allow it to be bounced around. Repeat the activity until the children lose interest.

What You Say:

Before the activity: "I am so excited about the birthday party for Jesus today! I have a wonderful idea! Why don't we play a fun game with this Happy Birthday Jesus ball and the parachute. Are you ready to play? *(Pause.)* Let's begin, can everyone hold onto the parachute? Great Job!" *(Play as long as children are interested.)*

At the end of the activity: "You did a great job holding onto the parachute. That was so much fun! I love birthday parties and birthday party games. Do you remember whose birthday we are celebrating today? *(Pause.)* We're having a party for Jesus' birthday! I love celebrating Jesus as he is such a special gift from God!"



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ACTIVITY

Happy Birthday, Jesus

Ring Toss Happy Birthday Song

What You Need: Ring Toss Game

What You Do: Pretend the colored pegs are candles and have the children blow them out by tossing the rings over the colored pegs (have the children stand in a line and take turns trying to toss the rings over the pegs). When they are successful, announce the color where the ring landed and have them do the actions below that corresponds to the color of the peg.

Red: "Sing Happy Birthday to Jesus."

Blue: "Make a Birthday Wish."

Green: "Tell what present would Jesus like most of all"

Yellow: "Say the memory verse."

Orange: "Tell one thing about Jesus' birthday."

What You Say:

"I need some helpers. We have to get everything ready for Jesus' birthday party! Everyone loves a birthday party, right? I like it when people tell me happy birthday. Do you like it when people tell you happy birthday? (*Pause.*) Well, today we're going to play a fun game that let's us celebrate Jesus birthday and celebrate Him! We are going to pretend that these colored pegs are candles and have you blow them out by tossing the rings over the colored pegs. Each time you blow out a candle, we are going to do something fun to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Are you ready? Let's begin..."



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ACTIVITY

Happy Birthday, Jesus

What's Missing

What You Need: Nativity Set for each classroom

What You Do:

Before the activity: Place a nativity set on a tray. Let the children look at it for a couple of minutes. You can talk about each person in the nativity and how they were all part of Jesus' birthday. Remove one person from the tray and let children look again and see if they can spot who is missing.

What You Say: "It's almost Christmas! It's almost Christmas! Whose birthday do we celebrate at Christmas? *(Pause.)* Jesus! Happy birthday, Jesus! Can you help me play a game using our Manger Scene? *(Pause.)* Great! I am going to have you close your eyes while I remove one character from our Manger Scene and you have to guess who is missing. Before we start let me review the Bible lesson so you know who all the characters in the Manger Scene are.

It all started with a nice lady named ... *(pull out Mary)* Mary! Say hi to Mary. Hi, Mary! Mary loved God and He loved her, too. God knew that Mary was the perfect lady to be a mommy. God sent an angel *(pull out the angel)* to tell Mary that she was going to be a mommy to a very special boy! Mary was going to get married to a man named Joseph. *(Pull out Joseph.)* Say hi to Joseph. Hi, Joseph! Joseph and Mary traveled a looong way to Bethlehem on a donkey *(pull out the donkey)*. When they got there, there was no place for them to stay. But a nice innkeeper let them stay in his stable with the animals and this is where Jesus was born. *(Pull out Baby Jesus.)* His crib was a manger with hay! Then some angels appeared to the shepherds in the field *(pull out the angels, shepherds and sheep)* and told them that Jesus, the Son of God, was born! And they sang songs and the shepherds went to see Baby Jesus. When they got there, they were so excited and knew they needed to tell everyone about Jesus and that's exactly what they did. That was awesome! I love celebrating Jesus' birthday. It's the most amazing thing ever. God loves us so much that He gave us Baby Jesus! **How do we know God loves us?** *(Pause.)* **God gave us Jesus!"**



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ACTIVITY

Happy Birthday, Jesus

Pass the Present

What You Need: A wrapped present, cd and music

What You Do:

Before the activity: Wrap a present.

During the activity: Have the children sit in a circle and pass the gift while the music is playing. When the music stops, the child with the gift tells all the other children one present he would love to get at Christmas.

What You Say:

Before the activity: "Today we are having a birthday party for someone very, very, VERY special. When I count to three, I want us all to say His name. One, two, three ...JESUS! YES! Jesus! We are celebrating when **God gave us Jesus!** We are going to play a game with a Christmas present. Everyone needs to sit in a circle, and we are going to pass a present while the music is playing. When the music stops, whoever is holding the present will tell us one present he would love to get at Christmas.

After the activity: "You all named some really awesome things. I love presents at Christmas time but presents are not what Christmas is really about. Who knows why we celebrate Christmas? (Pause.) Yes, you are right, Christmas is Jesus' birthday and Jesus is the very best present we could every ask for! "



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CRAFT - 4'S AND CLUBHOUSE

Happy Birthday, Jesus

Color Your Own Nativity Crown



What You Need: Nativity Crowns and Crayons or Markers

What You Do:

Give each child a "Nativity Crown" to color and decorate. Once they are decorated, wrap the strip around the child's head and secure.

What You Say:

Before the activity: "I am so excited to have our birthday party for Jesus! I think we need to look more festive though, don't you? *(Pause.)* I have a great idea! Let's make Nativity hats!"

