



WEEK
ONE
JULY 2024

SMALL GROUP
2 YEAR
-OLDS

PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION
15 MINUTES

MADE TO PLAY

an activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts



2. NATIVITY TIME

WHAT YOU NEED: Little People® Nativity set

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Remove the wise men pieces of the Nativity set. Place the Nativity pieces on the table randomly.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus came to give the world joy.

SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS
LUKE 2:8-20

MEMORY VERSE

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

LUKE 2:10, ESV

KEY QUESTION

Who gives you joy?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus gives me joy.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage the children to play with the Nativity set, discussing the different parts.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Introduce the Bible Story.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Come to the table with me, friends, and let's play! Do you know what this is called? (Pause.) Yes, this is called a 'Nativity.' It has all the pieces of the story of when Jesus was born."

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's play with the different pieces. Do you see the stable? A stable is a place where the animals stay. What animals do you see? (Pause.) Lots of animals. What sounds do these animals make? (Pause.) Wow, you are really good at making animal sounds! Can you tell me what other pieces you see? (Pause.) That's right, there is a shepherd, an angel, Mary, Joseph, and a very special baby!"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Today we'll hear about a baby, like the one in our Nativity set, who came to give the whole world JOY."

TRANSITION: Move to Worship and Story by making the sounds of the different animals from the Nativity set.



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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY **GROUPS** HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



1. MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

WHAT YOU NEED: No supplies needed

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Say the Memory Verse and teach the motions to the children.

BIBLE STORY

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LUKE 2:8-20

MEMORY VERSE

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BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Repeat the verse with the motions, and invite the children to do it with you. Repeat several times.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Friends, join me over here. We have a brand-new Memory Verse and motions to learn! Everyone, listen and watch me. 'I bring you (move upward-facing palms to one side) good news (move flat hand from chin to palm) of great joy (brush flat hands upward twice) that will be for all the people; (arms out wide) Luke 2:10. (Open hands like a book.)"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Now let's do it together! Are you ready? 'I bring you (move upward-facing palms to one side) good news (move flat hand from chin to palm) of great joy (brush flat hands upward twice) that will be for all the people; (arms out wide) Luke 2:10. (Open hands like a book.) Nice job! Let's do it again." (Repeat several times.)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Our Memory Verse teaches us that God loves us so much that God gave us His Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever. Jesus came to give the whole world joy. **Who gives you joy? Jesus gives me joy.** Let's say that one more time, friends. **Who gives you joy? Jesus gives me joy."**



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PRELUDE SOCIAL WORSHIP STORY GROUPS HOME

CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT
25 MINUTES

MADE TO CREATE
an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



2. STORY MITTENS
[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]
WHAT YOU NEED: "Story Mittens" Activity Page, cardstock, scissors, and double-sided tape

WHAT YOU DO:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy "Story Mittens" on cardstock and cut, one set per child.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus came to give the world joy.

SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS
LUKE 2:8-20

MEMORY VERSE

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

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KEY QUESTION

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BOTTOM LINE

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BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to fold and tape the Shepherds and Angel mitten cutout, leaving the bottom open for their hand. Help as needed. Repeat for the Nativity mitten cutout.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible Story and Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:
BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "Come sit with me! We're going to make story mittens to wear on our hands!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Let's make a shepherds and angel story mitten first. (Give each child a Shepherds and Angel mitten cutout.) These are the shepherds (point), and this is the angel (point). God sent an angel to tell the shepherds the good news that Jesus had been born! Let's put our mittens together so we can wear it on our hands. (Assist as needed.) Now put your story mitten on your hand and hold it up. Say: 'I bring you good news (repeat) . . . of great joy (repeat) . . . that will be for all the people.' (repeat) Yay! The good news about Jesus gave the shepherds great joy!"

