

Worksheet:

Please Send Us Your Pictures

Children's Ministry

Materials needed:

TRINITY circles

Christmas stocking

small toys or peppermint sticks

As many different colors of Play Doh as you can make (you will need tan color for the humans in the story)

red crayons

scissors

paper

tape

small pieces of paper and pencil for everyone

beautifully wrapped *open* box set in the center of the room

Active Learning is a technique of teaching children whereby they are engaged with each other and the teacher. Active Learning is NOT lecture!

[Please remember: If you have an older child or a young teen who can lead out in ANY of these elements it is always best to allow this. In Eden we see that this is the way that children are taught leadership. Help them along in this! There are many Play Doh things to make for this lesson. Have the older kids prepare for this if you know that you won't have enough children to complete the task. They can help you make the Play Doh as well.]

Begin working with the children once the meal is finished and the Facilitator has begun the adult meeting. Once you are finished with the children's lesson have the kids join in the adult group. Giving candles to the small children could be dangerous!

Jesus Birthday Celebration

The Ice Breaker games help to warm up the room quickly with laughter and help in getting to know each other.

Ice Breaker game:

Stocking Guessing Game

Fill a stocking with small toys and Christmas items, for example, a candy cane, bell, small car, or pine-cone. Let the kids feel the stocking and try to identify the contents. The child with the most correct guesses is the winner.

Now move into a time of asking the children a few questions:

Leader question: Has anyone been told by their parents the story of how/when/where they were born?

Leader statement: We are here to celebrate the birthday of Jesus. He had parents just like you have who loved him very much. Jesus was born a little baby just like you were born. He was held, nurtured, fed and loved like a little baby just like you were. However, Jesus was special ~ wasn't He? Why was Jesus special?

(This little talk may start some questions from the children. Take time to answer them. This is really the best part of the entire lesson. So ~ give a lot of attention to their questions. Then ask them even more questions to engage their thinking and conversation with you and the other children.)

Leader question: What does it make you think about with the idea that Jesus was a little baby yet still God?

Leader question: Would you all like to hear the story of how baby Jesus came to our world? Let's work with the Play Doh and then I will read you the story and we can act it out with our creations!

Have the children make all of the characters in the story of Jesus' birth:

Mary

Joseph

baby Jesus

manger animals

barn (you might make this in advance by finding small boxes and labeling them)

rich man

Inn (find this in advance)

Elizabeth

Zacharias baby John the Baptist

Zacharias' house (find this in advance)

angels

3 spiritual priests with gifts etc...

Instruct the children to act out the story as you (or an older child) reads. These passages are paraphrased for easier comprehension for the young mind.

Passages: 122:8.1 All that night neither of them slept much. In the morning Mary began to have her baby boy. And at noon, August 21, 7 B.C., with the help and kind of women fellow travelers, Mary gave birth to her son. Jesus of Nazareth was born into the world, was wrapped in the clothes which Mary had brought along for their trip, and laid him in a near-by manger.

122:8.3 The next day after the birth of Jesus, Joseph told the townspeople they were there. Meeting a man they had talked with two nights before at Jericho, Joseph was taken by him to a rich friend who had a room at the inn, and who said he would gladly give his room to the new parents. That afternoon they moved up to the inn, where they lived for almost three weeks until they found a place to stay in the home of a distant relative of Joseph.

122:8.4 The second day after the birth of Jesus, Mary sent word to Elizabeth that her child had been born and received message back inviting Joseph up to Jerusalem to talk over all their affairs with Zacharias, baby John the Baptist's father. The following week Joseph went to Jerusalem to talk with Zacharias. Both Zacharias and Elizabeth had become convinced with the sincere belief that Jesus was indeed to become the main Jewish leader when he grew up to be a man, the Messiah, and that their son John was to be his second in command, his right-hand man of promise. And since Mary held these same ideas, it was not difficult to convince Joseph to remain in Bethlehem, so that Jesus might grow up to become the greatest leader on the throne of all Israel. Accordingly, they remained in Bethlehem more than a year, Joseph meantime working some at his carpenter's trade.

122:8.5 At the noon at the birth of Jesus the angels of Urantia, assembled under their directors, did sing carols of glory over the Bethlehem manger, but these songs of praise were not heard by human ears. No shepherds nor any other humans came to worship the baby of Bethlehem until the day of the arrival of certain great spiritual teachers from far away, who were sent down from Jerusalem by Zacharias, baby John the Baptist's father.

122:8.6 These great spiritual teachers from far away had been told sometime before by a strange religious teacher of their country that he had had a dream in which he was informed that "the light of life" was about to appear on earth as a

baby and among the Jews. And then went these three teachers looking for this “light of life.” After many weeks of failed searching in Jerusalem, they were about to return to their distant land when Zacharias met them and disclosed his belief that Jesus was the baby of their searching and sent them on to Bethlehem, where they found the baby Jesus and left their gifts with Mary, his earth mother. The baby was almost three weeks old at the time of their visit.

My Gift To God

Materials needed:

small piece of paper and pencil for everyone

an *open* plain box (no words or pictures on it) set in the center of the table

Now instruct the children to make red hearts because this box is ‘God’s Heart’ box. After they have cut them out tape their hearts to the sides and inside-s of the box.

Speaking: In this simple ceremony we offer a ‘gift to God’ written down on these small pieces of paper then folded and placed in God’s Heart Box in the center of the table. We take our time with this to possibly say a little prayer over our gift before ‘giving it to God’ in the gift box. When everyone has done this we will open it up for those who would like to share their gift with the group to tell us what it is.

Verbal engagement: (Pause for a moment and look each child in their eyes)
Why do you love Jesus?

Verbal engagement: Why does Jesus love you?

Verbal engagement: This is why I love you. (Tell each child why you love them. If older children are helping you lead include them in this as well.)

Verbal engagement: Ask if any child wants to pray. If so, then let them.

Speaking: Close in prayer

If much time is left over let the children take turns passing around and spinning TRINITY circles. If not then it is time to join the adults.

We at God Discovered want to take this moment to thank you for your gentle, patient and loving care for Jesus' littlest ones. The angels sing over YOUR lives. Know that you are surrounded by your Seraphim et al., who cherish your hearts and minds that love Jesus as dearly as They do. May these children grow up to become GREAT leaders for our Paradise Father on our troubled world.

[Active learning is not lecture. Active learning seeks to engage the child with other children and the teacher.]