

December 16, 2018

Bible Focus: The angels tell about Jesus.

Shepherds • *Luke 2:6-18*

Memory Verse: "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son." John 3:16, GNT

Key Question: Why is Jesus special?

Bottom Line: Jesus is God's Son.

Basic Truth: Jesus wants to be my friend forever.

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

9:00 & 11:30

- Herding

10:15

- Bows on the Wreath

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

- Bible presentation in class

Groups (9:25, 10:40, 11:55)

9:00 & 11:30

- Angels in the Sky

10:15

- Sheep round-up

Playground/Centers (9:40, 10:55, 12:10)

- If the weather allows, travel to the playground for 10 minutes of playtime outside.

Snack (9:52, 11:07, 12:22)

- Offer snack to the children, indoors

Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)

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

Let one teacher lead children in activities throughout the room while another teacher greets parents and kids at the door. At this age not all children will participate, but most will want to be part of the fun.

9:00 & 11:30

Herding

What You Need: Masking tape, full-sized candy canes, and cotton balls

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Make a large circle with the masking tape on a table or the floor in the activity area. Scatter the cotton balls all around the outside of the circle.

During the Activity: Give each child a candy cane and help them hold it upside down so that the hook of the cane is toward the table or the floor. Challenge the children to use the hook of the cane to push the cotton balls into the circle. Continue the activity until all of the cotton balls are inside the circle.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "We are going to be shepherds today! Shepherds herd sheep to keep them safe."

During the Activity: "These are our sheep (*point to cotton*) and this is our sheep pen (*point to circle*). We can use the shepherd's staff (*hold up candy cane*) to push the sheep into their pen. (*Demonstrate.*) Are you ready to be shepherds?" (*Pause and do activity.*)

After the Activity: "Great job! You are all awesome shepherds! We are going to hear an amazing Truth from the Bible today about shepherds."

Transition: Move to Bible Time by acting as if the children are your sheep and you are the shepherd. Tell the children you are herding them to the Bible Time area.

10:15**Bows on the Wreath****What You Need:** Wreath taped on the wall, and stick-on bows (at least one per child)**What You Do:**

During the Activity: Give the children the bows with the adhesive backing removed. Encourage the children to place the bows all over the wreath.

After the Activity: Be sure each child has a turn to place a bow onto the wreath.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "We are going to learn about the BEST present of all today. First let's play a fun game."

During the Activity: "There is a wreath on our wall. We put bows on Christmas presents, so let's decorate the wreath with bows!" (*Do activity.*)

After the Activity: "Great job! Today we are going to hear a Bible Truth about the BEST present that God gave us. Are you ready for a TRUTH from the Bible?"

Transition: Move to Bible Time by chanting this month's Bottom Line, "Jesus is God's Son," as you walk to the Bible Time area.

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

LEADER: "Hello, friends. Merry Christmas and happy birthday, Jesus. It's time for us to sing together again. I love singing with you. But first tell me: **Why is Jesus special?**

[Bottom Line] Jesus is God's Son. That's right! **[Bottom Line] Jesus is God's Son.** Let's sing!

(Lead children in singing "Christmas Party." Provided on Music Video DVD)

"So good! It's so much fun to sing about Jesus, His birthday, and Christmas. I am so thankful that God gave us Jesus. **Why is Jesus special? [Bottom Line] Jesus is God's Son.**"

Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible Truth and prayer experience.

What You Need: A Bible and an empty toilet paper tube for each child

LEADER: "It's Bible time! I want *(name each child if you can)* to come sit with me. This is the . . . *(pause as you hold up the Bible)* . . . Bible! The Bible has God's words in it. We love the Bible!

(Give the Bible a hug and lay it open in front of the children.)

"Today's Bible Truth is about some very exciting news! Can you help me tell the Bible Truth? *(Pause.)* Yay! You'll need one of these to help me.

(Give each child a tube to use as a megaphone.)

"When it's time for you to help, I want you to put your tube to your mouth and say, **[Bottom Line] 'Jesus is God's Son'** like this."

