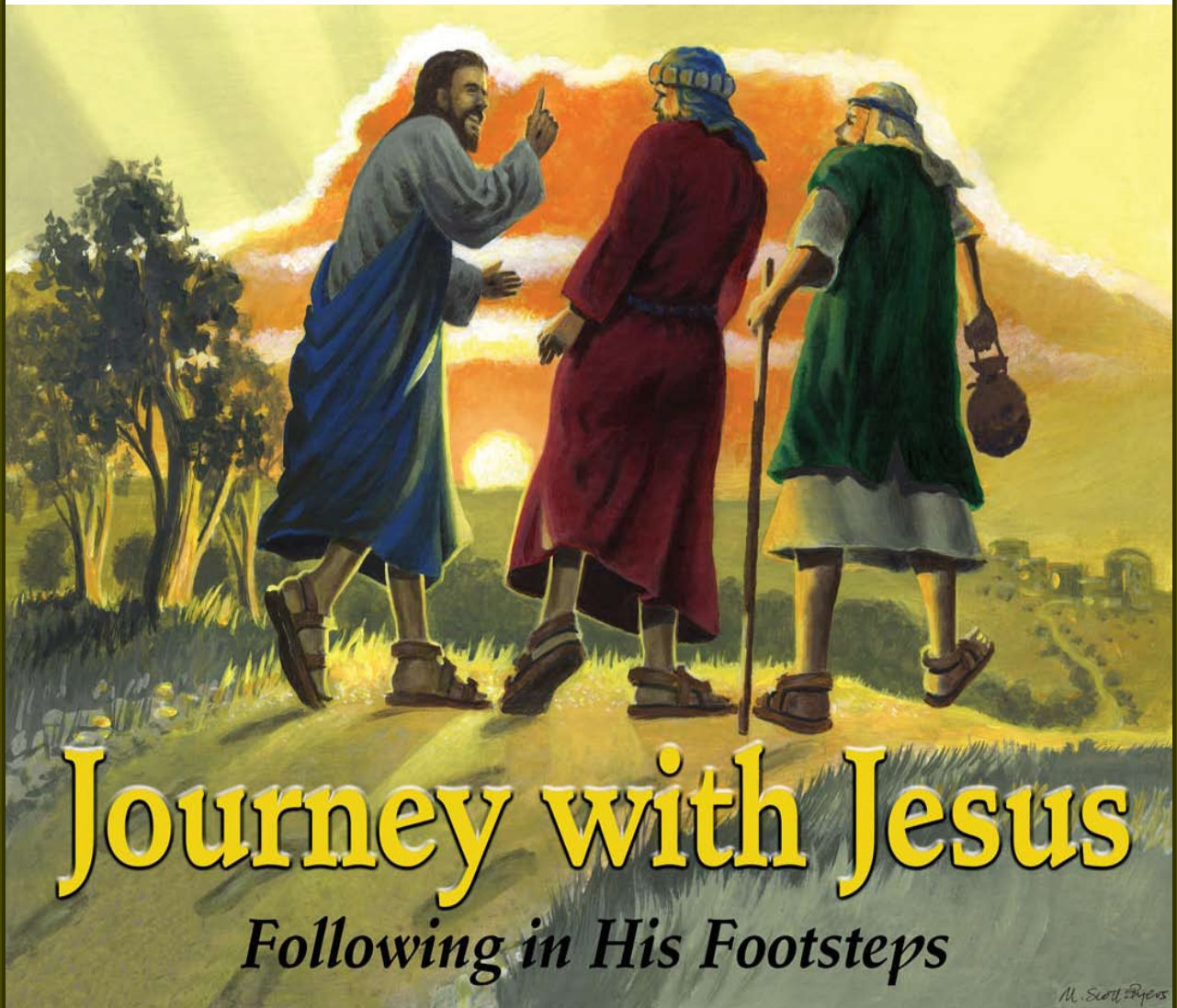


Early Childhood Bible Teacher— Younger Years

(Ones and Twos)



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Vacation Bible School

Early Childhood Bible Teacher—Younger Years (Ones and Twos)

Journey with Jesus—Following in His Footsteps

Overview	This unit takes us on a journey from Jesus' birth through his going to the temple with his family. Jesus came to this earth as a small baby. We are so blessed, through the stories in the Bible, to watch him grow into a man. The children you teach are growing physically, mentally, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. We have the opportunity to teach these children and help them understand that God takes care of them as they grow.
Session 1	Jesus Was Born in Bethlehem Luke 2:1-7
Session 2	Thank You, God, for Jesus Luke 2:25-38
Session 3	God Took Care of Jesus and His Family Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23
Session 4	Jesus Grew as a Child Luke 2:39-40, 52
Session 5	Jesus Learned About God at Church Luke 2:41-52

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VBS Unit Overview for Younger Years (Ones and Twos)

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5
Session Title Jesus Was Born in Bethlehem	Session Title Thank You, God, for Jesus	Session Title God Took Care of Jesus and His Family	Session Title Jesus Grew as a Child	Session Title Jesus Learned About God at Church
Bible Truth Jesus was born.	Bible Truth Simeon and Anna thanked God for baby Jesus.	Bible Truth God took care of Jesus and his family.	Bible Truth Jesus grew as a child.	Bible Truth Jesus learned about God at church.
Bible Story Jesus Was Born in Bethlehem (Luke 2:1-7)	Bible Story Thank You, God, for Jesus (Luke 2:25-38)	Bible Story God Took Care of Jesus and His Family (Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23)	Bible Story Jesus Grew as a Child (Luke 2:39-40, 52)	Bible Story Jesus Learned About God at Church (Luke 2:41-52)
Bible Verse Phrase Jesus was born (Luke 2:1-7).	Bible Verse Phrase Thank you, God, for baby Jesus (Luke 2:38).	Bible Verse Phrase God takes care of me (Matthew 2:13).	Bible Verse Phrase I am growing (Luke 2:40, 52).	Bible Verse Phrase I can learn about God at church (Luke 2:46).
Learning Aim To help ones and twos understand that Jesus was a baby	Learning Aim To help ones and twos thank God for Jesus	Learning Aim To help ones and twos know God will take care of them	Learning Aim To help ones and twos know that Jesus grew as a child	Learning Aim To help ones and twos know that church is a place to learn about God

Activities for Ones:

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5
<i>Our Journey Begins</i> (Greeting Activity) Place two dolls at the door	<i>Our Journey Begins</i> (Greeting Activity) Place molded plastic cars at the door	<i>Our Journey Begins</i> (Greeting Activity) Place balls at the door	<i>Our Journey Begins</i> (Greeting Activity) Blow bubbles as the children enter	<i>Our Journey Begins</i> (Greeting Activity) Place cardboard blocks at the door
<i>Journey Through the Marketplace</i> (Bible Learning Activities) <u>12-18 months</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to Christmas music • Shake jingle bell shakers and sing • Pack for a trip • Play with dolls • Look at photo album with nativity pictures 	<i>Journey Through the Marketplace</i> (Bible Learning Activities) <u>12-18 months</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to Christmas music • Shake jingle bell shakers and sing • Pack a diaper bag • Add pictures to photo album • Pretend to drive to church 	<i>Journey Through the Marketplace</i> (Bible Learning Activities) <u>12-18 months</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to music and roll the ball • Add pictures of families to photo album and read books • Stack boxes and blocks • Play peek-a-boo with blanket • Make footprints 	<i>Journey Through the Marketplace</i> (Bible Learning Activities) <u>12-18 months</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to music, weigh and measure, and read a book • Play a sock ball game • Blow and pop bubbles 	<i>Journey Through the Marketplace</i> (Bible Learning Activities) <u>12-18 months</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play on mats and read a book • Practice new walking skills • Stack blocks • Explore different kinds of paper
<u>19-24 months</u> Add the following activities to the ones above: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play with a nativity set and farm animals 	<u>19-24 months</u> Add the following activities to the ones above: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work transportation puzzles 	<u>19-24 months</u> Add the following activities to the ones above: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw with chalk and add star stickers • Play instruments 	<u>19-24 months</u> Add the following activities to the ones above: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Move with music • Play a sock matching game 	<u>19-24 months</u> Add the following activities to the ones above: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draw on paper with crayons • Walk on a masking tape balance beam • Build a church
Snack Idea Eat animal or saltine crackers and drink water	Snack Idea Eat graham or Teddy Grahams® and drink water	Snack Idea Eat applesauce and drink apple juice or water	Snack Idea Eat flower-shaped flavored toast and drink water	Snack Idea Make and eat trail mix and drink water

Activities for Twos:

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5
<i>Our Journey Begins (Greeting Activity)</i> Place two dolls at the door	<i>Our Journey Begins (Greeting Activity)</i> Place molded plastic cars at the door	<i>Our Journey Begins (Greeting Activity)</i> Place balls at the door	<i>Our Journey Begins (Greeting Activity)</i> Blow bubbles as the children enter	<i>Our Journey Begins (Greeting Activity)</i> Place cardboard blocks at the door
<i>Journey Through the Marketplace (Bible Learning Activities)</i> Art: Make a Christmas book Blocks: Play with a nativity set and farm animals Dramatic Play: Take care of baby Puzzles: Play a "What's missing" game Snack: Eat animal crackers and drink water	<i>Journey Through the Marketplace (Bible Learning Activities)</i> Art: Paint with cars Blocks: Pretend to drive to church Dramatic Play: Get ready for church Puzzles: Work transportation puzzles Snack: Eat graham or Teddy Graham® crackers and drink water	<i>Journey Through the Marketplace (Bible Learning Activities)</i> Art: Make footprints for a booklet Blocks: Play with family figures and build a house Dramatic Play: Pretend it is nighttime and read books Puzzles: Drop balls into a basket Snack: Eat applesauce or apples and drink water	<i>Journey Through the Marketplace (Bible Learning Activities)</i> Art: Decorate a photo frame Blocks: Play with a hammering bench Dramatic Play: Play dress-up, weigh and measure, and read a book Puzzles: Play a matching game Snack: Make and eat flower-shaped toast and drink water	<i>Journey Through the Marketplace (Bible Learning Activities)</i> Art: Make a Bible scroll Blocks: Build a church Dramatic Play: Play musical instruments Puzzles: Play a matching game Snack: Make and eat trail mix and drink water

How to Use *VBS Early Childhood Bible Teacher—Younger Years*

Basic Information for the Teaching Team Members:

- **Unit Title:** The main focus of teaching for Vacation Bible School.
- **Bible Story and Scripture:** The Bible story for each day and the passage in the Bible from which the Bible story is taken.
- **Bible Truth:** A one-sentence statement, in language appropriate to the age group, of the main idea of the session.
- **Learning Aim:** The outcome the teachers should teach toward and expect in the life of the child for the session, stated from the perspective of the teacher. The learning aim is the key-organizing element for the session. It includes what the child should feel and know during the session.
- **Bible Verse Phrases:** A paraphrase of the Bible verse in language appropriate for the age of the child. Bible verses are included in each activity with suggested conversation to assist teachers in utilizing the Bible with the specific activity.

Preparing and Planning for the Child:

- **Study the Bible:** Read through the Bible story passage for each day. A teacher should be prepared spiritually for each day of VBS.
- **Plan with the Bible Teaching Team:** The suggestions given are practical ways you as a team member can prepare for VBS and minister to the children God has entrusted to you.
- **Gather These Resources:** This is a list of resources you will need for the VBS session.
- ***Our Journey Begins (Greeting the Child and Welcome Activity):*** First impressions are so important! You will be reminded to greet the children on their level. A suggestion for an activity is included for each day. This activity will help transition the child into the room. This is also the time to gather needed information from the parent or caregiver.
- ***Journey Through the Marketplace (Bible Learning Activities):*** This section includes activities that the teacher will use with the child during VBS. The activities are age-appropriate and written so the teacher will have specific directions in preparing for and guiding the child. A plan sheet (**Resource Item 5**) is available for teachers to use as they plan for the week.
- **The Next Step:** This information is written for the teachers as they prepare for dismissal of the children and evaluating the session.
- **Parent Letter:** The Parent Letter (**Resource Item 4**) is the church's link to the home. The letter can be used as the basis for a letter to each family. There is space at the top of the letter for the church to personalize the letter.
- **Resource Materials:** These resource materials are included to aid teachers in preparing for and teaching VBS.

If you teach ones and twos:

- The VBS curriculum is organized for a week-long unit. There are five sessions, one for each day. Remember, if a child can't do the activity, it's too hard! Parents don't want teacher's work sent home.

