

Christmas Services



December 19th/20th
December 23rd/24th

OVERVIEW CARD

Happy Birthday Jesus

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|---------------------------|--|
| Theme: | Story Sparklers |
| Key Question: | Why is Jesus special? |
| Bottom Line: | Jesus is God's Son. |
| Memory Verse: | "God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son." <i>John 3:16, GNT</i> |
| Bible Story Focus: | Happy Birthday, Jesus The Christmas Story Review <i>Luke 1:26-2:18</i> |
| Coloring Page: | Happy Birthday, Jesus |
| Bible Lesson: | The Beginner's Bible Baby Jesus is Born Pages 271 to 276 |
| Service Time: | 75 minutes |

Memory Verse –

"God loved the world so much that
He gave His only Son."

John 3:16, GNT

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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 balls on the parachute and allow them 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 these Happy Birthday Jesus balls 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 the bestest present ever from God!"

Memory Verse –

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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 characters 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 bestest present ever because Jesus is God's son! **And why is Jesus special?** *(Pause)* **Jesus is God's son!**"

Memory Verse –

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ACTIVITY 3

Happy Birthday Jesus

Christmas Freeze Dance

What You Need:

Christmas CD (*with this month's worship songs*) 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. (*For older children, you can switch to musical chairs if children lose interest too quickly.*)

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

Pin the Candle on the Cupcake

What You Need:

Cupcake, candles, masking tape and blindfolds

What You Do: Hang the cupcake on the wall. Blindfold the first player. Spin the blindfolded player in circles for a few seconds and then allow the player to try and place the candle on the cupcake. *(if any of the children do not want to wear the blindfold, allow them to close their eyes instead when it is their turn.)*

What You Say:

Before the activity: "We are going to play a fun game today! Our cupcake is missing candles. We are going to help by taping the candles back on. To make it even more fun, we are going to try to do it without using our eyes. Everyone is going to have a turn so hopefully one of us will place them in the correct spot."

At the end of the activity: "You did a great job decorating our cupcakes with candles. 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 the bestest present ever from God! **And why is Jesus special?** *(Pause)* **Jesus is God's son.**"

Memory Verse –

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ACTIVITY 5 – 4's/5's

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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CRAFT 1

Happy Birthday Jesus

Manger Scene



What You Need: Nativity Sticker Scenes

What You Do: Review the Christmas story 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)."

After the activity: "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! **Why is Jesus special?** (Pause.) **Jesus is God's son!**"

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CRAFT 2 – 2's

Happy Birthday Jesus

Happy Birthday Cupcake Ornament

What You Need: Ornaments, Cupcake Inserts, Crayons and/or Markers

What You Do:

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

What You Say:

Before the activity: “I love birthday parties! I am so excited to have our birthday party for Jesus! My favorite thing about birthday parties is birthday cupcakes! Do you like cupcakes? *(Pause)* Great! We don’t have real cupcakes but I think we should make cupcake ornaments to celebrate Jesus birthday! This way we can remember to celebrate Jesus’ birthday not only here today but at home too! Who wants to make a cupcake ornament for Jesus’ birthday? *(Pause)* Great! Let’s get started decorating our ornaments. Let me know when you are finished and I will help you put your picture inside your ornament.”

At the end of the activity: “Your ornaments 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! **Why is Jesus special?** *(Pause.)* Absolutely! **Jesus is God’s son!**”

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CRAFT 2 – 3's/4's/5's

Happy Birthday Jesus

Happy Birthday Jesus Cupcake Necklaces



What You Need:

Cupcake Necklace, colored sand bottles, labels and black sharpie marker

What You Do: Open up each necklace and take off the caps. Attach a label to the rope of the necklace for child's name. Place an appropriate number of necklaces around the table for the service. *(Keep the caps separate and place the caps on the necklaces once children are done filling then add the child's cap and name to label).* Spread out plenty of containers and sand bottles to share in the middle of each table. Guide the children to a spot around the tables. Give children the opportunity to fill the cupcake necklaces however they desire. *(Children may chose to layer the colors of sand or mix them all or only use one color.)*

What You Say:

Before the activity: "I love birthday parties! I am so excited to have our birthday party for Jesus! My favorite thing about birthday parties is birthday cupcakes! Do you like cupcakes? *(Pause.)* Great! We don't have real cupcakes but I think we should make cupcake necklaces to celebrate Jesus birthday! Who wants to make a cupcake necklace with me? *(Pause.)* Great! This way we can remember to celebrate Jesus' birthday not only here today but at home too! Let's get started decorating our necklaces. Let me know when you are finished and I will help you put your cap on your necklace."

At the end of the activity: "Your necklaces 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! **Why is Jesus special?** *(Pause.)* Absolutely! **Jesus is God's son!**"

Memory Verse –

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