

Wise Men Find Jesus

Matthew 2:1-12

Preschoolers experience God’s wonders all around them, and they can understand that Jesus always does what’s right. Use this lesson to help children worship Jesus by explaining that worshipping is celebrating how wonderful Jesus is. Show them by your example that they can worship Jesus by thanking him in their prayers; by trying to be like him in their actions; and by praising him with joyful songs, cheers, and even movement.



Bible Point
We worship Jesus.

Key Verse
“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will worship Jesus.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started <i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p>Welcome and Celebrate Welcome each other, and praise God through music.</p>	<p>CD player Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
<p>2</p> <p>Key Verse Activity <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>The Best Gift Ever Children will open a box and find Jesus inside.</p>	<p>Bible, gift wrap, box with lid, scissors, tape, copies of the “Baby Jesus Pictures” page (at the end of this lesson)</p>	<p>Gift-wrap a box and its lid separately. Cut out enough pictures of baby Jesus for each child to have one. Put the pictures inside the wrapped box, and place the lid on top of the box.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Bible Exploration <i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p>Puppy Pointers Discover a clue about some men who worshipped Jesus.</p>	<p>CD player, Theo puppet, gift bag, 1 sticker per child, string Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Fill a gift bag with stickers and then tie the bag to Theo’s paw.</p>
	<p>Bible Time: Three Wise Men Act out how the wise men found Jesus.</p>	<p>Bible, 3 blocks, 3 gift bows, vanilla extract, almond extract, 2 cotton swabs, gold glitter, glue Teacher Pack: “Nativity Figures” page, with figures cut out; “Magi Worship Jesus” poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)</p> 	<p>Put a gift bow on each block. Set up the “Nativity figures” in one area of your room.</p>

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: Scented Boxes Make open boxes with spices in them.</p>	My Bible Hugs, glue sticks, 4 bowls, 4 different spices	Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.
	<p>Center 2: Let's Find Jesus Make a celebration snack and find the baby Jesus inside.</p>	cereal, pretzels, popcorn, gummy bears, cups, antibacterial gel	Put a gummy bear in the bottom of every cup. Place the cups out of reach of children.
	<p>Center 3: Follow the Light Follow a light to find Jesus.</p>	flashlight Teacher Pack: "Nativity Figures" page 	Hide the baby Jesus figure from the "Nativity Figures" page somewhere in the room.
	<p>Center 4: A Gift for Jesus Decorate gifts for Jesus.</p>	construction paper, crayons	
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p>Action Prayer Thank Jesus for his goodness.</p>		
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

***Bold text** within the lesson is spoken text.*



Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Come Marching In" (track 12), "God Is the King" (Psalm 47:7) (track 6)

1

GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate



Tip Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle.

Lead children in singing "Come Marching In" to the tune of "When the Saints Go Marching In" (track 12 on the CD). The song is sung three times. The first time, have kids stand up and march in one direction. The second time, have kids turn and march in the other direction. The third time, have the children wave their hands in the air as they march in place.

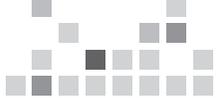
 **Oh, when we all come marching in,
Oh, when we all come marching in,
How we love to praise our Lord Jesus,
When we all come marching in!**
(Repeat 2x.)

Say: **This week we'll learn that ► WE WORSHIP JESUS. Let's sing another worship song.**

Lead children in singing "God Is the King" (Psalm 47:7) (track 6). Encourage children to follow the motions in parentheses.

