



NEED TO KNOW

*I Can
Celebrate Jesus*



Need to Know: *I Can Celebrate Jesus*

Bible Story: *Jesus Is Born (Luke 1:26-38, 2:1-20, Matthew 1:18-25, 2:1-23)*

Circle Up

1

1. WELCOME kids back to our series, “Holly Jolly Kitchen,” and TELL them your name. MAKE SURE each child has a **wristband** (everyone in your small group should have the same color). Then SAY: *Merry Christmas, everyone! I’m so glad you came to church to celebrate! One of the best parts about Christmas is the gifts! So, to start small group today, I’m going to pass around this special gift bag. Inside is a Christmas surprise for each of you. When the bag comes to you, tell us your name and what you think is in it without peeking.*
2. PASS the gift bag around the group until all kids have introduced themselves and guessed.
3. REVEAL what is in the gift bag.
4. **SANITIZE** kids’ hands and GIVE each child a piece of **candy**. Then SAY: *You can go ahead and eat your special treat. The reason why we celebrate Christmas is because God sent us a special gift, Jesus! When God sent Jesus, it was because Jesus was His perfect plan to bring joy, love, and peace to the whole world! Say this with me:*
I Can (point to self)
Celebrate (fist pump, both hands)
Jesus (point up)

Read the Bible

2

1. SAY: *In the Bible, there’s a true story we read at Christmas to help us celebrate Jesus. I’m going to give each of you a Character Card. Each Card has a picture of a character from the Bible story and a phrase they might say. As I read, listen for your character in the story, and then say your character’s phrase out loud.*
2. ASSIGN each child a part in the story by giving them each a Character Card, making sure all of the Cards are distributed. Some kids may have more than one Card. REVIEW the name of each child’s character(s) and the phrase(s) they will say.
3. READ the Bible Story Sheet aloud, pausing at each character to allow each child to say the phrase that adds to the story.
4. After the story, ASK:
 - *What did the angel tell Mary would happen?* (She would have a special baby, God’s Son)
 - *What did the shepherds do when they heard the news about Jesus’ birth?* (They went to Bethlehem to see Him) *That’s right! Who else traveled to celebrate Jesus?* (The Wise Men)
 - *And who do we celebrate at Christmas?* (Jesus) *Yes! Christmas is all about celebrating Jesus!*

Let’s Practice

3

1. SAY: *Let’s play Christmas Cookie Bingo to help us remember what we’ve learned today! When you get your Bingo Card, you can go ahead and mark the “Free Space.” The first people to get five in a row and shout, “Bingo,” will be our winners.*
2. GIVE each child a Bingo Card and ten Bingo counters.
3. PLACE Bingo Pieces, picture-side down, in a pile in the middle of the group. DRAW a Bingo Piece, SHOW it to the group, and ALLOW kids to place a counter on that square of their Bingo Card. Then READ the question from the back of the Bingo Piece aloud to the group.
4. PLAY until someone has gotten Bingo. It is OK for multiple kids to win at the same time. Once the game is over, COLLECT the Bingo Cards and Bingo counters.
5. **SANITIZE** kids’ hands. Beginning with the Bingo winners, GIVE each child a Christmas Tree Cake to have to celebrate Jesus. These can be eaten during small group, just be sure to check each child’s tag for allergies.
6. SAY: *This game helped us to see why we celebrate Jesus and different ways we can celebrate Him! Let’s say what we need to know together again:*
I Can (point to self)
Celebrate (fist pump, both hands)
Jesus (point up)

Memorize It

4

How to stack cups:



1. SAY: *There's a verse in the Bible that helps us tell God "thank you" for sending us His Son, Jesus, as a wonderful gift! Say this after me:*

"Thanks be to God (point up)

for His gift (palms up in front of body)

that is too wonderful (palms on cheeks, surprised face)

for words." (cup hands around mouth)

2 Corinthians 9:15 (make book with hands)

2. PRACTICE saying the verse with the group two times, having them repeat each line with the motions.
3. PLAY "Christmas Cup Stack." DIVIDE kids into two teams and GIVE each team a set of **Christmas cups**. When you say, "Go," teams will race to put the memory verse in the correct order, stacking **cups** like the picture to the left. The first team to correctly order the **Christmas cups** will be the winner.
4. CONTINUE playing as time allows.
5. TELL kids that if they can remember this verse next time we have church, they will win a prize!

Let's Pray

5

ASK your group for any prayer requests. Then PRAY the following for your group:

- That they would celebrate Jesus with their family this Christmas
- That when they get gifts this Christmas, they will remember God's gift of Jesus

SHOW kids a **Flapper**, TALK them through it, and EXPLAIN that we can celebrate Jesus because He fixes our friendship with God. Then GIVE one to each child to take home.

