

**TODDLER
CURRICULUM**

An eight-week
series

**NOVEMBER &
DECEMBER**

BOTTOM LINE
God loves me.

BIBLE VERSE
“God loved the
world so much he
gave his only son,”
John 3:16.

**WE’RE LEARNING
ABOUT ...**
Baby Jesus!



Christmas



The Christmas series is part of a one-year curriculum for toddlers that takes kids through six different Bible stories all about God’s love: Creation, Moses, Jonah, Christmas, Miracle, and Easter. Toddlers learn through repetition, with a program designed to be taught for two months. The video program includes sing-along worship and an animated Bible story with narration. Then, each week’s program ends with an interactive portion called See & Share time, designed to be led by an adult. We hope toddlers learn and understand how much God loves them.

NOTES

- Curriculum includes: 3min. Clean-up Countdown Video, “Away in A Manger” Worship Video, 4min. Teaching Video, 3min. Story Time Timer Video, See & Share Graphic to cue leaders to start See & Share time with small groups of eight or fewer.
- For See & Share bins you’ll need to purchase:
 - 3 extra farm animals
 - 8 baby dolls
 - 1 stuffed sheep
 - A Little People nativity set (Note: Use only the barn, angel, Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, 5 farm animals, and 3 wise men. Take out palm trees, fruit, cart, and extra manger box with hay from the toy set. You will not need these.) Communicate with volunteers to play around with these toys before See and Share time to familiarize themselves with the way they work.

TEACHER DEVOTIONAL

Read: Luke 2, John 3:16-17

Christmas changed everything. The beautiful truth in Christmas is that *God came to us*.

He loved us deeply, from the beginning, but we were separated from him by our sin. Our mistakes disconnected us from God, because he is set apart; holy. So, from the beginning—Eve's first bite of fruit and forward, God had a plan to show us that he still loved us, and would come to us to reconnect.

God coming to us is unique. It separates God from any other god in any other religion. God made the first move, because he knew we couldn't. He saw that we were hopelessly headed towards death because of sin, and he came down to us to bring us back to him.

It's difficult to always believe that God is loving toward us. Our limited view of our lives can stretch us to doubt that. We can see him as apathetic toward us, or capricious. In our guilt and shame, we can project hatred onto him. We can get caught in wrong thinking and believe we are working our way toward God's perfection, or love.

But Christmas reveals God's heart. It shows us his unconditional love for us. It fulfills his plan to rescue us from our sin, to restore us to connection with him by redeeming us through Jesus. He sent his only Son into our mess to save us. He was showing us his great love. He came to us.

That's Christmas. That's love. That's hope. That's the news a weary world needs to hear.

"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons," Galatians 4:4-5.

Knowing that God came to you, instead of the other way around, what does that change about who you think God is? Are there any ways you're trying to work your way towards God?

In what ways are you living out of the love God showed you in sending Jesus? How can you share from that love this season?

CHRISTMAS

Toddler See and Share

Take toys out one at a time and hold them up for kids to see.

Read each section and do the actions. Then put away toys.

1. Angel

(Take out the barn. Make sure the barn is turned off. Put the barn on the table in front of you. Put the angel on top of the barn.) God sent an angel to tell Mary she would have baby Jesus. Can you pretend to fly like an angel? (Flap arms.)

2. Barn Animals

(Put Mary and Joseph in the barn and pass out barn animals.) Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem. They stayed in a barn with animals. What animal do you have? What does your animal say?

3. Baby

(Put baby Jesus in the barn and pass out more baby dolls.) God's son Jesus was born. Can you rock baby Jesus?

4. Sheep

(Hold up stuffed sheep.) Some shepherds watching their sheep came to see baby Jesus. Can you pat the soft sheep? What does a sheep say?

5. Star

God put a special star in the sky and the wise men followed it to Jesus. (Point to the star on top of the barn and put the 3 wise men on the table.) Can you point to the star? Blink your eyes like a twinkling star? Here is the Christmas song! (Turn the barn on with the switch on the back. Push the angel to play the song.)