 **Let's sing about the Lord,** (*cup hands over mouth*)
The greatness of our God, (*make muscles*)
God is the king of everything. (*stretch arms above head*)
We're wild about his love (*shake hands over head*)
And all that he has done, (*shake hands over head*)
God is the king of everything. (*stretch arms above head*)

I know God; I talk about him every single day. (*point to head*)
I pray to him at all times; he's the only way. (*make prayer hands*)
I love him! He loves me no matter where I go, (*hug self*)
And everything I do will be for God and God alone. (*stomp foot and stand strong*)



Let's sing about the Lord, *(cup hands over mouth)*
 The greatness of our God, *(make muscles)*
 God is the king of everything. *(stretch arms above head)*
 We're wild about his love *(shake hands over head)*
 And all that he has done, *(shake hands over head)*
 God is the king of everything. *(stretch arms above head)*

Let's sing about the Lord, *(cup hands over mouth)*
 The greatness of our God, *(make muscles)*
 God is the king of everything. *(stretch arms above head)*
 We're wild about his love *(shake hands over head)*
 And all that he has done, *(shake hands over head)*
 God is the king of everything, *(stretch arms above head)*
 God is the king of everything, *(slowly bring arms down, stretching them out)*
 God is the king of everything. *(bring arms to side)*

"God Is the King" (Psalm 47:7) by Jay Stocker and Ben Glover. © 2005, 2006 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: We celebrated Jesus' birth at Christmas. This week, we'll hear how the wise men looked for Jesus so they could worship him. Like the wise men, ► WE WORSHIP JESUS.

2

KEY VERSE ACTIVITY

The Best Gift Ever

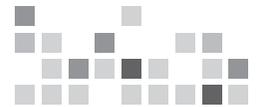
What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to John 3:16, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible, John 3:16, says, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." This means that God loves us so much he sent his Son, Jesus. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in repeating the simplified version of the Key Verse with you: **God loves us so much he sent his Son, Jesus (John 3:16).**

Place the gift box in your lap.

Say: **Our friends and family give us special gifts for Christmas, but God gave us the very best gift of all—Jesus!**



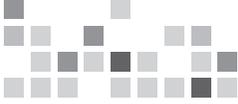
The Best Gift Ever Supplies

- Bible
- gift wrap
- box with lid
- scissors
- tape
- copies of the "Baby Jesus Pictures" page (at the end of this lesson)

The Best Gift Ever Supplies

Gift-wrap a box and its lid separately. Cut out enough pictures of baby Jesus for each child to have one. Put the pictures inside the wrapped box, and place the lid on top of the box.





Pass the gift box around the circle. Let each child open it and take out a picture of Jesus. Make sure children replace the lid before they pass on the box to the next child.

Say: **Jesus is the very best gift we could ever receive! Let's say our Key Verse together again.** Lead children in repeating the Key Verse after you: **God loves us so much he sent his Son, Jesus (John 3:16).**

Say: **God sent Jesus as a little baby. Take your picture of Jesus and rock it like a baby. Let's say our Key Verse while we rock Jesus: God loves us so much he sent his Son, Jesus (John 3:16). God wants us to worship Jesus because Jesus is Lord and Jesus came to help us.**

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think about Jesus' love for you?**
- **Why do you worship Jesus?**
- **What things can we do to worship Jesus?**

Say: ► **WE WORSHIP JESUS** because he came to save us and give us life in heaven with him forever. We can worship Jesus in lots of ways; we can worship him by singing to him, by praying to him, and by loving other people.

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 4 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Theo: Hi, everybody!

Teacher: Hello, Theo! It's so good to see you at church with us today. What do you have there?

Theo: I brought a gift bag with a surprise inside!

Teacher: How exciting! Is there something good inside?

Theo: Yes, there's a wonderful surprise inside!

Teacher: Well, Theo, today we're going to learn about some men who brought very special gifts to Jesus. These men wanted to worship Jesus by bringing him gifts.

Friends, let's say our Bible Point for Theo.

(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► **WE WORSHIP JESUS.**)

Teacher: Everyone in the world can worship Jesus.

Puppy Pointers Supplies

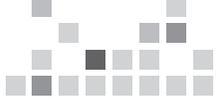
CD player
Theo puppet
gift bag
1 sticker per child
string

Teacher Pack

CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 4)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Fill a gift bag with stickers and then tie the bag to Theo's paw.



