

This is Jesus: The One We Love

Bible Passage: Luke 2:8-20

Key Passage: 23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"(which means "God with us"). **Matthew 1:23**

Big Picture Question: What does Christmas teach us about who Jesus is? Jesus is God's Son who was born, died, and rose again to give life to all who believe.

Christ Connection: Jesus was born to bring peace between us and God.

Leader Notes:

Context

While the shepherds were tending to the sheep in the fields, they received the best news ever. Angels appeared and announced that the Savior had been born. The shepherds hurried off to find the one that they had heard about. They found Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus just as they had been told. The Savior was here! They told everyone what they had seen. They loved Him and told others about Him. They weren't the only ones who show us how to love Jesus in this story. Mary saw all that happened and she "treasured" these things in her heart. She saw God's faithfulness and she loved Him for it. She loved God by seeing all that He was doing in her life and all that He was doing to save the world.

TODAY'S PASSAGE

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. **Luke 2:8-20**

TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

- *Because Jesus was born, we should celebrate Him and live for Him.*
- *The shepherds heard good news and told everyone about it.*
- **BL:** Jesus was born to bring peace between us and God.
- Mary was used by God and she treasured every minute of it.
- If we believe in Jesus, we can see Him working in our lives, too. We can live for Him!
- We love Him by believing in Him. We love Him by living for Him.

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 the following activities to 3-, 4-, 5- year olds as they arrive.

Nativity Memory Game

What you Need: Nativity Memory Game

What You Do:

- Help kids layout all the cards face down on a flat surface.
- Give each kid a chance to turn over 2 cards. If they match they get to keep the cards. If they do not match play continues to the next person.

- Keep taking turns till all the cards are gone.
- As you see them turn cards over, ask them if they know what is on the card and how it fits in the Christmas Story.

What You Say:

“Who got the most cards? Who got the least? Did you know that Jesus came so that everyone could have a relationship with God? That is what the Christmas Story is all about and in groups this month we are going to look at all the details God planned out to make it happen.”

Worship Time

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

Play the DVD of All Star Kids worship (choose 1 song for today)

What You Say: “Way to go! You are such amazing singers. Now let's sit down to learn from the Bible today.”

Story Time: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Bible Story

What You Need: Bible

What You Do: Place a bookmark at Luke 2:8-20 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it.

What You Say:

“The Bible is called “the Word of God” because it contains God's words to us. Everything that God says is true, and all the words of the Bible are true. Today's story is from the third book of the New Testament called Luke. Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Talk about the Bible Story:

While the shepherds were tending to the sheep in the fields, they received the best news ever. Angels appeared and announced that the Savior had been born. The shepherds hurried off to find the one that they had heard about. They found Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus just as they had been told. The Savior was here! They told everyone what they had seen. They loved Him and told others about Him. They weren't the only ones who show us how to love Jesus in this story. Mary saw all that happened and she “treasured” these things in her heart. She saw God's faithfulness and she loved Him for it. She loved God by seeing all that He was doing in her life and all that He was doing to save the world.

Learn the Big Picture Question

What You Say: Our big picture question is, *What does Christmas teach us about who Jesus is? Jesus is God's Son who was born, died, and rose again to give life to all who believe.*

Practice the Memory Verse

Open your Bible to Matthew 1:23. Read the memory verse aloud several times.

What You Say: "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" which means "God with us") Matthew 1:23 Jesus was the person God promised in Genesis would bring peace between us and God.

Transition to small group.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Main Point that was 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.

1. Fill You Heart with what You Love

What You Need: Heart Ornaments, I Love Jesus Activity Page (cut out), crayons, ribbon for the ornament, I Love Jesus Card

What You Do:

- Each kid is going to get a set with Ornament, Activity Page, ribbon and I Love Jesus Card.
- Encourage kids to color pictures of who they love, including Baby Jesus.
- Then they will put all the pictures in their heart.
- You will tie the ribbon on the ornament and attach the I Love Jesus Card.
- Encourage kids to give this to someone who they think needs to know about Jesus.

What You Say "Today we looked at the Christmas Story through the eyes of the shepherds. When they heard about the baby to be born they went to see the Baby and worship God. When you see God working around you, how do you respond? Do you go and worship? When we tell others about what we know about Jesus we are helping them say yes to God and sharing Good News that Jesus is exactly who God said He would be."

2. Practice signing the Memory Verse

What you need: Memory Verse Poster

What You Do:

- Show the poster to the kids
- As you say the words point to them on the poster
- Create simple hand motions to teach toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include "**The virgin** (act like you are flipping your hair or brushing long hair), **will conceive** (move hands in front of your belly like motioning a baby bump) **and give birth to a Son** (swaddle a baby and rock) **and they will call him Immanuel** (point to the ground, God with us)

Matthew 1:23

- Our memory verse tells us that Jesus was the promised Savior who came to live as a man on earth.

What You Say: Our Bible verse tells us that Jesus was the promised Savior who came to live as a man on earth. We needed Jesus to do this so that we can have peace with God. Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection allowed us to have life with God forever when we believe.

Pray and Dismiss:

What You need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- Pray- " God thank you for making a way for Jesus to be born. Thank you for the example of the shepherds of going to see and worshipping. Help us all to see Jesus' birth as Good News that is for all people.

What You Say: Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Send home the Heart Ornament and remind kids to give it to someone who needs to hear about Jesus.