

December Week 1



December 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>

# OVERVIEW CARD

## JESUS IS BORN

**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:**

Jesus is born.

Jesus is born.

Luke 2:1-7

**Coloring Page:**

Jesus is born.

**Music:**

Special Delivery

Best Present Ever

Oh What a Special Night

**Bible Lesson:**

The Beginner's Bible

Baby Jesus is Born

Pages 271 to 276

**Story:**

Christmas in the Manger

by Nola Buck

### Memory Verse –

**"GOD HAS GIVEN A SON TO US."**

**Isaiah 9:6, NCV**

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# ACTIVITY 1 – 2's/3's only JESUS IS BORN

## Stable Walk

### Big Idea:

*Have the children complete different movements as they walk to the stable saying the Bottom Line, "God gave us Jesus."*

**What You Need:** "Stable" Activity Page on white cardstock and wall tape

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Tape the "Stable" Activity Page to the wall at children's eye level.

*During the Activity:* Gather the children in an open area of the room. Point out the stable picture that you taped to the wall. Encourage the children to walk to the stable as you say this month's Bottom Line together. Once the children have walked to the stable and then back to their starting point, call out other ways to travel as you say the Bottom Line. (Options of other ways to travel: hop, tiptoe, skip, baby steps, high knees, and march.)

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "When Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem, they couldn't find a place to stay. They had to stay in a stable. Can anyone find and point to a stable in this room? (Pause.) That's right! There's a stable right over there. (Point.) Let's walk like Mary and Joseph did to the stable and say this month's Bottom Line as we go."

*During the Activity: (Walk to stable.)* "God gave us Jesus. Great job! Now let's go back to where we started, but this time, let's hop to the stable as we say our Bottom Line!" (Finish activity.)

*After the Activity:* "God has given us His Son, and His name is JESUS! God gave us such an amazing gift when He sent Jesus! I'm so glad to know that Jesus is born! **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 JESUS IS BORN

## Nativity Set Up

### Big Idea:

*Children will identify items that do not belong in the Nativity set.*

**What You Need:** Nativity set, random toys (dinosaur, car, my little pony, astronaut, super hero duck and Star Wars action figure) and a towel

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Set up the nativity as it should be, but also include the random toy items provided. Cover the nativity set and items with a towel.

*During the Activity:* Gather the children around the nativity and slowly pull off the towel. Ask the children to name the items that don't belong.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "I want to find out if you were really listening during our Bible lesson today! I have a nativity set under this sheet. *(Point.)* When I pull the sheet off, I want you to tell me which items don't belong."

*During the Activity:* "Take a look at my nativity set. Do you see some figures of the people we talked about today? Like Mary and Joseph? *(Pause.)* What else do you see? Is there anything that doesn't belong?" *(Finish activity.)*

*After the Activity:* "You were paying attention today during our Bible lesson! Great job, everyone! You are right, there was no *(name one of your random items)* there in the stable when Jesus was born. But Mary and Joseph and the animals were there! Jesus 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 3 - All JESUS IS BORN

## Animal Verse

### Big idea:

*Have the children pretend to be animals while practicing their memory verse.*

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

### What You Do:

*Before the Activity:* Have the children stand in front of you. Say the memory verse with the children.

*During the Activity:* Invite the children to pretend to be an animal from the stable while they are saying the verse. First, say the memory verse as a sheep. Then say the verse as a cow. Repeat several times.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* "Let's say our memory verse together: *God has given a son to us*, Isaiah 9:6. Awesome!"

*During the Activity:* "Jesus was born in stable where animals lived. Let's pretend to be a sheep and say our memory verse. Baa, baa, *God has given a son to us*, Isaiah 9:6. Baa, baa. You are awesome sheep! Now let's pretend to be a cow. Moo, moo, *God has given a son to us*, Isaiah 9:6. Moo, moo. Yay! Great job!"

