



ADVENT WEEK 3

## GOD LOVED US BY SENDING JESUS

ISAIAH 11; JOHN 1

### KEY POINT

God loved us by sending Jesus.

### BIG PICTURE QUESTION

How do we know God loves us? God sent Jesus because He loves us!

### MEMORY VERSE

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His son. Galatians 4:4

# PREPARE



Take time to reflect  
on today's lesson.

## LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Pumpkin is a pale-orange cat who lives in our home as a beloved member of our family. Pumpkin was born a stray, and her first home was under our shed. Shortly after Pumpkin's birth, her mother left her to fend for herself. My son and daughter were very worried about the kitten and wanted to adopt her immediately. Pumpkin was shy and wouldn't let anyone near her. Most days my kids would go outside after school and drop food for Pumpkin, who would wait until they left to nibble it.

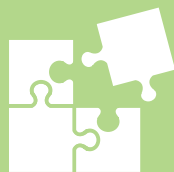
My kids made toys for Pumpkin. She would play with the toys after the kids went back inside. All my kids wanted was what was best for this kitten, who couldn't decide if she could trust them or not. After a few months, Pumpkin allowed my kids to get close enough to pet her. Then one day, she walked into the middle of our whole family while we were outside and decided she was one of us.

In their consistent, patient, kind way, my kids showed me a rich picture of how God loves us. No matter what we've been through, or how lost or untrusting we might be, He gets into our world and demonstrates His love for us. This is how Jesus came into the world. Read Isaiah 11:1-2 and John 1:1-14. God loved us by sending Jesus.

How has trust been an important part of learning God's love? How have you experienced the consistent, patient, kind love of God?

— **Matt Irvine**  
*Pastor and Editor*  
*Contributor to Wonder Ink*

# WELCOME & OPENING



Connect with children as service starts.

## WELCOME

Play the Waiting For Jesus Spotify playlist from your phone as you welcome children in and throughout the service. Scan the QR code on the right with your phone's camera to access it!



## MEMORY VERSE SONG

Gather children and sing the song below to the tune of “When the Saints Go Marching In”:

But when the fullness,  
but when the fullness,  
but when the fullness of time had come,  
God sent forth His son.  
Galatians 4:4

## THE LORD'S PRAYER/TEN COMMANDMENTS

**Toddlers & Twos:** Use the provided poster to review the Lord's Prayer with the children in your class.

**Threes & Fours:** Using the provided poster, review the Ten Commandments with the children in your class. Read through each one, then have children repeat after you as you say them together.

# ACTIVITIES



Lead children in activities connected to the Bible lesson.

## ACTIVITY 1: NATIVITY PLAY

Get out the provided Little People nativity set in your room. Let children explore the nativity set and play with it. As they interact, review the pieces of the nativity set and their role in the Christmas story.

## ACTIVITY 2: WHAT CAN WE GIVE TO GOD?

**Say:** *“God sent His Son Jesus to be our Savior. Jesus came as a baby to save all of us from our sins—the wrong things we say and do that separate us from God. Jesus came because He loves us so much! Because of God’s gift, we can love Jesus, and we can be forgiven. We can thank God for His great gift and His love, and we can give God the gift of our love and our hearts too.”*

Using the provided butcher paper and tags, give each child a gift tag and crayons or markers. Encourage them to draw a picture of what they want to give God on the gift tag, or help them write what they would give or their name.

Give each child a small heart sticker. Have them stick their heart sticker onto their gift tag, then stick the tag to the butcher paper. Have everyone listen as you read the two verses below about God’s amazing love.

*Read the following verses while children listen:*

Romans 5:8 says, “But here is how God has shown his love for us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

1 John 4:9 says, “Here is how God showed his love among us. He sent his one and only Son into the world. He sent him so we could receive life through him.”

# BUILDING BLOCKS



Learn more about the background of today's lesson.

## THIS WEEK'S FOCUS: LOVE

### WHO?

God called Isaiah to preach a message of renewal. He prophesied that a “branch” growing from the root of Jesse’s family tree would restore the nation. This is a reference to King David’s line, from the tribe of Judah. Jesus is the promised Savior!

### WHAT?

All things were created through Jesus, who is the Word. When humans disobeyed God, He continued to love them. God promised to send a Savior to rescue them so they could be with Him again. Jesus—the Word—is the promised Savior who came at Christmas and will return again.

