

## Christmas Services



## OVERVIEW CARD

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY  
JESUS**

**Key Question:**

Why is Jesus special?

**Bottom Line:**

Jesus is God's Son.

**Memory Verse:**

"I bring you good news of great joy."

Luke 2:10, NLV

**Bible Story Focus:**

It's Christmas!

Happy Birthday Jesus!

Retell Entire Christmas Story

**Coloring Page:**

Birthday Balloons

**Music:**

It's Christmastime

Oh What a Special Night

Best Present Ever

Happy Birthday song

**Bible Lesson:**

The Beginner's Bible

Retell Entire Christmas Story

Pages 266 to 290

**Story:**

Happy Birthday Jesus

By Michelle Medlock Adams

**Service Time:**

63 minutes (Christmas Services)

**Memory Verse –**

**"I bring you good news of great joy."**

**Luke 2:10, NLV**

## Christmas Services



# ACTIVITY 1 – 2's/3's only HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

### Beach Ball Birthday Fun

#### Big Idea:

*Children will play with the parachute and beach balls.*

#### What You Need:

Happy Birthday Jesus beach balls and parachute.

#### What You Do:

Arrange children in a circle around the parachute. Have each child pick up the edge of the parachute so that it is completely off the ground. Ask the children to slowly move their arms up and down to make a rippling effect. Direct them to go faster and then slower. Once the children have mastered the technique, toss the beach balls on the parachute and allow them to be bounced around. Repeat the activity until the children lose interest.

#### What You Say:

*Before the activity:* "I am so excited about the birthday party for Jesus today! I have a wonderful idea! Why don't we play a fun game with these Happy Birthday Jesus beach balls and the parachute. Are you ready to play? *(Pause.)* Let's begin, can everyone hold onto the parachute? Great Job!" *(Play as long as children are interested.)*

*At the end of the activity:* "You did a great job holding onto the parachute. That was so much fun! I love birthday parties and birthday party games. Do you remember whose birthday we are celebrating today? *(Pause.)* We're having a party for Jesus' birthday! I love celebrating Jesus as He is the best present ever from God! What a special gift. **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God's Son.**"

### Memory Verse –

**"I bring you good news of great joy."**

**Luke 2:10, NLV**

## Christmas Services



# ACTIVITY 2 – 2's/3's only HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

### Musical Party

#### **Big Idea:**

*Have children play the musical instruments while they sing and dance to celebrate Jesus' birthday.*

**What You Need:** Christmas music, CD player, Jingle bells, tambourines, and shakers

#### **What You Do:**

*Before the Activity:* Give each child an instrument.

*During the Activity:* Encourage the children to play with the instruments and dance while you play fun Christmas music.

#### **What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* "Today is Jesus' birthday! Our countdown to Christmas is over! Let's make some music to celebrate Jesus' birthday!"

*During the Activity:* (Give each child an instrument.) "Let's play the instruments and dance!" (Do activity.)

*After the Activity:* "Great job, everyone! It's so fun to celebrate Christmas because Christmas is Jesus' birthday! I'm glad we got to celebrate with our music!"

### Memory Verse –

**"I bring you good news of great joy."**

**Luke 2:10, NLV**

## Christmas Services



# ACTIVITY 3 - ALL HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

### Pass the Present

#### Big Idea:

*Children will pass the present around the circle while practicing the memory verse.*

**What You Need:** A small Christmas box with a lid and “Happy Birthday Jesus” stickers (1 per child)

#### What You Do:

*During the Activity:* Gather the children in a circle and sit down in an open area of the room. Pass the present around the circle as you say the memory verse. Once you’ve repeated the verse several times, open the box and pass out a sticker to each child.

