

DPM

SS LEADERSHIP CURRICULUM

FALL 2020



DAWSONpreschool
ministry

**"GOD MADE THE WORLD
AND EVERYTHING IN IT."
ACTS 17:24**

B & C Divisions Curriculum Overview

Unit	Bible Focus	Bible Thought
Fall Unit 1 8/23 - 9/13	God Made the World	<p>“God made the world and everything in it.”</p> <p>Acts 17:24</p>
Fall Unit 2 9/20 - 10/11	Noah	<p>“We are God’s masterpiece. He created us to do good things.”</p> <p>Ephesians 2:10</p>
Fall Unit 3 10/18 - 11/15	God’s People Make Good Choices	<p>“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”</p> <p>Mark 12:30</p>
Fall Unit 4 11/22	Give Thanks to God	<p>“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever.”</p> <p>Psalm 118:1</p>
Fall Unit 5 11/29 -- 12/20	God’s Son, Jesus, is Born	<p>“God loved us and sent His Son.”</p> <p>1 John 4:10</p>

Fall Unit 5



WEEKS OF:

December 3 - December 31

BIBLE FOCUS:

God's Son, Jesus, is Born

BIBLE VERSE:

"God loved us and sent His Son." 1 John 4:10

Bottom Line:

I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

Unit Goals: Children will learn...

- God loves us and sent His Son, Jesus!
- God's Son, Jesus, was born as a baby in Bethlehem.
- God chose Mary and Joseph to be Jesus' parents and care for Him.
 - We can thank God for Jesus.
- Like the shepherds, we can tell everyone the good news about Jesus.
 - Like the wise men, we can worship God's Son, Jesus.

Sunday	Bible Story	Music
Nov. 29	John is Born Luke 1:5-25, 57-80	<p>Unit Bible Verse Song: <i>"God Loved Us"</i></p> <p>Other Suggested Songs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Away in a Manger</i> • <i>O Come All You Faithful</i> • <i>Happy Birthday, Jesus</i>
Dec. 6	Mary Hears the Good News Matthew 1:18-25	
Dec. 13	Baby Jesus Luke 1:26-33; 2:1-7	
Dec. 20	Shepherds at the Stable Luke 2:8-20	
Dec. 27	NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	

John Is Born

November 29

Bible Story

Luke 1:5-25,57-80

Teacher Challenge

God loved us so much that He sent His Son into a world that was prepared and anticipating Him! Prophets told of the Messiah many years before, and the people of Israel were eagerly looking for signs that the prophecies were about to be fulfilled. So when, six months before Jesus' birth, Elizabeth (too old to have a baby) and Zechariah (a priest publicly struck mute) welcomed a son, people were ready to listen to Zechariah's message. Zechariah's restored speech and powerful prophecy announced the news—God was up to something! John was preparing the way even by his birth!

- ➔ What events in the past did God use to prepare you to know and love Him today?
- ➔ How might God use a current situation in your life to do something good in the future?

As the Christmas season accelerates, help your little ones see how God was then—and is now—working through circumstances in an astonishing way. Invite Him to increase your own anticipation. Whenever we focus on Jesus, we can anticipate the miraculous!

Fall Unit 4 Bible Verse:
"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.
His love endures forever." Psalm 118:1

Weekly Bible Verse:
"God so loved the world." John 3:16

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can say thank you to God.

Teacher's Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.
- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, ⌚, please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.
- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (Psalm 118:1), the Monthly Bottom Line (I can say thank you to God), and the Unit Goals listed on the Fall Unit 4 Overview Sheet.



Play to Learn

November 29

Active Game Center: Silent Actions



Collect

Bible.

Do

1. Stand in front of children. Children mirror your actions (raise one hand, lift one foot, sway from side to side). Allow time between actions for children to follow you.
2. After a few moments, speed up the rate of actions. Repeat as time and interest allow.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, a man named Zechariah couldn't talk. Instead of talking with his mouth, he used motions to tell things to people. Play a game with me and copy my motions!**
- ➔ Put finger to lips. **What does this motion mean?** (Means to be quiet.) Repeat with other motions such as beckon with hand to signal come, hold up hand to signal stop, etc.
- ➔ **The Bible says, "God so loved the world." God loves all the people in the world so much, He sent His Son Jesus. I'm glad that God loves everyone.**



Fall Unit 4 Bible Verse:
"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever." Psalm 118:1

Weekly Bible Verse:
"God so loved the world." John 3:16

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can say thank you to God.

For Younger Children

Children play a game of Animal Charades. Volunteers make various animal actions for other children to identify (monkey, cat, dog, elephant, frog, rabbit).

For Older Children

Children watch you make two actions. At your signal, children make the actions. Continue, increasing the number of actions in a sequence for children to copy.

Play to Learn

November 29

Art Center: Say It Loud! ★

Collect

Bible, Lesson 14 Say It Loud! Verse Cards from *Growing with God* CD-ROM, scissors, large paper plates, glue, markers, staplers; optional—construction paper.

Prepare

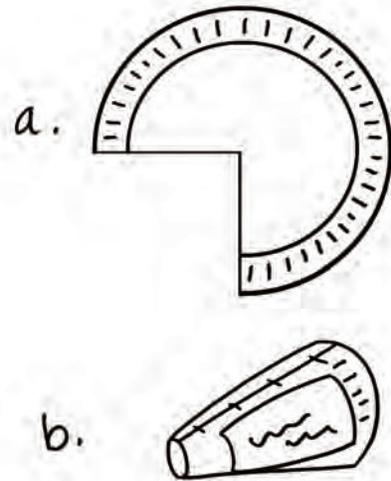
Copy and cut out a Verse Card for each child. Cut a quarter section out of each child's paper plate (see sketch a).