### WHERE?

In Isaiah 11, the prophet addresses the tribe of Judah who was living in the southern kingdom of Judah. Isaiah envisions a future when the divided kingdoms are reunited, and people will come from every nation, under the leadership of the promised Savior.

### WHEN?

God’s rescue plan was always to send Jesus. Jesus has always existed, even before the creation of time. Isaiah sees a set of promises from God that can only be fulfilled in and through Jesus, more than 700 years after Isaiah lived.



## BABIES & TWOS BIBLE LESSON

*When you say, “love” in the story, put your hands on your heart, or hold up the provided paper heart. Keep the provided baby doll nearby to use when you tell about baby Jesus.*

Before there was an earth or a heaven, Jesus was with God. Jesus is God. Jesus has always been there. God made the stars and planets, oceans and forests, animals and insects. He made everything! Even humans. He loved *(hands on heart)* everything He made.

But something got in the way. People did wrong things that led to people being separated from God. That’s called sin.

God promised to send a Savior. God sent Jesus to earth to be born. *(Hold up the baby doll.)* This baby was Jesus.

God loves *(hands on heart)* His people so much. God showed His love *(hands on heart)* for the world by sending Jesus to be born that first Christmas day.

## CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY

God loves His people and promised to send a Savior to rescue them. Jesus—God’s Son—is the promised Savior. God sent Jesus because He loves us!





## THREES & FOURS BIBLE LESSON

*When you say, “love” during the story, have children put their hands on their heart. You can also hold up the provided paper heart or invite children to take turns holding it up. Put the provided baby doll nearby to use when you tell about baby Jesus.*

Our lesson today is a great story from the Bible about how God showed His love for us by sending Jesus. *(Encourage children to say, “Jesus.”)* Let’s find out from the Bible what happened. *(Show the Bible Story Picture as you tell the story.)*

Before there was an earth or a heaven, Jesus was with God. Jesus is God. Jesus has always been there. God made the stars and planets, oceans and forests, animals and insects. He made everything! Even humans. He loved *(hands on heart)* everything He made.

But something got in the way. People did wrong things that led to people being separated from God. That’s called sin. We have all made wrong choices. But God did not stop loving *(hands on heart)* His people, even when they sinned.

God had a plan to save people from sin and help us. God promised to send a Savior who would forgive people for the things they do. For a long, long, long time, people waited for the one God promised.

After all that waiting, God finally sent Jesus to earth to be born. *(Hold up the baby doll.)* This baby was not like any other baby ever born. This baby was Jesus. Jesus was born a long time ago.

God loves *(hands on heart)* His people—that’s us!—so much that in Jesus, God left heaven to make His home with us. God sent the gift of Jesus at Christmas to show us how much He loves *(hands on heart)* us.

God showed His love *(hands on heart)* for the world by sending Jesus to be born that first Christmas day. And Jesus promised to return again...all because God loves *(hands on heart)* us.

## CONNECTING TO GOD’S BIG STORY

God loves His people and promised to send a Savior to rescue them. Jesus—God’s Son—is the promised Savior. God sent Jesus because He loves us!

# SNACK & CLOSING



Continue to engage children near the end of the morning.

## SNACK & DISCUSSION

**Have everyone wash their hands, then serve a snack. Ask the following questions and retell parts of the lesson as needed.**

1. What was your favorite part of today's Bible lesson?
2. What did you learn about God in today's Bible lesson?
3. What is sin?
4. How do we know God loves us? God sent Jesus because He loves us!

## CLOSING ACTIVITIES

Sing the clean up song. Have children help put toys on tables.

Gather them on the rug in a circle and have one volunteer read today's Bible lesson from the children's Bible. Have a regular Bible ready as well.

Sing the "B.I.B.L.E." and "Everything in the Bible is Absolutely True" songs. Remind children that the Bible is God's Word and the most important book in the whole world!

The other volunteer should stand at the door and help with pick up, matching stickers, gathering children's things, etc.

## BEFORE YOU GO...

**Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:**

1. Spray down toys with disinfectant.
2. Spot sweep if needed.
3. Return toys to closet, close door.
4. Throw away any trash left on counters and in room.
5. Return binders to the cabinet.

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!**