During the activity: Look! Our hats have the Manger Scene on them. Let's get started decorating them! Let me know when you are finished decorating your hat and I will come and help you finish it up."

At the end of the activity: "Your hats are awesome! You all look like you are ready for our birthday party for Jesus! God gave us Jesus because He loves us so much! **How do we know that God loves us?** *(Pause.)* Absolutely! **God gave us Jesus!**"



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CRAFT - 3'S

Happy Birthday, Jesus

Happy Birthday Hat

What You Need: Party Hats and Christmas stickers



What You Do:

Give each child a "Party Hat" to decorate with stickers.

What You Say:

Before the activity: "I am so excited to have our birthday party for Jesus! I think we need to look more festive though, don't you? (Pause.) I have a great idea! Let's make party hats!"

During the activity: Let's get started decorating them! Let me know when you are finished decorating your hat and I will come and help you put it on."

At the end of the activity: "Your hats are awesome! You all look like you are ready for our birthday party for Jesus! God gave us Jesus because He loves us so much! **How do we know that God loves us?** (Pause.) Absolutely! **God gave us Jesus!**"



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CRAFT - 4'S AND CLUBHOUSE

Happy Birthday, Jesus

Happy Birthday Jesus Cupcake Ornament

What You Need: Ornament

What You Do:

Help the children make their Happy Birthday Jesus Cupcake Ornaments.

What You Say:

During the activity: "Who is ready to tell Jesus happy birthday? (Pause.) Then sing with me! (Sing the song as many times as desired.) Yay, Jesus! Happy birthday, Jesus! I am so happy **God gave us Jesus**. Now Jesus can be our friend forever!"

At the end of the activity: "God loves (child's name) and God loves (child's name) and God loves ... (repeat for each child). God loves us all SO much that **God gave us Jesus! How do we know God loves us?** Because **God gave us Jesus!** And that is what Christmas is all about. God loves you and me so much, He gave us Jesus."



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CRAFT - 3'S

Happy Birthday, Jesus

Happy Birthday Jesus Cupcake Ornament

What You Need: Ornament

What You Do:

Help the children make their Happy Birthday Jesus Cupcake Ornaments.



What You Say:

During the activity: "Who is ready to tell Jesus happy birthday? (Pause.) Then sing with me! (Sing the song as many times as desired.) Yay, Jesus! Happy birthday, Jesus! I am so happy **God gave us Jesus**. Now Jesus can be our friend forever!"

At the end of the activity: "God loves (child's name) and God loves (child's name) and God loves ... (repeat for each child). God loves us all SO much that **God gave us Jesus! How do we know God loves us?** Because **God gave us Jesus!** And that is what Christmas is all about. God loves you and me so much, He gave us Jesus."



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SMALL GROUP

Happy Birthday,
Jesus

Small Group Time

What you Need: Happy Birthday Jesus Stickers, Bible Story and Wall Nativity Set

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “Today we are having a birthday party for someone very, very, VERY special. When I count to three, I want us all to say His name. One, two, three ... JESUS! YES! Jesus! We are celebrating when **God gave us Jesus!** Christmas is all about Jesus’ birthday! That’s why you see manger scenes at Christmas. Have you ever seen one with a Joseph and Mary in a stable with baby Jesus in a manger? Sometimes animals will be standing around and shepherds will be looking at Jesus. People set those out to look at so they will remember that Christmas is all about when **God gave us Jesus.** Our Memory Verse talks about how **God gave us Jesus.** Let’s say it together, and then if anyone wants to say it by yourself, you can.”

CHILDREN and SGL: “‘God has given a son to us,’ Isaiah 9:6.”

SGL: “That’s right! We’ve been learning a Bible verse that tells us that God gave us Jesus. Would anyone like to try and say it all by yourself?”

Give each child the opportunity to say the verse. Make this a special time for them and reward them with a sticker.

SGL: “Today, and all month, we are going to be making our own manger scene, we can use it to help us tell our Bible lesson! Our first week, we added Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, and the angel! Last week, we added the animals to the scene because Jesus was born in a manger with farm animals. This week we are going to add presents to our Manger Scene because birthday parties usually have presents and Jesus is the best present of all! Let’s put them up on the wall (*Pause.*) Fantastic!”

SGL: “Let’s start from the beginning and tell all of the lesson that we know so far. First, an angel (point to the angel) told Mary (*point to Mary*) she was going to have a special baby. His name would be Jesus and He would be God’s Son. Joseph (*point to Joseph*) and Mary (*point to Mary*) rode all the way to a city called Bethlehem on a donkey (point to the donkey). While they were there it was time for Baby Jesus to be born. Joseph looked and looked for a room and couldn’t find one anywhere! Finally he found a stable or a barn (point to the stable) for them to stay in and that is where baby Jesus (point to baby Jesus) was born. We know God loves us because He gave us Jesus, the best present of all (point to the presents). He gave us Jesus to love us and be our friend forever. **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus! Again! How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!**”

SGL: “Are you ready to read a book about Jesus’ Birthday? (*Pause.*) Great, I can’t wait to hear what happens!”



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