Suggested Schedule for VBS

Thank you for accepting children thirty minutes prior to the start of VBS! You are teaching teachers' children, and these teachers need to be in their classroom on time. Teaching begins the moment a child arrives. Don't wait for all the children to arrive to begin teaching!

The following schedule assumes you will have three-hour sessions. Adjust the schedule to fit your particular situation.

For Ones:

8:30-9:30	Greet the child and begin <i>Journey Through the Marketplace</i> activities.
9:30-10:00	Begin checking and changing diapers. Mark the Child's Schedule Card (Resource Item 1) with the codes on the card. At least one teacher should remain on the floor playing with the other children.
10:00-10:20	Snack Time (Follow snack time instructions given in <i>The Next Step</i> (at the end of the session) and in the activity section.)
10:20-11:15	Continue activity teaching and take a walk around the church.
11:15-11:45	Check diapers, and put children's belongings back in their bags. At least one teacher should remain on the floor playing with the children.
11:45-12:00	Sing songs or read books to keep children's attention from the door. One teacher should be at the door to greet the parent, gather the child's things, and retrieve the child. The other teachers should continue playing with the children.
12:00-12:15	Clean and sanitize the room, and prepare the room for the next day. Follow the instructions on <i>Prepare for the Child Guidelines (Resource Item 2)</i>

For Twos:

8:30-9:30	Greet the child and begin <i>Journey Through the Marketplace</i> activities.
9:30-10:00	One teacher should begin checking diapers and taking children to the potty. Mark the Child's Schedule Card (Resource Item 1) with the codes on the card. The other teachers should keep the other children involved in the activities.
10:00-10:15	Clean up
10:15-10:30	Snack Time (Follow snack time instructions given in <i>The Next Step</i> (at the end of the session) and in the activity section.)
10:30-11:00	Outside or indoor recreation time
11:00-11:40	All teachers assist in cleaning the children's hands. One teacher should begin checking diapers or taking the children to the potty. The other teachers will continue the <i>Journey Through the Marketplace</i> activities with the children.
11:40-11:50	Clean up
11:50-12:00	Gather on the floor away from the door. Read books, sing songs, or play instruments. One teacher should be at the door to greet the parent, gather the child's things, and retrieve the child. The other teachers should continue the activities with the children.
12:00-12:15	Clean and sanitize the room, and prepare the room for the next day. Follow the instructions on <i>Prepare for the Child Guidelines (Resource Item 2)</i> .

Session 1

Jesus Was Born in Bethlehem



Bible Story and Scripture:
Jesus Was Born in Bethlehem
(Luke 2:1-7)

Bible Verse Phrase:
Jesus was born
(Luke 2:1-7).

Bible Truth:
Jesus was born.

Learning Aim:
To help ones and twos understand that Jesus was a baby

Prepare for the Session

Study the Bible

Bible Background: Luke 2:1-7

Tradition depicts Joseph leading or walking beside the donkey that carried Mary over the rough terrain. Mary and Joseph traveled from Nazareth in Galilee through Samaria to Bethlehem in Judea, a trip of about ninety miles or about five days' journey. A decree issued by the Roman government required Joseph to make the long, arduous trip to pay taxes. Mary evidently accompanied her husband-to-be because the birth of her baby was at hand. However, it was not accidental that Mary's baby would be born in Bethlehem. That is where the prophet Micah prophesied the Savior would be born (Micah 5:2). The village was known as "the city of David" because David had tended his father's sheep in that area (1 Samuel 17:15). It was where the prophet Samuel had anointed David king (1 Samuel 16:1-13). Since the town was near the main route between Jerusalem and Egypt, an inn had existed there from early times.

When the weary couple finally arrived in Bethlehem, they may have sought lodging in a home. Hospitality to guests, even strangers, was an important Jewish social function. Or, finding the inn had no room for them, they may have gone directly to an outlying cave. Habitable caves existed throughout the Bethlehem hills and were used as stables in ancient times.

No nursery, no special crib, and no fancy garments awaited the Savior's arrival. After Jesus was born, Mary would have laid him diagonally on a square of linen, folded the corners over him, and then wound the swaddling securely around him. Perhaps once a day for the next six months, she would wash him and gently rub him with olive oil or dust him with powder and then rewrap him with the long linen strips. The swaddling prevented the baby Jesus from thrashing his arms and legs. It was customary to so wrap babies for the first six months to ensure strong, straight bones.

Jesus' bed was the animals' stone feeding trough. Perhaps Mary cushioned it first with straw and then lined it with a goat hair blanket they used for covering at night.

Mary and Joseph may have taken turns singing sweet songs to their newborn baby. They loved him and must have tried to understand that the Son of God had been placed in their care.

Plan and Prepare with the Bible Teaching Team **(For Ones and Twos)**

- Send the **Parent Letter (Resource Item 4)** to all the children assigned to your class. Personalize the letter by including information about the child's room, the teachers, the time you will be ready for the child, and other information you think will be helpful to the parents.

- Make five copies of the **Child Schedule Card (Resource Item 1)** for each child assigned to your department. The child schedule card is in a Word document format. The card may be revised to coincide with your church's schedule. Parents may prefer to take the schedule cards home and have them prepared for VBS before they arrive each day. Remember to use the codes on the card and send home the cards each day.
- Place a copy of the ***Prepare for the Child* guidelines (Resource Item 2)** in a prominent place in the room.
- Read through the suggested activities for ones and twos. Decide which team member will be responsible for preparing and gathering the needed items for each activity. A plan sheet (**Resource Item 5**) is available for each teacher. Each teacher should use the Bible story conversation given in the activity areas as the children are participating in the activity. There is not a formal group time for this age group.
- Decide who will take photographs of the children. Photographs should be taken on the first and second days of VBS. Take two vertical photographs of each child involved in an activity. For ones, the vertical photographs will be used in the ***Journey with Jesus* booklet (Resource Item 6)** during session three and on the ***I am Growing Chart* (Resource Item 7)** in session four. For twos, the photographs will be used during session three in the ***Journey with Jesus Booklet (Resource Item 6)*** and in the photo frame in session four.
- Before VBS, prepare the ***Journey with Jesus Booklet (Resource Item 6)***. Print the ***Journey with Jesus Booklet (Resource Item 6)*** on 8 ½" x 11" white copy paper. Make a two-sided copy with page one and two on white 8 ½" x 11" cardstock. Fold the cardstock in half. Instructions for placing a footprint and photograph will be given in Session 3. The booklet will be used for ones and twos.
- In preparation for VBS, copy the ***I am Growing Chart (Resource Item 7)*** on 8 ½" x 11" white cardstock (one per child, for ones and twos). Instructions for weighing and measuring the children are given in Session four.
- In preparation for VBS, copy the ***I'm Growing Just Like Jesus Book (Resource Item 8)*** onto 8 ½" x 11" white copy paper for ones and twos. Two separate copies will be needed if teaching ones and twos separately. To create book format, copy the pages as follows onto 8 ½" x 11" white cardstock: Title page and page 8 – one-sided; pages 2 and 3—print back-to-back; Pages 4 and 5—print back-to-back; pages 6 & 7—print back to back. Laminate or cover each page in clear contact plastic if possible. Then, staple the book together. Instructions for using the book during sessions four and five are given in the Bible learning activity instructions. The book may be used all week if desired.
- Place a picture of the nativity scene at the door as you welcome the children. When all the children have arrived, take the picture to one of the activity activities. Laminate the picture for durability. Allow the children to hold and touch the picture.
- Prepare masking tape nametags for each child in your class and their belongings. Make two or three strips for each child every day. Place the strips on waxed paper for easy removal and place them close to the door.

Guiding the Session with Ones

***Note: Post the Allergy Alert Poster (Resource Item 3).**

Gather These Resources (The resources are in order as they appear in the session):

Resources	Session needed	Age Group
Resource Item 1: Child Schedule Card	Preparation/Greeting 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	12-24 months
Resource Item 2: <i>Prepare for the Child</i> guidelines	Preparation 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	12-24 months
Resource Item 3: Allergy Alert Poster	Preparation/Greeting 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	12-24 months
Resource Item 4: Parent Letter	Preparation	12-24 months
Resource Item 5: Bible Learning Activity Plan Sheet	Preparation	12-24 months
Resource Item 6: <i>Journey with Jesus</i> Booklet	Preparation and 3	12-24 months
8 ½" x 11" white copy paper (2 pieces)	Preparation	12-24 months
8 ½" x 11" white cardstock (1 piece per child)	Preparation	12-24 months
Resource Item 7: <i>I am Growing</i> Chart	Preparation and 4	12-24 months
8 ½" x 11" white cardstock (1 piece per child)	Preparation	12-24 months
Resource Item 8: <i>I'm Growing Like Jesus</i> Book	Preparation and 4, 5	12-24 months
8 ½" x 11" white copy paper (4 pieces per book)	Preparation	12-24 months
8 ½" x 11" white cardstock (2 pieces per book)	Preparation	12-24 months
Digital Camera	1, 2	12-24 months
Masking tape (for nametag strips)	Preparation, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	12-24 months
Waxed paper (for masking tape nametag strips)	Preparation, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5	12-24 months
Bible	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	12-24 months
Picture of the Nativity Scene	1	12-24 months
Christmas music CD	1	12-24 months
CD player	1	12-24 months
1 pint clear water bottles (4-6)	1	12-24 months
Jingle bells (colored) (16-24)	1	12-24 months
Glue or masking tape (colored)	1	12-24 months
Baby items: blanket, diapers, rattles, infant clothes	1	12-24 months
Box to hold baby items	1	12-24 months
Small diaper bag or suitcase	1	12-24 months
Baby dolls, blanket	1	12-24 months
Box or small doll bed	1	12-24 months
Child-sized rocking chair	1	12-24 months
Magnetic photo album	1	12-24 months
Christmas card nativity scene pictures (laminated or covered in clear contact plastic) (no fantasy pictures)	1	12-24 months

Cardboard blocks	1	19-24 months
Nativity set for young children	1	19-24 months
Farm animals (large rubber or plastic)	1	19-24 months
Snack Idea: Animal or saltine crackers	1	19-24 months
Non-spill cups or each child's cup from home	1	19-24 months
Pitcher of water	1	19-24 months

Our Journey Begins!

(Greeting and Welcome Activity for Ones and Twos)

The director will greet children and parents at the door. Be sure that each child is checked in properly and is wearing a nametag (see instructions for nametags in "**Plan with the Bible Teaching Team**" section). Give the parent a **Child Schedule Card (Resource Item 1)** to fill out for his or her child. Use some type of security system with each child. Children may be anxious, particularly this first morning. Place two dolls at the door as you greet the children. Give the child one of them to hold to help transition the child into the room. Guide the child to a teacher who can continue interacting with the child. When the child has transitioned into the room, bring the doll back to the door.

Journey Through the Marketplace

(Bible Learning Activities for Ones)

****Take the children's photographs today if possible,
while the children are involved in an activity.***

Guiding Through Activities

Activities for Twelve to Eighteen Months:

- **Turn on quiet Christmas music and check the child schedule card.**
Play instrumental Christmas music during the session. Mark the schedule card using the code on the card as you change, feed, or place the child down for a nap. Make pictures of children involved in an activity. Directions for making the booklet **Resource Item 6)** are in the "Plan with the Bible teaching team" section.
- **Shake jingle bell shakers and sing.**
Before the session, place four to six jingle bells in one-pint water bottles. Glue or tape the lids on. Place the shakers on the floor or on a blanket. As Morgan walks over, begin shaking the shaker. Morgan will enjoy hearing the bells ring. As the children shake the bell shakers, sing, "Thank You, God, for Baby Jesus." To the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb," use the following words: "Thank you, God, for baby Jesus, baby Jesus, baby Jesus. Thank you, God, for baby Jesus. Oh I love you so."
- **Pack for a trip.**

Place a blanket, diapers, rattles, and infant clothes in a box. Place on the floor one or two small suitcases or diaper bags. As Bryce toddles over to look in the box, say, *Bryce, Mary and Joseph were going on a trip. They packed things that baby Jesus would need. Can you find the blanket? Let's put it in the suitcase. Can you find a diaper? That's right. Baby Jesus will need diapers.* Continue naming the items as Bryce places them in the suitcase.

- **Play with the dolls.**

Place two baby dolls in a box or small doll bed. Provide blankets and a rocking chair. Show Kylie how to wrap the baby in the blanket. Tell Kylie to rock the baby so he will go to sleep. Talk to Kylie about Mary and Joseph rocking baby Jesus.

- **Look at a photo album.**

Place the magnetic photo album on the floor. Place laminated pictures of nativity scenes around the photo album. As Hayden comes to look at the album, talk about the pictures of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus. Help her pull the magnetic page open and place one of the pictures in the album.

