

Hey, Volunteers! MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Thank you SO much for giving the gift of your time during this busy season. You are making an eternal impact with every child as you share the good news that God loves them so much, and that he sent his son Jesus to be their friend forever!

You may notice there are more activities than normal today. There is NO pressure to do every activity! I wanted to provide you with lots of options for this fun service! Many of them are repeats of favorites from previous weeks. You can make your own best decision based on the size of your class, the age of the kiddos, and the vibe of the classroom 😊 Have fun making it your own.

Remember, all that really matters is that our kids walk out knowing:

1. God loves me!
2. God gave us Jesus!

It is an honor and privilege to serve with you. I am so grateful for your commitment to this team and to these little ones. As a mom, as well as a staff member, my gratitude runs deep.

Many blessings to you!!!

With love,

Tina

Christmas Eve

**Happy Birthday,
Jesus!**

CRAFT

Party Hats

SUPPLIES: Party Hats, Stickers

NOTE: You may want to add a piece of tape to help the hats stay together!

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Give each child a party hat and stickers. Show them the example, and explain that we are making them to celebrate Jesus' birthday.**
 - *"We are having a birthday party today to celebrate Jesus' birthday! Today you get to make your own special party hat and decorate it!"*

- ⇒ **Let the children decorate their party hats with the stickers. Be sure to write each child's name on the inside of his/her hat.**

- ⇒ **Bring it Back to Jesus.**
 - *"Your hats look awesome! I think it's time to have a party! If you want, you can wear your hats for the rest of class as we celebrate Jesus' Birthday! God sent Jesus to us at Christmas because he loves us so much!*
 - **How do we know God loves us?**
 - **God gave us Jesus!"**

Children can wear their hats for the rest of the "party" or put them in their bag.

Christmas Eve

**Happy Birthday,
Jesus!**

ACTIVITY #1

Look and Find Bows

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!”***

Christmas Eve

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ACTIVITY #2

Birthday Dance Party

SUPPLIES: CD Player, Christmas CD, Musical Instruments

What You DO and SAY:

⇒ **Give each child an instrument!**

- *“Friends! Today is a party! We are celebrating Jesus’ birthday! God sent Jesus because he loves us so much. That makes me want to party! Let’s dance!”*

⇒ **2s/3s: Turn on music and have a dance party!**

⇒ **4s/5s: 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!”*

⇒ **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’ birthday as 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!**

Christmas Eve

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ACTIVITY #3

Merry, Merry Christmas

SUPPLIES: No supplies needed

What You DO and SAY:

- ⇒ **Have children sit in a circle on the floor.**
 - *“Today we are going to play a fun game that is very similar to Duck, Duck Goose. Let me show you how it works.*

- ⇒ **Have children sit in a circle on the floor.**
 - *“I am going to walk around the circle and very gently tap each person as I say ‘Merry, Merry, Merry, Merry....’*
 - *Then I am going to choose one person and say ‘CHRISTMAS!’*
 - *If you are the one tagged when I say ‘CHRISTMAS’ you are going to get up and chase me around the circle. I am going to try to get back to your spot without being tagged!*
 - *Are you ready to try it?”*

- ⇒ **Play several rounds until each child has gotten a turn to be ‘It’**

- ⇒ **Repeat activity as long as kids are interested and Bring it Back to Jesus.**
 - *“I love playing party games! This is the best Birthday party ever celebrating the most important baby ever born – Jesus! God gave us Jesus because he loves us so much!*
 - ***How do we know God loves us?***
 - ***God gave us Jesus!”***

Christmas Eve

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ACTIVITY #4

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.**
 - *“I loved our true Bible story today! 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?*
 - *Next week we are going to talk about the shepherds who took care of the sheep! Does anyone have a shepherd?*
 - *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! He gave us Jesus!*
 - ***How do we know God loves us?***
 - ***God gave us Jesus!***

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ACTIVITY #5

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 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!*
- *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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REFLECTION & REVIEW

READ

⇒ STORY CARDS

- *Use the story cards to review the Christmas story.*

⇒ *Happy Birthday, Jesus!* by Michelle Medlock Adams

- Read the story and then say: Friends! That is why we celebrate Christmas! It is Jesus' birthday. God sent Jesus to us because he loves us so much!

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!

- **“Christmas is all about Jesus. God sent his son Jesus for each and every one of you. Today I am going to write your name down as a reminder that God sent Jesus for YOU!**

⇒ PlayDoh (Stable page in page protector)

- Use the play doh to create the nativity scene on the stable.

PRAY

“Dear God, thank You for teaching us the true story of Christmas. I pray we always remember that Christmas is about You giving us the best gift ever, JESUS! God, thank you for sending Jesus for [read each child's name]. We love You, God! In Jesus' name, amen.”