

November Weeks 3 and 4



November 21st/22nd
November 28th/29th

OVERVIEW CARD

JESUS BORN IN A STABLE

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."

John 3:16, GNT

Bible Story Focus:

Not everyone knew Jesus is God's Son.

Jesus Born in a Stable

Luke 2:1-7

Coloring Page:

Jesus is born.

Music:

Best Present Ever

It's Christmastime

Whoa I Have Life

Nobody Loves Me Like You

Bible Lesson:

The Beginner's Bible

Baby Jesus is Born

Pages 271 to 276

Story:

Christmas in the Manger

by Nola Buck

Service Time:

64 minutes (week 3)

63 minutes (week 4)

Memory Verse –

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

John 3:16, GNT

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ACTIVITY 1

JESUS BORN IN A STABLE

Long Journey

Big Idea:

“Long Journey” is an activity that uses large motor skills and critical thinking while introducing the Bible lesson.

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Have the children stand an arm’s length away from each other.

During the Activity: Tell the children that you are going on a long journey. Act out different ways to get there without modern transportation, such as: walk, run, jump, crawl, and skip.

After the Activity: Allow the children to come up with their own way to go on a long journey.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Today we are going to pretend to go on a long journey. But we are not going to take a car or an airplane. We have to do it all by ourselves!”

During the Activity: “First let’s walk on our long journey. *(Walk around.)* Whew! It is going to take us a really long time to get there like this! Let’s try running on our long journey! *(Run in place.)* We are going to get tired fast like this! How about if we jump on our long journey? *(Jump around the room.)* I am super tired! I think we should crawl for a while. *(Get on all fours and crawl around the room.)* That is better! Now I am ready to skip the rest of the way!” *(Skip around the play area.)*

After the Activity: “Now can you think of a way to go on a long journey? What would you do? Let’s see it! *(Allow the children to demonstrate their way to go on a long journey.)* Great job! Today we heard about two special people going on a long journey. Do you remember how they got there? *(Pause.)* Let’s read our story called “Christmas in the Manger” and find out. *(For older children – have them sand up every time they hear the word “Jesus” in the story.)*

Memory Verse –

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John 3:16, GNT

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ACTIVITY 2

JESUS BORN IN A STABLE

Animal Sounds

Big Idea:

“Animal Sounds” is an activity that uses listening skills to introduce the idea of animals and a stable in the Bible lesson.

What You Need: CD player and an animal sounds CD (CD includes the following animal sounds: 1.Cat 2.Dog 3.Elephant 4.Monkey 5.Cow 6.Goat 7.Lion 8.Birds)

What You Do: Guide the children to stand in a circle, with you in the middle. Place the CD player in the middle as well. As you play an animal sound, encourage the children to imitate that animal. You can make additional animal sounds at the end if children are still interested.

What You Say:

Before the activity: “I am so excited about our Bible lesson today because there are some animals in it! I just LOVE animals! Let’s play an animal game. You are going to hear a sound that an animal makes. When you hear the sound, show me what animal it is by pretending that you are that animal. Got it? (Pause.) Okay, let’s play!”

During the activity: “Here we go! (Play or make an animal sound.) What do you think it is? (Pause.) Wow, you are great at this game! You are all right! Nice job! What about this one? (Play or make an animal sound.) What makes that noise? (Pause.) You guys are too good! Let’s try this one.” (Continue as long as there’s interest.)

At the end of the activity: “That was so much fun! Great job! Our Bible lesson today was about when Jesus was born. Do you know where Jesus was born? I’ll give you a hint. It’s a place where animals sleep and eat. It’s called a stable or a barn. Can you tell me which animals we pretended to be would likely live in a stable or barn? Yes, your right! Awesome job you really remembered!”

Memory Verse –

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

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ACTIVITY 3

JESUS BORN IN A STABLE

Nativity

Big Idea:

"Nativity" is an activity that teaches social and sharing skills while reviewing the Bible lesson with the children.

What You Need: All of the Nativity figures (14)

What You Do:

Before the activity: Hide the Nativity figures around the room in easy-to-find places.

During the activity: Encourage children to find all the hidden figures. Once they have, invite them to come sit down with you. Identify all the figures.