Activities for Nineteen to Twenty-four Months:

- **Provide the same activities as those used with children who are twelve to eighteen months and add the following activities.**

- **Play with a nativity set and farm animals.**

Place cardboard blocks and a play farm or a nativity set in a corner of the room. Place farm animals close by. Begin stacking the blocks to resemble a fence. Place the cow, horse, sheep, and pig inside the fence. As the children walk to you, say, *Aiden, can you find the cow? What does the cow say? That's right. Moo!* Continue the same activity with the other animals. Tell the Christmas story every opportunity you have.

- **Snack Idea:** Write the snack ideas on the **Allergy Alert Poster (Resource Item 3)**. Post the sign at the door. Parents may have certain snacks or drinks in the child's bag. If parents request that the child drink and eat what is in their bag, follow their direction. Serve animal or saltine crackers in small paper cups or on napkins. Pour water into paper or non-spill cups or use the cups the children brought from home. Say a thank-you prayer before eating.

Guiding the Session with Twos

***Note: Post the Allergy Alert Poster (Resource Item 3)**

Gather These Resources (The resources are in order as they appear in the session):

Resources	Session needed	Activity area
Resource Item 1: Child Schedule Card	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Preparation/Greeting
Resource Item 2: Prepare for the Child guidelines	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Preparation/Greeting
Resource Item 3: Allergy Alert Poster	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Preparation/Greeting
Resource Item 4: Parent Letter	1	Preparation
Resource Item 5: Bible Learning Activity Plan Sheet	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Preparation
Bible	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	All
9" x 12" construction paper (1 per child, assorted colors)	1	Art
8 ½" x 11" white copy paper (1 sheet per child)	1	Art
Christmas cards (pictures of nativity scenes, no fantasy, 2 or 3 per child)	1	Art
Glue sticks	1	Art
Nativity set	1	Blocks
Plastic animals such as, cows, pigs, sheep, and horses	1	Blocks
Cardboard blocks	1	Blocks
Hay	1	Blocks
Resource Item 3: Allergy Alert Poster	1	Blocks
Two baby dolls	1	Dramatic Play
Baby bathtub or dishpan	1	Dramatic Play
Plastic smocks	1	Dramatic Play
Baby items, such as, diapers, blankets, infant clothes, rattles, baby washcloth, towel and empty lotion bottles	1	Dramatic Play
Digital camera	1	Dramatic Play
Optional: Biblical dress-up clothes (for Mary and Joseph)	1	Dramatic Play
Cafeteria tray or box lid	1	Puzzles
Baby items, such as, a rattle, diaper, empty baby lotion bottle, bottle, baby blanket	1	Puzzles
Large towel or blanket	1	Puzzles
Animal crackers	1	Snack
Small paper cups (for crackers and water) or non-spill cups (optional)	1	Snack
Pitcher of water	1	Snack

Journey Through the Marketplace
Bible Learning Activities for Twos

****Take the children's photographs today if possible,
while the children are involved in an activity.***

Art Activity: Make a Christmas book.

Team member responsible: _____

Materials needed: 9" x 12" construction paper (1 per child, assorted colors); 8 ½" x 11" white copy paper (1 sheet per child); Christmas cards (pictures of nativity scenes, no fantasy, 2 or 3 per child); glue sticks

Preparation: Before the session, fold the construction paper and one piece of white copy in half. Insert the copy paper into the construction paper and staple along the fold. Write on the front cover "My Christmas Book." Cut nativity pictures from old Christmas cards. Place the books, pictures, and glue sticks on the table.

Guide the activity: Place a Bible marker at Luke 2. Ask the child to choose a booklet. Show the child the Christmas pictures. Allow the child to choose two or three pictures and glue them on the pages of the book.

Bible story conversation: While the children make their books, say, *Jesus was born in a stable. Mary and Joseph were his mommy and daddy. Thank you, God, for baby Jesus.*

Block Activity: Play with a nativity set and farm animals.

Team member responsible: _____

Materials needed: Nativity set; plastic animals such as, cows, pigs, sheep, and horses; cardboard blocks; hay; **Resource Item 3: Allergy Alert Poster**

Preparation: Place the Allergy Alert Poster outside the door stating the children will touch hay. Place the nativity set in the block area with the plastic animals sitting around it. Make a fence with some of the blocks. Place the hay in a box lid for the children to feel.

Guide the activity: As the children come to the activity, talk about Mary and Joseph staying in a stable when baby Jesus was born. Tell them baby Jesus slept where they fed the animals.

Bible story conversation: As the children are playing, say, *Jesus was born in Bethlehem. He was born in a stable.*

Dramatic Play Activity: Take care of the baby.

Team member responsible: _____

Materials needed: Two baby dolls; baby bathtub or dishpan; plastic smocks; baby items, such as, diapers, blankets, infant clothes, rattles, baby washcloth, towel and empty lotion bottles; digital camera; **Optional:** biblical dress-up clothes (for Mary and Joseph)

Preparation: Place about one inch of water in the bathtub or dishpan. Place the tub on one end of the table or floor. Place towels close by the tub. Put the baby items on the other end of the table.

Guide the activity: As Bethany comes to the activity, place a smock on her to protect her clothing. Talk about ways Mary and Joseph had to care for baby Jesus. After Bethany has washed the doll, allow another child to have a turn. Make pictures of the children as they wash or hold the babies. The biblical dress-up clothes could be put on the children for the picture.

Bible story conversation: As the children are washing the babies, say, *Mary gave baby Jesus a bath, too. Mary and Joseph loved Jesus very much. They took good care of him. Your mom and dad love you very much, too!*

Puzzle Activity: Play a "What's missing?" game.

Team member responsible: _____

Materials needed: Cafeteria tray or box lid; baby items, such as, a rattle, diaper, empty baby lotion bottle, bottle, baby blanket; large towel or blanket

Preparation: Place all the items on the tray and cover them with a large towel or blanket.

Guide the activity: When the children come to the activity, uncover the items and talk about each one and how a baby uses those items. Tell them to turn around and you will take one away. Tell the children to turn back around and find which one is missing! You may give them clues if they are having a difficult time remembering.

Bible story conversation: As the children are playing the game, say, *Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Do you think Jesus needed a diaper? Did Mary wrap him in a blanket? Thank you, God, for baby Jesus.*

Snack Time: Eat animal crackers and drink water.

Team member responsible: _____

Materials needed: Animal crackers; small paper cups (for crackers and water) or non-spill cups for each child (optional); pitcher of water

Guide the activity: Place the animal crackers in a cup for each child. Pour a small amount of water in the cups. Say a thank-you prayer to God before eating the snack. Talk about all the animals that were at the stable the night Jesus was born. See if the children can find a cow or horse.

The Next Step

- **Check each child's diaper:**
During VBS, schedule a time during each hour to check diapers or take the children to the potty. Make sure each child's diaper has been checked or the child has been taken to the potty at least once during the session. Mark the **Child's Schedule Card (Resource Item 1)** at the approximate time, using the code on the card. This information will be helpful both to teachers during the session and to parents.
- **Serve a snack:**
If your church provides a snack, seat the children on a mat on the floor away from the door. Say a thank-you prayer with the children before serving the snack. Check the child's schedule card for any allergies. If the child has a snack or drink in his or her bag, give the child the snack as his or her parents has directed. If possible, provide cups that will not spill. Label each cup with the child's name.
- **As children are leaving:**
Place the schedule card, parent letter (unless it was mailed prior to VBS), and other belongings in their bags. Remove the nametag when the parent comes. Make sure the person picking up the child has a security tag before releasing the child. Make the child's exit as quiet as possible so as not to upset the other children in the room.
- **At the end of the session:**
Refer to the *Prepare for the Child Guidelines (Resource Item 2)* to ensure proper cleaning of the room and the equipment.
- **Ask yourself these questions:**
 1. Was the room ready and prepared when the first child arrived?
 2. Did I wash my hands after changing and before preparing the snack?
 3. Did I spray the changing table with bleach solution (one-fourth cup bleach to one gallon water) after each diaper change?
 4. Did I remove a mouthed toy and disinfect (one teaspoon to one gallon water) it before returning it to the play area?
 5. Did I give the child as much attention as possible? Did I physically remain on his or her level?
 6. Did I relate the learning aim to each activity through my conversation with the children?
 7. What specific needs of the children do I need to address before the next day?

Session 2



Bible Story and Scripture:

Thank You, God, for Jesus
Luke 2:25-38

Bible Verse Phrase:

Thank you, God, for baby Jesus
(Luke 2:38).

Bible Truth:

Simeon and Anna thanked God for baby Jesus.

Learning Aim:

To help ones and twos thank God for Jesus

Preparing for the Session

Study the Bible

Bible Background: Luke 2:25-38

Forty days after Jesus' birth, Mary and Joseph made the five-mile trek north to the temple in Jerusalem. It was time for the rites of purification and sacrifice to be performed (see Leviticus 12:1-8).

The law required the firstborn son to be redeemed at a cost of five shekels in memory of God's sparing the firstborn of the Israelites at the time of the Exodus (see Numbers 18:14-16). The law also required Mary to sacrifice two turtledoves, or pigeons, which Joseph probably purchased in the temple courtyard.

A wealthy man might have purchased a sheep for the sacrifice. As a carpenter, however, Joseph may have found even the expense of the two birds a hardship. When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple, it was probably swarming with hundreds of people. Among the mob were two special people—Simeon and Anna.

Simeon belonged to the class of humble and devout Jews who looked for the redemption of Israel. Consequently God shed abroad among the devout group the gift of prophecy and revealed truth to them that the scribes and Pharisees did not see. The Holy Spirit had assured Simeon that he would live to see the Promised One. Many years had passed. Simeon was now old. Every time a newborn baby boy was brought for dedication, he would probably wonder whether this child might be the hope of Israel.

Then one day, a couple brought their baby for the rites. When Simeon saw the infant, he took the baby in his arms and began praising God. The old man hailed the little baby as the gift from God, the Messiah. This baby would be a light to the entire world, a hint that Gentiles were included in God's plan for redemption. Further, Simon indicated that the child's future held heartbreak for Mary.

Similarly, the aged Anna belonged to the godly remnant who anticipated the Messiah. She listened to the reading of the scrolls and believed fully the prophecies they contained. Whether she was eighty-four years of age or had been a widow eighty-four years is unclear. Either way, the meaning is that she was elderly. She now spent her days in the temple fasting, praying, and looking for the Promised One.

Like Simeon, Anna may have lived with the constant expectation that tomorrow the Messiah would come. In God's perfect timing, the old woman entered just as Simeon lifted the baby and thanked God for God's faithfulness in letting him live to see God's Son. Suddenly Anna recognized the infant in Mary's arms and proclaimed the child as the Messiah. She told everyone who, like she and Simeon, anticipated Israel's redemption.

Both Simeon and Anna must have rejoiced that their years of waiting were over. They praised God and thanked him for letting them see Jesus.

Plan and Prepare with the Bible Teaching Team **(For Ones and Twos)**

- Read Luke 2:25-38. Share answers to prayers and joys in your lives. Pray for the children and their families.
- Remember to set out the **Child Schedule Cards (Resource Item 1)** on a clipboard each morning before VBS. Make sure the parent gives you all the information needed. The parents will feel more secure knowing that the teachers have the information about their child. There will be less need for conversation between the teachers!
- Read through the suggested ***Journey Through the Marketplace*** activities for ones and twos. Decide which team member will be responsible for preparing and gathering the needed items for each activity. Each teacher should use the Bible story conversation given in the activity areas as the children are participating in the activity. There is not a formal group time for this age group. If you did not finish taking pictures of the children, continue doing so today so you will have time to complete the activity.
- Prepare masking tape nametags for each child in your class and their belongings. Make two or three strips for each child every day. Place the strips on waxed paper for easy removal and place them close to the door.
- Refer to the ***Prepare for the Child Guidelines (Resource Item 2)*** when making the bleach solutions for the day. Remember, the solutions have to be made daily.

