CHRISTMAS SHAPES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY: The Wise Men • Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11
The wise men follow a star to Jesus

MEMORY VERSE: "*God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son.*" John 3:16 (GNT)

KEY QUESTION: How do we know God loves us?

BOTTOM LINE: God gave us Jesus.

OPENING ACTIVITY: Star Parade

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY: God Loved the World

CRAFT: Special Star or Sparkly Star

CLOSING ACTIVITY: Shine the Story

OPENING ACTIVITY | Star Parade

What You Need:

- ☐ Yellow star cutout
- ☐ Ruler or paint stir stick
- ☐ Masking tape

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:

***Before the Activity*:**

- Tape the star cutout to the end of the ruler/paint stir stick.
- "Today we're going to have a Star Parade! *(Hold up the star wand.)* Line up behind me."

During the Activity:

- Hold up the star wand and ask the children to follow the star as you walk around the room. Encourage children to take turns leading the Star Parade. Continue until all children have had a turn.
- "Follow me and let's march! *(Hold the star up high and start marching around the room.)* Look at you following the star! Great job! It's fun to be the leader of the star parade too! [Child's name] it's your turn to hold the star and lead us. (*Continue until all kids have had a turn.*) You all did a great job marching in our Star Parade and following the star!"

After the Activity:

- *"*You all did a great job marching in our Star Parade and following the star! Today in our Bible Story, we'll hear about some wise men who followed a star to find a special gift. Let's go!"

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY | God Loved the World

What You Need:

- ☐ "God Loved the World" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Blue and green washable ink pads
- ☐ Heart stickers
- ☐ Baby wipes

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:

***Before the Activity*:**

- Say the Memory Verse and do the motions together with children.
- "Friends, come stand with me, and let's say our verse as we do the motions together. Ready? It goes like this. 'God *(flat hand with thumb to forehead, pull down)* loved the world so much *(cross arms over chest)* that he gave his only Son,' *(rock arms like a baby)* John 3:16. *(Open hands like a book.)* Great job, friends!"

During the Activity:

- Encourage children to fill in the world outline with blue and green fingerprints. Clean hands, then ask children to add their sticker to the middle of the world.
- "Now sit down with me at the table. Use your fingerprints to fill in the world on your paper. Press your fingertip on the blue ink pad and press it on your paper. *(Pause.)* Do the same with the green ink pad. *(Pause.)* Fill the whole world. *(Pause.)* Clean your hands and now add this sticker to your world. *(Pause.)* It's a heart and hearts make us think of love! God loves us so much, ***[Bottom Line]* God gave us Jesus!"**

After the Activity:

- "Let's say our verse together one more time. 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,' John 3:16. God loves us so much ***[Bottom Line]* God gave us Jesus! How do we know God loves us? *[Bottom Line]* God gave us Jesus."**

CRAFT | Special Star (option 1)

What You Need:

- ☐ "Special Star" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Yellow washable ink pads
- ☐ Washable markers
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Baby wipes

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:

Before the Activity:

- "Everyone, come over and let's create some story art to help us remember today's true story from the Bible."

During the Activity:

- Encourage children to color their story picture. Then ask children to fill the star by dipping their fingerprints on the ink pads and pressing it on the star outline on their paper. Repeat until the star is filled. Clean hands as needed.
- "Look at your paper. The wise men are on their way to see someone very special—they're going to see Jesus! Color your paper, but not the big star. *(Pause.)* Okay, now for that big, special star! Dip your finger onto the ink pad then press it on your paper inside the star. Keep going until the star is full! *(Help as needed.)* That is a very special star! *(Clean hands as needed.)* God put a special star in the sky to show them the way. The wise men followed the star until it stopped over a house, Jesus' house! When the wise men saw Jesus, they bowed down. They worshipped Jesus and gave Him very special gifts."

After the Activity:

- "The wise men followed a special star to Jesus and when they saw Him, they worshiped Him. We can worship Jesus too! God loves us so much because ***[Bottom Line]*** **God gave us Jesus. How do we know God loves us?** ***[Bottom Line]*** **God gave us Jesus."**

CRAFT | Sparkly Star (option 2)

What You Need:

- ☐ "Sparkly Star" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Wooden star cutouts
- ☐ Sparkly pipe cleaners
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Hole punch

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:

Before the Activity:

- Punch a hole punch on each card in the designated spot.
- "Hey, everyone! Come sit with me! We are going to make sparkly star ornaments today!"

During the Activity:

- Give each child a wooden star. Put an assortment of sparkly pipe cleaners in the center of the table. Encourage children to wrap pipe cleaners around their star. Assist when needed. As the children finish wrapping their stars with pipe cleaners, thread one pipe cleaner through the hole in the star and the hole in the cutout. Twist the ends of the pipe cleaner together to make a loop.