Do

1. Children glue Verse Card onto paper plate and use markers to decorate. Adult teachers or helpers assist children to roll and staple paper plates into a cone shape (see sketch b). (Optional: Use construction paper instead of paper plates.)
2. Children use paper-plate cones as megaphones.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, a man named Zechariah had some exciting news to tell. He and his wife, Elizabeth, were going to have a baby boy. We have good news to tell, too. The Bible says, "God so loved the world." Let's make megaphones so we can tell this good news!**
- ➔ **Jacob, who are some of the people you know? God loves your grandma and grandpa. Nina, who is someone you know? God loves your friend Micah, too. God loves everyone!**
- ➔ **I'm glad God loves everyone. Pray, Dear God, thank You for loving everyone in the world. Thank You for sending Jesus to be born.**



For Younger Children

Glue the Verse Cards onto paper plates before class.

For Older Children

Children use the paper-plate megaphones as they recite the verse or other messages aloud.

Play to Learn

November 29

Construction Center: Box Town



Collect

Bible, blocks, a variety of cardboard boxes and tubes (gift boxes, empty food boxes, shoe boxes, empty milk cartons, cardboard tubes, etc.), toy cars, toy people; optional—construction paper, scissors, markers, tape and glue.

Fall Unit 4 Bible Verse:
“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.
His love endures forever.” Psalm 118:1

Weekly Bible Verse:
“God so loved the world.” John 3:16

God’s Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can say thank you to God.

Prepare

Optional: Wrap cardboard boxes and tubes with construction paper.

Do

1. Children use blocks, boxes and tubes to create a town. (Optional: Children add details to paper-covered boxes and tubes, using markers to draw doors, windows, chimneys, stairs, etc.)
2. Children use toy cars and toy people to act out familiar activities in the town they constructed.

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “God so loved the world.” God loves all the people in the world. Let’s make a town and talk about some of the people who might live in it.**
- ➔ **Madison, what kind of building are you making? What do the people in that store sell? God loves all the people who sell groceries!**
- ➔ **Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for loving me and everyone in our class. We’re glad You love everyone in the world!**



For Younger Children

Younger children build with blocks and play with toy cars and toy people.

For Older Children

Children label their buildings with names. Provide Post-it Notes and markers for children to use to make signs for their buildings. Assist children with spelling and writing as needed.

Play to Learn

November 29

Dramatic Play Center: What's Your Name



Collect

Bible, baby dolls, doll supplies (clothes, blankets, toy food, etc.).

Do

Children act out naming and caring for babies as they dress and feed them.

Talk About

- ➔ **In our Bible story today, a man named Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, had a baby boy. They named their baby John. Let's name our babies!**
- ➔ **José, what is the name of your baby? What are some things you could do to care for your baby?**
- ➔ **God knew babies would need families to love and care for them. Hannah, what are some things your family does for you? Who buys you warm clothes? Who reads stories to you? God loves you so much that He planned for the people in your family to love and care for you.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "God so loved the world." God loves us so much. Pray, Thank You, God, for loving us and giving us Jesus.**

Fall Unit 4 Bible Verse:
"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good. His love endures forever." Psalm 118:1

Weekly Bible Verse:
"God so loved the world." John 3:16

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can say thank you to God.



For Younger Children

Provide doll beds, small boxes and/or foam pads to use as doll beds.

For Older Children

Provide name tags and markers. Children write their baby's name on a name tag and place the name tag on baby.

Listen to Learn

November 29

Luke 1:5-25,57-80

Collect

Bible, Bible Story 27 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2 DVD* or CD and player.

Greet Each Other

Volunteer does a motion (jumps with both feet, touches head, pats legs, turns around, looks up and then down, hops on one foot, etc.). Children copy him or her. Repeat until all children have demonstrated a motion for group to copy.

Fall Unit 4 Bible Verse:
"Give thanks to the Lord for He is good.
His love endures forever." Psalm 118:1

Weekly Bible Verse:
"God so loved the world." John 3:16

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can say thank you to God.

Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Luke 1. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 27 pictures.

What are some things that we do at our church? We come to church to worship God and learn about Him. In Bible times, God's people called their church a Temple. They went to the Temple to worship God. Listen to hear about a man who worked in God's Temple.



Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, loved God. They were old. They had no children. But one day, Zechariah was working in the Temple. He looked up. He saw an angel! He was surprised and **afraid!**



The angel said, "Don't be afraid! You and Elizabeth will have a baby! This baby will make you glad! You will name this baby John. This baby will grow up. He will do an important job. He will help people get ready for Jesus!"

Zechariah didn't believe the angel. He **asked**, "How can I be sure this is true?"

The angel said, "I have been sent from God to tell you this good news! Because you did not believe me, you will not be able to talk until your son is born!"



The angel left. Zechariah walked outside. People could see he was excited! But he couldn't talk!

After a time, Zechariah and Elizabeth's **baby** was born. Friends and relatives came to see him! They wanted to name the baby Zechariah, just like the baby's father. But Elizabeth said, "No! His name is John!"