"Take your Shepherds and Angel story mitten off and lay it to the side. We're going to make a Baby Jesus story mitten now! (Give each child a Nativity Scene mitten cutout.) This is Baby Jesus (point), and this is Mary and Joseph (point). After the angel told the shepherds the good news, they ran to see Baby Jesus! They found Baby Jesus lying in a manger, just like the angel said. Let's put our mittens together so we can wear it on our hand. (Assist as needed.) Now put your story mitten on your hand and hold it up. Say: 'Jesus is born! Jesus is born!' The shepherds ran to tell everyone the good news so they could have joy too!"

"Now let's put both of our story mittens on our hands! (Assist as needed.) Hold up your Shepherds and Angel mitten, and say: 'I bring you good news (repeat) . . . of great joy (repeat) . . . that will be for all the people. (repeat) God's Son, Jesus, is born!' (repeat)"

"Hold up your Baby Jesus mitten, and say: 'Jesus is born! (repeat) Jesus is born! (repeat) Let's tell everyone the good news (repeat), that Jesus is born!' (repeat)"

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "Jesus gave the shepherds so much joy, and Jesus gives you joy too! **Who gives you joy? Jesus gives me joy!**"



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MADE TO MOVE

an activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn



3. FLY LIKE ANGELS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

WHAT YOU NEED: Bubble solution, and a large bubble wand or machine

Note: We recommend only using a hand-held operated wand or bubble machine to prevent the spreading of airborne illnesses.

BIBLE STORY

Jesus came to give the world joy.

SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS
LUKE 2:8-20

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Gather children in front of you in an open area.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Blow bubbles toward the children. Encourage the children to fly like angels and pop the bubbles. When they pop a bubble, encourage the children to pop the bubbles and say, **"Jesus gives me joy!"** as they fly like angels. Repeat as desired.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bottom Line.

MEMORY VERSE

"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."

LUKE 2:10, ESV

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: "I am so excited to play with bubbles with my friends today!"

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "When the bubbles come, show me how you can fly like an angel and pop the bubbles. When you pop a bubble, say: **'Jesus gives me joy!'** Are you ready to fly? (*Blow bubbles.*) Wow! Look at all the bubbles! Fly angels, and pop the bubbles! **Jesus gives me joy!**" (*Repeat as desired.*)

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: "You did such a good job flying like angels and popping the bubbles! The angel in our Bible Story told the shepherds: 'Jesus, God's Son, has been born.' Jesus came to bring joy to the world. **Who gives you joy? Jesus gives me joy.**"

KEY QUESTION

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Jesus wants to be my friend forever.



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an activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft to take home



4. JOY TO THE WORLD
[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]
WHAT YOU NEED: “Joy to the World” and “Joy to the World Heart” Activity Pages, white and red cardstock, watercolor paints, water, small bowls, paintbrushes, green tissue paper squares, plastic tablecloth, scissors, hole punch, yarn, paper towels, and a permanent marker

BIBLE STORY

Jesus came to give the world joy.

SHEPHERDS AND ANGELS
LUKE 2:8-20

MEMORY VERSE

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LUKE 2:10, ESV

KEY QUESTION

Who gives you joy?

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus gives me joy.

BASIC TRUTH

Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy “Joy to the World” on cardstock and cut, one per child. Copy “Joy to the World Heart” on red cardstock and cut, one per child. Punch a hole in the top and bottom of each heart as well as the top of the “Joy to the World” circle cutouts. Cut yarn in 8” lengths, two per child. Write each child’s name on their paper. Cover table, fill bowls halfway with water, and place on the table with the paint and paintbrushes.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Encourage children to paint the world with blue paint. Ask children to add several squares of green tissue to the blue paint. Attach the heart to the world with one piece of yarn. Thread the other piece of yarn through the hole in the top of the heart and knot.

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: Review the Bible Story and Bottom Line.

WHAT YOU SAY:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: “Friends, come sit at the table with me. I have a special ornament for you to make today.”