- "First, everyone needs a star. *(Give each child a wooden star.)* Who remembers what the wise men followed in our Bible Story today? *(Pause.)* Yes! A star! God put a special star in the sky to show the wise men how to get to Jesus. Let's make our stars special with these sparkly pipe cleaners. Just wrap the pipe cleaners around your star, like this. *(Demonstrate and assist while the children work.)* What did the wise men do when the star stopped over Jesus' house? *(Pause.)* You're right! The wise men worshipped Jesus and gave Him gifts. When you're done wrapping your star, I have a label and a loop that will make your star into an ornament. Then you can take it home and when you look at it remember that ***[Bottom Line]*** **God gave us Jesus."**

After the Activity:

- "I want everyone to hold up their star ornament really, really high, like a star in the sky. Ooo…they look so sparkly! I hope every time you see your special star, you remember that God loved the world so much that ***[Bottom Line]*** **God gave us Jesus! How do we know God loves us?** ***[Bottom Line]*** **God gave us Jesus!"**

Christmas Shapes | Week 4 | December 28, 2025
Adapted by Niki P/Venture Church/Nov. 2025

BIBLE STORY

Open Bible for children to see, then set it down.

"Today's Bible story is found in the book of Matthew, and it begins with wise men.

"The wise men believed God's words, and they knew that God was giving us someone very special. They knew God was giving us Jesus!

"God put a special star in the sky. Can you twinkle your fingers like a shiny star in the sky? *(Hold your hand high above your head and wiggle your fingers.)*

"Let's sing a 'Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star' together but with some new words.

(Singing)

"Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
"We will follow you so far!
"God put you in the sky so bright,
"Lead us to Jesus with your light.
"Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
"We will follow you so far!

"Oh, thank you for singing with me. You can put your hands down now.

"When God put the special star in the sky, the wise men KNEW they should follow it. They knew that if the star went this way …

(Hold your hand above your head like a star again. Move your hand far over to one side.)

"Well, then they needed to go this way. *(Lean your whole body to the same side.)*

"And, if the star went that way … *(Move your hand far over to the other side.)*

"Then they needed to go that way! *(Lean your whole body to the other side. Then straighten up.)*

"So, the wise men followed the star a long, long way … until it stopped over a house.

"The Bible teaches us that: *When the wise men saw the star, they were filled with joy (Matthew 2:10 NIrV)*.

"The wise men went in the house, and they found a child … and His mother, Mary. The child was Jesus! God's special star led the wise men to Jesus!

"When the wise men saw Jesus, they bowed down and worshipped Jesus.

"Then they gave Jesus very special gifts because they knew Jesus was special. They knew that ***[Bottom Line]*** **God gave us Jesus.**

"The wise men followed a star to Jesus, and when they saw Him, they worshiped Him. And now we can worship Jesus too! Because God loves us so much ***[Bottom Line]*** **God gave us Jesus. How do we know God loves us?"**

CHILDREN and LEADER: *[Bottom Line]* "God gave us Jesus!"

"Yes, ***[Bottom Line]*** **God gave us Jesus.**

(Pick up and close Bible.) "Our story time is over, but we're not through. Let's talk to God because God loves you!"

PRAYER - Dear God, You are amazing! You gave the wise men a special star to follow so they could find Jesus and celebrate Him. Help us to celebrate Jesus, too. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

CLOSING ACTIVITY | Shine the Story

What You Need:

- ☐ Flashlights
- ☐ Foam star, heart, crown, and gift shaped stickers

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:

Before the Activity:

- Attach a foam sticker to the lens of each flashlight. Dim the lights in the room slightly.
- "Let's use our flashlights to look for special shapes. Each one reminds us of something from today's Bible story!"

During the Activity:

- Shine the light on the wall one at a time. Ask the children to name the shape they see and talk about what it reminds them of from the story.
- "I'm going to shine the flashlights at the wall. *(Shine the heart shape.)* Look! What shape is it? *(Pause for responses.)* That's right! It's a heart. Hearts remind us of love. God loves us so much that ***[Bottom Line]*** **God gave us Jesus!** *(Shine the star shape.)* Look! What shape is it? *(Pause for responses.)* That's right! It's a star! The star reminds us that the wise men followed a star to find Jesus! *(Shine the crown shape.)* Look! What shape is it? *(Pause for responses.)* That's right! It's a crown! The crown reminds us of the wise men. We have one last shape. *(Shine the gift shape.)* Look! What shape is it? *(Pause for responses.)* That's right! It's a gift! What gift did God give us? Yes! ***[Bottom Line]*** **God gave us Jesus!** That was so much fun!"

After the Activity:

- "Wow! You did a great job identifying all the shapes from today's Bible Story! My favorite shape is the heart and the gift because they remind us that God loves us so much that ***[Bottom Line]*** **God gave us Jesus! How do we know that God loves us?** ***[Bottom Line]*** **God gave us Jesus!"**

Christmas Shapes | Week 4 | December 28, 2025
Adapted by Niki P/Venture Church/Nov. 2025