*After the Activity:* "You sounded just like those animals! Those animal voices reminded me of the animals we heard about in our lesson today. Our memory verse tells us that God loves us SO much that He gave us Jesus! **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!**"

## Memory Verse –

**“GOD HAS GIVEN A SON TO US.”**

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# ACTIVITY 4 – 4's/5's only JESUS IS BORN

## Find and Fill Nativity Set

### Big Idea:

*Children will play a game of hide and seek with the Nativity set characters.*

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

### What You Do:

*Before the activity:* Hide the Nativity set 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. Jesus is the best gift ever! **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus.**"

## Memory Verse –

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# ACTIVITY 5 – 4's/5's only JESUS IS BORN

## Pin the Tail on the Donkey

### Big Idea:

*Children will play a fun game of 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! Jesus is the best gift ever! **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus.**"

## Memory Verse –

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# CRAFT JESUS IS BORN



## Manger Scene

**What You Need:** “Manger Scene” Activity Page, thin craft sticks (4 per child), glue sticks, liquid glue, self-stick foam star stickers, and cotton balls

### What You Do:

*During the Activity:* Give each child an Activity Page and the four craft sticks. Ask the children to place the sticks on the red lines on the Activity Page. Help the children glue the sticks onto the lines on the page with the liquid glue. Then give the children some cotton balls and encourage them to glue them onto the sheep bodies on the page.

*After the Activity:* Help the children stick the stars at the top of the page above the stable. Retell today’s Bible lesson.

### What You Say:

*Before the Activity:* “We heard an AMAZING Bible lesson today!”

*During the Activity:* “We are going to make a picture of our Bible lesson. (Give each child an Activity Page and four craft sticks.) First, we need to make the stable. Find the red lines on the paper. There are four of them. (Pause.) Great, you found them! Let’s count them. One, two, three, and four. Great job! Now place a stick over each red line. (Pause.) Perfect! We can use this glue (hold up the liquid glue) to glue on the sticks to make the stable. (Do activity.)

Awesome! Now let’s find the sheep. (Pause and give the children the cotton balls.) Great job! Now we can glue the cotton balls onto the sheep. (Pause.) Good job! Now the sheep are all nice and fluffy. Hmmm. We need one more thing for our picture. (Pause.) I KNOW! We need stars in the sky! (Give the children foam stars.) You can place the stars in the sky over the stable.”

*After the Activity:* “Nice work! Our Bible lesson today told us that Mary and Joseph had to take a very long trip. While they were on their trip something AMAZING happened! Do you remember what it was? (Pause.) That’s right, Jesus was born! Mary and Joseph could not find a room to stay in, so they stayed in a stable with the animals. Jesus was born in the stable. God loves us so very much that He gave us Jesus! **How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!**”

## Memory Verse –

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# SMALL GROUP

## JESUS IS BORN

### Small Group Time

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

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** "Hey, friends! It's Small Group time! Let's pretend we are donkeys from the Bible lesson and we're walking to the stable. Follow me!" *(Lead children to the table.)*

"That was fun! You did a wonderful job pretending to be donkeys. *(High-five the children.)* When I count to three, let's all sit down together so we can talk about the Bible lesson. One, two, three, sit down with me!"

"I want us to think about what it might have been like in the stable when Jesus was born. Let's put on our thinking caps. *(Pretend to put on a hat.)* Mary was there. And Joseph was there. And animals were there because they were in a place where animals stayed. The Bible says Mary wrapped baby Jesus in strips of cloth and laid Him in a manger on the soft hay. It was a very, very special time. It was special because it's when **God gave us Jesus**. That's how we know God loves us, because **God gave us Jesus**. **How do we know God loves us?"**

**CHILDREN and SGL:** "God gave us Jesus!"

**SGL:** "Yes! Jesus is the sweetest, best gift ever, because Jesus is God's Son AND Jesus wants to be our friend forever! It's time to pray, and I don't want to miss anything you say. What is the nice thing we say to someone when they give us a gift? *(Pause.)* We say thank you! Since **God gave us Jesus**, and Jesus is the BEST gift, we are going to tell God thank You for Jesus. When I say your name, I want you to say, 'Thank You, God, for Jesus!'"

"This is so sweet! I love telling God thank You for giving us Jesus. **How do we know God loves us?"**

**CHILDREN and SGL:** "God gave us Jesus!"

"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 –

**"GOD HAS GIVEN A SON TO US."**

**Isaiah 9:6, NCV**