

December Week 4 and
January Week 1



December 27th
January 2nd / 3rd

OVERVIEW CARD

THE WISE MEN

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:	The Wise Men came to see God's Son. The Wise Men <i>Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11</i>
Coloring Page:	Wise men travel to find Jesus
Music:	Best Present Ever It's Christmastime All My Heart Look, Look Everyone
Bible Lesson:	The Beginner's Bible The Bright Star and Three Visitors Pages 286 to 290
Story:	A Star for Jesus By Crystal Bowman
Service Time:	60 minutes (week 4) 61 minutes (week 1)

Memory Verse –

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

John 3:16, GNT

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ACTIVITY 1

THE WISE MEN

Color the Stars

Big Idea:

“Color the Stars” is an activity that teaches fine motor skills and concentration while introducing a concept of the Bible lesson.

What You Need: “Stars” Activity Page from the Website, white cardstock, clear page protectors, tissues, and different colors of dry erase markers

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy the Activity Page onto white cardstock. You will need one sheet of three stars and one marker for every child. Insert the Activity Page into the page protectors and arrange on the table in the activity area.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to color the stars with the dry erase markers. When they are finished, they may use a tissue to wipe off the marker and start again.

What You Say:

During the Activity: “Do you like to color? We are going to color our stars with these markers. You can color in each star with a different color or you can take your marker and follow it around the edges of the star and trace it (*demonstrate*) just like I am doing with this star. Now it is your turn. Great job! The cool thing about the clear paper is that you may use a tissue when you are done to wipe it off and you can do it again!” (*Repeat as long as there’s interest.*)

After the Activity: “Great job coloring! Stars are beautiful and bright in the sky. Today in our TRUE Bible story we heard about a very special star that God made! Do you remember who followed the star all the way to Jesus?”

Memory Verse –

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John 3:16, GNT

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ACTIVITY 2

THE WISE MEN

Star Play-Doh

Big Idea:

“Star Play-Doh” is an activity that uses fine motor skills while introducing the concept of a star to preschoolers.

What You Need: Yellow Play-Doh and star-shaped cookie cutters

What You Do:

Place the Play-Doh and the cookie cutters on the tables in the play area. Guide the children to make star shapes with the dough, using either the cookie cutters or their hands.

What You Say:

“Mushy, squishy Play-Doh! I love to play with Play-Doh! Can you flatten it out and make a star with this cookie cutter like this?”

(Demonstrate) That’s a fantastic star! Let’s make some more stars.

(Pause) Wow! All these stars look like the sky at night. We heard about some guys who traveled to see Jesus by following a star up in the sky. Do you remember who they were?”

Memory Verse –

“God loved the world so much that
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John 3:16, GNT

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ACTIVITY 3

THE WISE MEN

Follow the Stars

Big Idea:

"Follow the Stars" is an activity that uses problem solving to complete a task.

What You Need: "Star" from the Activity Pages on the Website, yellow cardstock, a black marker, and wall tape

What You Do:

Before the activity: Make five copies of "Star" from the Activity Pages on cardstock and cut them out. With the marker, number each star 1-5, writing the numbers large enough that the children can see them. Then tape each star in no particular order around the room, making sure the stars are at least 5-7 feet away from each other if possible.

During the activity: Line the children up next to you and give them directions to go to a specific numbered star and perform an action when they get there. (*Ex: Go to star number 4 and hop on one foot 4 times.*) Try to make the number of times that they do the action match the number on the star. Once they have finished the action call out another star and a new action. Send the children to each star at least once. (*Repeat as many times as desired.*)

What You Say:

Before the activity: "I see stars all over the room! There are numbers on the stars. Do you see them too? Let's look at the numbers on the stars. I see the number one (*point to star one*). There is star number two!" (*Continue through all five stars.*)

During the activity: "I am going to say a number that's on one of the stars and give you a special job to do when you get to that star. Let's all use our listening ears and get ready to have fun! Here we go! Go to star number three and touch your toes three times. (*Demonstrate.*) Awesome job! Now go to star number one and turn around in a circle one time. (*Demonstrate.*) Perfect! Go to star number five and pat your head five times. (*Demonstrate.*) You all rock! Go to star number two and do two jumping jacks. (*Demonstrate.*) Great! Okay last one! Go to star number four and clap for yourselves four times! You did a great job!" (*Repeat as many times as desired.*)

At the end of the activity: "That was awesome! I am so proud of you for knowing your numbers and following the stars. Our Bible lesson today was about some men who followed a star. Do you remember what they were called?"