Theo: Oh, I can see why the men wanted to bring Jesus a gift. May I give you my gift now?

(Open the bag and pass it around so each child can take one sticker.)

Teacher: Thank you so much, Theo! Friends, let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you think when you heard Theo had a surprise?
- Tell about some gifts you've gotten.
- Why would you want to give Jesus gifts?

Say: **Theo gave us a neat surprise, kind of like the wise men that we'll read about in the Bible today. The men gave Jesus gifts as a way to worship Jesus and tell him they knew he's God. We can give God's gifts, too, to let him know we love him. And ► WE WORSHIP JESUS to thank him for coming to earth for us.**

Bible Time: Three Wise Men

What You'll Do ■■■■

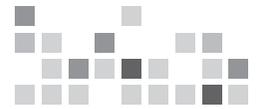
Open your Bible to Matthew 2:1-12, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book. Say: **Today we'll hear about three men who heard Jesus was born and went searching for him.**

But I'll need your help to tell what happened. Put the children in groups of three. **Each of your groups of three will pretend to be three wise men looking for Jesus. So follow along and do what I say to help tell what happened. The men probably didn't find Jesus until he was 2 years old! So we're in for quite a journey.**

The wise men lived far away. Have the wise men groups move to the far side of the room away from the nativity figures.

Say: **These wise men were very smart men; they were important people, as important as princes. One of the things they liked to do was study the stars in the sky. One night, they saw something very, very special in the sky. They were so excited!** Have children in each group shade their eyes with their hands, look toward heaven, point, and then jump up and down.

Say: **These men saw a very special star, and they knew it meant that a new baby king was to be born. They knew that this baby king was God. The wise men decided to go to him and worship him. They said, "Let's follow that star and find the new baby king!"** Have the children follow you around the room, always looking up at a pretend star.



Bible Time: Three Wise Men Supplies

- Bible
- 3 blocks
- 3 gift bows
- vanilla extract
- almond extract
- 2 cotton swabs
- gold glitter
- glue

Teacher Pack

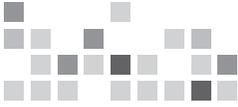
"Nativity Figures" page, with figures cut out
"Magi Worship Jesus" poster (from the Big Bible Poster Pack)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Bible Time: Three Wise Men Easy Prep

Put a gift bow on each block. Set up the nativity figures in one area of your room.





Say: **Each wise man brought a very expensive gift for the baby king.** Have the children pretend to wrap gifts.

Finally they came to Jerusalem, where the evil King Herod lived. The wise men asked the king, “Where is the baby king? We saw his star, and we’ve followed it here.” King Herod was angry because he thought that when the baby grew up, the baby would take his job. So King Herod told the wise men that when they found the baby king, they should come back and tell him. The wise men knew he was evil, though. Have the children wag their fingers to show “no no.”

The wise men continued to follow the star to Bethlehem. The star stopped over the house where Mary, Joseph, and Jesus lived. Have the groups follow you around the room until you reach the nativity figures.

When they saw Jesus, the wise men bowed down and worshipped him. Have the children kneel and bow, pretending to worship Jesus.

Then they gave him the presents they brought. Let three children put the three blocks with bows in front of the nativity figures.

Lay the “Magi Worship Jesus” poster on the floor, and have the children sit in a circle around it.

Two of the wise men brought very wonderful-smelling gifts. Let’s make two of the gifts on this poster smell good. Dip a cotton swab in the vanilla extract, and let children wipe the extract on one of the gifts on the poster. Dip another cotton swab in the almond extract, and encourage kids to wipe it on a different gift. Then let kids smell the gifts.

The other wise man brought sparkling gold for Jesus. Let’s put some gold on the last gift. Place several drops of glue on the last gift, and pass around a shaker of gold glitter. Encourage each child to shake some gold onto the last gift. When kids have finished, pick up the poster and lightly shake it over a trash can to get rid of any excess glitter.