(Demonstrate and encourage the children to do it with you.)

CHILDREN and LEADER: [Bottom Line] “Jesus is God’s Son!”

(Repeat a few times.)

LEADER: “Okay, keep your tube in your lap until I tell you to help. Here we go!

“One night, some shepherds were taking care of their sheep, and an angel came and told them some good news. The angel said, ‘Jesus has been born! Go and see God’s Son, Jesus!’ Then the sky was filled with angels and they were singing because it was such a special day!

“The shepherds ran to see baby Jesus. They knew He was special because . . .

“I need your help. Hold up your tubes and say it with me!”

CHILDREN and LEADER: [Bottom Line] “Jesus is God’s Son!”

(Repeat a few times.)

LEADER: “After the shepherds saw baby Jesus, they went to tell everyone the good news!

“I need your help again. Hold up your tubes and say it with me!”

CHILDREN and LEADER: [Bottom Line] “Jesus is God’s Son!”

(Repeat a few times.)

LEADER: “And **[Basic Truth]** Jesus wants to be your friend forever! That is GOOD NEWS!

“Okay, it’s time to put our tubes away so we can pray. Thank you for helping me tell the Bible Truth today.

(Collect the tubes.)

“Let’s close our eyes and put our hands in our lap so we can talk to God.”

PRAYER

LEADER: “**Dear God, Jesus is the best gift ever. Help us understand what an amazing gift He is so we will tell others about Him. We want everyone to know that [Bottom Line] Jesus is God’s Son! We love You, God. In Jesus’ name, amen.**”

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Groups (9:25, 10:40, 11:55)

The following activities help make the Bottom Line stick. Encourage children to play on their own if they do not wish to take part in an activity.

9:00 & 11:30

Angels in the Sky

What You Need: "Angels in the Sky" and "Shepherds in the Field" Activity Pages, glue sticks, and completed sample craft

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Each child will need three angel cutouts.

During the Activity: Give each child a "Shepherds in the Field" Activity Page and the three angel cutouts. Help the children glue the angels at the top of the Activity Page.

After the Activity: Retell the Bible Truth.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: "Today we learned that God sent many angels to fill the sky and tell the shepherds about Jesus."

During the Activity: "We are going to make a picture all about our Bible Truth. Glue the angels in the sky, just like in our Bible Truth. (*Do activity.*) Great job! The angels are in the sky telling the shepherds the wonderful news!"

After the Activity: "Jesus was born in a stable, and God sent the angels to tell the shepherds and everyone else. At first, the shepherds were afraid, but the angels told them not to be afraid because they had **WONDERFUL NEWS!** Jesus was born! God gave us **JESUS**. **Why is Jesus special?** [**Bottom Line**] **Jesus is God's Son!**"

10:15**Sheep Roundup****What You Need:** No supplies needed**What You Do:***Before the Activity:* Guide the children to spread out in front of you.*During the Activity:* Pretend to be the shepherd and the children are your sheep. Use your arms to “round up” your sheep into a compact area. When the sheep are rounded up, say the memory verse with the children. Instruct the children to spread back out, and repeat the activity.**What You Say:***Before the Activity:* “Everyone spread out.”*During the Activity:* “I am your shepherd and you are my sheep. My job is to round up all of my sheep. (Do activity.) Great job, sheep! Now let’s say our memory verse. *God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son*, John 3:16. Awesome! Let’s do it again!” (Continue activity.)*After the Activity:* “You are amazing sheep! Our memory verse tells us that God gave us Jesus because He loves us SOOO much. **Why is Jesus special? [Bottom Line] Jesus is God’s Son!**”**Playground/Centers (9:40, 10:55, 12:10)**

If the weather allows, use this time to travel outside for 10 minutes of playtime. Place your “We are on the Playground” sign on the door as you leave. This will allow parents who are late to find you.