The relatives and friends were surprised. They asked Zechariah what the baby's name should be. Zechariah wrote, "His name is John." Suddenly, he could talk!



Zechariah **prayed** and thanked God! Zechariah told about John's very important job. When John grew up, he was going to help people get ready for Jesus. John was going to tell the people about God's love and promises!

Talk About the Story

What did Zechariah and Elizabeth name their baby? (John.) John would grow up to tell about God showing His love by sending His Son, Jesus. God loves everyone in the world. Who are some of the people you love? You can tell them that God loves them, too!

Sing to God

Let's sing a song about some good news. Lead children in singing "Christmas Joy" (on DVD or track 5 on CD). **God loves us! I'm glad that God loves us.**

Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to John 3:16, say verse aloud. **God loves us very much! God sent His Son, Jesus, to be born because God loves us! God loves everyone in the world.** Lead children in repeating the Bible verse several times. As the children are repeating the verse with you, point to a child. You and the other children say the name of the designated child instead of the words "the world." Repeat until each child has heard his or her name. (Note: If you have a large class, point to more than one child at a time.)

Option: Children name people they know (mother, someone in class, grandpa, friend, etc.) or categories of people (police officer, mail carrier, teacher, firefighter, etc.) and insert in place of the words "the world."

Pray to God

Let's thank God for His love. Repeat the following prayer several times, each time allowing a volunteer to name someone they know: **Dear God, thank You for loving . . .** Repeat for each child who wishes to name someone and then close the prayer by saying, **Thank You, God, for loving everyone! We love You. In Jesus' name, amen.**

Praise to God

Print the first letter of each child's name on separate sheets of paper. Lay the papers on the floor. Children walk around the room while you play "God So Loved" (track 6 on CD). When you stop the music, children find the paper with the first letter of their name. Point to one or more children (depending on the size of your class) and say, **Jesus loves Anthony and Abigail!** Repeat activity until each child has been named. **I'm glad God loves each one of us! God loves everyone in the world!**

Mary Hears Good News

Dec. 6

Bible Story

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56

Teacher Challenge

Hope is trusting that you will see the fulfillment of what you long for. The Israelites had hoped for thousands of years that the Savior God had promised would come. And it was this hope of a Messiah that caused ordinary people to do extraordinary things. God did fulfill His promise. He sent His own Son as the Messiah to live among the people and to die in our place for the punishment of our sins in order to reunite us forever with God.

- ➔ What does the coming of the Messiah mean to you?
- ➔ How do you celebrate the coming of the Savior?

The fulfillment of God's promise expresses so much love for us that it's beyond our understanding. No matter what happens, you have God's promise of help today and eternal life tomorrow. God's love exhibited by you can help others and prove that Jesus is alive and desires a personal relationship with them. Share the joy and excitement of the reality of Jesus with the children in your class. Celebrate the promise and gift of God's love.

Fall Unit 5 Bible Verse:
"God loved us and sent His Son." 1 John 4:10

Weekly Bible Verse:
"God loved us and sent His Son." 1 John 4:10

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

Teacher's Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.
- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, ⌚, please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.
- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (1 John 4:10), the Monthly Bottom Line (I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus), and the Unit Goals listed on the Fall Unit 5 Overview Sheet.



Play to Learn

Dec. 6

Active Game Center: Berry Wreath



Collect

Bible, large sheet of green construction paper, scissors, masking tape, red construction paper or red dot stickers.

Prepare

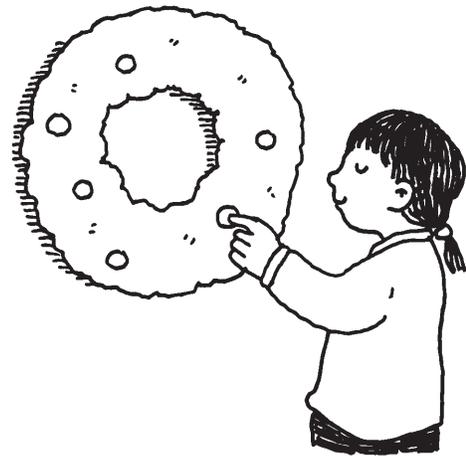
Cut a large wreath from green paper. Tape it to the wall at children's eye level. Cut circles from red paper for berries and attach a small loop of masking tape to each one or use red dot stickers for berries.

Do

1. Each child takes a turn to select a berry and stand several feet from the wreath. Child closes or covers eyes and walks toward the wreath, trying to place berry onto wreath.
2. Repeat with each child, allowing children to have additional turns as time allows.

Talk About

- ➔ **In our Bible story God's people waited a long time for Jesus to be born. God's people were glad God promised to send His Son, Jesus. We can be glad for God's promise, too!**
- ➔ **We celebrate Christmas each year to show we are glad God sent His Son, Jesus. One way to get ready is to place a wreath on the front door. What are some things your family does to get ready for Christmas?**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "God loved us and sent his Son." Why did God send His Son? (He loves us.) We are glad God sent Jesus.**



For Younger Children

If a berry misses the wreath, the child simply moves it onto the wreath after opening eyes.

For Older Children

Invite volunteers to wear a blindfold, to take two berries (one in either hand) or to turn around once before walking toward the wreath.

Play to Learn

Dec. 6

Art Center: Trim the Tree



Collect

Bible, large sheet of butcher paper, green marker, masking tape, scissors, construction paper in a variety of colors, crayons or markers.