Stay Together

6

KEEP kids engaged in Small Group until they are checked out by doing the following activities:

- K-1 Only: PLACE the **coloring utensils** in the center of the group and HAVE kids color a **Coloring Sheet**.
- Using the **Elf Name Sheet**, GIVE each child an elf name.
- PLAY "What Time is it, Snowman?":
 - HAVE kids stand up in a circle.
 - HAVE the group ask you, "What time is it, Snowman?"
 - RESPOND with a number time. (Ex: Three o'clock)
 - Kids will walk in a circle that number of steps.
 - REPEAT these steps a few times until you decide to answer with "Melting time!"
 - When you say that, the child who is the last to fall on the ground and melt is out.
 - CONTINUE playing as time allows.
- PLAY Bingo again without asking the questions on the back of the **Bingo Pieces**.

BIBLE STORY SHEET

READ the Bible Story to the group, pausing for kids to say phrases of each underlined character.

Characters and lines:

- Angel - Don't be afraid!
- Mary - How can this be?
- Joseph - What should I do?
- Baby - Waaa!
- Donkey - Heehaw!
- Sheep - Baaa!
- Cow - Moo!
- Shepherds - What's that sound?
- Wise Men - Follow the star!
- King Herod - Muah-ha-ha! (evil laugh)

God sent an ANGEL to a woman named MARY. She lived in Nazareth, and she was engaged to marry a man named JOSEPH.

The ANGEL said, "Peace be with you! God has blessed you and is pleased with you." MARY was very surprised by this and wondered what the ANGEL meant. The ANGEL said, "God has been very kind to you. You will become pregnant by the Holy Spirit and give birth to a BABY boy. You will call him Jesus. He will be God's own Son, and His kingdom will never end." MARY was very afraid, but she trusted God. She said, "Let it happen as God chooses."

JOSEPH was worried when he found out that MARY was expecting a BABY. They weren't married yet, and he wondered if he should put off the wedding altogether. Then an ANGEL appeared to JOSEPH in a dream and said, "Take MARY as your wife." The ANGEL explained that MARY had been chosen by God to be the mother of his Son. He told JOSEPH that the BABY would be named Jesus, which means Savior, because He would save people from their sins. When JOSEPH woke up, he did what the ANGEL told him to do and took MARY as his wife.

At this time, KING HEROD wanted to have a list of all the people in his empire to make sure they paid their taxes. He ordered everyone to return to the town where their families were from and enter their names in a census. MARY and JOSEPH had to travel a long way from Nazareth to Bethlehem, because that is where JOSEPH was from. Most people walked, but they took a DONKEY for MARY to ride, because her BABY boy was going to be born very soon.

When they reached Bethlehem, so many people had come to register their names in the census, that every house was full, and every bed was taken in all of the inns. The only place they could find to rest was in a stable with SHEEP, COWS, and other animals.

So the time came, and MARY gave birth to BABY Jesus, God's Son! She wrapped him in cloths and laid him in the manger where the SHEEP and COWS eat their hay.

In the fields outside Bethlehem, there were SHEPHERDS looking after their SHEEP through the long night. Suddenly, an ANGEL appeared before them and the glory of God shown around them. The SHEPHERDS were very, very scared, but the ANGEL said, "I have good news for you and everyone. Today in Bethlehem a Savior has been born for you. You will find the BABY lying in a manger."

(CONTINUED ON BACK)

Then many more ANGELS appeared, lighting up the sky. The SHEPHERDS heard them praising God singing, “Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to everyone.” When the ANGELS had gone, the SHEPHERDS said, “Let’s go to Bethlehem to see this BABY.” The SHEPHERDS hurried to Bethlehem and found MARY and JOSEPH. Jesus was lying in the manger, just like they had been told. When they saw Him, they told everyone what the ANGEL had said, and everyone who heard the story was amazed. The SHEPHERDS returned to their sheep, praising God for sending His Son!

When Jesus was born, a brand-new bright star appeared in the sky. Some WISE MEN in faraway countries saw the star and followed it. The WISE MEN followed the star towards Jerusalem where they began to ask people, “Where is the child who is born to be the king of the Jews?” KING HEROD heard this, and it made him very angry to think that someone might be trying to take his place as king. KING HEROD sent for the WISE MEN to come to him. He told them to go on following the star until they had found the BABY king. KING HEROD said, “When you have found him, let me know where he is so I can go and worship him, too!” But KING HEROD had an evil plan in mind to kill the BABY king.

