

DAY 1 DISCOVERY CENTER: CREATION RUBBINGS

DIRECTIONS

Students put the items under the paper. Show them how to rub their crayons sideways over the paper to get the creation impressions. Write their names on their papers when they're done.

TEACHING TIE-IN

The Bible tells us Jesus is the Creator! He made leaves, and bark, and flowers, and animals, and the sun, moon, stars, and people! Jesus and his creation are a wonder!

DAY 1 WET TOUCH TABLE: WASH THE BABIES

DIRECTIONS

Students enjoy giving the babies a bath.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Do you think Jesus ever needed a bath when he was a baby? Pause for responses. Jesus got dirty just like we do, because he was a person like us. We all were babies at one time, and so was Jesus! But there's one big difference. He was the most special baby ever born because he is also God!

DAY 1 DRY TOUCH TABLE: CHRISTMAS FUN

DIRECTIONS

Students play with the Christmas items.

TEACHING TIE-IN

When do we use these items? Christmas. Right, at Christmas! But what does Christmas have to do with Jesus? Pause for responses. We celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas time. People all over the world celebrate the birth of Jesus because it's a wonder that God came down to earth in the form of a person, Jesus! God actually had skin and elbows and fingerprints!

DAY 1 DRAMATIC PLAY: OLD WEST DRESS-UP

DIRECTIONS

Dress up and pretend to be living in the Old West. Have some dolls to play with today to coordinate with the teaching.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Jesus came to earth as a baby. Do any of you have little baby brothers or sisters? Pause for responses. What are things you need to do to take care of them? Pause for responses. Jesus had to be fed and rocked and cared for, too, even though he was God! What a wonder!

DAY 1 COLORING CORNER: JOHN 1:14

DIRECTIONS

Color the sheet. Add additional supplies if desired.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Practice saying the memory verse on the sheet. Discuss its meaning.

DAY 2 DISCOVERY CENTER: FAMILY FUN

DIRECTIONS

Kids play with the families.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Jesus grew up in a family. Did you know he had (half) brothers and sisters? Take responses. Do any of you have brothers or sisters? Take responses. Sometimes we aren't as nice as we should be to our family members, but Jesus was always perfectly kind. What a wonder!

DAY 2 WET TOUCH TABLE: FAMILY TRIP

DIRECTIONS

Play in the water with the toys.

TEACHING TIE-IN

What is this family doing together? Take responses. Maybe they're going on a trip. Sometimes families go on trips together. Jesus' family took a trip together for a celebration. They went to a city called Jerusalem.

DAY 2 DRY TOUCH TABLE: BUILD-IT-YOURSELF WOODWORKING

DIRECTIONS

Explain what a carpenter is. Instruct the kids to pretend they are a carpenter and to build something.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Jesus' earthly father was a carpenter. That's a person who makes things out of wood or

stone. He may have taught Jesus a lot about being a carpenter. The Bible calls Jesus a carpenter. What kinds of things do you think Jesus made out of wood or stone? Take responses. Do you think it would be fun to be a carpenter? Take responses. Jesus was a real person like you. But he is also God. What a wonder!

DAY 2 DRAMATIC PLAY: OLD WEST DRESS-UP

DIRECTIONS

Kids dress up and play with the items.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Kids during Jesus' time would have had a lot to do, but they would have played a little too. Same with kids in the Old West. All kids like to play, right? I wonder what Jesus liked to play. What do you like to play? Take responses.

DAY 2 COLORING CORNER: LUKE 2:52

DIRECTIONS

Color the sheet. Add additional supplies if desired.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Practice saying the memory verse on the sheet. Discuss its meaning.

DAY 3 DISCOVERY CENTER: POWER OVER SICKNESS/SIGHT

DIRECTIONS

Take turns putting on the blind-fold, pulling an object out, and trying to guess what it is. Talk about how awesome it is to have eyes that can see each item (but be sensitive if anyone can't see).

TEACHING TIE-IN

Jesus has amazing power! He has all power, so he can make sick people well and give sight to people who can't see! In the Bible, we read about Jesus healing blind people with his incredible power. Jesus is God the Son!

DAY 3 WET TOUCH TABLE: POWER OVER NATURE

DIRECTIONS

Play with the people and boats. Have the children reenact the Bible account of Jesus calming the storm by making waves in the water (Mark 4:35–41). Then have them stop at the appropriate time.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Jesus has amazing power! He has all power so even the wind and sea and all of nature listens to him. One time, he told a storm to be still and it stopped! Nobody else can do that. Only Jesus! He is God the Son!

