CHRISTMAS SHAPES

TODAY'S BIBLE STORY: Jesus is Born • Luke 2:1-7

Jesus is the best gift.

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: Rock-A-Bye Baby

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY: Special Gift

CRAFT: Best Gift Ornament

CLOSING ACTIVITY: Present Squared or Manger Builders

Christmas Shapes | Week 2 | December 14, 2025
Adapted by Niki P/Venture Church/Nov. 2025

OPENING ACTIVITY | Rock-A-Bye Baby

What You Need: baby dolls, soft blankets, baby care toys

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:
***Before the Activity*:**

- Gather and set up baby dolls and blankets in a circle on the floor. *Optional: Place extra toys nearby.*
- "Hey friends! Please sit down by a baby. We're going to pretend to take care of all these babies today."

During the Activity:

- Gather children near the baby dolls. Show them how to gently swaddle the baby dolls. Model rocking and caring for the dolls, encouraging gentle touches. Celebrate their efforts to care for the babies.
- "Let me show you how to swaddle our baby dolls. We wrap them gently in a blanket just like this. (*Pause for children to practice.)* Now let's rock our babies. Can you hold your baby gently and rock them back and forth. (*Pause for children to practice.)* Wow! You guys are so great at taking care of the babies! You can even pretend to feed your baby or sing them a song. (*Pause for children to practice.)"*

After the Activity:

- "Great job taking care of your baby dolls! That reminds me of our Bible Story today! Let's go listen to learn how Mary took care of a very special baby."

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY | Special Gift

What You Need:

- ☐ "Special Gift" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Crayons, washable markers, or dot markers
- ☐ Stickers
- ☐ Washable self-inking stamps
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Baby wipes

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:

***Before the Activity*:**

- Fold each child's paper and write their name. Say the Memory Verse and do the motions with the children.
- "Friends, come stand with me, and let's say our verse as we do the motions. Ready? '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.)* That was great! Now let's sit down at the table to make something special!"

During the Activity:

- Encourage children to decorate the outside of their gift and say the verse together. Then ask children to open the gift and color the baby Jesus. When complete, say the verse as you do the motions together.
- "Look! It's a gift! Decorate the outside of your gift with the markers, stickers, and stamps. While you are decorating, let's say the words to our verse. *(With children.)* 'God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son,' John 3:16. Great job saying the verse with me. Wow! These gifts look so wonderfully special! But wait, open your gift and see what's inside. *(Pause.)* It's Jesus! Hooray! Jesus is the most wonderfully special gift because God gave us Jesus! Decorate the inside of your gift too. *(Pause.)* Now close your present and let's say our verse one more time with the motions. '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.)* Nice job."

After the Activity:

- "The Bible teaches us that a very special baby was born, and He was God's Son, Jesus! Happy Birthday, Jesus! Jesus is the best gift ever! God loves us so much that ***[Bottom Line]* God gave us Jesus. How do we know God loves us? *[Bottom Line]* God gave us Jesus."**

CRAFT | Best Gift Ornament

What You Need:

- ☐ "Best Gift Ornament" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Craft sticks
- ☐ Yarn
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Hole punch
- ☐ Hot glue gun

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:

Before the Activity:

- Fold each cutout in half as indicated and glue two sides together. Hot glue four craft sticks together at the ends to create a square frame.
- Punch a small hole at the top and bottom of each cutout. Cut yarn in 8-inch lengths, two per child. For each child, thread one length of yarn halfway through each hole and tie each side to the top and bottom craft sticks. The yarn should be taut but have enough give not to cause the paper to rip. Tie a bow from the excess at the top and trim the excess from the bottom.
- "Come to the table and let's create a super special Christmas ornament."

During the Activity:

- Encourage children to color both sides of their picture. Demonstrate how to hold the frame and gently twist the picture to make it spin.
- "We're going to make an ornament today that looks just like a gift. This fun ornament will help us remember what the very best gift is. Do you remember what the very best gift is? *(Pause for responses.)* That's right! Jesus is the very best gift! Look! There's baby Jesus on your ornament. Color your picture, and then I'll show you how to make it spin. (Pause.) Okay, hold your frame with one hand and twist the picture like this *(demonstrate),* then let go and watch it spin! *(Pause.)* Wow! You really made the best gift ornament!"

After the Activity:

- "Today's true story from the Bible begins when Mary and Joseph traveled a long, long way to the town of Bethlehem. Mary and Joseph probably walked all the way to Bethlehem or Mary might have ridden on an animal like a donkey because she was about to have a baby!
- Once Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem, they stayed in a place that had a manger. A manger is something animals eat out of. There might have been some animals there too! This place isn't fancy, but this is where God gave us something very special. A very special baby was born, and He was God's Son, Jesus! What a special gift! Jesus is the best gift ever! God loves us so much that ***[Bottom Line]*** **God gave us Jesus!** Happy Birthday, Jesus! **How do we know God loves us? *[Bottom Line]* God gave us Jesus!"**

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BIBLE STORY

Open Bible for children to see, then set it down.
"Today's true story from the Bible is found in the book of Luke, and it begins with Mary and Joseph.

