

November Week 4
December Week 1



November 26th/27th
December 3rd/4th

OVERVIEW CARD

JESUS BORN IN A STABLE

Key Question:

Why is Jesus special?

Bottom Line:

Jesus is God's Son.

Memory Verse:

"I bring you good news of great joy."

Luke 2:10, NIV

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:

Oh What a Special Night

It's Christmastime

Best Present Ever

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:

63 minutes (week 4)

64 minutes (week 1)

Memory Verse –

"I bring you good news of great joy."

Luke 2:10, NIV

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ACTIVITY 1 – 2's/3's only

JESUS BORN IN A STABLE

Animals

Big Idea:

Have the children pick an animal and make the sound it makes.

What You Need: Plush barnyard animals for each child.

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place the animals in the center of the room and gather the children around the barnyard animals.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to choose one animal and then have the children stand in a circle. Go around the circle and ask the child to make the sound that each of those animals make. Then repeat the sound together as a group.

After the Activity: Review the Bible lesson.

What You Say:

During the Activity: "Look at all of these animals? When I tell you, you are going to pick one animal from the pile and we are going to make a big circle while holding our animal friends. Remember you can only pick up ONE animal friend. Are you ready? Go! (Once all of the children have picked their animal help them form a circle in the center of the room.) Now, we are going to go around the circle and I want each of you to try to make the sound your animal makes. Here we go! (Point to the first child and say the animal name that they are holding.) Cow! Can you make the sound that a cow makes? (Pause.) Great job! That did sound like a cow! Now let's try a sheep! (Point to the second child and say the animal name that they are holding.) Can you sound like a sheep?" (Continue with activity.)

After the Activity: "You are all awesome animals! There were animals in our Bible lesson today. I wonder if any of the animals that we made sounds for were in the story? Do you remember some of the animals we saw in our video lesson today?"

Memory Verse –

"I bring you good news of great joy."

Luke 2:10, NIV

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ACTIVITY 2 –

2's/3's only

**JESUS BORN
IN A STABLE**

Nativity Scene Play

Big Idea:

Allow the children to play with the Nativity sets.

What You Need: Nativity sets

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Place the Nativity set in the activity area.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to play with the Nativity set together.

After the Activity: Review the Bible lesson.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "WOW! Look what we have here. (*Hold up the stable.*) It's a stable where animals live. Let's play with it!"

During the Activity: "There are a lot of different pieces that we can play with. I see animals, an angel, a mommy and daddy, and a baby! (*Encourage the children to play.*) So many fun pieces here! Our Bible lesson today took place in a stable just like what you were playing with. (*Hold up stable*) Today in our lesson, Mary and Joseph had to go to Bethlehem. Mary was going to have a baby soon! When they got to Bethlehem, Mary was very tired. She needed a place to rest. Joseph tried to find a room for him and Mary, but they were all FULL! Poor Mary! At last, an innkeeper told Joseph that he and Mary could spend the night in the stable. (*Point to the stable.*) Do you remember who lives in a stable? (*Pause.*) Yes! Animals live in a stable! I am sure it smelled in that stable! (*Hold nose.*) Pee-yew! Mary and Joseph didn't care though. They were just very thankful for the stable! Something AMAZING happened inside that stable! Do you remember what it was? (*Pause.*) YES! Jesus was born! Mary gave birth to a son and she named Him Jesus!"

After the Activity: "I am so glad Mary and Joseph found a place to stay and I am so glad God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus! **Jesus is God's Son! Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son!**"

Memory Verse –

"I bring you good news of great joy."

Luke 2:10, NIV

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ACTIVITY 3 - All JESUS BORN IN A STABLE

Animal Verse

Big Idea:

Children will say their memory verse while acting like animals.

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Have the children stand in a circle.

During the Activity: Challenge the children to say the memory verse while acting like the following animals: monkey, tiger, cow, and chicken.

After the Activity: Say the Bottom Line together.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Do you remember our memory verse for this month? (Pause.) Great! Let's say it all together! *I bring you good news of great joy*, Luke 2:10."

During the Activity: "Good job! Since we had animals in our Bible lesson today, let's be silly and say our verse while acting like animals! First, let's be monkeys! (Place one hand on your stomach and one hand on the top of your head.) Ooh-oooh. Okay monkeys, let's say our Memory Verse. *I bring you good news of great joy*, Luke 2:10. Awesome! Now let's be tigers. (Get down on all fours.) Roar! *I bring you good news of great joy*, Luke 2:10. Now let's be cows. (Stay on all fours.) Moooo. *I bring you good news of great joy*, Luke 2:10. Awesome! (Stand up.) Now we can be chickens! (Place hands under your arms and flap them like wings.) Bawk-bawk! *I bring you good news of great joy*, Luke 2:10. It's so much fun to pretend to be animals!"

After the Activity: "Our verse tells us that God gave us the GREATEST gift: JESUS! He is the best giver ever! **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son!**"

Memory Verse –

"I bring you good news of great joy."

Luke 2:10, NIV

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ACTIVITY 4 – 4's/5's only

JESUS BORN IN A STABLE

Find and Fill Nativity Set

What You Need: Nativity Set (there are 14 total characters)

What You Do:

Before the activity: Hide the Manger Scene Characters around the room while the children go to Worship.

During the activity: Read a clue to the children one at a time. Once the children know who the character is, go on a search around the room until you find them. Once found add the character to the Manger Scene until everyone has been found. When you are all done searching, pull out the additional Manger Scene and let the children play with all of the characters.

What You Say:

Before the activity: "I have such a fun game for us to play today! I am going to give you clues about each character from the Manger Scene and once we know who is missing we are going to have to find them and bring them back to the Manger Scene. Are you ready for your first clue? (Pause.) Great, let's begin..."

