Note to Coordinators

Hi friends!

Once again this year, I wanted to give you some options and some freedom and flexibility for the month of December. In these pages, you will find all 3 crafts, 3 activities, and the Read/Review/Reflect/Pray section. These are to be used for the first two weeks of December.

If you choose, you are welcome to add the additional two activities for the Christmas Eve services. I included a volunteer note if you decide to give them all 5 activities to choose from.

Or, you may choose to swap out one or two activities and swap one or two new ones in. You can make the decision that you feel is best suited to your classrooms, volunteers, and kiddos!

If you have any questions at all please do not hesitate to call, text, or email. I love you, ladies. Let's have a wonderful month of December as we teach these precious truths!

Love, Tina

CRAFT – December 5th Angel Ornament

SUPPLIES: Christmas Angel scratch ornament, scratching tools, ribbons

NOTE: It might be helpful to attach the ribbons to the ornaments ahead of time!

- ⇒ Give each child an angel ornament and scratching tool.
 - "Today in our true Bible study we learned that an angel named Gabriel visited Mary to tell her that she was going to have a baby. That baby was a special gift from God – Jesus! Jesus is so special because he is God's son!
 - I have a beautiful angel ornament here for you to decorate. All you have to do is scratch with this special tool and a beautiful design will be revealed!
- ⇒ While children are working, open <u>The Beginner's Bible</u> and read *An Angel Visits Mary, p. 267*
- ⇒ Bring it Back to Jesus.
 - "These are beautiful! When you get home, you can hang them on your Christmas tree as a reminder that God sent an angel to tell Mary that baby Jesus would be born. God sent Jesus to us at Christmas because he loves us so much! Jesus is so special!
 - o How do we know God loves us?
 - God gave us Jesus!"

CRAFT – December 12th Nativity Sticker Scene

SUPPLIES: Nativity Sticker Scene

TIP: For the tiniest fingers, sometimes it helps to peel the outline of the

stickers off the backing page so that they can peel the stickers off

more easily on their own!

⇒ Hold up completed sticker scene example page.

 "Today we heard the next part of our true story from the Bible about when baby Jesus was born. Today we are going to put together a beautiful sticker scene that tells each part of the story.

⇒ Pass out sticker scene kits

"Let's put our sticker scenes together! Can you find the stable?"

(Draw their attention to each part of the story and assemble the sticker scene together. Continue the conversation as they are putting the craft together and engage them in talking about each element)

⇒ While children are working, open <u>The Beginner's Bible</u> and read *Baby Jesus is Born, p. 271.*

⇒ Complete craft and Bring it Back to Jesus

- "This is beautiful! Can you imagine how special it would have been to be there that night when baby Jesus was born? God gave us the most special present ever. He sent his son Jesus for me and for you!
- o How do we know God loves us?
- God gave us Jesus!

CRAFT – Christmas Services Party Hats

SUPPLIES: Party Hats, Stickers

NOTE: You may want to add a piece of tape to help the hats stay together!

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ Give each child a party hat and stickers. Show them the example, and explain that we are making them to celebrate Jesus' birthday.
 - "We are having a birthday party today to celebrate Jesus' birthday! Today you get to make your own special party hat and decorate it!"
- ⇒ 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.
- ⇒ While children are working, open <u>The Beginner's Bible</u> and read *Shepherds Visit*, p. 277.
- ⇒ Bring it Back to Jesus.
 - "Your hats look awesome! I think it's time to have a party! If you want, you can wear your hats for the rest of class as we celebrate Jesus' Birthday! God sent Jesus to us at Christmas because he loves us so much!
 - o How do we know God loves us?
 - God gave us Jesus!

Children can wear their hats for the rest of the "party" or put them in their bag.

ACTIVITY #1 Look and Find Bows

SUPPLIES: Gift Bows

- ⇒ Gather children in the center of the room.
 - "In our Bible story today, we found out a very special baby who was going to be born! That baby was the most special present God ever gave us!
 - Look at all these bows I have! Where do we put bows? Right! On presents! These bows will help us remember that Jesus was the best present ever.
- ⇒ Scatter the bows around the room.
 - "Let's find the bows! Let's see if we can find them all! Bring them back to me!"
- ⇒ Have children collect all the bows.
 - o "Great work, everybody! You found all the bows.
 - o How do we know God loves us?
 - o God gave us Jesus!
- ⇒ Let the children play as long as they are interested.
- ⇒ Bring it Back to Jesus.
 - "God gave us Jesus and he was Jesus was the best present ever! Jesus is God's son!
 - o How do we know God loves us?
 - o God gave us Jesus!"

