

Dec Week 1

The Angel and Mary

Nov 30/Dec 1

CRAFT

Stars Memory Verse

SUPPLIES: Stable Picture, Markers/Crayons, Star Stickers

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Pass out Stable Picture and markers or crayons.**

- *“Friends – Today in our true story from the Bible we learned about the angel and Mary. The angel came and told Mary that she was going to have a baby. And who was that special baby? Jesus! That’s right!*
- *Our memory verse tells us all about it. God has given a son to us. Isaiah 9:6*
- *Let’s say it together!*
- *Take a look at this picture. That’s our memory verse right there! I want you to color the picture and make it look beautiful!*

⇒ **While kids are coloring, this would be a great time to read the Bible story from the Beginner’s Bible – p. 266.**

⇒ **Pass out 6 star stickers per child. Help them add the stars to their picture.**

- *“Now let’s add some stars to the night sky! Wow these look beautiful!*

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

- *These look great, everybody! Hang this in a special spot so you can look at it all month long and practice your memory verse! Let’s say it again together*
- *God has given a son to us. Isaiah 9:6”*
- ***How do we know God loves us?***
- ***God gave us Jesus!***

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ACTIVITY #1

Heart Hot Potato

SUPPLIES: Heart stress ball, CD player, Christmas music CD

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Have children join you in a seated circle on the floor.**

- *“Boys and girls, today we heard a true story from the Bible about the angel who came to tell Mary that she was going to have a baby. God was sending Jesus to the world to be our friend forever! God sent Jesus because he loves us SO much!!*

⇒ **Hold up the heart.**

- *“Today we are going to play a fun game that is like Hot potato, but instead of a potato we are going to use this heart! The heart reminds us of how much God loves us! We are going to pass the heart around while the music is playing. When the music stops, whoever is holding the heart will answer an important question for me.*
- ***How do we know God loves us? God gave us Jesus!***

⇒ **Repeat until every child has had a turn.**

⇒ **Complete the activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus.**

- *Nice job, everybody! God sent Jesus for all of us. He was the best present ever. God loves us so much!*
- ***How do we know God loves us?***
- ***God gave us Jesus!***

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ACTIVITY #2 – 4/5 year-olds

Star Musical Chairs

SUPPLIES: Star cutout, masking tape, classroom chairs, CD player, Christmas music CD, golden star reward stickers

SET-UP: Set up one chair per child in an oval shape. Attach the star cutout to the back of one chair (facing the children where they can see it). There is a second star in case of an extra-large class.

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Gather children around the chairs and ask each child to find a spot to sit in.**

- *“We are going to play a fun game of music chairs! Everybody find a chair to sit in!”*
- *“Does anyone’s chair have a star on it? There it is!”*

⇒ **Walk over to the star chair.**

- *“I am going to play the music. When the music starts we are all going to walk this way around the chairs. But listen up! When the music stops everybody needs to carefully find a chair!”*

⇒ **Point to the star chair again.**

- *If you are sitting in the star chair you get to stand up and practice your memory verse! Let’s all say it once together - “God has given a son to us. Isaiah 9:6”*
- *After you say the memory verse I have this beautiful star sticker for you! Let’s play!*

⇒ **Play music and play game until every child has had a turn.**

(If you have a large class and are playing as a full group you may want to place a second start chair out and have them say the memory verse together!)

⇒ **Complete the activity and then Bring it Back to Jesus.**

- *Wow friends! Nice job on your memory verse. I’m so thankful that God have us Jesus. Let’s all say our memory verse one more time as loud as we can!*
- *“God has given a son to us. Isaiah 9:6”*

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ACTIVITY #2 – 2/3 year-olds

Bows Look and Find

SUPPLIES: Gift Bows

What You DO and SAY:

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

- *“In our Bible story today, we found out 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! Let’s 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 that God loves us?***
- ***God gave us Jesus!***

⇒ **Let the children play as long as they are interested.**

⇒ **Bring it Back to Jesus.**

- *“The angel told Mary that she was going to have a baby. That baby, Jesus was the best present ever! God gave us Jesus!*
- ***How do we know God loves us?***
- ***God gave us Jesus!”***

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ACTIVITY #3

Parachute with Bows

SUPPLIES: Parachute, Gift bows

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 bean bags 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!*
 - *Over the next few weeks, we’re going to learn about the best gift ever! God told us that He would give us the most awesome gift ever, and He did! God sent Jesus to us because He loves us.*
 - ***How do we know God loves us?***
 - ***God gave us Jesus.”***

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REFLECTION & REVIEW

READ

- ⇒ The Bible
 - *The Beginner's Bible: The Angel and Mary*, p. 266
- ⇒ *Christmas Angels* by Crystal Bowman
 - Read the story and then say: Wow! Isn't it amazing how God used angels to announce Jesus' birth? I am so thankful God sent us Jesus! He is the best present ever!

REVIEW *(This is a great opportunity to give out stickers as they answer these questions!)*

- ⇒ Key Question and Bottom Line
 - **How do we know God loves us?**
 - **God gave us Jesus!**
- ⇒ Memory Verse
 - **God has given a son to us.**
 - **Isaiah 9:6**
- ⇒ Basic Truth
 - **God loves me.**
- ⇒ Connect it!
 - **"Today we learned about how God sent an angel to tell Mary that she was going to have a baby named Jesus and that he was going to be the best present ever. God gives us so many wonderful things! Today we are going to make a list of things God has given us. God has given us food, family, friends, sunshine, animals—God has given us SO many things! So when I say your name, tell me one thing God has given you, and I will write it down**
- ⇒ PlayDoh (Stable page in page protector)
 - Use the play doh to create the nativity scene on the stable.

PRAY

"Dear God, You have given us SO much! [Child's name] wants to thank You for giving us (read what's listed). (Repeat for each child). Most of all, we want to thank You for giving us Jesus. Jesus is the best gift ever! We love You, God. In Jesus' name, amen."