

# December 17, 2017

**Bible Focus:** The angels tell about Jesus.

The Shepherds • *Luke 2:8-20*

**Memory Verse:** “God has given a son to us.” Isaiah 9:6, NCV

**Key Question:** How do we know God loves us?

**Bottom Line:** God gave us Jesus.

**Basic Truth:** God loves me.

**Here’s what you’ll be teaching in 3s–5s this week.**

**Social (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)**

**9:00 & 11:30**

- Don’t Drop the Sheep

**10:15**

- Tell Me

**Bible (9:10, 10:25, 11:40)**

**All Service Times**

- Bible History Presentation in the Sandbox

**Journaling (9:30, 10:45, 12:00)**

**All Service Times**

- Small Group Time
- Prayer

**Groups (9:35, 10:50, 12:05)**

**9:00 & 11:30**

- For You

**10:15**

- Smiley Face Travel

**All Service Times**

- Dismiss–Parent CUE

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## **Social** (Introductory Activities, 10 minutes)

Let one teacher lead activities in different areas of the room while another teacher greets parents and kids at the door.

**9:00 & 11:30**

### **Don't Drop the Sheep**

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

**What You Need:** Cotton balls, 2-3 plastic spoons, and a basket

#### **What You Do:**

*During the Activity:* Gather the children in an open area of the room. Place the basket a few feet away from the children. Line the children up next to the cotton balls and explain that their job is get all the sheep (cotton balls) to the pen (basket). The children must carry the sheep (cotton balls) one at a time on their spoons. If they drop the “sheep,” they must pick it up and keep going. Continue passing spoons down the line as each child finishes so everyone has a turn.

#### **What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* (Hold up a cotton ball.) “Do you see the sheep? (Pause.) What? You don't? Here's one! (Hold up cotton ball.) And they have a pen too! It's right over here. (Walk to the basket.) We need to get all these sheep back to their pen. BUT you can only carry them on a spoon one at a time. Let's line up (walk back to the cotton balls) and take turns carefully carrying our sheep to their pen. If you drop the sheep, make sure to pick it up, put it back on the spoon, and keep going. Are you ready?” (Do activity.)

*After the Activity:* “Whew! We got all our sheep safely to their pen! Great job, friends. In today's Bible Truth, we are going to hear about some other men who took care of sheep!”

**Transition:** Move to Large Group by baa-ing like sheep. Say, “Let's pretend to be sheep by 'baa-ing' on the way to Large Group! Don't forget to hold onto a handle on our Travel rope!”

**10:15****Tell Me**

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

**What You Need:** Large, empty cardboard box, Christmas wrapping paper, scissors, clear tape, 6 note cards, and a permanent marker

**What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Gift-wrapped box with one of the following messages on each of the sides of the box:

- Tell me your favorite color.
- Tell me your favorite animal.
- Tell me your favorite food.
- Tell me your favorite movie.
- Tell me your favorite song.
- Tell me your favorite game.

*During the Activity:* Allow the children to work together to roll the box across the activity area (like a game die). Look at the side that is face up when it is finished rolling. Read the command to the children and allow each of them to answer. Continue the activity by rolling the box at least five more times. Try to read every command one time. If a command that you have already read turns up, simply reroll to get an unread command.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* "WOW! Look at that big box!"

*During the Activity:* "Let's work together to roll the box across the room. (Roll box.) Great job! Let's see what the card on the box says. It says, 'Tell me your favorite color.' Can you tell me your favorite colors? (Pause.) Those are all beautiful colors. Let's roll the box again and see what else it says." (Continue and finish activity.)

*After the Activity:* "Great job! Thank you so much for telling all of those things. In our Bible Truth today, we are going to hear about something AMAZING that people were telling about! I can't wait for you to hear what it was!"

**Transition:** Move to Large Group by asking the children to tell everyone that they are going to Large Group by saying, "We are going to learn about Jesus!" as they walk to Large Group. Remember to utilize the travel rope as you travel outside the class.

**Bible (Large Group, 20 minutes)**

After children have participated in Social, gather them for a large group time that includes interactive worship, introductory sketch and Bible Truth. Place your "We are in The Sandbox" sign on the door as you leave. Travel to the Sandbox.

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**Basic Truth:** God loves me.

## **Journaling (Small Groups, 5 minutes)**

Journaling is designed to help preschoolers understand how the Bottom Line applies to them. They’ll discuss real-life experiences and share prayer requests.

Give each child a cup of Chex cereal to snack on while you take them through the following exercise.

**What you Need:** Paperclip “Memory Verse Card” in your Bible at Isaiah 9:6. Journal and a fun-shaped pen. Reward stamps.

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** “It’s Small Group time! If you’re in my small group, follow me!”