Prepare

On butcher paper, draw the outline of a Christmas tree with a star on top. Tape paper tree to wall at children's eye level. Cut out construction-paper circles to make paper ornaments.

Do

1. Children use crayons or markers to decorate paper ornaments. Make masking tape loops to attach backs of the ornaments to the tree.
2. Children place their ornaments on the tree. Display the tree in your classroom during the Christmas season.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, the angel told Mary and Joseph the good news that Jesus would be born. They were glad God promised to send His Son.**
- ➔ **We celebrate Christmas to show that we are glad God kept His promise to send Jesus. One way we might get ready for Christmas is to decorate a Christmas tree. Let's make colorful ornaments to place on our paper tree.**
- ➔ **I'm glad God kept His promise to send His Son, Jesus. That's very good news! Pray, Thank You, God, for sending Your Son, Jesus.**



Fall Unit 5 Bible Verse:
"God loved us and sent His Son." 1 John 4:10

Weekly Bible Verse:
"God loved us and sent His Son." 1 John 4:10

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

For Younger Children

Print children's names on their ornaments before children place them on the tree.

For Older Children

Children print their names on ornaments and/or cut out their ornaments.

Play to Learn

Dec. 6

Block Center: Baby Blocks



Collect

Bible, blocks, baby dolls, doll blankets.

Do

1. Children use blocks to build beds.
2. Using baby dolls and doll blankets, children act out ways to care for babies (laying baby in bed, wrapping baby in a blanket, feeding baby, etc.).

Talk About

- ➔ **Our Bible story today tells about God's promise to send a special baby to Mary and Joseph. God even told them what to name the baby. What was the baby's name? Let's build beds and show ways people care for babies!**
- ➔ Encourage participation by building with the blocks yourself. Then invite a child to help you. **Chloe, I'm building a bed for babies to sleep in. Would you please bring me more blocks?**
- ➔ **What do you think your family did to take care of you when you were a baby? What must parents do for babies?**
- ➔ **The Bible tells us, "God loved us and sent his Son." We can thank God for doing what He promised and sending His Son, Jesus. Pray briefly, Thank You, God, for sending Jesus.**



For Younger Children

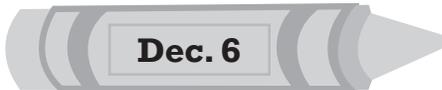
Demonstrate how to wrap dolls in blankets. **Mothers and fathers often wrap their babies like this. The babies stay nice and warm.** Children wrap dolls in blankets.

For Older Children

Children assign names to dolls. Print names on index cards. Children tape cards to the beds.

Listen to Learn

Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56



Dec. 6

Collect

Bible, Bible Story 27 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #1*, *Preschool Music #1* CD and player, ball.

Greet Each Other

Children sit in a circle. Roll the ball to a child, and then lead children to repeat the verse, inserting the name of that child for "us." **"God loved (Anthony) and sent his Son."** Named child rolls ball to another child, continuing until all children are named.



Fall Unit 5 Bible Verse:
"God loved us and sent His Son." 1 John 4:10

Weekly Bible Verse:
"God loved us and sent His Son." 1 John 4:10

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Matthew 1. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 27 pictures.

A promise is something someone tells you he or she will do, and the person does it! Has someone ever made you a promise? Listen to find out what special promise God gave to Mary.



A long, long time ago, God promised He would send His special Son. God's people waited and waited and waited. They wanted God to send His Son. One person who waited for God's promise was a young woman named Mary.



One day Mary was alone. She **looked up**. Standing right there beside her was an angel! Mary had never seen an angel before!

"Hello, Mary," the angel said. "God is with you." Mary was surprised and afraid. "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel said. "God loves you. He has chosen you to be the mother of a very special baby. You will name the baby Jesus. He will be very great. This special baby will be God's own Son!" Mary was **glad** to hear this promise!



How exciting! Mary hurried to tell her cousin Elizabeth the wonderful news. Mary **walked** into Elizabeth's house. Just then God let Elizabeth know that Mary was going to be the mother of His Son, Jesus. Elizabeth said, "Mary, you're a special woman and your baby is very special!" Mary was glad. She thanked God. She told God she loved Him.



Very soon a man named Joseph was going to be Mary's husband. One night Joseph was **asleep**. An angel talked to him in a dream. "Mary is going to have a special baby. He is God's Son," the angel said. "You will name Him Jesus." Joseph was glad God was sending His Son, Jesus. Joseph was glad he could help care for this special baby God had promised.

Talk About the Story

God's people had to wait a long time for something very special to happen. What did they wait for? (God to send His Son, Jesus.) We can thank God for doing what He promised—sending His Son, Jesus! Singing songs to God and praying to Him are two of the ways we can show our thanks for His promise.

Sing to God

Let's sing a song about God's love. Lead children in singing "God Loved Us" (track 5 on CD). God showed His love by sending Jesus to be born. We sing songs to show we're glad Jesus was born!

Option: Invite older children to suggest motions for words in the song.

Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to 1 John 4:10, say the verse to the class. **God's Son is Jesus. We can thank God for doing what He promised. God sent Jesus to be born.** Lead children in repeating the verse and clapping their hands on each word. Vary the motion by asking children to stomp their feet, pat their heads, slap their legs, etc.

