first look™

WEEK
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EXTENDED TODDLERS

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER

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BIBLE WORDS

"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son."

JOHN 3:16, GNT

Jesus Born in a Stable

LUKE 2:1-7

BOTTOM LINE

JESUS IS GOD'S SON.

BASIC TRUTH

JESUS WANTS TO BE MY FRIEND FOREVER.

The extended toddler curriculum provides older toddlers with the story and craft element that some are ready to experience before they enter the twos.

The extended toddler curriculum is designed to be used IN ADDITION to the monthly toddler curriculum.

STORY TIME

- Act It

CRAFT TIME

- Birthday Cake

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STORY TIME

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

WHAT YOU NEED: Preschool Bible, plush animals in one corner of the room

LEADER: "Today's Bible story is about when Jesus was born. Can you say, 'Jesus'?"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "Jesus."

LEADER: "Good job! **Jesus is God's Son!** Jesus was born the very first Christmas in a town called Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph had to go a very long way from their home to Bethlehem. They walked and walked and walked. Let's get up and walk like Mary and Joseph. Walk, walk, walk. (*Walk around the room and end up near a door of some type.*)

"Mary and Joseph finally got to Bethlehem and began knocking on doors to find a place to rest. Knock on the door like this with me."

(*Encourage the children to knock on the door.*)

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "Knock, knock, knock."

LEADER: "Louder!"

CHILDREN AND LEADER: "Knock, knock, knock."

LEADER: "Oh, no. The people said there was no room for Mary and Joseph to stay. That's sad. Show me your sad face. But they did say Mary and Joseph could sleep in the stable with the animals if they wanted. That's exciting. Everyone cheer. (*Demonstrate.*) Yay! (*Walk over to the plush animals and encourage the children to settle in with them.*) Look, here's our stable. Let's sit here with the animals. There were probably lots of animals in the stable, like sheep. Can you sound like a sheep with me? Baa. And there might have been cows. Can you sound like a cow with me? Moo.

"Even though Jesus is SO special, He was born right there in the stable where animals live. Let's pretend to hold baby Jesus. Everyone hold the baby. (*Demonstrate.*) Now rock the baby. (*Demonstrate.*) Good job. When Jesus was born in the stable, it was the very first Christmas. That is why we're celebrating Jesus. Christmas is all about Jesus' birthday. Yay, Jesus! Jesus is special because **Jesus is God's Son. Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son!**"

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CRAFT TIME

Gather small groups of children around you at a table for toddler craft time. Depending on the size of your group, you may lead the craft two or three times. Not every child may want to participate in craft time. That's okay. Feel free to send home the craft materials for them to complete with their mom or dad.

WHAT YOU NEED: "Birthday Cake" Activity Page, white cardstock, dot markers

WHAT YOU DO:

BEFORE THE ACTIVITY: Copy the Activity Page onto cardstock and cut on the dotted lines. Each child needs one.

DURING THE ACTIVITY: Retell the story and encourage the children to color their cake with the dot markers.

WHAT YOU SAY:

DURING THE ACTIVITY: "Today we heard about the very first Christmas when Jesus was born. **Jesus is God's Son!** Jesus was born the very first Christmas in a town called Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph had to go a very long way from their home to Bethlehem. They walked and walked and walked.

"Mary and Joseph finally got to Bethlehem and began knocking on doors to find a place to rest. There was no room for Mary and Joseph to stay, but they were able to sleep in the stable with the animals.

"Even though Jesus is SO special, He was born right there in the stable where animals live. It was the very first Christmas. That is why we're celebrating Jesus. Christmas is all about Jesus' birthday. Yay, Jesus!

"Look at your paper. It's a birthday cake for Jesus. Yay! It's almost Jesus' birthday! Let's make the cake nice and pretty for him.

"Merry Christmas, and happy birthday, Jesus! Jesus is special because **Jesus is God's Son.**"

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