

**December  
2023  
Garden**

# **CRAFT – December 3<sup>rd</sup>**

## *Jesus is the present*

**SUPPLIES:** Jesus is the present page, crayons, heart stampers

### **What You DO and SAY:**

⇒ **Give each child a Jesus is the present page and crayons.**

- *“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 special picture for you to create today that will help you remember our true story! Your paper looks like a present. Who do you see on your paper? It’s the angel and Mary! Let’s color our picture.*

⇒ **While children are working, open The Beginner’s Bible and read *An Angel Visits Mary, p. 267***

⇒ **Have children use heart stampers to stamp hearts around Jesus.**

- *“Point to the angel. What was the important message the angel told Mary? Yes! She was going to have a baby and His name would be Jesus. Jesus is God’s Son.*
- *Now open your paper. Who’s inside? Baby Jesus! That’s the best present of all! Stamp hearts all around Jesus. Great job. Now close your paper and help me review today’s story.*

⇒ **Retell the story and Bring it Back to the Bottom Line.**

- *“Our Bible story is about the true story of Christmas, and it begins with a girl named Mary. God had an important message for her. God sent an angel to give Mary an important message! Mary was surprised and a little afraid. But the angel said, ‘Do not be afraid Mary! God says you are going to have a baby and you will call Him Jesus.’*
- *Jesus would be SO special because . . . Jesus is God’s Son! Wow! God loves you and me SO much that God gave us His only Son, Jesus.*
- ***How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!”***

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## **CRAFT – December 10<sup>th</sup>** *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 The Beginner’s Bible 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!”*
- ***Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God’s son!”***

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## **CRAFT – December 17<sup>th</sup>** *Shepherd Run and Tell*

**SUPPLIES:** Manger/Sheep scene with parent note on back, Shepherd puppet with finger cut-outs, crayons

⇒ **Hold up Manger/Sheep scene.**

- *“Today we heard the next part of our true story from the Bible about when baby Jesus was born. An angel came to tell the shepherds while they were out in the field watching their sheep.*
- *Do you see the sheep in the picture? Let’s color the sheep and the field, and the stable with baby Jesus in it!”*

⇒ **While children are working, open The Beginner’s Bible and read *Shepherds Visit*, p. 277.**

⇒ **Pass out shepherd finger puppet.**

- *“After the angels left the shepherds RAN to go see baby Jesus! Look who I have here! A shepherd!*
- *Let’s color our shepherd.”*

⇒ **While children are working, open The Beginner’s Bible and read *Shepherds Visit*, p. 277.**

- *“Do you see the 2 little holes in your shepherd? That is for your fingers! Let’s put your two little fingers through the holes. Now look – you can use your fingers to help the shepherd RUN and see baby Jesus!*
- *And do you remember what they did after they ran to see baby Jesus and worship him? They RAN and told everyone else that God had sent his son Jesus!”*

⇒ **Complete craft and Bring it Back to Jesus**

- *“The shepherds knew that Jesus was special because he was God’s son and they ran and told everyone! We can do the same!*
- ***How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!***

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## **CRAFT – Christmas Services**

### *Happy Birthday, Jesus 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.**

⇒ **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!"*
- **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.**

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# **ACTIVITY #1**

## *Look and Find Bows*

**SUPPLIES:** Gift Bows in box

### **What You DO and SAY:**

⇒ **Gather children in the center of the room.**

- *“In our Bible story today, we found out about 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 and see if we can find them all! Bring them back to me!”*

⇒ **Have children collect all the bows.**

- *“Great work, everybody! You found all the bows.*
- ***How do we know God loves us?***
- ***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!”*
- ***How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!***

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# **ACTIVITY #2**

## *Nativity Play*

**SUPPLIES:** Nativity Play Set

### **What You DO and SAY:**

- ⇒ **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!*
  - *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?*
  - *There were shepherds who took care of the sheep! Does anyone have a shepherd? An angel told the shepherds about baby Jesus and they ran to see him!*
  - *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 that he gave us Jesus. Jesus is so special. Jesus is God’s son!*
  - ***How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!***

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# **ACTIVITY #3**

## *Birthday Dance Party*

**SUPPLIES:** CD Player, Christmas CD, crepe paper

### **What You DO and SAY:**

⇒ **Give each child a strip of crepe paper to use as a streamer.**

- *“Friends! We are celebrating Jesus’ birthday today! God sent Jesus because he loves us so much. That makes me want to party! Give your streamers a wave and let’s dance!”*

⇒ **2s/3s: Turn on music and have a dance party!**

⇒ **4s/5s: Play Freeze Dance**

- *“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.**

- *“Awesome dancing! It is so much fun celebrating Jesus. He*
- *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? God gave us Jesus!***

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## *Read-Ask-Practice-Pray*

Here are some ideas to try in a group or one-on-one.

2-year-olds are all at different stages of development! Some are ready to answer big questions and say the memory verse, while others aren't ready to talk yet. Even if they aren't ready to answer, they are listening!

### **READ A STORY**

- ⇒ *Christmas Angels*
- ⇒ *Christmas in the Manger*
- ⇒ *J is for Jesus*
- ⇒ *Happy Birthday, Jesus!*

### **ASK A QUESTION**

How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!

### **PRACTICE THE MEMORY VERSE**

"God loved the world so much that He gave his only son." John 3:16

### **SAY A PRAYER**

Dear God,  
Thank you for making me.  
Thank you for loving me.  
Thank you for sending Jesus to be my friend forever.  
Amen.