“Today’s Bible Truth was amazing! REAL angels went to the fields where the shepherds were taking care of their sheep and told them the most wonderful GOOD NEWS! Do you remember what the good news is? *(Pause for response.)* The good news is **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!** That’s how we know God loves us. God gave us the most special gift He could ever give us: His Son, Jesus. **How do we know God loves us?**”

**CHILDREN and SGL:** **[Bottom Line] “God gave us Jesus!”**

**SGL:** “Sing it loud like the angels! *(Say in a singing voice)* **How do we know God loves us?**”

**CHILDREN and SGL:** **[Bottom Line] “God gave us Jesus!”**

**SGL:** “Let’s say the Bible verse that will help us remember that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus.**”

*(Open Bible to verse.)*

“The verse says: *God has given a son to us,* Isaiah 9:6.

*(Close Bible and lay it down.)*

“Stand up with me and say that verse together with the motions. Just say what I say and do what I do.”

**CHILDREN and SGL:** “God (*point arms straight up*) has given (*cup both hands in front of you like you are giving something*) a son (*rock your arms like you’re holding a baby*) to us (*point your thumbs to your chest*), Isaiah 9:6.” (*Hold hands open like a book.*) (*Repeat several times.*)

**SGL:** “Perfect! High-fives for everyone! (*Give each child a high-five.*)

“Okay, friends, it’s time to write in our journal and pray. Let’s sit back down real close to each other so we can hear each other.

*(Hold journal and fun-shaped pen.)*

“When the angels told the shepherds the good news that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus**, they ran to see baby Jesus. And then they ran to tell everyone else the good news! Now that we know the good news that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus**, who can we run and tell? When I say your name, tell me one person you can tell the good news that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus**.

*(Write each child’s name and what they say beside their name. Remember to print the words they say so the children can recognize their names and the letters.)*

“Look at all of these people we can tell the good news to. (*Show them the list.*) They need to hear the good news, and we can tell them! Let’s close our eyes and put our hands together so we can pray. Would anyone like to pray before I pray?”

*(Give each child who wants to pray the opportunity to do so.)*

## **Prayer**

**SGL:** “Dear God, we have the best news ever to tell people. Please help (*name each child*) tell (*read the list the children made*) the good news that **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus**. We want everyone to know that You love us so much that You gave us Your Son, Jesus, to be our friend forever. We love You! In Jesus’ name, amen.”

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## **Groups (Application Activities, 25 minutes)**

These activities are designed to help preschoolers understand and remember today’s Bible Truth and Bottom Line.

**9:00 & 11:30**

**For You**

**Live for God | Application Activity**

*Made to Think: An advanced activity specifically designed for older preschoolers*

**What You Need:** “For You” Activity Page, “For You” labels, and Christmas stickers

**What You Do:**

*During the Activity:* Ask the children to think of someone they want to tell about how God gave us Jesus. Help the children write that person’s name in the “To” section on the card. Allow the children to write their name if possible in the “From” section. Give the children a label and help them place it on the opposite side of the card.

*After the Activity:* Give the children the Christmas stickers and ask them to decorate their card.

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* “Let’s tell someone about how God gave us Jesus!”

*During the Activity: (Give each child a card.)* “Think about who you want to tell that God gave us Jesus. I will help you write their name on your card. Then you can write your name, so they will know who is telling them about how God gave us Jesus! (*Write names on the cards.*) Perfect! Now we can put this label on your card. (*Hold up label.*) It says, ‘God gave us Jesus!’ Awesome! Now you can use these Christmas stickers to decorate your card.”

*After the Activity:* “Way to go! Your cards look awesome. Don’t forget to give your card to the person you thought of, so you can tell them about how God gave us Jesus. We should tell everyone about when Jesus was born, just like the angels and the shepherds did. **How do we know God loves us? [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus!**”

**10:15****Smiley Face Travel****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:** "Smiley Face" Activity Pages taped to the walls**What You Do:**

*During the Activity:* Gather the children in the center of the room and point out the four smiley faces. Give an instruction to the children like: "Walk quickly to the blue smiley face." Once there, say this month's Bottom Line. Return to the center of the room and repeat with different colors and ways to travel. (*Travel options: march, tiptoe, hop, slide, jump, etc.*)

**What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* "Do you notice something in the corners of the room? (*Pause.*) Yes! Smiley faces."

*During the Activity:* "Let's quickly walk to the BLUE smiley face. (*Walk with the children.*) Yeah, we made it! Now let's say the Bottom Line. **[Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus.** That news certainly makes me smile! Let's go back to the middle of the room." (*Repeat with other colors and travel options listed above as long as time and interest allow.*)

*After the Activity:* "Whew! We traveled all over the room and back. The shepherds traveled too! And when they arrived at the stable, they were so excited to find baby Jesus! Jesus is born for you and to me because God loves us SO much. That sure does make me smile. **How do we know God loves us? [Bottom Line] God gave us Jesus.**"

**All Service Times****Get Ready to Dismiss**