Guiding the Session with Ones

***Note: Post the Allergy Alert Poster (Resource Item 3)**

Gather These Resources (The resources are in order as they appear in the session):

Resources	Session needed	Age group
Christmas music CD (instrumental)	2	12-24 months
Jingle bell shakers (from session 1)	2	12-24 months
Diaper bag (small)	2	12-24 months
Baby items: diaper, rattle, blanket, infant clothes, socks, and shoes	2	12-24 months
Baby dolls (2)	2	12-24 months
Doll bed or box	2	12-24 months
Pictures of moms, daddies, and little boys, Mary, Joseph, & little boy Jesus (laminated or covered in clear contact plastic)	2	12-24 months
Photo album (from session 1)	2	12-24 months
Plastic toy cars (2-4)	2	19-24 months

Cloth road mat or masking tape	2	19-24 months
Transportation puzzles	2	19-24 months
Carpet squares or large tray	2	19-24 months
Snack Idea: Graham or saltine crackers	2	19-24 months
Water in non-spill cups or each child's cup from home	2	19-24 months
Pitcher of water	2	19-24 months

Our Journey Begins!

(Welcome Activity for Ones and Twos)

Place one or two molded plastic cars by the door. When Megan's mom knocks on the door, open the door and say, *Megan, I'm so glad you're here today. Would you like to play with the car?* Gently take Megan and her diaper bag and remind her mom to fill out the schedule card. Return to the door and give her mom the security tag and/or pager.

Journey Through the Marketplace

(Bible Learning Activities for Ones)

****Don't forget to finish taking the children's photographs today!***

Activities for Twelve to Eighteen Months:

- **Turn on quiet Christmas music and check the child schedule card.**
Play instrumental Christmas music during the session. Mark the schedule card using the code on the card as you change, feed, or place the child down for a nap.
- **Shake jingle bell shakers and sing.**
As the children shake the bell shakers (used in Session 1), sing, "Thank You, God, for Baby Jesus." To the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb," use the following words: "Thank you, God, for baby Jesus, baby Jesus, baby Jesus. Thank you, God, for baby Jesus. Oh I love you so."
- **Pack a diaper bag for church.**
Place a diaper, rattle, blanket, infant clothes, socks, and shoes beside a diaper bag. Place two baby dolls in a doll bed or box. As the children come over, ask them to find each item one at a time and place it in the diaper bag. Say, *Can you say "diaper?"* Practice their verbal skills as they play. Then say, *Let's take the baby to church. Do you have her diaper bag? Mary and Joseph took Jesus to church.*
- **Add pictures to photo album.**
Find pictures of a mom, dad, and a little boy and Mary, Joseph, and little boy Jesus. Laminate or cover the pictures in clear contact plastic. Place them in a basket next to the photo album. Assist the children as they add the pictures to the album. Talk about Mary and Joseph taking Jesus to church. Then, talk about mommies and daddies bringing children to church. Go back to the beginning of the album and "picture-read" the entire book.

- **Pretend to drive to church.**

Place plastic toy cars on a cloth road mat or place masking tape on the floor to resemble roads. As the children begin playing with the cars, say, *Camden, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to church. Your mom and dad brought you to church today!*

Activities for Nineteen to Twenty-four Months:

- **Provide the same activities as those used with children who are twelve to eighteen months and add the following activities.**

- **Work transportation puzzles.**

Place the "Transportation" and "Easy Wheels" puzzles on carpet squares or in a large tray. Show the children how to take out each piece one at a time and lay them to the left of the puzzle. Assist the child as needed by saying, *Jared, can you find the airplane? That's right. Where does it go? Turn it around. Yea! You did it!*

- **Snack Idea:** Write the snack ideas on the **Allergy Alert Poster (Resource Item 3)**. Post the sign at the door. Parents may have certain snacks or drinks in the child's bag. If parents request that the child drink and eat what is in their bag, follow their direction. Serve graham or Teddy Graham® crackers in small paper cups or on napkins. Pour water into paper or non-spill cups or use the cups the children brought from home.

Guiding the Session with Twos

Gather These Resources (The resources are in order as they appear in the session):

Resources	Session needed	Activity Area
Toy cars (2-3 small, rubber or plastic)	2	Art
Washable paint (2 colors)	2	Art
Shallow containers (flat, with ½" – 1" rim around edges)	2	Art
12" x 18" construction paper (white or manila)	2	Art
Felt to fit bottom of paint container	2	Art
Paper or cold drink box lids (2)	2	Art
Paint smocks	2	Art
Cloth road map or masking tape	2	Blocks
Plastic toy cars (5 or 6)	2	Blocks
Cardboard blocks	2	Blocks
Diaper bag	2	Dramatic Play
Baby items, such as, a diaper, rattle, blanket, infant clothes, socks, shoes	2	Dramatic Play
Baby dolls (2)	2	Dramatic Play
Doll bed	2	Dramatic Play
Dress-up clothes (size 4 or 5)	2	Dramatic Play
Set of keys	2	Dramatic Play
Transportation puzzles (4-8 pieces)	2	Puzzles

Shirt boxes with lids (2 sturdy)	2	Puzzles
Resource Item 3: Allergy Alert Poster	2	Snack
Graham or Teddy Graham® crackers	2	Snack
Napkins or small paper cups	2	Snack
Small paper or non-spill cups (for water)	2	Snack
Pitcher of water	2	Snack

Journey Through the Marketplace **(Bible Learning Activities for Twos)**

****Take the children's photographs today if possible,
while the children are involved in an activity.***

Art Activity: Paint with cars.

Team member responsible: _____

Materials needed: Toy cars (2-3 small, rubber or plastic); washable paint (two colors); shallow containers (flat with ½" – 1" rim around edges); 12" x 18" construction paper (white or manila); felt to fit bottom of paint container; paper or cold drink box lids (2); paint smocks

Preparation: Cut the felt pieces to fit the bottom of the paint containers and tape the pieces to the container. Spoon a small amount of paint onto the felt. Spread the paint over the felt until it is absorbed into the felt, creating a stamp pad. Cut the paper to fit the bottom of the box lids.

Guiding the activity: As the children come to the art center, place a painting smock on each child (no more than 2 at a time). Place a piece of paper into the box lid. Write the child's name on the paper before painting. Place one car in each of the paint containers. Guide the child to roll the car wheels over the paint. Then, show them how to place the car on the paper and roll the car around on the paper to create tire tracks. If they want to use both colors, allow them to do the same activity with the other color of paint.

Bible story conversation: As the children paint, say, *Mary and Joseph took Jesus to church. Mary and Joseph walked or rode a donkey to church! Your mom brought you to church in your car. Thank you, God, for our church.*

Block Activity: Pretend to drive to church.

Team member responsible: _____

Materials needed: Cloth road map or masking tape; plastic toy cars (5 or 6); cardboard blocks

Preparation: Place the road map on the floor in the block center. Place the toy cars on the streets. Build a church with the blocks.

Guide the activity: As the children come to the center, talk about Mary and Joseph taking Jesus to church.

Bible story conversation: As the children push the cars, say, *Megan, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to church. Simeon and Anna said thank you to God for Jesus. Your mom brought you to church, Megan!*

Dramatic Play Activity: Get ready for church.

Team member responsible: _____

Materials needed: Diaper bag; baby items, such as, a diaper, rattle, blanket, infant clothes, socks, shoes; baby dolls (2); doll bed; dress-up clothes (size 4 or 5); set of keys

Preparation: Place the baby items beside the diaper bag. Place two baby dolls in a doll bed. Hang the dress-up clothes on a rack or lay them on a table.

Guiding the activity: As the children come to the dramatic play center, talk about what they do to get ready for church. After they are ready, have them dress their baby and prepare the diaper bag for church. Line the chairs to resemble a car or van. As the children play, say, *Let's take the baby to church. Do you have her diaper bag?*

Bible story conversation: As the children dress the baby, say, *Mary and Joseph took Jesus to church. Simeon and Anna had waited a long time to see Jesus. They were so happy when they saw baby Jesus. Thank you, God, for Jesus.*

Puzzle Activity: Work transportation puzzles.

Team member responsible: _____

Materials needed: Transportation puzzles (4-8 pieces); shirt boxes with lids (2 sturdy)

Preparation: Place each puzzle in a shirt box. Close the boxes and place them on the floor.

Guide the activity: As Chelsea peeks in the box, tell her to remove the pieces from the puzzle and place them in the box lid. Talk about Mary and Joseph taking Jesus to church. Talk about how she came to church today. After Chelsea completes the puzzle, have her replace the lid so the puzzle will be ready for the next child.

Bible story conversation: As Chelsea works the puzzle say, *Mary and Joseph took Jesus to church. Your mom and dad brought you to church today. Thank you, God, for Jesus.*

Snack Time: Eat Graham or Teddy Graham® crackers and drink water.

Team member responsible: _____

Materials needed: Graham or Teddy Graham® crackers; napkins, small paper plates or cups (for crackers); small paper cups (for water) or non-spill cups for each child; pitcher of water

Guide the activity: Place the graham or Teddy Graham® crackers in a cup or a small paper plate for each child. Pour a small amount of water in the paper or non-spill cups. Say a simple thank-you prayer for the crackers.

The Next Step

- **Check each child's diaper:**
During VBS, schedule a time during each hour to check diapers or take the children to the potty. Make sure each child's diaper has been checked or the child has been taken to the potty at least once during the session. Mark the **Child's Schedule Card (Resource Item 1)** at the approximate time, using the code on the card. This information will be helpful both to teachers during the session and to parents.
- **Serve a snack:**
If your church provides a snack, seat the children on a mat on the floor away from the door. Say a thank-you prayer with the children before serving the snack. Check the child's schedule card for any allergies. If the child has a snack or drink in his or her bag, give the child the snack as his or her parents has directed. If possible, provide cups that will not spill. Label each cup with the child's name.
- **As children are leaving:**
Place the schedule card and other belongings in their bags. Remove the name tag when the parent comes. Make sure the person picking up the child has a security tag before releasing the child. Make the child's exit as quiet as possible so as not to upset the other children in the room.
- **At the end of the session:**
Refer to the *Prepare for the Child Guidelines (Resource Item 2)* to ensure proper cleaning of the room and the equipment.
- **Ask yourself these questions:**
 1. Was the room ready and prepared when the first child arrived?
 2. Did I wash my hands after changing and before preparing the snack?
 3. Did I spray the changing table with bleach solution (one-fourth cup bleach to one gallon water) after each diaper change?

4. Did I remove a mouthed toy and disinfect (one teaspoon to one gallon water) it before returning it to the play area?
5. Did I give the child as much attention as possible? Did I physically remain on his or her level?
6. Did I relate the learning aim to each activity through my conversation with the children?
7. What specific needs of the children do I need to address before the next day?

Session 3



Bible Story and Scripture:

God Took Care of Jesus and His Family
Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

Bible Verse Phrase:

God takes care of me (Matthew 2:13).

Bible Truth:

God took care of Jesus and his family.

Learning Aim:

To help ones and twos know God will take care of them

Prepare for the Session

Study the Bible

Bible Background: (Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23)

God's watchful eye was on his Son. As soon as the Wise Men left, Joseph received angelic instruction again. King Herod's anger was beyond control. The Wise Men had outwitted him when they left without letting him know where to find the new King. Herod's fury posed a threat for the baby born to be the Savior. Joseph as Jesus' legal father was responsible for his safety. Joseph followed the angel's instruction and immediately set out for Egypt.

A sizable number of Jews had lived in Egypt since the time of the exile, approximately 600 years before Jesus was born. Large concentrations of Jewish people lived in several large cities, but small Jewish communities were also established throughout Egypt. To reach Egypt, which was outside of Herod's jurisdiction, required a lengthy journey of several hundred miles across sun-baked desert wastes. Even in the company of a caravan, the trip was dangerous and tiring. The caravan probably took the route west of Bethlehem to the shores of the Mediterranean Sea and then followed a coastal road to Egypt and safety.

Egypt had offered refuge to the Hebrews on other occasions. Abraham had gone there (Genesis 12:10), and Jacob and his descendants had lived there for an extended time (Gen. 46:20). Now Egypt promised protection for Jesus and his parents.

Perhaps in Egypt Joseph found work as a carpenter. When Herod died, a heavenly messenger instructed Joseph to return to Nazareth with his family.

Joseph seems to have assumed he should return to Judea. However, Archelaus, Herod's power-happy son, ruled the country. Archelaus was fully as treacherous as his father. Being warned in a dream, Joseph took his family back to Nazareth. Antipas, another of Herod's sons, ruled in Galilee. Jesus' reference to him as a "fox" (Luke 13:32) reveals something of his cunning nature. Herod Antipas was responsible for having John the Baptist beheaded (Mark 6:22-28).

Each time Joseph was instructed through a divine message, he promptly obeyed. The journey was hazardous, but God kept the family safe.

The whole experience—the flight to Egypt, the slaughter of innocent babies, the return to Galilee—fulfilled prophecies made by Jeremiah (Jeremiah 31:15) and Hosea (Hosea 11:1) many years earlier. God is not only faithful in keeping his promises; God also faithfully cares for his people.