#### What You Say:

*During the Activity:* “Let’s review this month’s memory verse as we pass around this Christmas box. Are you ready? *(Pause.)* Let’s start passing! *I bring you good news of great joy, Luke 2:10. Great! Let’s say it again. Keep passing!*”

#### After the Activity:

“Great job, everyone! The angel did bring good news of great joy! I’m so glad we get to celebrate Jesus’ birth—the best gift ever—today on Christmas. Happy birthday, Jesus! **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God’s Son.**”

### Memory Verse –

**“I bring you good news of great joy.”**

**Luke 2:10, NLV**

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# ACTIVITY 4 – 4's/5's only HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

### Merry, Merry, Christmas (aka Duck, Duck, Goose)

#### Big Idea:

*Children will play a fun game of “Duck, Duck, Goose”.*

#### What You Need:

No Supplies Needed

#### What You Do:

*Before the activity:* Seat all of the children in a circle and explain the rules. Have the Leader say the words, MERRY, MERRY, CHRISTMAS with the children several times. Explain to the children that we are going to play a game similar to Duck, Duck, Goose, however instead of using those words we are going to say Merry, Merry, Christmas instead. Tell the children when they hear “CHRISTMAS” that will be the signal to chase the person “It”.

#### What You Say:

“We are going to play a super fun game. How many of you have ever played Duck, Duck, Goose? *(Pause.)* Great, this game is very similar however instead of saying Duck and Goose we are going to say Merry and Christmas. I will pick someone to be “It”. The person “It” will walk around the outside of the circle tapping each child on the head and saying, “MERRY” each time he taps a child on the head. When he reaches the child he wants to pick, “It” says, “CHRISTMAS” as he taps the child’s head. That child must get up from his spot and chase “It” around the circle. Whoever arrives at the empty spot first sits down. The other child becomes “It”. Are you ready to start? *(Pause.)* Great, let’s begin!”

### Memory Verse –

**“I bring you good news of great joy.”**

**Luke 2:10, NLV**

## Christmas Services



## ACTIVITY 5 – 4's/5's only

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

### Pin the Candle on the Cupcake

#### Big Idea:

*Children will try to place the candle on top of the cupcake while blindfolded.*

#### What You Need:

Cupcake, candles, masking tape and blindfolds

**What You Do:** Hang the cupcake on the wall. Blindfold the first player. Spin the blindfolded player in circles for a few seconds and then allow the player to try and place the candle on the cupcake. *(If any of the children do not want to wear the blindfold, allow them to close their eyes instead when it is their turn.)*

#### What You Say:

*Before the activity:* “We are going to play a fun game today! Our cupcake is missing candles. We are going to help by taping the candles back on. To make it even more fun, we are going to try to do it without using our eyes. Everyone is going to have a turn so hopefully one of us will place them in the correct spot.”

*At the end of the activity:* “You did a great job decorating our cupcakes with candles. That was so much fun! I love birthday parties and birthday party games. Do you remember whose birthday we are celebrating today? *(Pause.)* We’re having a party for Jesus’ birthday! I love celebrating Jesus as He is the best present ever from God! **Why is Jesus special?** *(Pause)* **Jesus is God’s son.**”

### Memory Verse –

**“I bring you good news of great joy.”**

**Luke 2:10, NLV**

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# CRAFT

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

### Nativity Sticker Scene Ornament

**What You Need:** Nativity Sticker Scene – one ornament and sticker sheet per child

**What You Do:** Review the Christmas story as you help your preschoolers create their very own Nativity Sticker Scene ornament.

#### What You Say:

*Before the activity:* “It’s Christmas! It’s Christmas! Whose birthday do we celebrate at Christmas? (*Pause.*) Jesus! Happy birthday, Jesus! Can you help me create our very own Manger Scene ornament to take home? (*Pause.*) Great!”

*During the activity:* “It all started with a nice lady named ... Mary loved God and He loved her, too. God knew that Mary was the perfect lady to be a mommy. God sent an angel to tell Mary that she was going to be a mommy to a very special boy! Mary was going to get married to a man named Joseph. Joseph and Mary traveled a long way to Bethlehem on a donkey. When they got there, there was no place for them to stay. But a nice innkeeper let them stay in his stable with the animals and this is where Jesus was born. His crib was a manger with hay! Then some angels appeared to the shepherds in the field and told them that Jesus, the Son of God, was born! And they sang songs and the shepherds went to see Baby Jesus. When they got there, they were so excited and knew they needed to tell everyone about Jesus and that’s exactly what they did. The wise men came to visit and brought gifts.”