Memory Verse –

**"God loved the world so much that
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ACTIVITY 4

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Hot Gift

Big Idea:

"Hot Gift" is an activity that uses repetition and teamwork to teach the memory verse.

What You Need: A small empty box, gift wrap, clear tape, and scissors

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Wrap the empty box in Christmas gift wrap.

During the Activity: Have the children sit in a circle very close to one another. Give one child the gift and have them pass it around the circle. Then say, "STOP," and the children will stop passing the gift and say the memory verse. Then you will say, "GO," and they will start passing it again. Repeat several times. *(For younger children, you can have them sit in a circle and randomly give the gift to each of the children. Once they receive the gift, have them stand up and say their memory verse with you.)*

After the Activity: Say the memory verse together as a group.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Our memory verse this month is: 'God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son,' John 3:16. It tells us that God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus!"

During the Activity: "Everyone sit in a circle. Perfect! Now I am going to give this gift to *(child's name)*. She will start passing it around the circle until I say, 'STOP!' Then we will all say our memory verse together. Are you ready? *(Pause.)* Here we go!" *(Do activity.)*

After the Activity: Great job! Let's say our verse one more time. 'God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son,' John 3:16. Awesome! Our verse tells us that God gave us Jesus because He loves us SOOOO much! **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's son!"**

Memory Verse –

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John 3:16, GNT

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ACTIVITY 5 – 4's/5's

THE WISE MEN

Ring That Star

Big Idea:

"Ring That Star" is an activity that uses large motor movement and hand-eye coordination to review the Bible lesson and Bottom Line.

What You Need: "Star" Activity Page from the Website, 3 cones, yellow cardstock, scissors, tape, and 3 Hula-hoops

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Make three copies of "Star" on yellow cardstock. Cut the stars out and tape one to the top of each of the cones.

During the Activity: Make three stations with a star megaphone and a Hula-hoop. Divide the children between the three stations. Make a starting line with tape on the floor to show the children where to stand when tossing the Hula-hoop. Show the children how to toss the Hula-hoop and try and ring the star megaphone.

What You Say:

During the Activity: "Watch this! I'm going to try and ring that star with this Hula-hoop! Here I go! (*Demonstrate.*) Now it's your turn! Ring that star!"

After the Activity: "The wise men in our Bible lesson today didn't have to RING a star. What did they have to do? They had to FOLLOW a star! And what happened when they followed the star? Yes! They found Jesus! God gave us Jesus because He loves us. He gave us Jesus to be our friend forever. So tell me: **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's son!** And who wants to be your friend forever? [*Basic Truth*] **Jesus wants to be my friend forever!**"

Memory Verse –

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CRAFT – WK 4

THE WISE MEN

Magic Scratch Star Wands



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Big Idea:

“Star Wands” is an activity that uses fine motor skills to create a take-home craft that reviews the Bible lesson and encourages dramatic play.

What You Need: Magic Scratch Star Wands and pencils

What You Do:

Give each child a wand and show them how to use the pencil to create their very own star to take home.

What You Say:

Before the activity: “We heard an amazing lesson today about when Jesus was born! We are going to make a star wand that reminds us of the special men who came to see Jesus and the star they followed to get there. ”

At the end of the activity: “Fantastic job! I love them! Now you can take your star wands home and tell your family all about the star and how the wise men found Jesus and gave Him gifts. God also gave us the greatest gift ever - God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus! **Why is Jesus special?** (Pause.) Absolutely! **Jesus is God’s son!**”

Memory Verse –

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CRAFT - WK 1

THE WISE MEN

Story Sparklers

Big Idea:

"Story Sparklers" is an activity that retells the Bible lesson while the children make their story sparkler for today.