Pray to God

Children repeat the following prayer, phrase by phrase: **Dear God, . . . thank You for loving us . . . and sending Your Son, Jesus. . . . We love You. . . . In Jesus' name, amen.**

Praise to God

Lead children in the following finger play:

It's Christmas! It's Christmas! The candles all glow—



The birthday of Jesus, let everyone know!



It's Christmas! It's Christmas!



The Bible recalls



The birthday of Jesus, God's love gift to all.



Baby Jesus

December 13

Bible Story

Luke 1:26-33; 2:1-7

Teacher Challenge

Come away for a bit—read, pray and ponder to refresh your wonder at Jesus' birth! Let the immensity of God's amazing gift sink into your soul. See an insignificant young girl and the girl's distressed fiancé. Encounter the Word made flesh! Savor the realities afresh: God keeps His promises. He redeems His creation through a baby. Glory to God in the highest!

- ➔ What big challenge must you face before this month is over?
- ➔ What could God's power accomplish in that situation?

Invite God now into your challenging situation. Every day this week, pray to see His power. Then engage your preschoolers to gladly share your renewed sense of wonder—that's the true spirit of Christmas. Rejoice! Jesus is born!

Fall Unit 5 Bible Verse:
"God loved us and sent His Son." 1 John 4:10

Weekly Bible Verse:
"God's Son is born for us." Isaiah 9:6

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

Teacher's Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.
- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, ⌚, please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.
- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (1 John 4:10), the Monthly Bottom Line (I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus), and the Unit Goals listed on the Fall Unit 5 Overview Sheet.



Play to Learn

December 13

Active Game Center: Tree Story



Collect

Bible, Lesson 15 Christmas Story Pictures 1-2 from *Growing with God* CD-ROM, scissors, large sheet of butcher paper, marker, tape, glue sticks; optional—additional decorating items (tinsel, paper circles, bows, etc.).

Fall Unit 5 Bible Verse:
“God loved us and sent His Son.” *1 John 4:10*

Weekly Bible Verse:
“God’s Son is born for us.” *Isaiah 9:6*

God’s Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

Prepare

Cut Christmas Story Pictures apart. On butcher paper, use marker to draw an outline of a Christmas tree. Attach butcher paper to wall in playing area at children’s eye level. Place glue sticks on floor near butcher-paper tree.

Do

1. Children line up on one side of the playing area, facing the butcher-paper tree. Place the pile of Christmas Story Pictures on the floor next to the first child.
2. First child takes a picture from the pile and runs to the tree. Child uses glue to attach picture to the tree. Child runs to back of line. Repeat with the next child, until all children have had a turn or all pictures have been glued to the tree. (Optional: Children glue additional decorating items to tree.)

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible tells us, “God’s Son is born for us.” God’s Son is Jesus! This is the time of year when we celebrate Jesus’ birth. One way we celebrate Jesus’ birth is by decorating a tree. Let’s play a game and decorate our tree with pictures of the story of Jesus’ birth.**
- ➔ **Ethan, what does your picture show? An angel! Angels remind us that Jesus was born.**
- ➔ **Alexis, your picture shows Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus in the stable. Jesus was born in a stable. A stable is like a barn for animals.**



For Younger Children

Young children have difficulty waiting their turn. Add double-sided tape to the back of the pictures. Children add pictures to the tree without waiting in line.

For Older Children

Hide pictures around classroom. Children search for pictures and glue them on the tree as they find them.

Play to Learn

December 13

Art Center: Count Down!



Collect

Bible, red and green construction paper, paper cutter or scissors, a large calendar, tape or staplers, a variety of stickers (stars and other Christmas designs).

Prepare

Cut red and green construction paper into 1x8-inch (2.5x20-cm) strips.

Do

1. Show children the calendar. Children count aloud as you point to each day between now and Christmas Day. Give each child that number of paper strips cut from red and green construction paper.
2. Children decorate strips with stickers. Children tape or staple their strips into links in a chain.

Talk About

- ➔ **The Bible says, “God’s Son is born for us.” God’s Son is Jesus. At Christmastime, we put up special decorations to remind us of Jesus’ birth. Let’s make a decoration that will help us count the days until Christmas.**
- ➔ **Grace, where will you put your chain? Your bedroom is a good place for your chain. Every morning you can take one link off your chain until it’s Christmas Day!**
- ➔ **I’m glad Jesus was born! Pray briefly, Thank You, God, that Jesus was born!**



For Younger Children

Younger children work together to make one chain for the classroom. Children place stickers on strips before you staple strips together.

For Older Children

Give children a different colored strip (yellow, blue, etc.) as the final link representing Christmas Day. (Optional: Children use markers to number each link, starting at “1” from the link next to “Christmas Day.”)

Fall Unit 5 Bible Verse:
“God loved us and sent His Son.” 1 John 4:10

Weekly Bible Verse:
“God’s Son is born for us.” Isaiah 9:6

God’s Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

Play to Learn

December 13

Construction Center: Road to the Stable



Collect

Bible, blocks, length of fabric (tablecloth, blanket, etc.), one or more baby dolls.

Do

1. Children use blocks to outline a road wide enough to walk along.
2. At the end of the block road, children drape length of fabric over table or chair backs to form a cave-like stable large enough for several children to play inside.
3. Children use blocks to make a manger in the stable and play with baby doll in manger.

