



OVERVIEW CARD

Happy Birthday, Jesus

Key Question:

How do we know God loves us?

Bottom Line:

God gave us Jesus.

Memory Verse:

“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:

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

Story:

Happy Birthday Jesus
by Michelle Medlock Adams

Service Time:

67 minutes



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



ACTIVITY 1

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 2

Happy Birthday, Jesus

Nativity Fun

What You Need: Play-Doh, rolling pins, and Nativity cookie cutters.

What You Do: Show the children how to roll the Play-Doh out flat and then allow them to choose one cookie cutter from the basket. Once all the different Nativity characters have been made, talk about all the figures that everyone has.

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!** 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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ACTIVITY 3

Happy Birthday, Jesus

Christmas Freeze Dance

What You Need:

Christmas CD and CD player

What You Do: Have the children gather around in one area. Play fun music for the children to dance to. The children should continue dancing as long as you are playing the music. Once you stop the music, the children should immediately stop dancing and freeze. Children should start dancing again when you switch the music back on.

What You Say:

Before the activity: “Christmas is the perfect time to celebrate God’s perfect gift to us. You know, that’s my very favorite holiday! So what better treat than to sing and dance about God’s special gift and Christmas time all at the SAME time with you! Now that’s EXCITING! Let’s get up on our feet and dance about how **God gave us Jesus** a long, long, long time ago!”

After the activity: “Excellent singing and dancing! You guys did AWESOME! Can anyone tell me what your very favorite Christmas song is? (*Let a few of the children answer.*) Wow! Those are some really great songs!”



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ACTIVITY 4

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 5

Happy Birthday, Jesus

Merry, Merry, Christmas (aka Duck, Duck, Goose)

What You Need:

No Supplies Needed

What You Do:

Before the activity: Seat all of the children in a circle and explain the rules. Have the Leader say the words, MERRY, MERRY, CHRISTMAS with the children several times. Explain to the children that we are going to play a game similar to Duck, Duck, Goose, however instead of using those words we are going to say Merry, Merry, Christmas instead. Tell the children when they hear “CHRISTMAS” that will be the signal to chase the person “It”.

What You Say:

“We are going to play a super fun game. How many of you have ever played Duck, Duck, Goose? (Pause.) Great, this game is very similar however instead of saying Duck and Goose we are going to say Merry and Christmas. I will pick someone to be “It”. The person “It” will walk around the outside of the circle tapping each child on the head and saying, “MERRY” each time he taps a child on the head. When he reaches the child he wants to pick, “It” says, “CHRISTMAS” as he taps the child’s head. That child must get up from his spot and chase “It” around the circle. Whoever arrives at the empty spot first sits down. The other child becomes “It”. Are you ready to start? (Pause.) Great, let’s begin!”



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ACTIVITY 6

Happy Birthday, Jesus

Manger Scene

What You Need: Nativity Sticker Scenes

What You Do: Review this week's Bible lesson as you help your preschoolers create their very own Nativity Sticker Scene.

What You Say:

Before the activity: "It's Christmas! It's Christmas! Whose birthday do we celebrate at Christmas? (Pause.) Jesus! Happy birthday, Jesus! Can you help me create our very own Manger Scene to take home? (Pause.) Great!"

During the activity: "It all started with a nice lady named ... (place Mary on the sticker sheet) Mary loved God and He loved her, too. God knew that Mary was the perfect lady to be a mommy. God sent an angel (put the angel on) 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. (put Joseph on) Joseph and Mary traveled a long way to Bethlehem on a donkey (put the donkey on). 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 (put the animals on) and this is where Jesus was born. (put on Baby Jesus.) His crib was a manger with hay! Then some angels appeared to the shepherds in the field (put on the shepherd 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. The wise men came to visit and brought gifts (put on the wise men). Great job listening and creating your manger scenes! They look 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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CRAFT - 2'S SAT/SUN

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 - 2'S
TUES/WED**

**Happy Birthday,
Jesus**

Color Your Own Christmas Ornaments

What You Need: Ornaments and Crayons or Markers



What You Do:

Give each child an “ornament” to color and decorate.

What You Say:

Before the activity: “We have heard a wonderful Bible story this month. It was about when Jesus was born. Do you remember the story? (Pause.) Great! We are going to create an ornament to help us remember the story.”

During the activity:

At the end of the activity: “You are all such amazing artists! Your ornaments look amazing! Always remember that God loves us so very much that He gave us Jesus! **How do we know that God loves us?** (Pause.) Yes! **God gave us Jesus!**”



**December Memory Verse -
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Isaiah 9:6, NCV

Week 3



December 14th/15th

CRAFT - 3'S/4'S ALL SERVICES

Happy Birthday, Jesus

Color Your Own Nativity Scene Ornament

What You Need: Ornament and Markers



What You Do:

Help the children make their own Nativity Scene Ornaments.

What You Say:

Before the activity: “We have heard a wonderful Bible story this month. It was about when Jesus was born. Do you remember the story? (Pause.) Great! We are going to create an ornament to help us remember the story.”

During the activity:

At the end of the activity: “You are all such amazing artists! Your ornaments look amazing! Always remember that God loves us so very much that He gave us Jesus! **How do we know that God loves us?** (Pause.) Yes! **God gave us Jesus!**”



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Week 3



December 14th/15th

CRAFT - CLUBHOUSE SAT/SUN

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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Week 3



December 14th/15th

CRAFT - CLUBHOUSE TUES/WED

Happy Birthday, Jesus

Color Your Own Nativity Scene Ornament

What You Need: Ornament and Markers



What You Do:

Help the children make their own Nativity Scene Ornaments.

What You Say:

Before the activity: “We have heard a wonderful Bible story this month. It was about when Jesus was born. Do you remember the story? (Pause.) Great! We are going to create an ornament to help us remember the story.”

During the activity:

At the end of the activity: “You are all such amazing artists! Your ornaments look amazing! Always remember that God loves us so very much that He gave us Jesus! **How do we know that God loves us?** (Pause.) Yes! **God 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 Joseph and Mary in a stable and 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! Next, we added the animals to the scene because Jesus was born in a manger with farm animals. Then, we added the shepherds, and the sheep too, who were told by angels about the wonderful news of Jesus' birth! 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. The shepherds (*point to the shepherds*) were told by the angels (*point to the angels*) about the wonderful news of Jesus' birth. They went to tell others about Jesus and to see the new king for themselves. 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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