ACTIVITY #2 Memory Verse

SUPPLIES: Award Stickers

- ⇒ This activity can be done from spots at the table or spaced out in the center of the room.
 - "Friends, we have an awesome memory verse to practice! I want to try saying it in lots of different ways!
- ⇒ Do memory verse all together in a variety of ways.
 - o "First, let's say it once together.
 - o 'God has given a son to us.' Isaiah 9:6
 - Now let's try it...
 - Super loud
 - Super quiet
 - Really fast
 - Really Slow
 - Jumping up and down
 - Running in Place
 - All the boys
 - All the girls
 - Kids only
 - Teachers only
- ⇒ Repeat as long as children are interested. If time permits, you can do one person at a time and give out stickers.
- ⇒ Complete the activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus.
 - "Nice work, my friends! God loved us so much that he gave his only song! Jesus is so special!"
 - o How do we know God loves us?
 - o God gave us Jesus!"

ACTIVITY #3 Nativity Play

SUPPLIES: Nativity Play Set

- ⇒ Gather children around you on the floor or at a table. (This activity works best in a smaller group)
 - "Friends! Look at what I have here! It's a stable! And look at all these people and animals! I am going to give everybody one person or animal and we are going to tell the story together!
- ⇒ Give each child one piece (or two depending on how many kids are in group). As you talk about the story, add the characters to the nativity.
 - "Before Mary had baby Jesus, an angel told her that Jesus was going to be born. Who has the angel?
 - When it was time for the baby to be born, Mary and Joseph had to take a long trip all the way to Bethlehem! Who has Mary? What about Joseph?
 - Do you remember what they rode? A donkey! Who has a donkey?
 Everybody say hee-haw!
 - o Then, God's son was born! Baby Jesus! Who has baby Jesus?
 - When baby Jesus was born there were animals there. Who has an animal? What does your animal say?
 - Next week we are going to talk about the shepherds who took care of the sheep! Does anyone have a shepherd?
 - Baby Jesus had other visitors, too! Three kings came to worship him!
 Who has the wise men?
- ⇒ Repeat activity as long as kids are interested and Bring it Back to Jesus.
 - "Boys and Girls, this is an amazing story, isn't it? God had such a perfect plan when he brought Jesus into the world. God loves us so much! He gave us Jesus. Jesus is God's son!
 - o How do we know God loves us?
 - o God gave us Jesus!"

READ, REVIEW, REFLECT, AND PRAY December 5

SUPPLIES: moon sand, rollers/cutters, book, reward stickers

READ

- ⇒ Space children out at tables. Give each child a pump of HAND SANITIZER. Lay down long strips of butcher paper on the table and pass out crayons to keep their hands busy.
- ⇒ Read Christmas Angels by Crystal Bowman
 - Read the story and then say: Wow! Isn't it amazing how God used angels to announce Jesus' birth? I am so thankful God sent us Jesus! He is the best present ever!

REVIEW

- ⇒ Review the following with the kids. Go over them as a group and/or ask each child individually
 - Key Question/Bottom Line: How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!
 - o Memory Verse: 'God has given a son to us.' Isaiah 9:6

REFLECT

- Reflect on the lesson and ask each child to answer the question. Write their name and answers on the board.
 - "Today we learned about how God sent an angel to tell Mary that she was going to have a baby named Jesus and that he was going to be the best present ever. God gives us so many wonderful things!
 - Today we are going to make a list of things God has given us. God has given us food, family, friends, sunshine, animals—God has given us SO many things! So when I say your name, tell me one thing God has given you, and I will write it down."

PRAY

"Dear God, You have given us SO much! [Child's name] wants to thank You for giving us (read what's listed). (Repeat for each child). Most of all, we want to thank You for giving us Jesus. Jesus is the best gift ever! We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

READ, REVIEW, REFLECT, AND PRAY December 12

SUPPLIES: Butcher paper for each table, crayons, book, reward stickers

READ

- ⇒ Space children out at tables. Give each child a pump of HAND SANITIZER. Lay down long strips of butcher paper on the table and pass out crayons to keep their hands busy.
- ⇒ Read Christmas in the Manger by Nola Buck
 - Read the story and then say: I am so thankful God gave us Jesus. Jesus is so special because he is God's son!

REVIEW

- ⇒ Review the following with the kids. Go over them as a group and/or ask each child individually
 - Key Question/Bottom Line: How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!
 - o Memory Verse: 'God has given a son to us.' Isaiah 9:6

REFLECT

- Reflect on the lesson and ask each child to answer the question. Write their name and answers on the board.
 - "Today we are going to make a list of things Jesus grew up to do. I mean, baby Jesus didn't stay a baby, did He? No! Jesus grew up to do amazing things! Jesus fed lots and lots of people, He walked on water, He calmed storms, He made sick people all better, He was a good friend to everyone, and He taught people about God. Jesus grew up and did all kinds of wonderful things! When I say your name, tell me one thing Jesus did when He grew up, and I will write it down."