Plan and Prepare with the Bible Teaching Team **(For Ones and Twos)**

- Read Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23. Pray for each other and for each child. Ask the Lord to show you families in your department who are hurting or need help. Be sensitive to the needs around you.
- Remember to set out the **Child Schedule Cards (Resource Item 1)** on a clipboard each morning before VBS. Make sure the parent gives you all the information needed.
- Read through the suggested activities for ones and twos. Choose activities suggested for the age of your children and determine which team member is responsible for the activity. Remember to use the Bible story conversation given in the activity areas as the children are participating in the activity. Make sure to have the photographs printed today if possible so they can be ready for assembling the booklet tomorrow.
- For ones, cut out pictures of families. You could include pictures of grandparents and pets. Laminate or cover the pictures in clear contact plastic so the pictures can be removed easily.
- For ones and twos in Session 3, plan to make each child's footprint on the inside of the ***Journey with Jesus Booklet (Resource Item 6)*** you have prepared. Draw around or paint the child's footprint and place it on the right side of the booklet. The vertical photograph will be placed on the left-hand side of the booklet under the words "Jesus Loves." Write the date of VBS on the front of the book. Give this to the parent at the end of VBS. What a special keepsake this will be!
- Prepare masking tape nametags for each child in your class and their belongings. Make two or three strips for each child every day. Place the strips on waxed paper for easy removal and place them close to the door.
- Refer to the ***Prepare for the Child Guidelines (Resource Item 2)*** when making the bleach solutions for the day. Remember, the solutions have to be made daily.

Guiding the Session with Ones

***Note: Post the Allergy Alert Poster (Resource Item 3)**

Gather These Resources (The resources are in order as they appear in the session):

Resources	Session needed	Age Group
Different-sized balls	3	12-24 months
CD (quiet and praise and worship music)	3	12-24 months
Magazine pictures of families	3	12-24 months
Books about families	3	12-24 months
Clear contact plastic	3	12-24 months
Assorted boxes, such as, shoe, gift, jewelry	3	12-24 months

Cardboard blocks	3	12-24 months
Small baby blankets	3	12-24 months
Washable paint	3	12-24 months
Foam paint brush	3	12-24 months
Baby or flushable wipes	3	12-24 months
Resource Item 6: <i>Journey with Jesus</i> Booklet	3	12-24 months
Vertical picture of each child (made during Sessions 1 or 2)	3	12-24 months
12" x 18" black construction paper (1 piece per child)	3	19-24 months
White dustless chalk	3	19-24 months
Star stickers (large, self-adhesive)	3	19-24 months
Musical instruments, such as, hand-held bells, tambourines, and drums	3	19-24 months
Resource Item 3: Allergy Alert Poster	3	19-24 months
Snack Idea: Applesauce (individual containers)	3	19-24 months
Plastic spoons	3	19-24 months
Small paper or non-spill cups (for water)	3	19-24 months
Pitcher of water	3	19-24 months

Our Journey Begins!

(Welcome Activity for Ones and Twos)

Place the balls near the door. When Rachel comes to the door with her mom or dad, show her the balls. Ask Rachel to choose a ball. Assist Rachel in rolling the ball to Ms. Kathy. Make sure you get the schedule card from Rachel's mom or dad before they leave. Place a nametag on Rachel and label her things.

Journey Through the Marketplace **(Bible Learning Activities for Ones)**

****Don't forget to finish making the children's photographs today!***

Activities for Twelve to Eighteen Months:

- **Turn on quiet music and roll the ball.**
Play a soft CD as the children enter the room. The children will love rolling the balls and having the balls rolled to them. As you roll a ball to each child, say, *Savannah, Mrs. Jamie is rolling the ball to you. Can you catch it?* When Savannah retrieves the ball, say, *Savannah, can you roll the ball back to Mrs. Jamie?* Encourage rolling the ball rather than throwing the ball. This exercise is important to the child's hand to eye coordination and developing fine motor skills.
- **Add pictures of families to the photo album and read books.**
Show the children pictures of families clipped from magazines (see instructions given under "Plan and Prepare with the Bible Teaching Team"). Point out the different family members in each picture. Assist the children as they add the pictures to the album. As the

children look at the pictures, say, *Teri, God loves this family. He takes good care of them. God takes care of your family, too!* Read books about families. You will have opportunities to talk about the ways God takes care of them.

- **Stack boxes and blocks.**
Gather different size and shapes of boxes, such as, shoe, gift, and jewelry. Set the boxes and/or cardboard blocks in the middle of the floor. Allow the children to play with the blocks and boxes. They may stack them or simply push them around.
- **Play peek-a-boo with a blanket.**
Gather several small blankets and give one to each child. Take a blanket for yourself and put it over your head. Say, *Where's Ms. Tonya?* Pull the blanket off your head quickly, saying, *Here I am!* Place a blanket over Natasha's head, asking, *Where is Natasha? Who's taking care of you under the blanket?* Pull the blanket off of Natasha's head, if she doesn't do so before you, and exclaim, *There she is! God is taking care of Natasha!* The children will love playing peek-a-boo and will do it again and again.
- **Make footprints for the *Journey with Jesus* Booklet (Resource Item 6).**
Gather the booklet for each child. Write each child's name on the front. Prepare the paint and place it out of reach of the children. Take one child at a time to a table and sit the child in a small chair. Paint one of the child's feet. Place his or her foot on the right page of the booklet (see instructions given under "Plan with the Bible Teaching Team"). Clean the child's foot with baby or flushable wipes. After the paint is dry, attach a vertical photograph taken during sessions one or two to the left-hand page under the words "Jesus Loves."

Activities for Nineteen to Twenty-four Months:

- **Use the same activities suggested for children who are twelve to eighteen months and add the following activities.**
- **Draw with chalk and add star stickers.**
Lay two 12" x 18" pieces of black construction paper on the table. Work with one or two children at a time to complete this activity. Give each child a piece of dustless chalk to make a drawing. The children will probably need a teacher's guidance in completing their work. As the children are drawing, say, *Did you know that God loves you? God takes very good care of you! God took care of Jesus and his family, too.* Continue by saying, *Carrie, God sent an angel to help Jesus' daddy. God helps us and takes care of us! Give the child some large self-adhesive stars to stick all over their paper.* At the bottom of each child's drawing, write, "God takes care of _____," inserting the child's name. Allow each child to draw a chalk picture and add the star stickers to their picture.
- **Play instruments.**
Place instruments, such as, handheld bells, tambourines, and drums on the floor to use with the children. If you do not have access to instruments, you can make shakers using items such as one-pint water bottles and beans or coffee cans and beads. Tape or glue the lids on the containers. The children could also use the jingle bell shakers used in Session 1. Allow the children to shake and rattle their instruments. Your class could walk around

the room while playing the bells or shaking the tambourines. The children will love making music and experimenting with the different instruments!

- **Snack Idea:** Write the snack ideas on the **Allergy Alert Poster (Resource Item 3)**. Post the sign at the door. Parents may have certain snacks or drinks in the child's bag. If parents request that the child drink and eat what is in their bag, follow their direction. Serve applesauce in individual containers with plastic spoons. Pour water into paper or non-spill cups or use the cups the children brought from home. Say a thank-you prayer before eating.

Guiding the Session for Twos

***Note: Post the Allergy Alert Poster (Resource Item 3)**

Gather These Resources (The resources are in order as they appear in the session):

Resources	Session needed	Activity Area
Variety of small balls (soft)	3	Welcome/Puzzles
CD (quiet and praise and worship music)	3	Welcome/Blocks
Resource Item 6: <i>Journey with Jesus</i> booklet	3	Art
Vertical picture of each child (made during sessions 1 or 2)	3	Art
Washable paint (any color)	3	Art
Foam paint brushes	3	Art
Washable markers	3	Art
Baby or flushable wipes	3	Art
Paper towels	3	Art
Family stand-up figures, moms, daddies, little boys	3	Blocks
Cardboard blocks	3	Blocks
Flashlights (2 or 3, child-friendly)	3	Dramatic Play
Night light or small lamp	3	Dramatic Play
Children's pajamas (sizes 4-6)	3	Dramatic Play
Blankets	3	Dramatic Play
Books about home, family, and nighttime	3	Dramatic Play
Different size and shapes of balls (20 soft)	3	Puzzles
Box or basket (large enough to hold the balls)	3	Puzzles
Laundry baskets (3, different sizes and shapes)	3	Puzzles
Resource Item 3: Allergy Alert Poster	3	Snack
Applesauce (individual containers) and/or apples	3	Snack
Small paper plates	3	Snack
Plastic spoons	3	Snack
Napkins	3	Snack
Paper or non-spill cups	3	Snack
Pitcher of water or apple juice	3	Snack

Journey Through the Marketplace **(Bible Learning Activities for Twos)**

Art Activity: Make footprints for the "Journey with Jesus" booklet.

Team member responsible: _____

Materials needed: **Resource Item 6: *Journey with Jesus Booklet***; vertical pictures of each child (made during sessions 1 or 2); washable paint (any color); foam paintbrushes; marker; baby or flushable wipes; paper towels

Preparation: Place the booklets and other materials at a table and work with only one child at a time. Write the children's name and date on the front of the booklets.

Guide the activity: Sit the child in a chair. Remove one shoe from the child. Place the booklet with the child's name on it close by. Brush one foot with the paint, using a foam brush. Place the booklet on the floor and press the child's foot on the right side of the inside pages of the booklet. Clean the child's foot with the wipes. Dry the child's foot with paper towels and then place the shoe back on the child's foot. Set the paintings aside or hang them on a drying rack to dry.

Bible story conversation: Say, *God took care of Jesus and his family. God sent an angel to help Jesus' daddy, Joseph. Did you know God loves you very much! God takes good care of you.*

Block Activity: Play with family figures and build a house.

Team member responsible: _____

Materials needed: Family stand-up figures, such as a mom, dad, child, and baby; cardboard blocks

Preparation: Simply set out the wooden family figures in the block center along with the cardboard blocks.

Guide the activity: Begin building a house with the blocks. Place the family figures inside the house. As the children build a house, tell the story of how God took care of Jesus' family.

Bible story conversation: Say, *Let's pretend these people are Jesus' family! Look! There's an angel talking to Joseph. The angel is telling Joseph what God wants him to do. God is taking care of Jesus' family. Does God take care of your family? Of course God does! God loves you very much!*

Dramatic Play Activity: Pretend it is nighttime and read books.

Team member responsible: _____

Materials needed: Flashlights (2 or 3, child-friendly); night-light or small lamp; children's pajamas (size 4-6); blankets; books about home, family, and nighttime

Preparation: Place all the materials on the floor or a table in the dramatic play area.

Guide the activity: As the children come to the center, they can begin dressing for bedtime. Talk to them about the nighttime and why God gives us nighttime. Ask the children whether they sleep with a light on and why they want the light on. These questions may give you an opportunity to tell them that God takes care of them during the night. Do not talk about being scared. Allow them to hold the flashlights. Plug in the lamp or night-light. The children may want you to turn off the main light in the room. Always leave some lights on so the children will not be scared. Remind the children that God takes care of us all the time, even when it's dark. He is always with us and loves us!

Bible story conversation: *God takes care of us at nighttime. I am so glad God loves you and takes care of you!*

Puzzle Activity: Drop balls into baskets.

Team member responsible: _____

Materials needed: Soft balls (20, different sizes); box or basket (large enough to hold the balls); laundry baskets (2-3 different shapes)

Preparation: Gather the balls and place them in a box or basket. Place the laundry baskets in the puzzle area.

Guide the activity: Line the children up behind the laundry baskets. Place the box of balls so that each group can reach the balls. Show the children how to drop the balls in the basket. After each child has an opportunity to put the balls in the basket, move the baskets out a little and show them how to pitch the balls into the basket. Don't use the word "throw!" Don't make it a competitive game but just a fun activity!

Snack Idea: Eat applesauce and/or apples and drink apple juice or water.

Team member responsible: _____

Materials needed: **Resource Item 3: Allergy Alert Poster;** Applesauce (individual containers); apples (peeled, cored, and sliced into small pieces); small paper plates; plastic spoons; napkins, paper or non-spill cups; pitcher of water or apple juice

Preparation: Make sure the **Allergy Alert Poster (Resource Item 3)** is posted near the sign-in table. If eating apples, peel, core and slice the apples into small pieces ahead of time.

Guide the activity: Give each child a piece of apple and a small container of applesauce. Pour water or apple juice for each child. Say a simple thank-you prayer for the apples and juice or water.