"Mary and Joseph loved God. They were part of God's people. One day, Mary and Joseph had to go to a town called Bethlehem, but they had to travel a LONG way to get there. And Mary was going to have a baby!

"Mary and Joseph probably walked all the way to Bethlehem. Or maybe Mary rode on an animal—like a donkey!

"Once Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem, they stayed in a place that had a manger. A manger is a box that animals eat out of. So, that means Mary and Joseph stayed in a place that might have had some animals.

"Maybe there was a chicken. Can you cluck like a chicken?"

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Cluck, cluck, cluck. Cluck, cluck, cluck."

"I think there probably was a donkey.

Can you hee-haw like a donkey?"

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Hee-haw. Hee-haw. Hee-haw."

"I bet a sheep was there too.

"Can you baa like a sheep?"

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Baa. Baa. Baa."

"Wow! You are so good at making animal sounds.

"Mary and Joseph didn't stay at a place that was fancy, but that didn't matter. God gave us something very special there. A very special baby was born there, and that baby was God's Son, Jesus!

"Jesus was born! Everyone, say 'Happy Birthday, Jesus!'

CHILDREN and LEADER: "Happy Birthday, Jesus!"

"Let's pretend we're holding baby Jesus. *(Rock arms like you're holding a baby.)*

"The Bible teaches us that: '*She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger.' (Luke 2:7 NIrV)*

"Wow! Jesus is the best gift ever because He shows us how much God loves us. God loves us SO much that ***[Bottom Line]*** **God gave us Jesus.** Tell me: **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 gave us the best gift ever. You gave us Jesus! Thank You for loving us so much that You gave us Your Son. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

CLOSING ACTIVITY | Present Squared (option 1)

What You Need:

- ☐ "Present Squared" Activity Page
- ☐ "Present Squared Pictures" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Gift bows, one per child
- ☐ Scissors

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:

Before the Activity:

- "Hello friends! Come join me at the table and let's create something super special to remember today's true story from the Bible."

During the Activity:

- Encourage children to color each story picture, then glue them, in order, to their big present as you review the Bible Story. Once all the pictures are glued to the big picture, ask children to add a bow to the top.

- "In front of you are four pictures that tell today's Bible Story. Color each picture. *(Pause.)* Fantastic! Okay, find the picture of Mary and Joseph. They had to travel a long way to a town called Bethlehem. Glue that picture in the square with one dot. *(Point.)* Okay, now find the picture of Mary and Joseph and the manger. *(Pause.)* We learned that a manger is something animals eat out of. This is where Mary and Joseph stayed when they got to Bethlehem. Glue this picture to the square with two dots. *(Point.)* The next picture I want you to find is the one with the horse, cow, and sheep. *(Pause.)* There might have been some animals there too! Like a horse, or a cow, or a sheep that ate from that manger. Glue this picture to the square with three dots. *(Point.)* This place isn't fancy, but this is where a very special baby was born, and He was God's Son, Jesus! Mary wrapped baby Jesus in cloth and laid Him in a manger. Glue your picture of baby Jesus to the last square. *(Point.)* Hooray! Now let's finish the story present by adding a bow on top! *(Pause.)* Nice job, friends!"

After the Activity:

- "God gave us something very special. God loves us so much that ***[Bottom Line]*** **God gave us Jesus.** Jesus is the best gift ever! Happy Birthday, Jesus! Say that with me. Happy Birthday, Jesus! **How do we know God loves us? *[Bottom Line]* God gave us Jesus."**

CLOSING ACTIVITY | Manger Builders (option 2)

What You Need:

- ☐ Popsicle sticks
- ☐ Play-Doh®

WHAT YOU DO & SAY:

Before the Activity:

- Set popsicle sticks and small portions of Play-Doh on the table. Pre-build an example manger to show the children.
- "Today we learned that when Jesus was born, Mary wrapped Him in cloths and laid Him in a manger, a place where animals eat! Let's build our own mangers using popsicle sticks and Play-Doh!"

During the Activity:

- Encourage children to build a stable using the popsicle sticks and Play-Doh as "glue" to hold their sticks together. Encourage children to think about what the manger may have looked like in the Bible Story. As they work, remind them that a manager is something animals eat out of; it wasn't fancy, but a very special baby was born there, Jesus! Gather the children around their creations. Celebrate all the mangers each child built to remember where Jesus was born! Remind children that Jesus is the best gift ever, and he was born in a manger.

- "I love how you're building your mangers! Who ate in the manger? (*Pause for responses.*) Yes! That's right! A manger is a place where animals eat! Who slept in a manger? (*Pause for responses*.) Wow! That's right! Jesus was born and slept in a manger. The place Jesus was born wasn't fancy, but this is where God gave us something very special. A very special baby was born, and He was God's Son, Jesus! What a special gift! Jesus is the best gift ever! Wow! Your mangers look wonderful! Are our mangers fancy? (*Pause for responses.)* You're all right! They're not fancy!"

After the Activity:

- "Jesus could have been born in a palace or a castle, but God chose a place with a manger because Jesus came for everyone! Jesus is God's Son. ***[Bottom Line]*** **God gave us Jesus** because God loves us so much! **How do we know God loves us? *[Bottom Line]* God gave us Jesus!"**