Talk About

- ➔ **In our Bible story today, Mary and Joseph traveled to the town of Bethlehem. They slept in a stable. A stable is a place where animals sleep. During the night, Jesus was born! Let's make a road and a stable.**
- ➔ **Christopher, why do you think people are happy at Christmas-time? People who love God are happy at Christmastime because it's Jesus' birthday. We're glad Jesus is born!**
- ➔ **Making this road and stable reminds us of Jesus' birth. What are some other things we do at Christmastime to remind us of Jesus?**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "God's Son is born for us." God's Son is Jesus! We can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus. Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to be born. Thank You for loving us. We love You!**



Fall Unit 5 Bible Verse:
"God loved us and sent His Son." 1 John 4:10

Weekly Bible Verse:
"God's Son is born for us." Isaiah 9:6

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

For Younger Children

Before class, use masking tape to outline road. Instead of making stable and manger, children simply place blocks on masking-tape lines to form a road to walk on. (Note: Remove tape immediately after activity.)

For Older Children

Children act out the story action as you read Luke 2:1-7 aloud. Expect to repeat the story several times as children come and go from the Construction Center.

Play to Learn

December 13

Dramatic Play Center: Animals in the Stable



Collect

Bible, Lesson 15 Animal Ear Pattern 1-3 from *Growing with God* CD-ROM, scissors, poster board, tape.

Prepare

Cut out Animal Ear Patterns. Cut several 2-inch (5-cm) strips of poster board. Tape ends of each strip together to form a headband. Tape a set of Animal Ear Patterns to each headband.

Do

1. Children take turns pretending to be animals. Child wears headband ears and move on all fours. Child makes appropriate animal sounds.
2. Children trade headbands so that each child gets a turn to be an animal.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, Mary and Joseph went on a long trip to Bethlehem. When they got there, the only place they found to stay in was a stable. A stable is like a barn for animals. That night, Jesus was born! Let's pretend to be animals.**
- ➔ **Sophia, what animal are you? There were probably donkeys in the stable when Jesus was born. Can you make the noise of a donkey?**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "God's Son is born for us." God's Son is Jesus! God sent Jesus to be born because God loves us. Pray briefly, Dear God, we love You! We are glad You love us and sent Jesus to be born.**



For Younger Children

Show children a book of farmyard animals to help them identify the ears. Bring a mirror to class so children can see what they look like wearing the ears.

For Older Children

Children not wearing headbands act out taking care of animals.

Listen to Learn

December 13

Luke 1:26-33; 2:1-7

Collect

Bible, Bible Story 28 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2 DVD* or CD and player, unbreakable Christmas ornament, jingle bells.

Greet Each Other

Children sit in a circle. Hand an unbreakable Christmas ornament to a child. Children pass the ornament around the circle while you play "God So Loved" (track #6 on CD). When you stop the music say, **God's Son is born for (Michael)**. Continue until each child has been named.

Fall Unit 5 Bible Verse:
"God loved us and sent His Son." 1 John 4:10

Weekly Bible Verse:
"God's Son is born for us." Isaiah 9:6

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Luke 1. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 28 pictures.

When have you gone on a trip with your family? Where did you go? How did you get there? Listen to hear about a trip Mary and Joseph took. Something very special happened while they were on their trip.



One day God sent an angel to tell Mary some very special news. Mary was **afraid**. She had never seen an angel before.

The angel said, "Don't be afraid. You will be the mother of a special baby boy. He will be God's own Son. Name the baby Jesus."



Before this special baby was born, Mary and her husband, Joseph, had to go on a trip. They were going to Bethlehem to **write** their names in the king's book.

Mary probably rode on a little donkey. Joseph walked beside her. Clippety-clop! Clippety-clop! went the donkey's feet on the rocky road.

When Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem, it was very crowded. Many people were already there.



Mary and Joseph were very tired. They looked and looked for a place to stay for the night. They wanted to go to **sleep**. But there wasn't a room anywhere for them!

It was almost time for Mary's baby to be born. She needed a place to rest. Finally they found a stable. A stable is a place where sheep, cows and donkeys sleep. The owner of the stable said they could sleep there. Mary and Joseph went to the stable to sleep on the hay.



That night, **baby** Jesus was born. He was God's Son. Mary wrapped baby Jesus, so He would be warm. Then she put baby Jesus on a soft bed of hay in the manger. The manger was the place where hay was put for the animals to eat.

Mary and Joseph were very glad Jesus was born!

Talk About the Story

What happened while Mary and Joseph were in the stable? (Baby Jesus was born.) **Jesus is God's Son. I'm glad that Jesus was born. At Christmastime we celebrate that Jesus was born. What is something special you do with your family at Christmastime? Putting up decorations, giving presents and visiting with the people in our families are ways to show that we are happy Jesus was born!**

Sing to God

Let's sing a song about the good news that Jesus is born. Lead children in singing "Christmas Joy" (on DVD or track 5 on CD). **At Christmastime we are glad that Jesus was born for us!**

Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Isaiah 9:6, say verse aloud. **Jesus is God's Son. I'm glad that Jesus was born for us.** Lead children in repeating the verse by echoing phrases after you: "God's Son/is born/for us." Repeat several times.

Option: If you take a weekly offering during this worship time, explain to children that the money is used to help people learn about God and that He sent His Son, Jesus, for us. **Giving money is one way to show our love for God and help others learn about Jesus.**

Pray to God

Pray, **Dear God, we are glad You sent baby Jesus to be born for us. We are glad Jesus was born and we are glad that You love us. We love You! In Jesus' name, amen.**

Praise to God

Divide children into three groups. Give jingle bells to children in one group. Appoint another group to be "clappers" and the third group to be "stompers." Lead children repeating the poem, with each group doing the appropriate actions:

Ring, ring, ring the bells, ring them loud and clear

To tell the people everywhere, that Christmastime is here.