Bible story conversation: If a child or children want to pray, allow them the opportunity to express thanks to God. While the children enjoy their apple and applesauce, talk about Jesus growing and being able to eat apples!

The Next Step

- **Check each child's diaper:**
During VBS, schedule a time during each hour to check diapers or take the children to the potty. Make sure each child's diaper has been checked or the child has been taken to the potty at least once during the session. Mark the **Child's Schedule Card (Resource Item 1)** at the approximate time, using the code on the card. This information will be helpful both to teachers during the session and to parents.
- **Serve a snack:**
If your church provides a snack, seat the children on a mat on the floor away from the door. Say a thank-you prayer with the children before serving the snack. Check the child's schedule card for any allergies. If the child has a snack or drink in his or her bag, give the child the snack as his or her parents has directed. If possible, provide cups that will not spill. Label each cup with the child's name.
- **As children are leaving:**
Place the schedule card and other belongings in their bags. Remove the nametag when the parent comes. Make sure the person picking up the child has a security tag before releasing the child. Make the child's exit as quiet as possible so as not to upset the other children in the room.
- **At the end of the session:**
Refer to the **Prepare for the Child Guidelines (Resource Item 2)** to ensure proper cleaning of the room and the equipment.
- **Ask yourself these questions:**
 1. Was the room ready and prepared when the first child arrived?
 2. Did I wash my hands after changing and before preparing the snack?

3. Did I spray the changing table with bleach solution (one-fourth cup bleach to one gallon water) after each diaper change?
4. Did I remove a mouthed toy and disinfect (one teaspoon to one gallon water) it before returning it to the play area?
5. Did I give the child as much attention as possible? Did I physically remain on his or her level?
6. Did I relate the learning aim to each activity through my conversation with the children?
7. What specific needs of the children do I need to address before the next day?

Session 4



Bible Story and Scripture:

Jesus Grew as a Child
Luke 2:39-40, 52

Bible Verse Phrase:

I am growing (Luke 2:40, 52).

Bible Truth:

Jesus grew as a child.

Learning Aim:

To help ones and twos know that Jesus grew as a child

Prepare for the Session

Study the Bible

Bible Background: Luke 2:39-40, 52

When Mary and Joseph returned to Nazareth from Egypt, they must have been happy to be reunited with their family and friends. They were probably relieved to be back in their home and Joseph's carpenter's shop. Nazareth was a good place for Jesus to live and grow up.

Since Jewish families enjoyed healthy foods, Jesus grew strong, likely on a nutritious diet of goat's milk and meat, fresh fruits, and breads made of wheat or barley. His vegetables were boiled or stewed and then seasoned with salt, onion, garlic, mint, or dill. To sweeten his food, Jesus would have used wild honey or syrups made by boiling down dates and grapes.

Jesus probably began helping Joseph in his carpenter's shop while he was a little boy. Today we tend to think of carpenters primarily as builders. In Jesus' time, though, many of the items used in everyday life were wooden, made by the village carpenter. Since all Jewish boys were taught a trade, Jesus may have served an apprenticeship with Joseph. Felling trees and then making the wood into useful items was strenuous work, but it was good exercise for a growing boy.

There were times when families and friends just enjoyed one another's company. Jesus may have joined other children in playing ball games. Toys might have included whistles, rattlers, wheeled animals, hoops, and spinning tops. As Jesus grew older, he may have joined the adults in playing various kinds of board games, including a game akin to checkers. In its own way, each form of recreation helped Jesus develop his mind and body.

Aramaic was the common language of the people, but Roman domination brought with it some use of Latin. Religious studies were conducted in Hebrew, the language of the Old Testament Scriptures. Since the trade routes that ran north and south of Nazareth resounded with numerous dialects and lesser tongues, trades people usually became accomplished linguists. Jesus may have learned to speak several languages.

Religious ceremonies and festivals were important facets of Jesus' family life. Mary and Joseph made regular pilgrimages to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. They probably took Jesus with them, even though only one such trip is recorded.

As Jesus grew from infancy to childhood and then to adolescence, he steadily matured physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. Surely Mary and Joseph were pleased to watch Jesus grow. God also was very pleased with his Son's development in each stage of life.

Plan with the Bible Teaching Team **(For Ones and Twos)**

- Read Luke 2:39-40, 52. As you pray with the team, pray for the children in your department. Ask the Lord to watch over them as they grow and change, to keep them healthy, and to help them develop into mature, loving boys and girls.
- Read through the suggested activities for ones and twos. Before the fourth session, print **Resource Item 7: *I am Growing Chart*** on white 8 ½" x 11" cardstock. **For Ones:** Attach one of the photos taken on Day 1 or 2. **For Twos:** The children will draw a picture of themselves.
- Remember to set out the **Child Schedule Cards (Resource Item 1)** on a clipboard each morning before VBS. Make sure the parent gives you all the information needed.
- Place the **Allergy Alert Poster (Resource Item 3)** outside the door. List all the items that will be touched or tasted.
- Check and make sure you have five or six labeled masking tape strips for each child. Place the strips on waxed paper for easy removal and place them close to the door.
- Refer to the ***Prepare for the Child Guidelines (Resource Item 2)*** when making the bleach solutions for the day. Remember, the solutions have to be made daily.

Guiding the Session with Ones

Gather These Resources (The resources are in order as they appear in the session):

Resources	Session needed	Age Group
Bible	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	12-24 months
CD (Quiet praise and worship music)	4	12-24 months
CD player	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	12-24 months
Resource Item 7: <i>I am Growing Chart</i>	4	12-24 months
Tape measure and weighing scales	4	12-24 months
Resource Item 8: <i>I'm Growing Just Like Jesus Book</i>	4	12-24 months
Assorted colored socks (10-12 pairs)	4	12-24 months
Laundry basket	4	12-24 months
Bubble solution and wands	4	12-24 months
Pairs of brightly colored socks (3 or 4 pairs for matching)	4	19-24 months
Resource Item 3: Allergy Alert Poster	4	19-24 months
Snack Idea: Bread, soft butter, and Jello® powder	4	19-24 months
Flower-shaped cookie cutters	4	19-24 months
Plastic shaker bottle	4	19-24 months
Large paper plates	4	19-24 months
Optional: Foil-lined cookie sheet, toaster or regular-sized oven & permanent marker	4	19-24 months
Small paper plates and napkins	4	19-24 months
Paper or non-spill cups	4	19-24 months
Pitcher of water	4	19-24 months

Our Journey Begins! (Welcome Activity for Ones and Twos)

Greeting and Welcome

The director will greet children and parents at the door. Be sure that each child is checked in properly and is wearing a nametag (see instructions for name tags in "**Plan with the Bible Teaching Team**" section). Give the parent a child schedule card (**Resource Item 1**) to fill out for his or her child. Use some type of security system with each child. Place a bubble container close to the door. As Lucy arrives, give her a big hug and say, *Lucy, I'm so glad you're here today! Look how big you are! Lucy is growing to be a big girl! Can you catch my bubbles?* Blow some bubbles into the room. Ask the child to go and pop the bubbles. Another teacher can come and retrieve the child while the team leader gets the information from the parents.

Journey Through the Marketplace (Bible Learning Activities for Ones)

Activities for Twelve to Eighteen Months:

- **Turn on quiet music, weigh and measure the children, and read a book.**
Play quiet music as the children enter the room. Gather the ***I am Growing Charts*** (**Resource Item 7**) and write each child's name and the date on the chart. Attach a tape measure to the wall and place scales close by. As you take Sarah's measurements, say, *Sarah, you are growing so fast! Jesus grew when he was little, too! You are growing just as Jesus did!* Record the information on the paper. After weighing and measuring, read the book, **"I'm Growing Just Like Jesus"** (**Resource Item 8**).
- **Play a sock ball game.**
Bring ten to twelve pairs of socks from home and roll them into tight balls. Set a laundry basket in the middle of the room. Place the balls in the basket. Have Donovan sit a few feet away from the basket while the teacher sits next to the basket. Roll the balls to Donovan so he can catch them. When he does, praise him by saying, *Donavan, you caught the ball! What a big boy you are!* When all of the balls are out of the laundry basket, have Donovan stand close to the basket and drop the balls in the basket. Cheer excitedly each time Donovan is successful!
- **Blow and pop bubbles.**
Move the children to the center of the room where they can move around without bumping into anything. Begin blowing bubbles near the boys and girls. Show Paul how to pop the bubbles. Encourage him to follow you. If possible, take the children outside to a secure location to blow bubbles.

Activities for Nineteen to Twenty-four Months:

- **Use the same activities suggested for children who are twelve to eighteen months and add the following activities.**
- **Move with the music.**

Turn on a tape or CD that includes music that is slow and fast. Encourage Kalen, Lara, and Sofie to move to the music. You may have to encourage them or show them! As the music switches tempo, you may see how their moving changes to the new beat. Say, *Thank you, God, for ears to hear the music and feet to move to the music.* After a few moments, stop the music. See whether the children stop their movement. If a teacher is moving with them and stops moving, the children will usually imitate them. Turn the music back on quickly. Did they start moving again? This is a fun game to play with the children.

- **Play a sock matching game.**

Lay three or four pairs of brightly colored socks on the floor. Ask Madelyn to help you match the socks. Say, *Madelyn, I really need a big girl's help to match these socks. Do you think you can help me match the socks?* Pick up a blue sock and ask, *Madelyn, can you find the other blue sock?* You may have to help her, but she'll feel very confident when you praise her. Continue, *You are such a good helper! Do you help Mommy at home? I'm sure Jesus helped his mom and dad. You are a big girl, Madelyn. Thank you!*

- **Snack Idea**

Place the **Allergy Alert Poster (Resource Item 3)** next to the sign-in table. Gather bread, flower-shaped cookie cutters, soft butter, and Jello® powder (any flavor) large paper plates, plastic shaker bottle, and small paper plates. Place the powder in an empty, clean shaker bottle. Tape some of the holes closed so only a small amount of powder will come out at a time. Place a piece of bread on a large paper plate. Give the child a flower-shaped cookie cutter. Show the child how to press down to cut out the flower shape. Then, place a small amount of soft butter on a spoon and assist the child as he or she tries to cover the top of the bread with butter. Then, give the child the shaker bottle and show the child how to shake the powder onto the bread. Shake off any extra and dispose of that paper plate. Place the child's bread on a clean paper plate. The bread may be toasted just to melt the butter if desired. If toasting all the pieces of bread at one time, place them on an aluminum foil lined pan and write each child's name below the bread with a permanent marker. Serve the toast with water in paper or non-spill cups. Say a simple thank-you prayer to God for the toast and water. **NOTE:** If you don't want to sprinkle the toast with the Jello® powder, the children can eat bread with butter.

Guiding the Session with Twos

Gather These Resources (The resources are in order as they appear in the session):

Resources	Session Needed	Activity Area
Bible	4	All
Die-cut 4" x 6" picture frames (one per child)	4	Art
Brown or tan cardstock or poster board	4	Art
Photos of children (individual or group)	4	Art
Double-stick tape	4	Art
Fun foam foot prints (adhesive backed)	4	Art

Magnetic strip (two 1" strips per child)	4	Art
Optional: Poster board for backing of the picture frame	4	Art
Hammering bench with pegs	4	Blocks
Plastic hammers	4	Blocks
Optional: Florist Styrofoam® rectangles (2"-3" thick, 12" long, and 2" wide) and golf tees	4	Blocks
Variety of dress-up clothes, such as hats, ties, jackets, shirts, gloves, etc.	4	Dramatic Play
Full-length mirror	4	Dramatic Play
Laundry basket or box	4	Dramatic Play
Tape measure	4	Dramatic Play
Weighing scales	4	Dramatic Play
Resource Item 7: <i>I am Growing</i> Chart	4	Dramatic Play
Crayons	4	Dramatic Play
Resource Item 8: <i>I'm Growing Just Like Jesus</i> book	4	Dramatic Play
Optional: Metal cookie sheet and magnetic strip	4	Dramatic Play
Resource Item 9: Familiar Toys Matching Game	4	Puzzles
8 ½" x 11" white cardstock (1 piece)	4	Puzzles
Gift bag (small and colorful)	4	Puzzles
Manila envelope (5" x 7") or zipper sandwich-size bag	4	Puzzles
Resource Item 3: Allergy Alert Poster	4	Snack
Snack Idea: Bread, soft butter, and Jello® powder	4	Snack
Flower-shaped cookie cutters	4	Snack
Plastic shaker bottle	4	Snack
Large paper plates	4	Snack
Optional: Foil-lined cookie sheet and toaster oven or regular-sized oven & permanent marker	4	Snack
Small paper plates and napkins	4	Snack
Paper or non-spill cups	4	Snack
Pitcher of water	4	Snack

Journey Through the Marketplace **(Bible Learning Activities for Twos)**

Art Activity: Decorate a photo frame.