After the Activity: Allow the children to play freely with the Nativity sets. Allow the children to play in groups and only interfere if a child seems frustrated or needs help.

What You Say:

At the start of the activity: "We are on a hunt—a NATIVITY hunt! I've hidden all the Nativity figures around the room, and I need you to find them. When you've found them, come back and sit with me."

After kids have found the figures: "Great people finding! Who did you find?" (Let children tell you who they found.)

"We are going to play together today with the Nativity sets. Do you remember what the angel told Mary in last week's lesson? (*Pause.*) Yes! The angel told Mary that she was going to have a baby named Jesus. These nativity sets are of Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus."

During the Activity: (Allow the children to play.) "Remember to share and play nice with your friends."

After the Activity: "You all did such a great job sharing and being sweet friends. Today in our Bible lesson we heard about Mary and Joseph taking a long journey and then something WONDERFUL happened! Do you remember what happened?"

Memory Verse –

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

John 3:16, GNT

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ACTIVITY 4

JESUS BORN IN A STABLE

Parachute filled with Bows - Memory Verse

Big Idea:

“Parachute filled with Bows – Memory Verse” is an activity that uses large motor movement, listening, and reciting skills to help the children memorize the monthly Bible verse.

What You Need: Parachute and small bows

What You Do:

Place the bows onto the center of the parachute. Have the children form a circle and grab onto the sides of the parachute. Start off shaking the parachute slowly and then shake the parachute faster and faster until all of the bows have fallen off of the parachute. Once all the bows have fallen off have the children recite the memory verse. Collect the bows and start again.

What You Say:

Before the activity: “Do you know what these are? (*Pause.*) Yes, these are Christmas bows! I have a fantastic idea! Let’s play a game with these bows. Are you ready?”

During the activity: “I am going to place all of these bows onto the parachute and we have to shake the parachute until all of the bows fall off. Are you ready? (*Pause.*) Great let’s GO!”

“WOW! This is so much fun! I love presents with bows, don’t you? (*Pause.*) My favorite present is the present that God gave to all of us. Do you know what that present was? (*Pause.*) Yes! He gave us Jesus because He loves us so much! God loved us so much that He gave us His only Son! That reminds me of our memory verse, can you say it with me? (*Pause.*) Great! God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son,’ John 3:16. That is the bestest news ever! **Why is Jesus special?** (*Pause.*) Right! **Jesus is God’s Son!**”

Memory Verse –

**“God loved the world so much that
He gave His only Son.”**

John 3:16, GNT

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ACTIVITY 5 – 4's/5's

JESUS BORN IN A STABLE

Presents filled with Bows

Big Idea:

"Presents filled with Bows" is an activity that uses large motor skills to review to the Bible lesson.

What You Need: Plastic box in Christmas colors (2), two baskets filled with small bows and masking tape.

What You Do:

Before the activity: Mark two lines with the masking tape on the floor where you will have the starting line.

During the activity: Divide the children into two teams and have the children line up single file at one piece of the tape and the other half at the other piece of tape. Tape the plastic box present onto the floor. Have the children pick a bow from the basket and walk with it on their head up to the present. Once they have reached the present, have each child put the bow into the box one at a time until all of the bows are gone.

What You Say:

Before the activity: "Do you know what this is? (Pause) Yes, this is a Christmas present! I have a fantastic idea! Let's play a super silly game with the present. Are you ready to be super silly?"

During the activity: (Divide the children into the two lines.) "I am going to tape the present onto the floor (point to the present) and each person gets to add a bow to our present box. Who thinks they can do this? (Pause.) Good, but you must walk with the bow on your head and not let it drop until you reach the present. (Pause) I told you this was a super silly game. Are you ready for our game? (Pause.) Great let's GO!"

At the end of the activity: "WOW! That was so much fun! Presents can be fun in many different ways. I love to get presents, don't you? (Pause.) My favorite present is the present that God gave to all of us. Do you know what that present was? (Pause.) Yes! He gave us Jesus because He loves us so much! How do we know that God loves us? (Pause.) You got it! Because God gave us Jesus!"

Memory Verse –

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

John 3:16, GNT

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CRAFT – WK 3

JESUS BORN IN A STABLE

Nativity Art

Big Idea:

“Nativity Art” is an activity that uses fine motor skills to make a take-home craft that reviews the Bible lesson and Bottom Line.