I visited Mary to tell her she was going to have a baby...who am I?

An Angel told me I would have a special baby who would be the savior of the world...who am I?

I am a carpenter and husband to Mary... who am I?

Mary rode on my back to get to Bethlehem and I say hee-haw...who am I?

I am God's son and was born in a manger...who am I?

I am the place baby Jesus was born...what am I?

I say Baa...who am I?

I take care of sheep and angels told me Jesus was born...who am I?

We brought presents to baby Jesus...who are we?

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

Memory Verse –

"I bring you good news of great joy."

Luke 2:10, NIV

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ACTIVITY 5 – 4's/5's only

JESUS BORN IN A STABLE

Pin the Tail on the Donkey

What You Need: Donkey, tails, masking tape, and blindfolds

What You Do: Hang the donkey 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 tail on the donkey.

What You Say:

Before the activity: “In our Bible lesson today, we heard about how Mary and Joseph might have traveled to Bethlehem with what animal? (Pause for responses.) That’s right—a donkey! Look around the room. Do you see a donkey anywhere? Yes! Right there! Look real close at our donkey and tell me what is missing? (Pause.) You are right! Our donkey is missing his tail. We need to help him by taping his tail 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 it in the correct spot.”

After the activity: “Can you imagine how tiring it must have been for Mary and Joseph to travel ALL the way to Bethlehem? But something pretty amazing was about to happen once they got there. It really was good news of great joy! God sent us a special gift: Jesus! **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son!**”

Memory Verse –

“I bring you good news of great joy.”

Luke 2:10, NIV

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CRAFT WEEK 4

JESUS BORN IN A STABLE

Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus

What You Need: "Dot-to-Dot Manger Scene" from the Activity Pages on the Website, dot markers, animal stickers, and white cardstock

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Each child needs one activity page. Set out the animal stickers and dot markers in the center of the tables.

During the Activity: Pass out an Activity Page to each child. Show them how to use the dot markers to color in the dots around the manger. Then encourage them to choose a few animal stickers to place on their manger scene.

What You Say:

During the Activity: "Today, we learned about how Jesus was born. Was He born in a hospital? (Pause for responses.) No! Was He born in a hotel? (Pause for responses.) No! Where was Jesus born? That's right; Jesus was born in a stable surrounded by animals! Today I thought it would be fun to create our own manger scene picture. Let's use these markers to fill in the dots around the manger where Mary laid the baby Jesus. Then I want you to choose a few animal stickers to add to your pictures!"

After the Activity: "Great job! I LOVE your manger scenes. Jesus was born in a stable with Mary and Joseph and the animals. What a crazy way to enter the world! But that was all part of God's special plan to send us the best gift ever! **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son.** Awesome job! When you take these pictures home today, I want you to tell your parents about Jesus and God's special gift to us!"

Memory Verse –

"I bring you good news of great joy."

Luke 2:10, NIV

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CRAFT WEEK 1

JESUS BORN IN A STABLE

Color Your Own Nativity Wheel

What You Need: Nativity Wheel and crayons and/or markers

What You Do:

During the Activity: Give each child a Nativity Wheel. Allow them to color in the pictures however they would like and then piece together the Nativity Wheels. Once complete, have the children turn the wheel to reveal the Christmas Story.

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 special craft 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 Nativity wheels 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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Luke 2:10, NIV

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SMALL GROUP

JESUS BORN IN A STABLE

Small Group Time

What you Need: Parent Take Home Card, Playdoh, Nativity Cookie Cutters, Rolling Pins, and Sticker Roll

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): We're getting closer to the BIG day. Do you know what BIG day I'm talking about? (Pause for response.) I'm talking about Christmas day! Jesus' birthday! The best day of the year! As awesome as Jesus' birthday is, it's hard to believe that on that very first Christmas when Jesus was born, not everyone knew that **Jesus is God's Son**. Remember how Jesus was born in a stable in our lesson today? It was just Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, and of course the animals. All of the people living around that stable had no idea that God's Son had just been born! Look at these cookie cutters. They are all the people from our story today! Let's use them to retell our lesson out of Play-Doh. (Divide the children into small groups and *pass out a Nativity cookie cutter to each child.*) Flatten out your Play-Doh. (Pause.) Now push down the cookie cutter. (Pause.) Look at that! You made an angel! You made Joseph! You made Mary! You made baby Jesus! **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son!**"

"Do you know there are still people living around us today who don't know how special Jesus is? I'm so glad you know Jesus is special because **Jesus is God's Son. Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son!**"

SGL: "Do you remember the other good news we talked about last time? (Pause for response.) Jesus wants to be your friend forever! God's Son, JESUS, wants to be YOUR friend forever! Who wants to be your friend forever? **[Basic Truth] "Jesus wants to be my friend forever!"**

SGL: "That is such good news and it does bring me great joy! Since our story talked about how everyone doesn't know that **Jesus is God's Son**, let's make a list of people that might not know the good news. We can pray and ask God to help them hear the good news."

"Ok, it's time to review our lesson. I am going to ask you some questions and you will get a sticker for answering them. I have some really cool stickers today. Are you ready? (Pause.) Great! (Ask the children the questions from the "Parent Take Home Cards". You can also make up additional questions from our video lesson. Don't forget to ask them to say their memory verse for another sticker. You can repeat the same questions over and over as repetition is good for preschoolers.) You are such great listeners!"

"Now I'll pray before it's time to say goodbye until next week. (**Read the prayer on the back of the "Parent Take Home Card."**)"

Memory Verse –

"I bring you good news of great joy."

Luke 2:10, NIV