

December Christmas
3-K
Christmas Shapes
December 20-24

CRAFT CHRISTMAS

Snow Globe Ornament

SUPPLIES: Ornament cutout, ribbon, clear ornament halves, liquid glue, paper plate, small white pom poms, crayons

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Give each child an ornament cutout with the ribbon already tied on and encourage the children to color the picture.**
 - “Sit at the table and let’s create a super special Christmas ornament.
 - *“We’re going to make an ornament today that has a circle shape. This fun ornament will help us remember the part of the true Christmas story when the shepherds ran to see Jesus. Color your picture. (Pause.) I see Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, and the shepherds”*
- ⇒ **Set up a few volunteers with the ornament halves, a paper plate with glue, and small white pom poms. When the children bring their picture, set a few white pom poms on the center of the picture and then dip the edges of the ornament halves into the glue and stick it to the front of the child’s picture. Leave it to dry for at least 5 minutes. (See the rundown video for a visual of how to do this!)**
 - *“When you’re done coloring your picture, bring it to (volunteer’s names) to turn it into a snow globe! Then we’ll leave it on the table to dry.”*
- ⇒ **Retell the story and Bring it Back to the Bottom Line.**
 - *“Today’s true story from the Bible begins with some shepherds who were out in a field taking care of their sheep. One night, God sent an angel to give the shepherds a message. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! I bring you good news of great joy! God’s Son, Jesus, has been born! Then more angels came and praised God and said: “Glory to God in the highest!” (Luke 2:14 NIV) The shepherds were excited they ran and found baby Jesus in a manger just like the angel had said. They were so happy the shepherds told EVERYONE that Jesus, God’s Son, was born! Everyone who heard the good news about Jesus was amazed. The shepherds praised God because **God gave us Jesus!***
 - ***How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!”***

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ACTIVITY #1

Christmas Shapes

SUPPLIES: Foam cube w/ Christmas Shapes cards in the sleeves

What You DO and SAY:

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

- *"Friends, come sit on the floor in a circle with me. There are four different pictures on this cube: (turn to each face when you name it) I see an angel in the shape of a heart. (Point.) An angel was the one who told Mary she would have a baby. And a present in the shape of a square. (Point.) Jesus is the best present ever. A sheep in the shape of a circle. (Point.) The good news that Jesus was born was shared with the shepherds first! And a very special star. (Point.) The star shone over the place where Jesus was born. We're going to pass it around and take turns rolling it. When you roll it, see what shape it shows and I want you to try to make that shape with your hands or your whole body!"*

⇒ **Review the story using the Christmas Shapes cards.**

- *"Ready? [Child's name], You can roll it first! (Roll the cube.) Use your body to show me what shape you see. (Pause.) Whoa! That's a [shape] like the [image from the story]! Everybody make the same shape that [child's name] is making. (Pause.) Great job! Let's let someone else roll it this time. (Repeat as desired, reviewing what the shape means after each roll.)"*

⇒ **Bring it back to the Bottom Line.**

- *"Great job remembering and making the shapes of Christmas! The best part of Christmas is Jesus. Jesus is the best gift ever and shows us how much God loves us. Everyone make a heart with your hands. (Pause.) Now let me ask you..."*
- ***How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!"***

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ACTIVITY #2

Bows Parachute

SUPPLIES: Gift Bows, Parachute

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Have children join you and stand in a circle in the center of the room.**

- *“Today we learned the answer to a very important question:*
- ***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.**

- *“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.**

- *“Let’s shake our arms and pop these bows up into the air! Go!”*

⇒ **When all the bows have popped out of the parachute...**

- *“How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus.”*

⇒ **Repeat activity as long as kids are interested and Bring it Back to Jesus.**

- *“That was so much fun!*
- *God gave us the most awesome gift ever - God sent Jesus to us because He loves us.*
- ***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, Scarves

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Give each child a scarf to wave while they dance.**

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

⇒ **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! Then we can say our memory verse together!"*
- *"Let's dance! (Dance until the music stops.) Freeze! Now let's say our memory verse together: **God** (flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down) **loved the world so much** (cross arms over chest) **that he gave his only Son,**' (rock arms like a baby) **John 3:16.** (Open hands like a book.)"*

⇒ **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.*
- ***How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!***

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READ, REVIEW, REFLECT, AND PRAY December Christmas

PASS OUT MOON SAND

READ

- *Happy Birthday, Jesus* by Michelle Medlock Adams

REVIEW (You may choose to pass out stickers as kids answer!)

- ⇒ Key Question and Bottom Line
 - ***How do we know God loves us?***
 - ***God gave us Jesus!***
- ⇒ Memory Verse
 - ***“God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son.”***
John 3:16

CONNECT IT AND PRAY

- ⇒ “In our Bible Story, the shepherds ran to see baby Jesus, and they found Jesus lying in a manger, right where the angel said Jesus would be. I wonder what the shepherds said to baby Jesus. Let’s make a list of the things we’d say to baby Jesus! When I call your name, tell me **one thing you would want to tell baby Jesus.**”
 - *Let each child chose a sticker to put on the weekly question strip/board/paper.*
- ⇒ Let’s pray...
- ⇒ Let’s fold our hands and bow our heads and **pray**:
 - *“Dear God, Thank You that we got to hear more about the true story of Christmas and how You gave us Your Son, Jesus. If we were like the shepherds and saw baby Jesus, we would tell Him (read the list the children made.) You’re the best, God. In Jesus name. Amen.”*

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BONUS ACTIVITY

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. God gave us Jesus!"*
- ***How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!***

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BONUS ACTIVITY

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 learned about a very special baby who was born! Jesus was the most special present ever because God gave us Jesus!"*
- *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 the most special present in His Son Jesus!"*
- ***How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!***