The wise men followed the star towards Bethlehem. It seemed to shine directly down on the place where Jesus was. The WISE MEN entered the house where MARY and JOSEPH lived. They saw Jesus and bowed down and worshipped him. The WISE MEN brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. As they left, they were warned in a dream by God not to go back to KING HEROD. So they returned home a different way.

Then an ANGEL appeared to JOSEPH in a dream and said, “Get up, take Jesus and MARY and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for KING HEROD is going to search for Jesus to kill him.” So JOSEPH got up and took Jesus and MARY to Egypt where they stayed until KING HEROD died. As soon as KING HEROD was no longer living, the ANGEL came to JOSEPH again and said, “Get up, take MARY and Jesus and go back to Israel, for the people who were trying to kill Jesus are dead.” So JOSEPH, MARY, and Jesus went back to their home, and Jesus grew up in their old town of Nazareth.



King Herod

Muah-ha-ha!
(evil laugh)

Wk 4 - K-5 - Character Cards



Angel

Don't be afraid!

Wk 4 - K-5 - Character Cards



Mary

How can this be?

Wk 4 - K-5 - Character Cards



Joseph

What should I do?

Wk 4 - K-5 - Character Cards



Baby

Waaaa!

Wk 4 - K-5 - Character Cards



Donkey

Hee-haw!

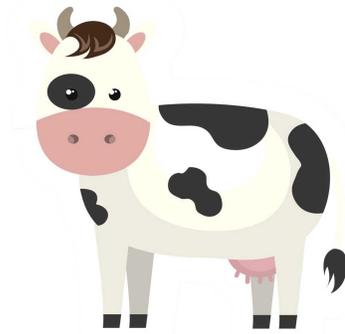
Wk 4 - K-5 - Character Cards



Sheep

Baaaaa!

Wk 4 - K-5 - Character Cards



Cow

Moo!

Wk 4 - K-5 - Character Cards



Shepherd

What's that sound?

Wk 4 - K-5 - Character Cards



Shepherd

What's that sound?

Wk 4 - K-5 - Character Cards



Sheep

Baaaaa!

Wk 4 - K-5 - Character Cards



Cow

Moo!

Wk 4 - K-5 - Character Cards



Wise Man 1

*Follow
the
star!*

Wk 4 - K-5 - Character Cards



Wise Man 2

*Follow
the
star!*

Wk 4 - K-5 - Character Cards



Wise Man 3

*Follow
the
star!*

Wk 4 - K-5 - Character Cards



Donkey

Hee-haw!

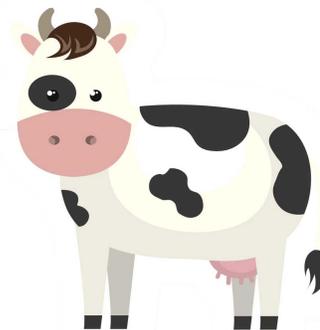
Wk 4 - K-5 - Character Cards



Sheep

Baaaaa!

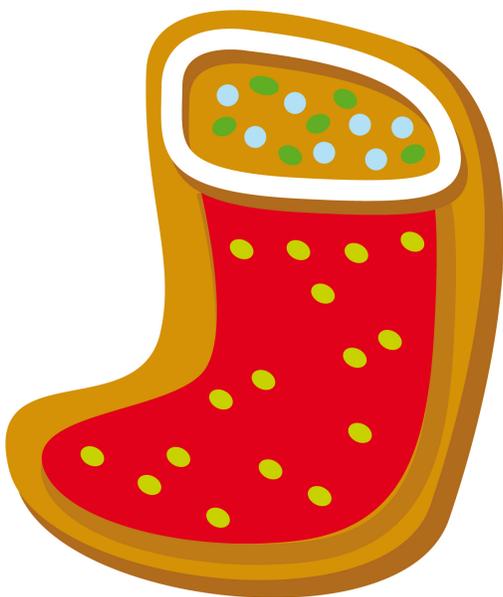
Wk 4 - K-5 - Character Cards



Cow

Moo!

Wk 4 - K-5 - Character Cards



True or False: An angel visited Mary to tell her she would have a baby. (True)

That's right! The angel told Mary she would have a baby. Her baby would be God's Son, Jesus!

Wk 4 - K-3 - Bingo Pieces

Have you ever wondered what the world would be like if Jesus had never been born? (ALLOW responses)

The world would be a really bad place! But because God sent Jesus to save us from the wrong things we do, we can celebrate!