DURING THE ACTIVITY: “Let’s make this big circle a picture of the world. Paint the whole circle blue. This will be the water. *(Pause.)* Now stick a few pieces of green tissue to it—these will be the land. *(Pause.)* Fantastic! What is this? *(Hold up a heart.)* Yes! It’s a heart and hearts make us think of love! This heart has the word ‘joy’ on it—Jesus came to give the world joy! Let’s put these together. *(Attach the heart to the world and then thread the other piece of yarn through the other hole and knot to create a hanger.)* Tell me: **Who gives you joy? Jesus gives me joy.”**

AFTER THE ACTIVITY: “Today in our Bible Story, the angel told the shepherds the good news that Jesus had been born and He came to be everyone’s friend forever! That means you, and you, and you, and me! Jesus came to give the whole world joy. That is something to celebrate! **Who gives you joy? Jesus gives me joy.”**



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PRELUDE

SOCIAL

WORSHIP

STORY

GROUPS

HOME

GETTING READY

HERE'S EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW TO GET READY FOR THIS WEEK

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION (15 MINUTES)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age-appropriate and hands-on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible Story.

Prepare to offer one or more of the following activities as preschoolers arrive. Let one or two teachers lead activities in different areas of the room while another teacher greets parents and children at the door.

1. GIVING GIFTS

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Index cards
- Gift bow
- Inflatable globe beach ball
- Permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Write each child's name on an index card.
- Place the gift bow on the globe ball.

2. NATIVITY TIME

Made to Play: An activity that encourages preschoolers to follow guidelines while having fun and learning new concepts

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Little People® Nativity Set

3. CELEBRATE!

Made to Imagine: An activity that lets preschoolers pretend, imagine, and role-play to enhance their learning

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Party hats
- Party plates
- Party napkins
- Crepe paper streamers

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT (25 MINUTES)

Create a safe place to connect through activities written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Bottom Line introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real-life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or, offer two activities at once and allow half the kids to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities.

1. MEMORY VERSE WITH MOTIONS

[HEAR FROM GOD | MEMORY VERSE REVIEW]

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WHAT YOU NEED:

- No supplies needed

2. STORY MITTENS

[TALK ABOUT GOD | BIBLE STORY REVIEW]

Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Story Mittens" Activity Page
- Cardstock
- Scissors
- Double-sided tape

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Story Mittens" on cardstock and cut, one set per child.

3. FLY LIKE ANGELS

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Move: An activity that uses a preschooler's natural desire to move to help them learn

WHAT YOU NEED:

- Bubble solution
- Large bubble wand or machine



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4. JOY TO THE WORLD

[LIVE FOR GOD | APPLICATION ACTIVITY]

Made to Create: An activity that allows preschoolers to review the Bible story, bottom line, or memory verse by creating a craft

WHAT YOU NEED:

- "Joy to the World" Activity Page
- "Joy to the World Heart" Activity Page
- White and red cardstock
- Watercolor paints
- Water
- Small bowls
- Paintbrushes
- Green tissue paper squares
- Plastic tablecloth
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Yarn
- Paper towels
- Permanent marker

WHAT YOU DO:

- Copy "Joy to the World" on cardstock and cut, one per child.
- Copy "Joy to the World Heart" on red cardstock and cut, one per child.
- Punch a hole in the top and bottom of each heart as well as the top of each "Joy to the World" circle cutout.
- Cut yarn in 8" lengths, two per child.
- Write each child's name on their paper.
- Cover table, fill bowls halfway with water, and place on the table with the paint and paintbrushes.

HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's Parent Cue card.
- Copy the Memory Verse Card to hand out or make available to parents.
- Copy "Going Home" and hang it on the door where Small Group Leaders can reference and remind parents of the Bottom Line and Memory Verse as parents pick up their children.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource, the **Parent Cue app**.

FIRST LOOK PINTEREST PAGE

- Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies. bit.ly/FL_StartTheParty_July