What You Need: “Manger Scene” Activity Page from the Website, white cardstock, paint, paint brushes, cups and wet wipes

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Make a copy of “Manger Scene” on white cardstock for each child.

During the Activity: Give each child a copy of “Manger Scene.” Allow them to paint with watercolors to add color to the picture. Go to each child as they work and briefly talk about the lesson and Bottom Line.

What You Say:

During the Activity: “We heard a very special Bible lesson today. We heard the true story of Christmas. That’s right! Christmas is all about when baby Jesus was born. Christmas is Jesus’ birthday! **Why is Jesus special?** (Pause.) Right! **Jesus is God’s Son!** And since this is such a special story, I’m going to help you make a picture to take home that will help you tell everyone about how **Jesus is God’s Son!**” (As children work, go to each child and ask the key question. Encourage them to respond with the Bottom Line.)

After the Activity: “Wow! Your pictures look awesome! Now you can take them home and tell everyone about how **Jesus is God’s Son!** **Why is Jesus special?** **Jesus is God’s Son!**”

Memory Verse –

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He gave His only Son.”

John 3:16, GNT

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CRAFT - WK 4

JESUS BORN IN A STABLE

Story Sparklers

Big Idea:

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

Note: This craft will continue throughout the month of December.

What You Need: "Story Picture 2" and "Story Label 2" from the Activity Pages found on the Website, cardstock, Avery® label #5160 or equivalent, craft sticks, masking tape, and permanent marker

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Copy "Story Picture 2" on cardstock and cut out, one per child. Copy "Story Label 2" on the labels, one per child.

During the Activity: Retell the Bible lesson as kids tape the cutout to the craft stick. Add the Bible story reference label to the stick and write kids' names on the back.

After the Activity: Say the Bottom Line.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "This is one of my all-time favorite Bible stories! This is a story of the best present ever!"

During the Activity: "In our super special Bible lesson today we're talking about Joseph and Mary. Remember Mary from our last lesson? She was going to have a baby! They had to travel to Joseph's hometown of Bethlehem, but Mary was very pregnant. She was about to have a baby—a super special baby! When Mary and Joseph got to town, they needed a place to stay right away. They needed somewhere where Mary could lie down, rest, and get comfortable. They went looking for a place. Nope, no room there! Here's another one. Nope. (*Thumbs down.*) No room there either! All the rooms are taken by other people! Will Mary and Joseph ever find a place to stay? Mary and Joseph found room in the stable with all the animals, and that is where Mary had her baby! Hooray! Friends, take your picture of Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus and tape it to the craft stick like this. (*Demonstrate.*) Great! Now add the sticker right here on the handle. (*Demonstrate.*) This tells us where the lesson we heard today about Baby Jesus being born can be found in the Bible." (*Write children's names on their sparklers.*)

After the Activity: "Friends, this was a very special day, because this BABY was very, VERY special! It was Jesus, God's Son, who God gave to all of us. God loves us so much that He sent His Son, Jesus, on that very first Christmas. He sent Jesus for you and you and you and ALL OF US! God sure loves us, doesn't He? **Why is Jesus special?** (*Pause.*) Right! **Jesus is God's Son!**"

Memory Verse –

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John 3:16, GNT

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SMALL GROUP

JESUS BORN IN A STABLE

Small Group Time

What you Need: Dry erase board and dry erase marker.

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “Today we heard the second part of the true story of Christmas. Joseph and Mary had looked and looked but couldn’t find a place to stay anywhere, and Baby Jesus was about to be born! Finally, someone let them stay in their stable with the animals, and that is where Jesus was born. And **why is Jesus special?**”

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

SGL: “He sure is! ‘God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son,’ John 3:16. Let’s say our verse together with the motions.”

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

SGL: “Again!”

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

SGL: “That’s a lot of love! God loves you and me SOOOOO much that He gave us His only Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever. Today I want us to make a list of our special friends and we’ll write Jesus’ name in big letters at the top, because Jesus is the bestest friend EVER! When we pray, we can thank God for giving us our friends, especially our bestest friend, Jesus. Now tell me one special friend to go on our dry erase board.

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

“Wow! God has given us lots of friends! Let’s thank God for all of them! 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 –

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

John 3:16, GNT