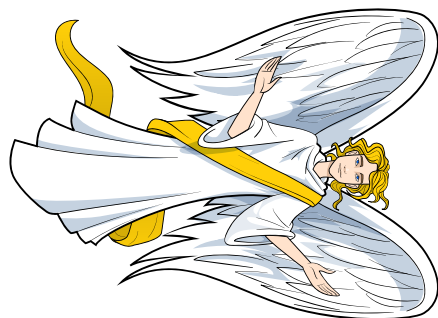
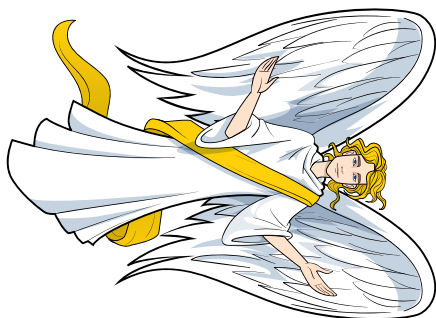
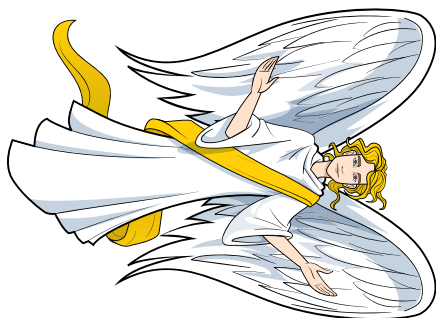
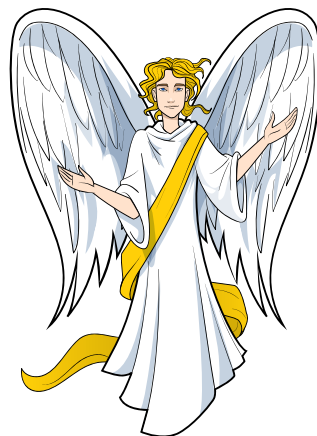
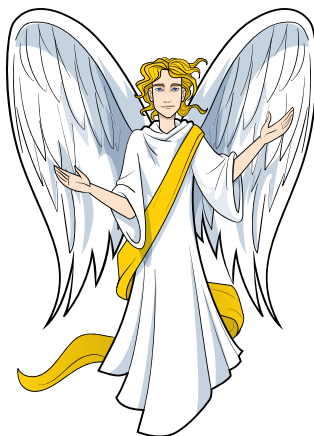
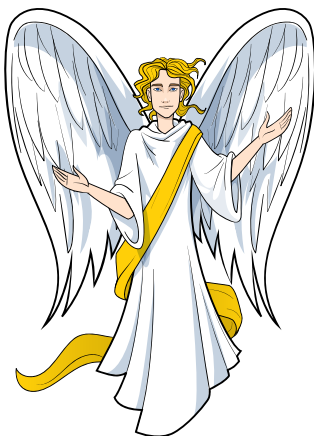
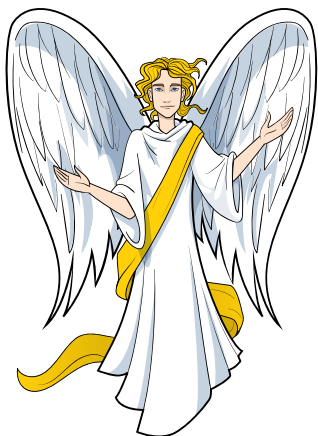
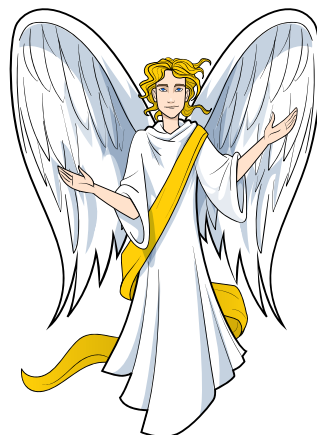
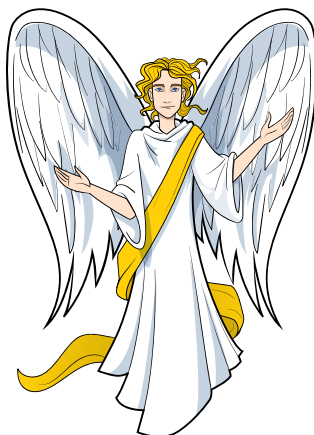
