

3 Christmas Lessons and Activities for Toddlers.

Lesson 1. Jesus is our Gift

Bible verse: *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23*

Discussion: When we do wrong, we deserve punishment.

Ask child about different punishments they get, eg. "what happens when you throw a fit?" "go to my room".

Use simple terms to explain what Jesus gives us: "When we do naughty things, it makes God sad and he has to send us away from him. But God loves us so much that he gave us Jesus and when we believe in Jesus we can live with him forever."

Reading: read the Christmas story to your child.

Song: Jesus Loves Me

Activity: Give your toddler a box, glue and papers. Encourage them to choose something small to stick in the box as a "gift" for a family member and let them "wrap" the gift.



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Lesson 2. Angels Brought the Good News

Bible verse: *And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. Luke 2:10*

Discussion: What are angels?

Angels are God's helpers. They look out for us, carry our prayers to God and sometimes bring us messages from God.

When Jesus was born, angels brought the good news of God's gift to us to the shepherds.

Read: The Christmas Story, same book as lesson 1 or different book if you have more than one Christmas story books.

Song: Angels we Have Heard on High



Activity: Make paper bag angels.

Supplies: Small white paper bag, 5 white coffee filters, white paper crinkles, gold ribbon and markers.

Instructions: Fold 2 of the coffee filters in fourths and glue to the sides of bag to make wings.

Fold the other 3 coffee filters in fourths and fold the center point down. Glue to front of bag to make skirts.

Glue paper crinkles to the top of bag for hair, and wrap the ribbon around the top for a halo.

Use markers to draw a face on your angel.

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Lesson 3: Searching for Jesus

Bible verse: *As the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. Luke 2:15-16*

Discussion: What does "with haste" mean? It means, quickly or fast. Why do you think the shepherds went quickly? Maybe because they were excited? The shepherds knew that Jesus is our gift and they wanted to see this gift so they went to find him.

What about us? Do we want to find Jesus? Where can we find him? (In our hearts, God's word, etc)

Read: Shepherd on the Search

Song: Away in a Manger

Activity: Play a little game of hide and seek with your child.



Tell your child that the shepherd (from Shepherd on the Search book) is going to look for Jesus. Then hide the shepherd in strategic places and have your child find him. When your child finds the shepherd, discuss why the shepherd was looking in that spot for baby Jesus.

Example Hiding Spots:

The Bible - We find Jesus when we read God's word.

Near gifts - Jesus was our perfect gift.

Inside your shirt near your heart - Jesus lives in your heart.

Near a baby or your child - Jesus loves little children

Near a plant or flower - Jesus (God) created all things.

In a favorite blankie - Jesus's love is like a warm blanket wrapped around us.

End the game with the Shepherd by your manger scene and finding the baby Jesus.

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Final thoughts:

These fun lessons were designed with a rather busy little child in mind. The type of kid who will sit and listen to books being read, but may not stay long with any type of long discussion or lesson.

Never underestimate the power of a short lesson enhanced with fun songs and activities.

Don't feel constrained to stay within the lesson guidelines I laid out. If your child is willing to sit and discuss longer, definitely do so.

Throughout the Christmas season, use the little shepherd to bring about discussions of Jesus, his birth and love for us and even his death and resurrection. A child learns best through play, so toys like this are a wonderful way to teach your child about Jesus.

Finally, enjoy this time with your little one. I'm talking to myself as much as to you. We have a holy calling to raise our children in the Lord and none of it happens on autopilot.

Blessings to you dear parent!