When it was time for the wise men to go home, God warned them in a dream not to go back to King Herod. So the wise men went home a different way. Have the wise men follow you around the room and then sit down.

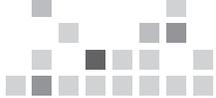
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What did you think about how the wise men worshipped Jesus?
- What things do you do to worship Jesus?

Say: **The wise men worshipped Jesus by bringing him gifts. They knew he was God, and they were very excited that he had come to earth to save everyone who believes in him. When ► WE WORSHIP JESUS, we don’t have to bring him gifts.**



We can do other things. God sees our actions and knows how we feel. God is pleased when we choose to worship him.



4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

CENTER 1:

Scented Boxes

What You'll Do

Give each child a Lesson 5 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **The wise men brought some nice-smelling gifts to Jesus. Let's smell some different scents now. We'll put each of the four scents in the scent boxes we'll make.**

Help children fold their pages on the dotted lines to form boxes. Show kids how to use the glue sticks to put a small amount of glue on each corner.

Sprinkle some of each spice in the four separate bowls so the scents have their own bowls. Have the children put glue on each of the four white areas. Then have children pinch small amounts of spices on the glue in the four designated areas.

Give the children time to smell each of the scents and try to guess what they are.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to smell the different scents?
- Tell about some scented things you have in your house that may have been a gift.
- Why do you think the scented gifts the wise men gave were nice?
- What are some gifts you might want to give Jesus?

Say: **Giving gifts is one wonderful way to worship Jesus. The wise men gave Jesus some very nice gifts. But there are lots of nice things the wise men could've given Jesus—even things that we can't hold in our hands. One way we can give Jesus a gift is when ► WE WORSHIP JESUS. Let's worship Jesus this week.**

Center 1: Scented Boxes Supplies

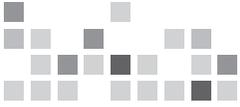
My Bible Hugs
glue sticks
4 different spices
4 bowls

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 1: Scented Boxes Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson 5 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.





Center 2: Let's Find Jesus Supplies

cereal
pretzels
popcorn
gummy bears
cups
antibacterial gel
(optional)

ALLERGY ALERT

Center 2: Let's Find Jesus Easy Prep

Put a gummy bear in the bottom of every cup. Place the cups out of reach of children.

CENTER 2:

Let's Find Jesus

What You'll Do

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: **After Jesus was born, the wise men traveled from a faraway land to find him. God put a star in the sky to help lead the wise men to baby Jesus.**

Say: **Let's pretend these cups are the wise men traveling a long way to find Jesus.** Pour a little bit of cereal in a cup to cover up the gummy bear. Pass it to one child, and have the children pass it all the way through the group until it gets to the last child. Continue putting cereal in each cup and having kids pass it in the same way until all the children have a cup.

Say: **When the wise men found Jesus, they gave him gifts. Put some pretzels in your cup now to pretend you're giving a gift.** Have each child put a handful of pretzels over the cereal.

Say: **They also worshipped Jesus.** Have each child put a handful of popcorn over the pretzels. **Worshipping God can be quite exciting because it reminds us how great Jesus is.** Let children shake the cups gently to show the popcorn bouncing around.

Say: **Well, it looks like the wise men's journey is over. I think you'll find baby Jesus in your snack somewhere, just like the wise men found baby Jesus after their long journey. Hint: We'll pretend baby Jesus is a gummy bear.** Encourage the children to look for the gummy bears when they eat their snacks, and then lead the children in a prayer, thanking God for the snack. Watch kids carefully as they eat to avoid any possible choking problems. Allow time for kids to work their way through the snack to find the gummy-bear baby Jesus.

