

JESUS IS OUR RESCUER

LUKE 2



CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus, God's Son, was born to save people from their sins.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: Do everything for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- Mary had her baby, Jesus, in a place where animals stayed.
- An angel came to the shepherds, and a light shined bright. The angel told them about Jesus.
- When the shepherds saw Jesus, they were happy and thanked God.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS: Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem. When they got there, Mary was ready to have her baby, but there were no rooms left. They found a place where animals stayed, and Mary had her baby, Jesus. She wrapped Him up and laid Him in a feeding box for animals. Some shepherds were taking care of their sheep. Suddenly, an angel appeared, and a light shined bright all around. The angel told them that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The shepherds hurried to find Him wrapped in cloth and laying in a feeding box. They were happy and told others about Jesus. Then they left, thanking God for the wonderful news.



LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Luke 2. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING THE SCRIPTURE

Sing to the tune of “Skip to My Lou”:

“Do, do everything.
Do, do everything.
Do, do everything.
Do everything for the glory of God.”

SAY “ Our key passage phrase says, ‘Do everything for the glory of God.’ When we sing and worship Jesus, we are bringing glory to God! ”

2 READ BIBLES

Sit babies in leaders’ laps or in horseshoe-shaped pillows. Provide a variety of picture Bibles for babies to handle and explore. Turn to the Christmas story in the Bibles, and talk with babies about what you see in the picture Bibles. Call attention to the Bible Story Picture Poster. Read the gospel gems to the babies as you turn the pages in the Bibles.

SAY “ Who is God’s Son? Yes, Jesus is God’s Son who was born to save people from their sins. God loved Jesus, and He loves us too! ”

3 SAY AND SOUND THE TWOS

Post the Bible Story Picture Poster. Point to and names the animals in the picture—camel and sheep. Encourage the babies to join in. Say the number two. Then count and point to the two different types of animals in the picture, the two parents in the picture, and the two sheep in the picture. Call attention to the emotions on each person’s face in the picture. Point out how happy they all are to see Jesus! Read the gospel gems as the babies play.

SAY “ Mary had her baby, Jesus, in a place where animals stayed. When the shepherds saw Jesus, they were happy and thanked God. Can we be happy and thank God for sending Jesus? Yes! Jesus, God’s Son, was born to save people from their sins. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s Big Picture Card. Repeat the Christ Connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Luke 2. Show the Bible Story Picture Poster as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the Key Passage Phrase Card, and guide toddlers to say it. Pray for the toddlers.

2 CATCH THE LIGHT

Dim the lights as you sit near the toddlers. Shine a flashlight beam on the floor around them. Allow toddlers to jump on or touch the light. Encourage them to interact with the light in fun and safe ways. Do not shine light in or near any child's eyes. Instead, shine the light on the floor, wall, and on objects that are in the opposite direction of where the toddlers are seated. Retell the Bible story.

SAY “ Mary had her baby, Jesus, in a place where animals stayed. What happened after the angel came to the shepherds? Yes, a light shined bright! An angel came to the shepherds, and a light shined bright. The angel told them about Jesus. ”

3 MAKE A NIGHT SCENE

Use white crayons to trace star- and circle-shaped cookie cutters onto black construction paper to create a night sky scene. Allow toddlers to trace the star shapes and decorate their night scenes. Use the crayons to write Jesus was born to save people from their sins.

SAY “ As shepherds watched their sheep, an angel appeared to them surrounded by a bright light. The angel told them about the birth of Jesus, and the shepherds hurried to find Him. ”

4 JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Play worship music on an electronic device. Tape the Bible Story Picture Poster to the wall. Tell the toddlers that they are going with you on a journey to “Bethlehem” (point to the poster). Lead the toddlers around the room until you reach your destination. Make it fun by doing different movements, going over and under obstacles, and so forth. After the journey, sit by the poster and read the Bible story.

SAY “ Where did Mary and Joseph travel to in our Bible story? Yes, Bethlehem! Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem to have Baby Jesus. Jesus, God's Son, was born to save people from their sins. ”

5 BUILD THE MANGER SCENE

Display the Bible Story Picture Poster. Provide an age-appropriate or block manger set. Assist the toddlers as they listen to the Bible story and build the manger scene.

SAY “ Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem to have Mary's baby. Mary had her baby, Jesus, in a place where animals stayed. Jesus, God's Son, was born to save people from their sins. ”

JESUS IS OUR RESCUER

LUKE 2

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus, God's Son, was born to save people from their sins.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: Do everything for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31

1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: SAY A THANKFUL PRAYER

Gather the toddlers and ask them what they are thankful for. If desired, use a dry erase board and marker to list or draw items the toddlers name. Explain that prayer is "talking to God and listening to Him." Talk about how to pray a prayer of thankfulness to God. Pray together, modeling for the toddlers the tone and the posture of talking to God.

SAY "What did the shepherds do when they saw Jesus? Yes, they thanked God! The shepherds thanked and praised God for Jesus. One way we can thank and praise God is by talking to Him in prayer."

2 SING THE SCRIPTURE

Sing to the tune of "Skip to My Lou":

"Do, do everything.
Do, do everything.
Do, do everything.
Do everything for the glory of God."

3 LISTEN AND CREATE

Glue craft sticks in the shape of a house (triangle and square) to each toddler's paper. Invite toddlers to use crayons to draw a picture of Mary, Joseph, and Baby Jesus inside the stable and animals around it. Write Mary had her baby, Jesus, in a place where animals stayed on each paper.

SAY "Jesus came into the world as a baby. Where was Jesus born? That's right! Jesus was born in a place where animals stayed. Jesus, God's Son, was born to save people from their sins."

4 SHAPE THE MANGER

Gather images of a Bible times feeding box or trough. Display the Bible Story Picture Poster for toddlers to compare. Provide air-dry clay and wooden peg people (one per toddler). Write Mary had Baby Jesus, and laid Him in a feeding box for animals on each paper plate with a small amount of clay on it. Allow toddlers to form a manger, or feeding box, for "Baby Jesus" using the clay. Retell the Bible story as the toddlers shape their mangers. Once dry, place a wooden peg person in each manger for toddlers to take home.

SAY "Jesus came into the world as a baby. He was born in a place where animals stayed, and He was laid in a feeding box. Jesus, God's Son, was born to save people from their sins."

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church's security procedures. Give parents today's Big Picture Card to reinforce today's Bible story, Christ Connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.



THE GOSPEL

GOD'S PLAN FOR PRESCHOOLERS

While preschoolers might not be ready to respond to the gospel, use this guide to help young minds begin to grasp big truths about Jesus and the kingdom of God.



Ask: "Who is in charge at home? Who is in charge over the whole world?" Explain that God made everything! He is King over everything, and He is in charge.



Ask: "Have you ever done something wrong?" Tell preschoolers that everyone sins, or disobeys God. Our sin makes God sad.



Explain that God must punish sin. He loves us, and He sent His Son, Jesus, to earth. Jesus came to take away the punishment for sin.



Ask: "Do you like presents?" Explain that Jesus gives us the best present. He never did anything wrong, but He was punished in our place. Jesus wants to take away our sin because He loves us.

Pray that God will save your preschoolers. As you faithfully teach the Bible, you are planting gospel seeds in children's hearts. Ask God to grow the preschoolers into children who love and trust in Jesus.