DAY 3 DRY TOUCH TABLE: POWER OVER DEATH

DIRECTIONS

Find and “unbury” the people.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Jesus has amazing power! He has power over death. In the Bible, we read about a few times when he brought dead people back to life. He even brought himself back to life! Nobody else can do that. Only Jesus! He is God the Son!

DAY 3 DRAMATIC PLAY: OLD WEST DRESS-UP

DIRECTIONS

Dress up and pretend to be doctors helping sick patients in the Old West.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Life in the Old West was hard. A lot of people never even made it to the West because they got sick and died along the way. Can you imagine if Jesus had been traveling with them? While he was on earth, he healed people just by speaking. Now that’s power! No one else can do that. Only Jesus! He is God the Son!

DAY 3 COLORING CORNER: JOHN 21:25

DIRECTIONS

Color the sheet. Add additional supplies if desired.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Practice saying the memory verse on the sheet. Discuss its meaning.

DAY 4 DISCOVER CENTER: LACING CARD CROSSES

DIRECTIONS

Lace in and out on the crosses with the shoelaces, yarn, or ribbon.

TEACHING TIE-IN

What shape is this? Take responses. What does it have to do with Jesus? Take responses. Isn't it a wonder that Jesus didn't stay dead? He came back to life and is alive now! Jesus is the Son of God!

DAY 4 WET TOUCH TABLE: EASTER EGGS

DIRECTIONS

Use tongs to retrieve the eggs out of the water. Open them up to find the crosses. Put them in the baskets.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Let's see what we can find in the Easter eggs. Do so. What does Easter have to do with crosses? Discuss that we remember Jesus'

sacrifice on the cross for sin at Easter. Jesus went through great pain and sadness when he was on the cross. That is amazing, that God feels pain! Why did he do it? Because he loves you. That's amazing! It's also amazing that Jesus came back to life. He was completely dead—he didn't just go to sleep or faint. He died and came back to life! What a wonder!

DAY 4 DRY TOUCH TABLE: SNAKES IN THE SAND

DIRECTIONS

Play with the items.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Out West, there are snakes called rattlesnakes. They're called that because their tails rattle. There are other kinds of snakes in other parts of the world. God created

snakes with the other animals in the beginning. In fact, the first woman, Eve, met a snake in the garden of Eden. But Satan used the snake to trick Eve. Then Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and that's called sin. We all sin. That's why we need Jesus!

DAY 4 DRAMATIC PLAY: OLD WEST DRESS-UP

DIRECTIONS

Dress up and pretend to be gold miners by collecting the hidden “gold” in the pillowcases or bags.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Wouldn't it be great if somebody gave you a bag of gold as a gift? Well, I know an even better gift. Jesus wants to give you the gift of living forever! Discuss the gospel here.

DAY 4 COLORING CORNER: JOHN 20:31

DIRECTIONS

Color the sheet. Add additional supplies if desired.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Practice saying the memory verse on the sheet. Discuss its meaning.

DAY 5 DISCOVERY CENTER: DOUBLE IT!

DIRECTIONS

Kids play with the money. They can even pretend it's a bank. At some point, give them a certain amount of money and see if they can figure out how to double it. For instance, count out two coins and ask them to double it with two more. Now how many do they have?

TEACHING TIE-IN

In our Bible account today, two of the servants worked hard and doubled the coins the master gave them. The servant with five got five more and ended up with ten. The servant with two got two more and ended up with four. But the servant with one buried his and didn't get any more. This reminds us to work hard for God and use our lives for him.

DAY 5 WET TOUCH TABLE: TIME WELL SPENT

DIRECTIONS

Share the Teaching Tie-In and have the kids play with the people, taking care of each other, saying kind words, and telling each other about Jesus.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Jesus, who will forever be God and man, is in heaven right now. While we wait for him to come back, we can love others, care for them, be kind, and tell them about Jesus. That's our mission!

DAY 5 DRY TOUCH TABLE: COMING IN THE CLOUDS

DIRECTIONS

Students play with the items, trying to find “Jesus.” Continue to hide the figure throughout the playtime, or they can do so.

TEACHING TIE-IN

After Jesus rose from the dead, he went back to heaven by going up in a cloud. He will come back in the same way at some point. We can be busy working for him while we are waiting. Let’s try to find Jesus among all these “clouds.”

DAY 5 DRAMATIC PLAY: OLD WEST DRESS-UP

DIRECTIONS

Dress up and pretend to be living out West.

TEACHING TIE-IN

It’s been an amazing week at Wonder Junction. Who can tell me something they learned about Jesus this week?

DAY 5 COLORING CORNER: MATTHEW 6:10

DIRECTIONS

Color the sheet. Add additional supplies if desired.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Practice saying the memory verse on the sheet. Discuss its meaning.