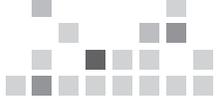
Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like to look for and find the baby Jesus in your snack?
- What are some ways you can look for Jesus in your life?
- What can you do when you see Jesus in your life?

Say: **The wise men went on quite a journey to find Jesus. We can find Jesus in our lives, too, when we go to church, read the Bible, pray, and talk to others about him. And when we find him, we show we know he's God when ► WE WORSHIP JESUS.**



CENTER 3:

Follow the Light

What You'll Do

Have the children form a line, shoulder to shoulder, at the opposite side of the room from where you hid the baby Jesus. Then say: **Let's pretend we're on a journey to find Jesus by following the star in the sky.**

Dim the lights. Say: **When I shine this flashlight on your feet, you may follow the light shining on the floor in front of you. But when I turn it off, you have to freeze right where you are. Like the star led the wise men, the flashlight will lead you to baby Jesus.**

Lead each child one at a time toward the baby Jesus figure. When all the children are close, lead them to baby Jesus by shining the light where you hid baby Jesus. Continue leading the children until everyone has spotted Jesus.

Talk With Kids

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What was it like following the flashlight to find Jesus?
- What's it like to finally find something special you've been looking for?
- Why is Jesus really special to you?
- What can you do to help others know Jesus is special?

Say: **The wise men traveled far to find Jesus. They knew he was special, so they wanted to worship him. We know Jesus is special, too, and that's why ► WE WORSHIP JESUS. We can help others know Jesus is special, too.**

CENTER 4:

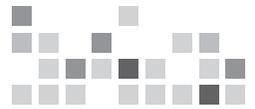
A Gift for Jesus

What You'll Do

Say: **The wise men gave gifts to Jesus as a way to worship him. Let's make some gifts for Jesus, too.**

Encourage the children to draw pictures on one side of the construction paper to show things they'd like to give to Jesus. Remind kids that Jesus was probably 2 or 3 years old when the wise men visited him, just a little younger than they are.

Then have the preschoolers make the other side of the paper look like the top of a gift box. Encourage them to draw bows, the ribbons, and gift tags. Help them write Jesus' name on the gift tags they drew.



Center 3: Follow the Light Supplies

flashlight

Teacher Pack

"Nativity Figures" page

Center 3: Follow the Light Easy Prep

Hide the baby Jesus figure from the "Nativity Figures" page somewhere in the room.

Center 4: A Gift for Jesus Supplies

construction paper
crayons



Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- What gifts do you like to get?
- Why do you think Jesus likes getting gifts from you?

Say: **Jesus was a little child just like you! I'll bet he really liked getting the gifts the wise men brought to him. ► WE WORSHIP JESUS just as the wise men worshipped Jesus.**

.....

5**LASTING
IMPRESSIONS****Daily Challenges****Daily Challenges
Supplies**

My Bible Hugs

.....

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today's lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children's growing relationships with Jesus.

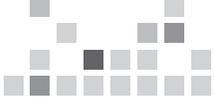
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Today we learned that ► WE WORSHIP JESUS. I would like each of you to choose a way to worship Jesus this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- **Draw a picture for Jesus, and then wrap it up like a gift. Put the gift in your room, and remember that it's your special gift for Jesus.**
- **In the morning, pray and ask Jesus to help you worship him by being nice to others all day.**

Say: **If you want to draw, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to pray, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!



Action Prayer

What You'll Do

Say: **You're gifts for Jesus, and he'll always love you just the way you are.** Let each child tell Jesus a reason he or she loves Jesus. Then ask the children to repeat the lines of this prayer after you.