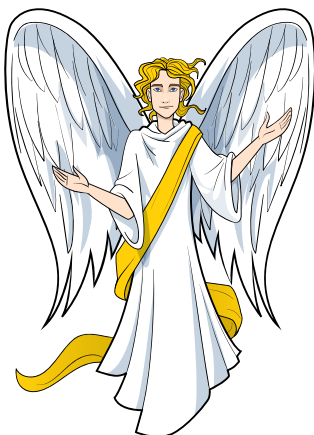
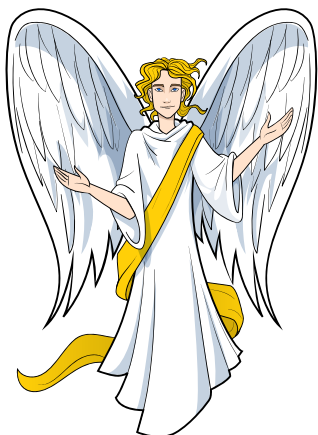
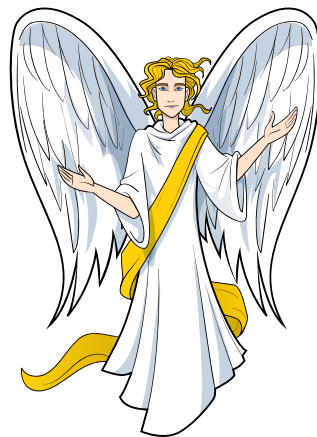
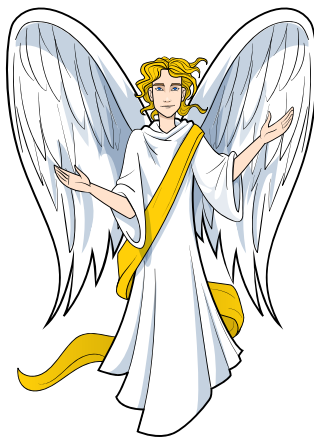
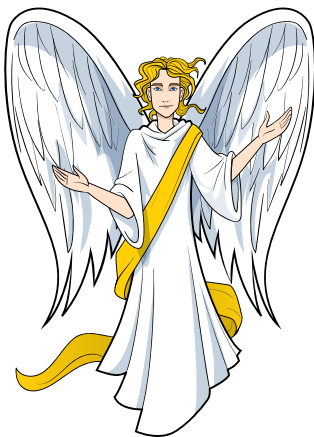
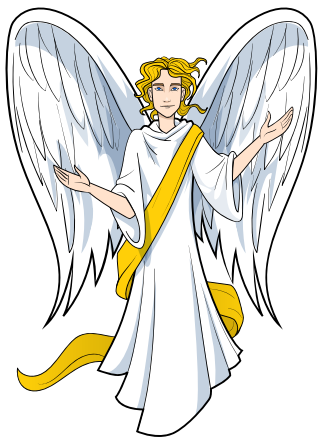
Snack (9:52, 11:07, 12:22)**Get Ready to Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)**

