

Christmas Services



December 21st – 24th

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 Focus:

God gave us Jesus because He loves us.

Happy Birthday Jesus!

Luke 2

Coloring Page:

Happy Birthday Jesus!

Music:

It's Christmastime

Oh What a Special Night

Special Delivery

Bible Lesson:

The Beginner's Bible

Retell Entire Christmas Story

Pages 266 to 290

Story:

Happy Birthday Jesus

By Michelle Medlock Adams

Memory Verse –

"GOD HAS GIVEN A SON TO US."

Isaiah 9:6, NCV

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ACTIVITY 1 – 2's/3's only HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

Decorate It

Big Idea:

Children will use red and green streamers to decorate the room.

What You Need: Red and green streamers, and wall tape

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Cut the streamers into three-foot sections. You will need four or five streamers per child.

During the Activity: Lay the streamers in a pile in the middle of the activity area. Sit in the middle of the activity area with the tape, and tear pieces off as the children need them. Encourage the children to decorate for Jesus' birthday by hanging the streamers on the wall. Have the children say "Happy Birthday Jesus" as they walk with their streamers. Be sure each child has a turn to hang streamers.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Tomorrow is Jesus' birthday! Let's decorate for Jesus' birthday!"

During the Activity: "Can you please help me hang these streamers (*hold up*) on the wall? (*Pause.*) Great! Let's say, 'Happy Birthday Jesus' each time we hang a new streamer. Come to me to get tape as you need it." (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: "WOW! The room looks great! Now we are ready to celebrate Jesus' birthday! God loves us so very much that He gave us Jesus! He is the best gift ever! **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!**"

Memory Verse –

"GOD HAS GIVEN A SON TO US."

Isaiah 9:6, NCV

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ACTIVITY 2 – 2's/3's only HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

Musical Party

Big Idea:

Have children play the musical instruments while they sing and dance to celebrate Jesus' birthday.

What You Need: Christmas music, CD player, jingle bells, tambourines, and shakers

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Give each child an instrument.

During the Activity: Encourage the children to play with the instruments and dance while you play fun Christmas music.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Today we are celebrating Jesus' birthday! Let's make some music to celebrate Jesus' special day!"

During the Activity: (Give each child an instrument.) "Let's play the instruments and dance!" (Do activity.)

After the Activity: "Awesome dancing! It is so much fun celebrating Jesus' birthday! God loves us so very much that He gave us Jesus! He is the best gift ever! **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!**"

Memory Verse –

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ACTIVITY 3 - All HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

Memory Verse Bounce

Big Idea:

Children will play with the parachute and beach balls while practicing their memory verse.

What You Need: Happy Birthday Jesus beach balls, and a parachute

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Lay out the parachute in an open area of the room.

During the Activity: Gather the children around the parachute and instruct them to grab hold of it with both hands and carefully lift it. Throw the beach balls onto the parachute for the children to bounce as they practice their memory verse. At the end sing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus.

What You Say:

During the Activity: “Let’s practice our memory verse while we bounce these beach balls on our parachute! *(Repeat as long as time and interest allow.)* Before we put our parachute away let’s all sing ‘Happy Birthday’ to Jesus!”

After the Activity: “Today we celebrate the most amazing gift ever: Jesus! It’s His birthday. I’m so thankful that God chose to send Jesus to show everyone—including you and me—how much He loves us. He loves us so much! **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus.**”

Memory Verse –

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Isaiah 9:6, NCV

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ACTIVITY 4 – 4's/5's only HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

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

Big Idea:

Children will play a fun game of "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!"

Memory Verse –

"GOD HAS GIVEN A SON TO US."

Isaiah 9:6, NCV

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ACTIVITY 5 – 4's/5's only HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Pin the Candle on the Cupcake

Big Idea:

Children will try to place the candle on top of the cupcake while blindfolded.

What You Need:

Cupcake, candles, wall 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 best present ever from God! God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus. **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!**”

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CRAFT #1 HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS



Happy Birthday Cupcake Ornament

What You Need: Ornaments, Happy Birthday Jesus label and magic scratch pencil or popsicle stick

What You Do:

Give each child an “ornament” to 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 with me? (*Pause*) Great! Let’s get started decorating our ornaments.”

At the end of the activity: “Your ornaments look so yummy! I had so much fun making them with you! It is so much fun celebrating Jesus’ birthday as He is the best present ever from God! God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus. **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!**”

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CRAFT #2 HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

Party Hats and Happy Birthday song

What You Need: Party hats one per child, Christmas Nativity stickers, “Happy Birthday Jesus” song and music player

What You Do:

During the Activity: Let the children decorate their party hats with the stickers. Be sure to write each child’s name on the inside of his/her hat. Play the song for the children and allow the children to dance to the song while wearing the party hats.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Today we’re celebrating the best gift EVER as we celebrate Jesus’ birthday! Happy birthday, Jesus! And you can’t have a celebration without party hats, right? So, let’s make some special party hats to celebrate Jesus’ birthday!”

During the Activity: “Your party hats are awesome! Way to go, everyone. Let’s dance to the perfect song for today! It’s a song celebrating Jesus’ birthday!” (*Play song.*)

After the Activity: “Awesome job dancing! It is so much fun celebrating Jesus’ birthday as He is the best present ever from God! God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus. **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!**”

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SMALL GROUP HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

Small Group Time

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

SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL): “It’s Small Group time! Let’s sing ‘Happy Birthday’ to Jesus as we go to the table since today is all about Jesus’ birthday!” *(Lead children to the table as you sing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus.)*

SGL: “Yay! Today is such a special day! I am having so much fun celebrating Jesus’ birthday with you! We’re not done yet, though, so when I count to three let’s sit down and keep the party going! One, two, three, sit down with me! Let’s make some birthday cupcake for Jesus out of the Play-Doh as we review the Christmas story.”

“In today’s Bible lesson we remembered the wonderful, true story about how **God gave us Jesus**. First, an angel gave Mary a special message. What was the special message? *(Pause.)* Yes! Mary was going to have a baby—and not just any baby, but a special baby! Mary was going to have God’s Son, Jesus! Next, Mary and Joseph traveled far, far away. There was no room for them to sleep in, so they had to stay in a stable with the animals. And that’s where Jesus was born! Angels told the shepherds the good news that **God gave us Jesus**. The shepherds were so excited that they ran to see baby Jesus and then they ran and told everyone else the good news that **God gave us Jesus! How do we know God loves us?**”

CHILDREN and SGL: “God gave us Jesus!”

SGL: “Yay! That’s why we had a birthday party for Jesus today! **God gave us Jesus!** And I brought something special to help us celebrate! When I say your name, I want you to stand up. I have a special Christmas sticker for you! *(Say each child’s name. When you put a sticker on their shirt say, “Happy Birthday, Jesus!”)* Your stickers look fantastic! When anyone asks you about your sticker, you can tell them the good news that **God gave us Jesus** and that it’s Jesus’ birthday.

“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.”

Memory Verse –

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