Clap, clap, clap your hands, clap them loud and clear

To tell the people everywhere, that Christmastime is here.

Stomp, stomp, stomp your feet, stomp them loud and clear

To tell the people everywhere, that Christmastime is here.

Repeat, giving bells to a different group each round.

Shepherds at the Stable

December 20

Bible Story

Luke 2:8-20

Teacher Challenge

The shepherds were simple, hardworking people, tied to their herds and to the land—not wealthy, well-educated or important. There were surely more sophisticated or important people to whom God could have sent the angels. But God valued the shepherds and sent the good news of Jesus’ birth to them first of all. They didn’t debate, didn’t wait—they obeyed! They worshiped! Then, full of wonder, they told everyone they saw about the amazing baby!

- ➔ When have you obeyed God’s Word in a situation that you didn’t fully understand?
- ➔ What good things has God done in your life because of your obedience to His Word?

Just like the shepherds, as we obey what God tells us in His Word, He opens our eyes to new understanding. We, in turn, can show our little ones that God values and delights in our faith and obedience. Young or old, poor or rich—what matters most to God is that we trust Him enough to obey!

Fall Unit 5 Bible Verse:
“God loved us and sent His Son.” 1 John 4:10

Weekly Bible Verse:
“Good news! Jesus has been born.” Luke 2:10

God’s Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

Teacher’s Planning

- Choose which centers you will provide and the order in which children will participate in them. Plan you will lead each center.

- All supplies will be provided for activities marked with a star. ★ If you would like to lead the activities labeled with a clock, ⌚, please gather the needed supplies from your home or the preschool resource room.

- As you teach this lesson and interact with the children, please be intentional about reinforcing the Monthly Bible Verse (1 John 4:10), the Monthly Bottom Line (I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus), and the Unit Goals listed on the Fall Unit 5 Overview Sheet.



Play to Learn

December 20

Active Game Center: Sticky Sheep



Collect

Bible, Lesson 16 Sticky Sheep Pattern from *Growing with God* CD-ROM, clear Con-Tact paper, permanent marker, tape, cotton balls (several for each child).

Prepare

Use a permanent marker to trace Sheep Pattern onto Con-Tact paper. Cut out sheep outline and remove backing from Con-Tact paper. Tape sheep outline to a wall, sticky side out, at children's eye level.

Do

1. Children play a game like Pin the Tail on the Donkey. Children stand 5 to 6 feet (1.5 to 1.8 m) from sheep outline.
2. Children take turns walking to the sheep outline and placing one cotton ball at a time onto it. Continue as time and interest permit.

Talk About

- ➔ **In our Bible story today, an angel told good news to some shepherds. The angel said that a very special baby had been born. Tyler, who was the baby?**
- ➔ **Alyssa, what kind of animals were the shepherds taking care of? When the shepherds heard the good news, they went to see baby Jesus.**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Good news! Today Jesus has been born." Let's thank God for sending Jesus. Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus. We love You.**



For Younger Children

Young children have a hard time waiting, so prepare a sheep outline for each group of no more than four children.

For Older Children

Blindfold children and gently spin them around one time before they walk to the sheep outline. Before the game, place black pompoms on sheep outline as eye and nose.



Play to Learn

December 20

Art Center: Angel Puppets ★

Collect

Bible, Lesson 16 Angel Puppet Face and Wings Pattern from *Growing with God* CD-ROM, scissors, small white paper bags, glue, markers.

Prepare

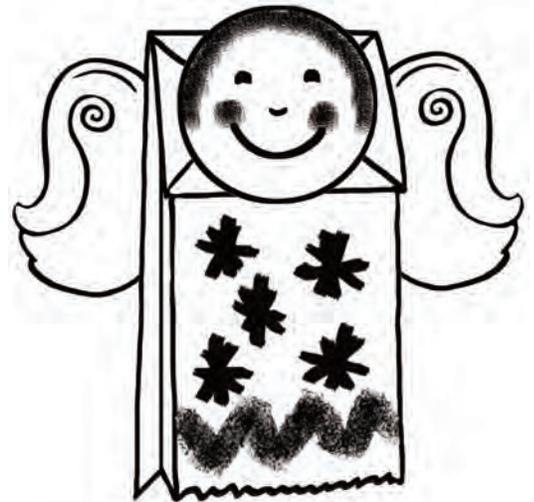
Print and cut out one Angel Puppet Face and Wings Pattern for each child.

Do

1. Children glue Angel Face to flap of paper bag, and Wings to sides of bag. Children use markers to decorate angel puppet.
2. Children use their angel puppets as they say the verse aloud.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, angels told shepherds the good news that Jesus was born. Let's make angels to remind us of the good news.**
- ➔ **At Christmastime we can tell others the good news that Jesus was born. Chloe, who do you want to tell the good news about Jesus?**
- ➔ **The Bible says, "Good news! Today Jesus has been born." Jesus' birth is very good news that makes us glad! God sent Jesus to be born because God loves us. Pray briefly, Dear God, thank You for loving us. Please help us tell the good news that Jesus was born.**



Fall Unit 5 Bible Verse:
"God loved us and sent His Son." 1 John 4:10

Weekly Bible Verse:
"Goodnews! Jesus has been born." Luke 2:10

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

For Younger Children

Children hold puppets as you say the verse to each child.