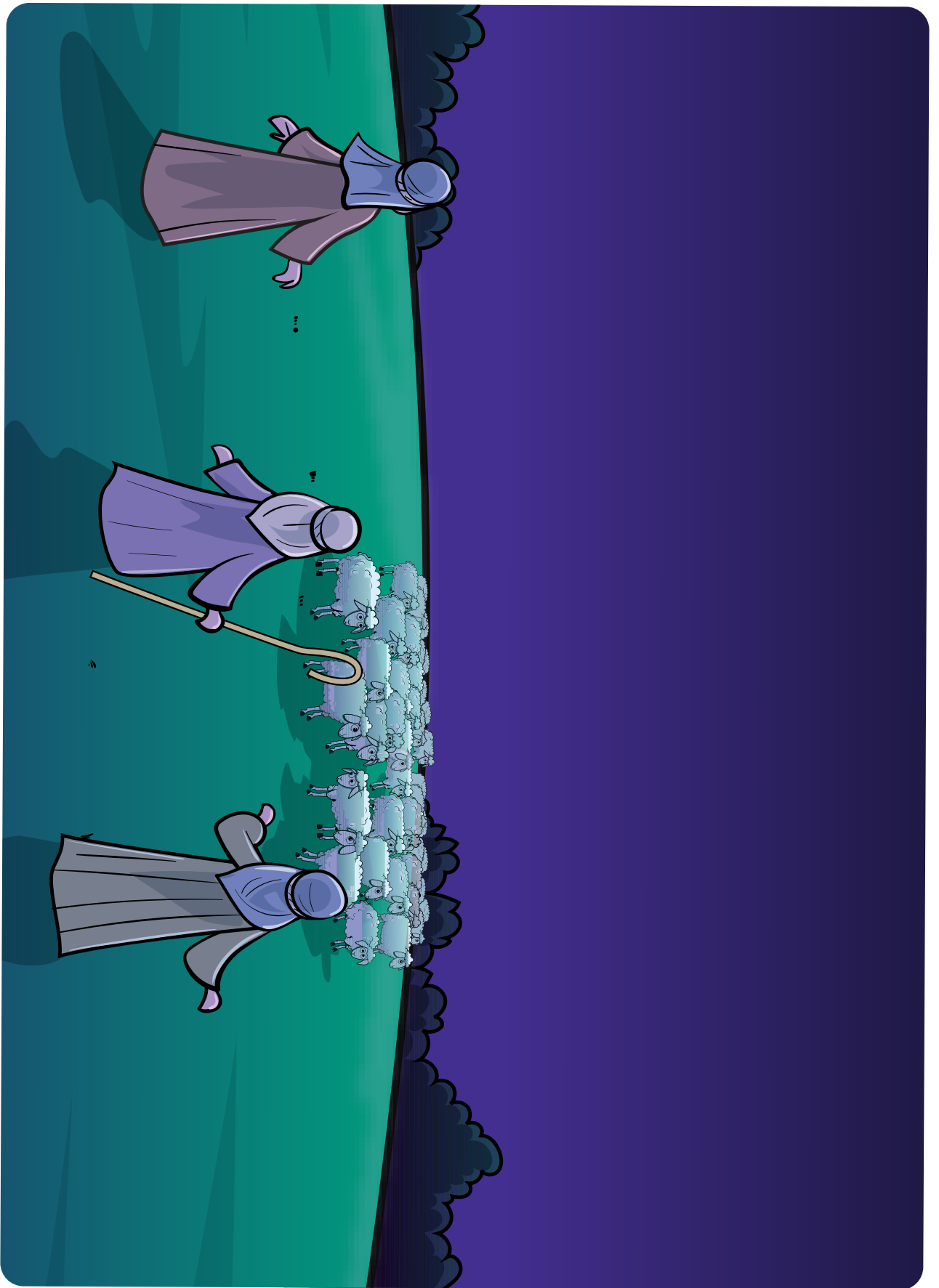


Manger Scene • Color • Zig Zag • December Week 3

Copy on white cardstock. One per activity.

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Shepherds • Luke 2:6-18

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Christmas 2018

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DECEMBER 2018

MEMORY VERSE

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JOHN 3:16, GNT



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"God

(Point up)

loved

(Hug yourself)

the world

(Raise arms overhead to form a circle)

so much

(Stretch arms out as far as possible)

that He gave

(Place hands together with palms up
in front as if offering something)

His only

(Point up)

Son."

(Hold arms as if cradling and rocking a baby)

John 3:16

(Hold hands open like a book)

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