

DAY 1 DISCOVERY CENTER: SPECIAL BIRTH SEEK & FIND

DIRECTIONS

Ask the children to choose one nativity piece. Cover it with one box, then line up all three boxes. Slide each box around a few times, keeping them on the table. Ask the children which box has the chosen object. Lift the box they choose to see if the object is there. If not, give one more guess. Play several times, using each of the objects.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Jesus' birth was different than anyone else's birth. Point to each item on the table. He had angels, shepherds, wise men bringing gifts (after he had grown a little), and even a star! It was so special when Jesus was born because Jesus is God. He was in heaven—a beautiful, perfect place, but he wanted to come to our world because he loves us.

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 not only God but also a person, just 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. At Christmas! But what does Christmas have to do with Jesus? Pause for responses. We celebrate Jesus' birthday at Christmastime. It's a wonder that God came down to earth in the form of a person, Jesus!

DAY 1 DRAMATIC PLAY: OLD WEST DRESS-UP

DIRECTIONS

Dress up and pretend to be living in the Old West. Provide 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 baby brothers or sisters? What do you need to do to take care of them? 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: MY FAMILY

DIRECTIONS

Have kids choose the cutouts that represent their family (mom, dad, big brother, baby, etc.). Color and glue the strips to a sheet of construction paper or staple the strips together to take home.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Jesus grew up in a family. Did you know he had 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 would always have been perfectly nice. 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. Some families go on trips together to play and have fun. 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 to be a carpenter and build something.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Jesus' earthly dad was a carpenter. He may have taught Jesus a lot about building things. Jesus learned how to be a carpenter too. 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 was 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 some chores to do, but they would have played a little too. Same with kids in the Old West. What do you like to play? Take responses. I wonder what Jesus liked to play?

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

Have the kids take turns putting on the blindfold, pulling an object out, and trying to guess what it is.

TEACHING TIE-IN

You had a bandana on and couldn't see for a minute. Some people can't see all the time. In the Bible, we read how Jesus healed the eyes of some people who couldn't see so they could see. Jesus has so much amazing power!

DAY 3 WET TOUCH TABLE: POWER OVER NATURE

DIRECTIONS

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

TEACHING TIE-IN

Jesus has so much amazing power! He is so powerful, even the wind and sea and all of nature listens to him. One time, he told a storm to be still, and it stopped!

DAY 3 DRY TOUCH TABLE: POWER OVER DEATH

DIRECTIONS

Find and “unbury” the people.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Jesus has so much amazing power! He has power over death. The Bible tells us that Jesus used his power to bring some people who died back to life.

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 every single person who came to him for healing. Now that's power! No one else can do that. Only Jesus.

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 DISCOVERY CENTER: REMEMBER JESUS PLAY DOUGH

DIRECTIONS

Help the kids roll or press the play dough and use the cookie cutters to make shapes, then discuss how they remind us of Jesus.

TEACHING TIE-IN

What shape is this? Flower, star, heart, or cross. What does it have to do with Jesus? Take responses.

The flower reminds us that Jesus is God, who created everything. The star reminds us of Jesus' birth when he was born as a baby. The heart reminds us that Jesus loves us. The cross reminds us that Jesus died to forgive our sins, then rose from the dead. Isn't it a wonder that Jesus didn't stay dead? He came back to life and is alive in heaven now!

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. Who does a cross remind us of? Take responses. Jesus died on a cross, but then he came back to life. He's in heaven now and will come back someday to take his children to heaven. All those who trust in him to forgive their sins can become his child.

DAY 4 DRY TOUCH TABLE: SNAKES IN THE SAND

DIRECTIONS

Play with the items.

TEACHING TIE-IN

Out west, there are rattlesnakes. They're called that because their tails make a rattling noise. Who made snakes? Take responses. God created snakes when he made the other animals. But Satan used a snake to trick Eve. Adam and Eve disobeyed God, and that's called sin. We all sin when we don't obey God. 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 you could be a miner and collect a bag of gold? That would be a neat treasure. Well, I know an even better treasure. Jesus is the best treasure ever! He loves you and wants you to be his child!

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: COUNT & SORT

DIRECTIONS

Kids can play with the money.
Have them practice counting and
sorting the bills or coins.

TEACHING TIE-IN

In our Bible lesson today, two of
the servants worked hard to make
more money for their master. But
the servant with one coin buried
his and didn't get any more. This
reminds us to work hard for God
and use our talents and skills to
please him.

DAY 5 WET TOUCH TABLE: PRACTICING KINDNESS

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 is in heaven right now.
While we wait for him to come
back, we can love others by show-
ing kindness and caring for them.
We can speak kindly and tell
them about Jesus.

DAY 5 DRY TOUCH TABLE: COMING IN THE CLOUDS

DIRECTIONS

Students play with the items, trying to find “Jesus.” Continue to hide him throughout the play time, 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. Someday he will come back to earth in the same way! We can be busy working for him while we’re waiting. Let’s pretend the cotton balls are clouds, and you can look for Jesus in the clouds.

DAY 5 DRAMATIC PLAY: OLD WEST DRESS-UP

DIRECTIONS

Dress up and pretend to be out west.

TEACHING TIE-IN

It’s been an amazing week at Wonder Junction. Who can tell me something they learned about _____ this week? Fill in the blank with specifics for kids to comment on, such as Jesus, the animal pals, the Old West, how Jesus forgives sin, etc.

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.