PRAY

"Dear God, Thank You for giving us Jesus. Thank You that He grew up to do amazing things like (read the list the children made) AND He died and came back, just like He said He would! Jesus does things only He can do. That makes Him the most AMAZING friend EVER! We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."

READ, REVIEW, REFLECT, AND PRAY Christmas Eve Services

SUPPLIES: Butcher paper for each table, crayons, book, reward stickers

READ

- ⇒ Space children out at tables. Give each child a pump of HAND SANITIZER. Lay down long strips of butcher paper on the table and pass out crayons to keep their hands busy.
- ⇒ Read Happy Birthday, Jesus! by Michelle Medlock Adams
 - Read the story and then say: Friends! That is why we celebrate Christmas! It is Jesus' birthday. God sent Jesus to us because he loves us so much!

REVIEW

- ⇒ Review the following with the kids. Go over them as a group and/or ask each child individually
 - Key Question/Bottom Line: How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!
 - o Memory Verse: 'God has given a son to us.' Isaiah 9:6

REFLECT

- Reflect on the lesson and ask each child to answer the question. Write their name and answers on the board.
 - "When the angels came and told the shepherds that baby Jesus was born, they went to see him right away. They were so excited that they ran and told everyone that God gave us Jesus! Today we are going to make a list of people we can tell God gave us Jesus, just like the shepherds did. When I say your name, tell me one person you can tell that God gave us Jesus, and I will write it down."

PRAY

"Dear God, we want everyone to know that God gave us Jesus. Please help [child's name] tell [person's name] God gave us Jesus. (Repeat for each child.) We love You. God! In Jesus' name, amen."

Hey, Volunteers! MERRY CHRISTMAS!

 Thank you SO much for giving the gift of your time during this season. You are making an eternal impact with every child as you share the good news that God loves them so much, and that he sent his son Jesus to be their friend forever!

You may notice there are more activities than normal today.

There is NO pressure to do every activity! I wanted to provide you with lots of options for this fun service! You can make your own best decision based on the size of your class, the age of the kiddos, and the vibe of the classroom

Have fun making it your own.

Remember, all that really matters is that our kids walk out knowing:

1. God loves me!

- 2. God gave us Jesus!
- 3. Jesus is special because he is God's son!

It is an honor and privilege to serve with you. I am so grateful for your commitment to this team and to these little ones. As a mom, as well as a staff member, my gratitude runs deep.

Many blessings to you!!!

With love,

Tina

ACTIVITY #4 Birthday Dance Party

SUPPLIES: CD Player, Christmas CD, crepe paper

- ⇒ Give each child a strip of crepe paper to use as a streamer.
 - "Friends! We are celebrating Jesus' birthday all month long! God sent Jesus because he loves us so much. That makes me want to party! Give your streamers a wave and let's dance!
- ⇒3s: Turn on music and have a dance party!
- ⇒4s/5s: Play Freeze Dance
 - o "When I turn the music on, I want you to dance and make music! But listen carefully...when the music stops you need to freeze!"
- ⇒ Repeat as long as children are interested.
- ⇒ Complete the activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus.
 - o "Awesome dancing! It is so much fun celebrating Jesus. He
 - o is the best present ever from God! God loves us so much that He gave us Jesus. Jesus is God's son.
 - How do we know God loves us?
 - o God gave us Jesus! "

ACTIVITY #5 Bows Parachute

SUPPLIES: Gift Bows, Parachute

- ⇒ Have children join you and stand in a circle in the center of the room.
 - o "Today we learned the answer to a very important question:
 - o How do we know God loves us?
 - God gave us Jesus! "
- ⇒ Ask children to stand around the parachute with you and guide them to each pick up a section of the parachute.
 - o "Now, everybody grab a section of the parachute.
 - I have some bows here. What do we put bows on? That's right!
 Presents! Jesus was the best present God ever gave to us! The whole reason we give presents at Christmas is to remember how much God loves us. God gave us Jesus!"
- ⇒Invite children to shake their arms so that the parachute moves very fast.
 - o "Let's shake our arms and pop these bows up into the air! Go!"
- ⇒ When all the bows have popped out of the parachute...
 - o "How do we know God loves us?
 - o God gave us Jesus."
- ⇒ Repeat activity as long as kids are interested and Bring it Back to Jesus.
 - o "That was so much fun!
 - God gave us the most awesome gift ever God sent Jesus to us because He loves us.
 - o How do we know God loves us?
 - o God gave us Jesus! "