Team member responsible: _____

Materials needed: Die-cut 4" x 6" (inside measurement) picture frames (one per child, brown or tan cardstock or poster board); photos of children (individual or group); double-stick tape; fun

foam foot prints (adhesive backed); magnetic strip (two 1" strips per child); Optional: poster board (for backing of the picture frame)

Preparation: Pre-cut the picture frames. Attach the pictures to the frame with double-stick tape. If using the poster board backing, cut it to fit the frame. After inserting the picture, attach the backing with double-stick tape. Write "VBS _____ (year)" and your church name on the bottom of the frame.

Guide the activity: As the children come to the center, they will decorate a picture frame with the footprint shapes. Give the children the two pieces of magnetic strip to place on the back of the picture frame. This will be a keepsake for the children!

Block Activity: Play with a hammering bench.

Team member responsible: _____

Materials needed: Hammering bench with pegs; plastic hammers; **Option:** Two to four pieces of Styrofoam® (2-3" thick, 12" long and 2" wide); golf tees

Preparation: Place the hammering bench, pegs, and hammer on the floor for the children or substitute the Styrofoam® and golf tees.

Guide the activity: Closely supervise this activity. Only one or two children should do this activity at a time. They will enjoy banging and hammering the pegs or golf tees.

Bible story conversation: *Faith, you are doing a great job using that hammer! What are you making? Did you know Jesus learned how to make things with a hammer when he was a little boy?*

Dramatic Play Activity: Play dress-up, weigh and measure, and read a book.

Team member responsible: _____

Materials needed: Variety of dress-up clothes, such as hats, ties, jackets, shirts, gloves; laundry basket or box; full-length mirror; scales; tape measure; **Resource Item 7: *I am Growing Chart***; crayons; **Resource Item 8: *I'm Growing Just Like Jesus* book**

Preparation: Attach the tape measure to the wall. Place the scales close by. Place the ***I am Growing Chart (Resource Item 7)*** on the table for weighing and measuring the children. Place the clothes in a box or laundry basket. Place the ***I'm Growing Just Like Jesus* book** in the dramatic play area.

Guide the activity: As the children come to the center, weigh and measure them. Record the information on the sheet. Allow the children to draw a picture in the center of the paper. After the children have drawn their picture, encourage them to look through the clothes and try some on. Encourage them to look at themselves in the mirror. Read the book (**Resource Item 8**) as the children are drawing or when they are finished.

Bible story conversation: *Adam, look at this neat hat! I like the jacket you picked out. It makes you look like a daddy! Do you think Jesus played dress-up? You are growing so much. Jesus grew, too!*

Puzzle Activity: Play a *Familiar Toys* matching game.

Team member responsible: _____

Materials needed: **Resource Item 9: Familiar Toys Matching Game;** 8 ½" x 11" white cardstock (1 piece); small gift bag; manila envelope (5" x 7") or zipper sandwich-size bag

Preparation: Print the matching game (**Resource Item 9**) on 8 ½" x 11" white cardstock. Laminate or cover the pictures in clear contact plastic. Cut apart the pictures. Lay the pictures face-up on the floor or in a tray.

Guide the activity: As the children come to the center, choose one of the cards and name the toy. Ask the child to find the matching card. Talk about who could play with the toy. Continue finding the other matching cards. After playing the game a few times, you may decide to place one set of cards in a gift bag and their matches facedown on the table. A child will choose one card from the gift bag and then try to find its match. At the end of the session, place the matching game in a manila envelope or zipper sandwich-size bag. Write the name of the matching game on the front of the envelope or bag.

Bible story conversation: As Alex chooses a card, say, *Alex, who would play with this toy? That's right. A baby would play with the stacking toy. You were a baby, too, but now you are a big boy. Jesus was a baby and then he grew to be a boy.* Continue your conversation with the children as they play the game.

Snack Time: Make and eat flower-shaped toast and drink water.

Team member responsible: _____

Materials needed: **Resource Item 3: Allergy Alert Poster;** bread (1 piece per child); flower-shaped cookie cutters; soft butter; Jello® powder; plastic shaker bottle; large paper plates; small paper plates and napkins; paper or non-spill cups; pitcher of water; **Optional:** Foil-lined cookie sheet and toaster oven or regular-sized oven; permanent marker

Preparation: Place the **Allergy Alert Poster (Resource Item 3)** next to the sign-in table.

Gather bread, flower-shaped cookie cutters, soft butter, and Jello® powder (any flavor) large paper plates, plastic shaker bottle, and small paper plates. Place the powder in an empty, clean shaker bottle. Tape some of the holes closed so only a small amount of powder will come out at a time. Place a piece of bread on a large paper plate. **NOTE:** If you don't want to sprinkle the toast with the Jello® powder, the children can eat bread with butter.

Guiding the activity: Give the child a flower-shaped cookie cutter. Show the child how to press down to cut out the flower shape. Then, place a small amount of soft butter on a spoon and assist the child as he or she tries to cover the top of the bread with butter. Then, give the child the shaker bottle and show the child how to shake the powder onto the bread. Shake off any extra and dispose of that paper plate. Place the child's bread on a clean paper plate. The bread may be toasted just to melt the butter if desired. If toasting all the pieces of bread at one time, place them on an aluminum foil-lined pan and write each child's name below the bread with a permanent marker. Serve the toast with water in paper or non-spill cups.

Bible story conversation: Say a simple thank-you prayer to God. Allow the children to pray, also. While they enjoy their toast, you might say, *When Jesus was a little boy, he enjoyed eating bread, too. Thank you, God, for good food.*

The Next Step

- **Check each child's diaper:**
During VBS, schedule a time during each hour to check diapers or take the children to the potty. Make sure each child's diaper has been checked or the child has been taken to the potty at least once during the session. Mark the **Child's Schedule Card (Resource Item 1)** at the approximate time, using the code on the card. This information will be helpful both to teachers during the session and to parents.
- **Serve a snack:**
If your church provides a snack, seat the children on a mat on the floor away from the door. Say a thank-you prayer with the children before serving the snack. Check the child's schedule card for any allergies. If the child has a snack or drink in his or her bag, give the child the snack as his or her parents has directed. If possible, provide cups that will not spill. Label each cup with the child's name.
- **As children are leaving:**
Place the schedule card and other belongings in their bags. Remove the name tag when the parent comes. Make sure the person picking up the child has a security tag before releasing the child. Make the child's exit as quiet as possible so as not to upset the other children in the room.
- **At the end of the session:**
Refer to the ***Prepare for the Child Guidelines (Resource Item 2)*** to ensure proper cleaning of the room and the equipment.
- **Ask yourself these questions:**

1. Was the room ready and prepared when the first child arrived?
2. Did I wash my hands after changing and before preparing the snack?
3. Did I spray the changing table with bleach solution (one-fourth cup bleach to one gallon water) after each diaper change?
4. Did I remove a mouthed toy and disinfect (one teaspoon to one gallon water) it before returning it to the play area?
5. Did I give the child as much attention as possible? Did I physically remain on his or her level?
6. Did I relate the learning aim to each activity through my conversation with the children?
7. What specific needs of the children do I need to address before the next day?

Session 5:



Bible Story and Scripture:
Jesus Learned About God at Church
Luke 2:41-52

Bible Verse Phrase:
I can learn about God at church (Luke 2:46).

Bible Truth:
Jesus learned about God at church.

Learning Aim:
To help ones and twos know that church is a
place to learn about God

Prepare for the Session

Study the Bible

Bible Background: Luke 2:41-52

Jesus and his family were devout Jews. The family went to Jerusalem every year to celebrate the Passover. Passover celebrated God's deliverance of Israel from Egyptian bondage. The Passover celebration rekindled hope that God would send a Deliverer to Israel. When a Jewish boy reached the age of twelve years, custom prescribed that he be presented at the temple and take part in temple worship.

Most often the family and relatives would travel in a caravan to Jerusalem. The women and children led the procession followed by the men. A twelve-year-old boy could travel with either group. To go with a large group of other pilgrims, share the excitement and adventure of such a journey, and visit with relatives during the journey was an exhilarating experience.

During the Passover, rabbis and other scholars often assembled in the temple to discuss various matters. Discussing the promise of Messiah surely would have been one of their favorite topics.

When the week of the feast was over and the caravan started home, Mary and Joseph must have each assumed Jesus was in the company of the other since a twelve-year-old boy could travel with either the women or the men. Apparently on the evening of the first day's journey, Mary and Joseph discovered Jesus was with neither group. No doubt they spent a restless and anxious night. The next morning they journeyed all day back to Jerusalem to look for Jesus. Another tense night passed. The next day they found him in the temple. He was sitting in the midst of the learned men, talking with them and asking them questions. His inquiries were so insightful and the scholars were amazed at this understanding and his answers.

How relieved Mary and Joseph must have been to find him safe and in the company of the scholars! Yet a mother's reproach seemed in order (Luke 2:48). Jesus seemed puzzled that his parents did not know that he was in the temple and that they thus had not come straight to the temple to look for him (2:49). Jesus' response was not intended to be disrespectful. Rather it reflected a sense of his divine mission in the world and his unique relationship to God.

Mary and Joseph were astonished that their son had such understanding. They returned to Nazareth where Jesus continued to grow into an obedient, responsible youth.

Plan with the Bible Teaching Team **(For Ones and Twos)**

- Read Luke 2:41-52. As you lift up the children in your department to the Lord in prayer, pray that their hearts will grow into hearts that search after the Lord. Name each child

individually and ask the Father to help us lay foundations that will ultimately help these children grow in their understanding of God.

- Remember to set out the **Child Schedule Cards (Resource Item 1)** on a clipboard each morning before VBS. Make sure the parent gives you all the information needed.
- Read through the suggested activities for ones and twos. Decide which team member will be responsible for preparing and gathering the needed items for each activity. Have the ***Journey with Jesus Booklet (Resource Item 6)*** photo keepsake prepared and ready to send home.
- Write the items to be touched or tasted on the **Allergy Alert Poster (Resource Item 3)**. Place the poster outside your door.
- Check and make sure you have five or six labeled masking tape strips for each child. Place the strips on waxed paper for easy removal and place them close to the door.
- Refer to the ***Prepare for the Child Guidelines (Resource Item 2)*** when making the bleach solutions for the day. Remember, the solutions must be made daily.

Guiding the Session with Ones

Gather These Resources (The resources are in order as they appear in the session):

Resources	Session needed	Age Group
Bible	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	12-24 months
Play/nap mats	5	12-24 months
Rocking boat/stairs combination or take children on a walk	5	12-24 months
Cardboard blocks	5	12-24 months
Different types of paper, such as typing, construction, tissue, and wrapping	5	12-24 months
White butcher paper (enough to cover table)	5	19-24 months
Jumbo or chunky crayons	5	19-24 months
Colored masking tape	5	19-24 months
Large connecting blocks	5	19-24 months
Resource Item 3: Allergy Alert Poster	5	19-24 months
Trail mix ingredients: round oat cereal, rice or corn squares, and raisins	5	19-24 months
Medium-sized bowls (3)	5	19-24 months
One-fourth (1/4) measuring cups or small scoops (3)	5	19-24 months
Small paper bowls (1 per child)	5	19-24 months
Plastic sandwich-size zipper bags	5	19-24 months
Permanent marker	5	19-24 months
Paper or non-spill cups and water	5	19-24 months

Journey Through the Marketplace (Bible Learning Activities for Ones)

Our Journey Begins (Welcome Activity for Ones and Twos)

The team leader or another teacher will greet children and parents at the door. Be sure that each child is checked in properly and is wearing a nametag (see instructions for nametags in "**Plan with the Bible Teaching Team**" section). Give the parent a child schedule card (**Resource Item 1**) to fill out for his or her child. Use some type of security system with each child. Put cardboard blocks at the door. When Julie's mom brings her to the door, greet her and let her know how glad you are Julie is here today! Give Julie a block and lead her to the activity involving stacking the blocks. Give her a hug and tell her that she will learn about Jesus going to church.