What You Need: "Story Picture 4" and "Story Label 4" from the Activity Pages found on the Website, cardstock, Avery® labels #5160 or equivalent, craft sticks, masking tape, glitter markers and permanent markers

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Story Picture 4" on cardstock and cut out, one per child. Copy "Story Label 4" on Avery label #5160 or equivalent, one per child.

During the Activity: Give each child a "Story Picture 4" and craft stick. Have the children put the label on the stick. Instruct the children to color the picture, add some glitter to their picture to make it "sparkle," and then glue it to the craft stick as you talk about what is happening in the picture as it relates to the Bible lesson.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Who's ready to make our last Story Sparkler? Me too! When we're finished we will have all four Story Sparklers! Do you remember what was on our first story sparkler? Yes! The first one was when the angel told Mary she would have a special baby named Jesus. What about the second one? You got it! The second one was when Baby Jesus was born in a stable. That was a very, very special day. Then what happened? The angel told the shepherds the good news that God gave us Jesus. Yes! God gave us Jesus! That's how we know God loves us. **And why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's son.** Today we're going to add the last part of the story—the wise men! The wise men followed a star to find Jesus!"

During the Activity: "The first thing you need to do is color your picture with these crayons. Next is the super fun part! Add some sparkles with these glitter markers! Every wise men needs some sparkles, right? Right! *(As the children work)* God gave the wise men a special star to follow so they could find Jesus. They wanted to find Jesus because they knew He was very, very, VERY special. What did the wise men do when they found Jesus? They told Him how special He is and gave Him gifts."

After the Activity: "Now you can take your Story Sparkler home and tell your family all about the wise men and how they followed a star and found Jesus and gave Him gifts. Use all of your story sparklers to tell them the true story of Christmas and how God gave us Jesus. **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's son.**"

Memory Verse –

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SMALL GROUP

THE WISE MEN

Small Group Time

What you Need: Dry erase board, dry erase marker and Christmas stickers.

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “Today we heard the last part of the true story of Christmas. Instead of shepherds and sheep there were wise men and a special star! God helped the wise men find Jesus by giving them a special star to follow. When they finally saw Jesus they got on their knees and worshipped Him and gave Him gifts because they knew He was a very special child. And **why is Jesus special?**”

CHILDREN and SGL: “Jesus is God’s Son.”

SGL: “And our Bible verse tells us that (*open Bible*), ‘God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son,’ John 3:16. That is the bestest news EVER! And I hope we never forget it. That’s why we’ve been learning this verse—to help us remember the bestest news ever ... forever! We’ll say it one time together with the motions and then I’ll give anyone who wants to say it by yourself a chance to do so.”

CHILDREN and SGL: “‘God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son’, John 3:16.”

SGL: “Good job! Okay, who wants to give it a try and say it all by yourself?”

(Give each child the opportunity to say the verse on his or her own. Have your stickers ready for each child who says the verse.)

“I am so proud of you! I hope that verse will help you to always remember how much God loves you! Now it’s time to write on our board and pray. I want us to make a list of our favorite Christmas gifts and when we pray we can thank God for them. Can you guess whose name I’m going to write at the top? (*Pause.*) YES! Jesus’ name! Because Jesus is the best gift God will ever give us! Okay, let’s make our list. What was your favorite Christmas gift? (*Pause.*)

(Write down the children’s names and what they say on the board. Remember to print the words so they can recognize their names and letters.)

“Wow! We all got some really great gifts for Christmas. But WHO is the best gift EVER? (*Pause.*) Jesus! You got it! Would anyone like to say your own prayer to God before I pray?”

(Give each child that wants to pray the opportunity to do so and then close with a prayer that includes the list the children made.)

Memory Verse –

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He gave His only Son.”

John 3:16, GNT