For Older Children

Provide wiggle eyes and yellow yarn for hair.

Play to Learn

December 20

Construction Center: Manger Scene



Collect

Bible, blocks, nativity sets

Do

1. Briefly retell the story events. Children use blocks or shoe boxes to make mangers and fill with raffia.
2. Children place a small doll in manger, and use toy animals to act out the shepherds coming to the stable.

Talk About

- ➔ **In today's Bible story, shepherds were taking care of their sheep. Suddenly, angels came and told them that Jesus was born! Jesus is God's Son. The shepherds went to see Jesus in the stable. Then they told others the good news that Jesus was born. Let's build mangers and pretend the shepherds are coming to see Jesus.**
- ➔ **The shepherds were so glad to have found baby Jesus. They told other people the good news. We remember the good news that Jesus was born when we celebrate Christmas.**
- ➔ **Jackson, who can you tell the good news that Jesus was born? Christmastime is a good time to tell others the good news that Jesus was born.**
- ➔ **God sent His Son, Jesus, to be born to show that He loves us. The Bible says, "Good news! Today Jesus has been born."**



Fall Unit 5 Bible Verse:
"God loved us and sent His Son." 1 John 4:10

Weekly Bible Verse:
"Good news! Jesus has been born." Luke 2:10

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

For Younger Children

Children play with blocks and dolls, instead of acting out shepherds coming to the stable.

For Older Children

Children build stables from blocks. Provide unbreakable nativity scenes or toy people for children to use in acting out story.

Listen to Learn

December 20

Luke 2:8-20

Collect

Bible, Bible Story 29 pictures from *God's Story for Me Poster Pack #2*, *Preschool Music #2 DVD or CD* and player.

Greet Each Other

Lead children in this cheer:

Stand up! (clap, clap)

Be proud! (clap, clap)

Say your name (clap, clap)

Out loud! (clap, clap)

All children call out their names at once. Lead children in clapping for each other.

Tell the Story

Open your Bible to Luke. Tell the story using the pictured motions (keywords in bold) or show Bible Story 29 pictures.

What are some things in your house that give light? What is in the sky that gives light? Listen to hear about a time some shepherds saw a very bright light in the nighttime sky.



One quiet night, a long time ago, some shepherds were outside taking care of their sheep.

All at once, the sky was full of light. The shepherds **looked up** and saw an angel! The shepherds were afraid.



But the angel said, "Do not be afraid. I have good news. God's Son, Jesus, has been born. You can go see Him. He is in a stable, wrapped up warm and lying in a manger."

A stable is like a barn. It is the place where animals sleep. **Baby** Jesus was lying in a manger. A manger is a box where hay is put for animals to eat.



Then the sky was FULL of angels! The angels said, "Glory to God!" The angels were thanking God for sending Jesus.

Then the angels left. The shepherds said, "Let's go find this special baby. Let's hurry!"

Steppity-steppity-step. The shepherds hurried along the road until they found the stable where Jesus was.

The baby Jesus was lying in a manger where the animals usually ate. Everything was just as the angel had said. The shepherds were so happy to see baby Jesus!



Then the shepherds started walking back to take care of their sheep. Along the way, they **told** the good news to everyone they saw. "Jesus is born! Jesus is born!" The shepherds thanked God for sending Jesus.

Fall Unit 5 Bible Verse:
"God loved us and sent His Son." 1 John 4:10

Weekly Bible Verse:
"Good news! Jesus has been born." Luke 2:10

God's Word & Me (Bottom Line):
I can thank God for sending His Son, Jesus.

Talk About the Story

What was the good news the shepherds told everyone they saw? (Jesus was born.) **People are especially happy at Christmastime. This is the time we celebrate Jesus' birth. We can tell others the good news that Jesus was born. What are some of the things you do at your home to celebrate at Christmastime? What decorations do you have at your home? What special foods? What songs do you sing?**

Sing to God

Let's sing a song about Jesus. Lead children in singing "Christmas Joy" (on DVD or track 5 on CD). **Singing about Jesus is one way to tell the good news that God's Son, Jesus, was born.**

Hear and Say God's Word

Holding your Bible open to Luke 2:10-11, say verse aloud. **God sent Jesus to be born because God loves us. We can tell others that God loves us and sent His Son.** Lead children in repeating the verse by clapping their hands on each word. Repeat with other motions: stomping feet, clapping hands over heads, patting knees, etc.

Option: Vary the manner in which you and the children speak (loudly, softly, whispering, low, high, etc.).

Pray to God

We can thank God for loving us and sending His Son, Jesus. Let's pray these words together: "Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to be born." Lead children in praying the prayer with you.

Praise to God

Let's practice telling others that Jesus is born! As you play "God So Loved" (track 6 on CD) children walk around the room. When the music stops, children find a partner near them. Partners take turns saying to each other, "Good news! Today Jesus has been born." (Younger children can simply say "Jesus has been born.")

Talk About the Story

What was the good news the shepherds told everyone they saw? (Jesus was born.) **People are especially happy at Christmastime. This is the time we celebrate Jesus' birth. We can tell others the good news that Jesus was born. What are some of the things you do at your home to celebrate at Christmastime? What decorations do you have at your home? What special foods? What songs do you sing?**

Sing to God

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