Activities for Twelve-to-Eighteen Months:

- **Turn on quiet music, play on play/nap mats, and read a book.**
Play soft music as the children enter the room. Put two or three play/nap mats on the floor for the children to play on. Line up the mats to make a path throughout the room. Encourage the children to follow the path and walk around the room. As they do, praise them by saying, *Matthew, you're doing a wonderful job walking on the mats! Isn't this fun? We do fun things at church. I'm glad you came to church today!* Place the book *I'm Growing Just Like Jesus* (**Resource Item 8**) on the mat. A child may pick up the book to read. Sit on the floor and read the book to the children. Some children may fall asleep on the mat. Move the mat out of the play area and cover the child with a blanket.
- **Practice new walking skills.**
Turn the rocking boat to the stair side. Sit close by to assist the children as they climb up and down the stairs. The boys and girls will enjoy practicing this new skill. This helps them develop in many ways! Hold the child's hand as they go up and down the stairs. If the rocking boat/stair combination furniture is not available, take the children on a walk around the church. If there is an area with one or two steps, assist the children as they practice using their new skills. Each child must be closely supervised and assisted as they go up and down the stairs.
- **Stack the blocks.**
Place the cardboard blocks on the floor. As the children discover the blocks, encourage them to stack the blocks and knock them over. They can also crawl over or walk on the blocks. Assist the children as they walk on the blocks. Play with the children and follow their direction. Encourage the children to try different activities with the blocks and praise them for their work!
- **Explore different kinds of paper.**
Stack a variety of papers, such as, newsprint, tissue, construction, and wrapping on the floor. Sit on the floor with Nolan, giving him one sheet of paper at a time. Let him explore the different textures of each piece. Show Nolan how to play with the paper in different ways, such as tearing the paper, rolling the paper into a ball, crinkling it, and

folding it. Say, *We learn lots of things at church. I'm glad Nolan came to church today!* Stay with Nolan as he plays with the paper. Make sure he doesn't place the paper in his mouth.

Activities for Nineteen-to-Twenty-four Months:

- **Use the same activities suggested for children who are twelve-to-eighteen months and add the following activities.**
- **Draw on paper with crayons.**
Cover a low table with butcher paper. Write "I had fun today at church!" on the top of the butcher paper. Place some large jumbo or chunky crayons in a basket. Show the child how to hold the crayons and draw on the paper. They children will have fun experiencing something new! Make sure the children do not walk away from the table with the crayons. Remind them to place the crayons back in the basket before leaving! Write the child's name beneath their drawing! Post the butcher paper outside for the parents to see!
- **Walk on a masking tape balance beam.**
Create one or two balance beams using colored masking tape. Make the pretend beam about 6"- 8" wide and about 10' long. Demonstrate to the children how to walk in a straight line on the pretend balance beam. Assist each child as he walks along. This is great practice for these new walkers! As you walk along the balance beam, sing, "This is the Way We Walk to Church," to the tune of "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush." Use the following words: "This is the way we walk to church, walk to church, walk to church. This is the way we walk to church, on a _____ (insert day of the week) morning."
- **Build a church.**
Put large connecting blocks on the floor. The children will enjoy having different kinds of blocks. Encourage the children to build a church as they are playing, stacking, and building with the blocks. Say, *Does anyone know where we are? We're at church! I love to come to church and learn about God. Jesus loved to go to church, too. Let's build a church with our blocks!* Praise them for playing so well together.
- **Snack Idea: Make and eat trail mix.**
Make sure the **Allergy Alert Poster (Resource Item 3)** is posted at the door. Gather round oat cereal, rice or corn squares, raisins, ¼ cup measuring cups or small scoops (3), small paper bowls, plastic sandwich-size zipper bags, paper or non-spill cups and water. Place the food items in separate bowls on a low table. Place a ¼ cup measuring cup or small scoop in each bowl. Assist each child as they scoop some cereal and raisins in their bowls. Sit the child on the floor or other low tables with the bowl of trail mix. Give each child a cup of water (non-spill cup if sitting on the floor). Say a thank-you prayer for the food and water. Place the remaining trail mix in a sandwich-size baggie and write the child's name on it with a permanent marker. Place the baggie in the child's bag. As the children eat, say, *We have had such a fun week at VBS! Jesus loved going to church with his mommy and daddy. We learned about Jesus this week, too! Thank you, God, for sending Jesus to us!*

Guiding the Session with Twos

Gather These Resources (The resources are in order as they appear in the session):

Resources	Session needed	Activity Area
Bible	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	All
Resource Item 3: Allergy Alert Poster	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Preparation/Greeting
Legal-size typing paper or 12" x 18" construction paper (1 sheet per child)	5	Art
Resource Item 10: Bible Verse Phrases	5	Art
Dowel rods or cardboard tubes from coat hangers (2 per child)	5	Art
Tape (masking or clear)	5	Art
Glue sticks	5	Art
Pipe cleaners or chenille stems (1 per child)	5	Art
Sandwich-sized zipper bags (1 per child)	5	Art
Large crayons	5	Art
Large connecting blocks	5	Blocks
Tub or box (to hold blocks)	5	Blocks
Musical instruments, such as, bells, tambourines, or drums	5	Dramatic Play
Resource Item 11: Things We Do at Church Matching Game	5	Puzzles
8 ½" x 11" white cardstock (2 pieces)	5	Puzzles
Manila envelope (5" x 7") or zipper sandwich-size bag	5	Puzzles
Gift bag (small, colorful)	5	Puzzles
Resource Item 3: Allergy Alert Poster	5	Snack
Trail mix ingredients, round oat cereal, rice or corn squares, raisins, miniature marshmallows (optional)	5	Snack
One-fourth cup measuring cups or scoops (4)	5	Snack
Medium sized plastic bowls (4)	5	Snack
Small foam or paper bowls (1 per child)	5	Snack
Plastic sandwich-size zipper bags	5	Snack
Paper or non-spill cups	5	Snack
Pitcher of water	5	Snack

Journey Through the Marketplace
(Bible Learning Activities for Twos)

Art Activity: Make a Bible scroll.

Team member responsible: _____

Materials needed: Bible; white legal-size copy paper (1 sheet per child); **Resource Item 10: Bible Verse Phrases** (one set per child); dowel rods or cardboard tubes from coat hangers (2 per child); tape; glue sticks; pipe cleaners or chenille stems (one per child); sandwich-size zipper baggies; jumbo crayons

Preparation: Before the session, at the top of the paper, write, "I can learn about God at church Luke 2:46." Copy the Bible verses phrases (**Resource Item 10**) onto 8 ½" x 11" copy paper (assorted colors). Cut them apart and place each set in separate zipper baggies.

Guiding the activity: When a child or children come to the table, give them a piece of paper, zipper bag with Bible verse phrases and a glue stick. Read the Bible verse phrases to the child as you lay them on the paper. Place them one below the other down the length of the paper. Show the child how to use the glue stick to stick the Bible verses on the scroll. If the children want to draw with a crayon after gluing the Bible verses, allow them to do so. When they are with the scroll, turn the paper height-wise and tape one dowel rod or tube to the top of the paper and one to the bottom. Last, roll the dowel rods so they meet in the middle to create a scroll. Wrap a pipe cleaner or chenille stem around the scroll to keep it closed. Write the child's name on the scroll.

Bible story conversation: *When Jesus was a boy, he went to church to learn about God. That's why we come to church! We want to learn about God. We can learn about God by reading our Bible. When Jesus went to church, they used Bible scrolls. Let's make a scroll today like Jesus used!*

Block Activity: Build a church.

Team member responsible: _____

Materials needed: Large connecting blocks; tub or box (to hold blocks)

Preparation: Place the connecting blocks in a large tub in the block area.

Guide the activity: As you sit with the children, begin connecting the blocks to make a church. The children will remain interested as long as the teacher is sitting close by and interacting with them.

Bible story conversation: *Let's build a church! Why do we come to church? That's right, Kate. We come to learn about God. God is so glad you're here today! So am I!*

Dramatic Play Activity: Play musical instruments.

Team member responsible: _____

Materials needed: Musical instruments, such as, bells, tambourines, or drums

Preparation: Place the musical instruments on the table or the floor.

Guide the activity: Have the children sit together with the teacher on the floor. Talk about why it's important to come to church. Discuss some of the things we do when we're at church, including singing! Sing, "This is the Way We Walk to Church," to the tune of "Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush." Use the following words: "This is the way we walk to church, walk to church, walk to church. This is the way we walk to church, on a _____ (insert day of the week) morning. Then, substitute the following verses: "This is the way we play at church"; "This is the way we sing at church"; "This is the way we help at church." As you sing, move around the room if possible playing the instruments or take the children on a walk while they sing and play!

Bible story conversation: *When we come to church, we learn about God. We listen to the Bible story, play with our friends, and sing songs. Let's sing some songs we know about God.*

Puzzle Activity: Play *Things We Do at Church* Matching Game.

Team member responsible: _____

Materials needed: **Resource Item 11: *Things We Do at Church* Matching Game;** 8 ½" x 11" white cardstock (2 pieces); manila envelope (5" x 7") or zipper sandwich-size bag; gift bag (small, colorful)

Preparation: Print the **Matching Game (Resource Item 11)** onto 8 ½" x 11" white cardstock. Make two copies of the game. Laminate the sheets or cover in clear, contact plastic and then cut them apart. Place one set of pictures in the gift bag and lay the other pictures face-up on the floor or table.

Guide the activity: To play the matching game, ask a child to reach into the gift bag and pull out a picture. Talk about the activity. Tell the child to find the matching picture. Continue playing until all the matches are found. Older twos may be able to play the matching game as a memory game. Lay all the matching game pictures facing downward on a table or on the floor. Allow a child to turn over two cards. If they match, remove them from the playing area. If it is not a match, turn both the cards facedown again. The next child takes a turn. Continue playing until all

the matches are found. At the end of the session, place the matching game in a manila envelope or zipper sandwich-size bag. Write the name of the matching game on the front of the envelope or bag.

Snack Time: Make and eat trail mix.

Team member responsible: _____

Materials needed: Resource Item 3: Allergy Alert Poster; trail mix ingredients, round oat cereal, rice or corn squares, raisins, miniature marshmallows (optional); ¼ cup measuring cups (4); medium sized plastic bowls (4); small paper or foam bowls (1 per child); plastic sandwich-size zipper bags; paper or non-spill cups; pitcher of water

Preparation: Make sure the **Allergy Alert Poster (Resource Item 3)** is posted at the door. Gather round oat cereal, rice or corn squares, raisins, mini-marshmallows, and ¼ cup measuring cups or scoops. Place the food items in separate bowls on a low table. Place a ¼ cup measuring cup or scoop in each bowl.

Guide the activity: Assist each child as they scoop some cereal and raisins in their bowls. Sit the child on the floor or other low tables with the bowl or trail mix. Give each child a cup of water (non-spill cup if sitting on the floor). Say a thank-you prayer for the food and water. If the child doesn't eat all of the trail mix, place remaining trail mix in a sandwich-size baggie and write the child's name on it with a permanent marker. Place the baggie in the child's bag.

Bible story conversation: Before the children eat, say a thank-you prayer for the food and water. As the children eat, say, *you have had such a fun week at VBS! Jesus loved going to church with his mommy and daddy. We learned about Jesus this week, too! Thank you, God, for sending Jesus to us!*

The Next Step

- **Check each child's diaper:**
During VBS, schedule a time during each hour to check diapers or take the children to the potty. Make sure each child's diaper has been checked or the child has been taken to the potty at least once during the session. Mark the **Child's Schedule Card (Resource Item 1)** at the approximate time, using the code on the card. This information will be helpful both to teachers during the session and to parents.
- **Serve a snack:**
If your church provides a snack, seat the children on a mat on the floor away from the door. Say a thank-you prayer with the children before serving the snack. Check the child's schedule card for any allergies. If the child has a snack or drink in his or her bag, give the child the snack as his or her parents has directed. If possible, provide cups that will not spill. Label each cup with the child's name.

- **As children are leaving:**
Place the schedule card and other belongings in their bags. Remove the nametag when the parent comes. Make sure the person picking up the child has a security tag before releasing the child. Make the child's exit as quiet as possible so as not to upset the other children in the room.
- **At the end of the session:**
Refer to the *Prepare for the Child Guidelines (Resource Item 2)* to ensure proper cleaning of the room and the equipment.
- **Ask yourself these questions:**
 1. Was the room ready and prepared when the first child arrived?
 2. Did I wash my hands after changing and before preparing the snack?
 3. Did I spray the changing table with bleach solution (one-fourth cup bleach to one gallon water) after each diaper change?
 4. Did I remove a mouthed toy and disinfect (one teaspoon to one gallon water) it before returning it to the play area?
 5. Did I give the child as much attention as possible? Did I physically remain on his or her level?
 6. Did I relate the learning aim to each activity through my conversation with the children?
 7. What specific needs of the children do I need to address before the next day?

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