*After the activity:* “Great job listening and creating your manger scenes! They look awesome! I love celebrating Jesus’ birthday. It’s the most amazing thing ever. God loves us so much that He gave us Baby Jesus! **Why is Jesus special?** (*Pause.*) **Jesus is God’s son!**”

### Memory Verse –

**“I bring you good news of great joy.”**

**Luke 2:10, NLV**



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# CRAFT HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS

### Party Hats and Happy Birthday Song

**What You Need:** Party hats one per child, Christmas stickers, “Happy Birthday Jesus” from AmberSkyRecords.com, motions to the song, music player, and party hats

#### **What You Do:**

*During the Activity:* Let the children decorate their party hats with the stickers. Be sure to write each child’s name on the inside of his/her hat. Play the song once for the children. Play the song again and teach the movements. Repeat the song and the movements several times. Allow the children to dance to the song while wearing the party hats.

#### **What You Say:**

*Before the Activity:* “Today we’re celebrating the best gift EVER as we celebrate Jesus’ birthday! Happy birthday, Jesus! And you can’t have a celebration without party hats, right? So, let’s make some special party hats to celebrate Jesus’ birthday!”

*During the Activity:* “Your party hats are awesome! Way to go, everyone. Let’s listen to the perfect song for today! It’s a song celebrating Jesus’ birthday!” (*Play song.*)

“Happy birthday, JESUS! There are some movements that we can do while the song is playing. Watch me and do what I do. Are you ready? (*Pause.*) (*Teach movements.*) Great job! Let’s do it again! Let’s dance!”

*After the Activity:* “Awesome job! It is so much fun celebrating Jesus’ birthday! Happy birthday, Jesus! **Why is Jesus special? Jesus is God’s Son!**”

### Memory Verse –

**“I bring you good news of great joy.”**

**Luke 2:10, NLV**



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# SMALL GROUP

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY  
JESUS**

### Small Group Time

**What you Need:** Parent Take Home Card, Red, Green and Yellow Playdoh, Rolling Pins, and Sticker Roll

**SMALL GROUP LEADER (SGL):** “We’ve told Jesus, ‘Happy birthday!’ a lot today, but I can’t think of a better way to begin small group time than with telling Him again. When I count to three, I want all of us to say, ‘Happy birthday, Jesus!’ Ready? One, two, three!”

**CHILDREN and SGL:** “HAPPY BIRTHDAY, JESUS!”

**SGL:** “Yay for Christmas! Yay for Jesus’ birthday! This is the BIG day! The day we’ve been waiting for! The day when we celebrate how special Jesus is! And **why is Jesus special? Jesus is God’s Son!**”

**SGL:** “Since today is Jesus’ birthday! I think we should make Him a cake! Let’s use the rolling pins and our fingers to make a cake of any shape that you would like. You can use the other colors of Play-Doh to decorate it! Your cakes look great! They are perfect for our special day today. It is so much fun to celebrate Jesus’ birthday!”

“Ok, it’s time to review our lesson. I am going to ask you some questions and you will get a sticker for answering them. I have some really cool stickers today. Are you ready? *(Pause.)* Great! *(Ask the children the questions from the “Parent Take Home Cards”.* You can also make up additional questions from our video lesson. Don’t forget to ask them to say their memory verse for another sticker. You can repeat the same questions over and over as repetition is good for preschoolers.) You are such great listeners!”

“Now I’ll pray before it’s time to say goodbye until next week. ***(Read the prayer on the back of the “Parent Take Home Card.”)***”

### Memory Verse –

**“I bring you good news of great joy.”**

**Luke 2:10, NLV**