Pray: **Dear Lord Jesus,
We thank you for all the things you've made for us.
We worship you because you're so good.
We give ourselves to you.
In your name, amen.**

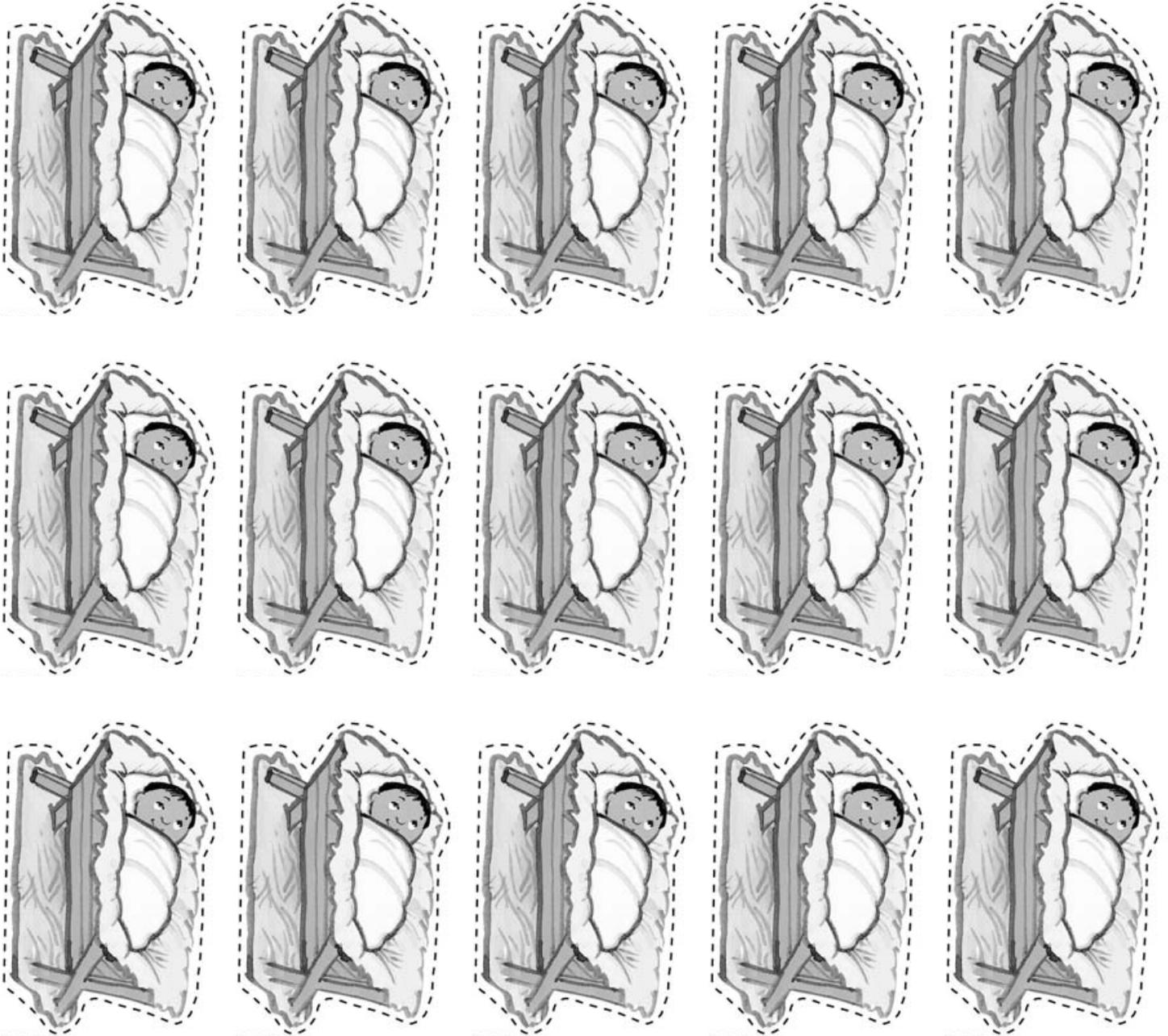
Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Daily Challenges" activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.



Baby Jesus Pictures



Illustrated by Max Kolding

OK
TO COPY