Wk 4 - K-3 - Bingo Pieces

What is one way your family celebrates at Christmas? (ALLOW responses)

Let's say what we need to know together:

I Can (point to self)

Celebrate (fist pump, both hands)

Jesus (point up)

Wk 4 - K-3 - Bingo Pieces

Wk 4 - K-3 - Bingo Pieces

Who appeared to the shepherds in the fields? (An angel)

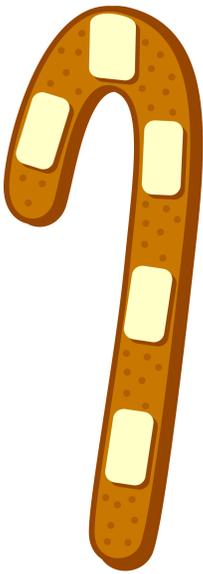
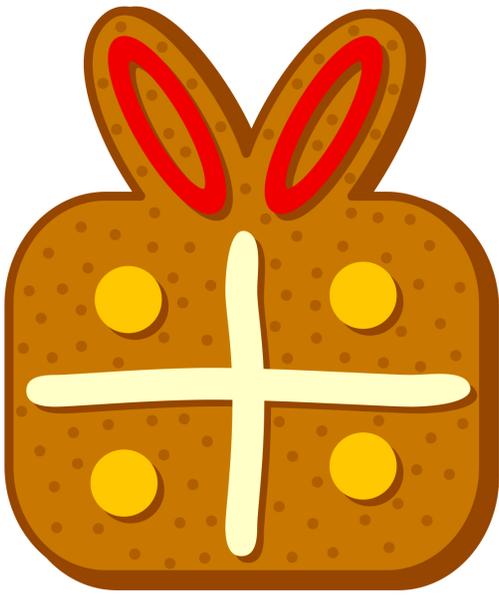
True or False: Jesus was born in a nice hospital. (False)

That's right! The angel told the shepherds the good news that a Savior had been born. Do you remember where they found Jesus? (Bethlehem, in a stable)

Jesus was born in a stable for animals because there were no hospitals or rooms available.

Wk 4 - K-3 - Bingo Pieces

Wk 4 - K-3 - Bingo Pieces



Fill in the blank: Then angels said, “Glory to _____ in the highest!” (God)

God’s gift of Jesus was too wonderful for words! The angels celebrated Jesus and we can celebrate Him, too!

Wk 4 - K-3 - Bingo Pieces

What’s one present you are giving to someone this Christmas? (ALLOW responses)

We give gifts at Christmas to remind us of the best gift God gave us with the life of Jesus!

Wk 4 - K-3 - Bingo Pieces

What is one of your favorite songs to sing at Christmas to celebrate? (ALLOW responses)

What is one good thing that comes from the gift of Jesus? (Love, hope, joy, forgiveness of sins)

God sent Jesus to forgive us of our sins, or all of the wrong things we do. This means that Jesus is a gift of love, hope, and joy for us all!

Wk 4 - K-3 - Bingo Pieces

Wk 4 - K-3 - Bingo Pieces

What did the wise men follow to find Jesus? (ALLOW responses)

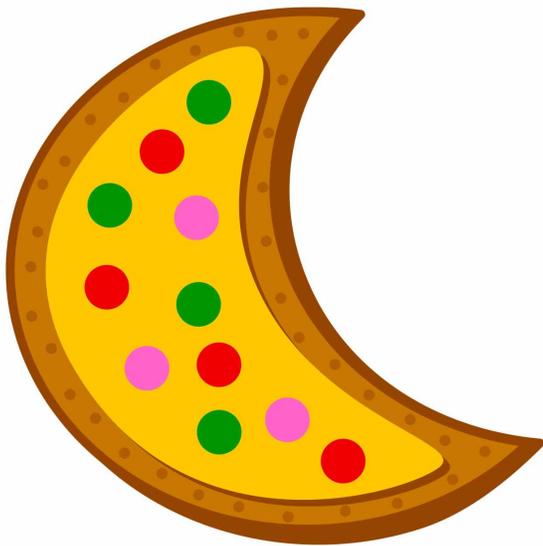
The wise men followed a star that led them to Jesus!

Why did Herod want the wise men to tell him where the new king was? (He said he wanted to worship him, but he really wanted to kill him.)

Herod had an evil plan to kill Jesus, but the angel told Joseph to take Jesus and Mary away so He would be safe.

Wk 4 - K-3 - Bingo Pieces

Wk 4 - K-3 - Bingo Pieces



When was the last time you had a donut? (ALLOW responses) What kind did you have? (ALLOW responses)

Wk 4 - K-3 - Bingo Pieces

What's your favorite kind of Christmas cookie? (ALLOW responses)

Wk 4 - K-3 - Bingo Pieces

What's your favorite part of a cupcake: the cake, the frosting, or both? (ALLOW responses)

Wk 4 - K-3 - Bingo Pieces

In our Bible story, what name did the angel tell Joseph to give the baby? (Jesus)

Yes! The angel said to name the baby Jesus, which means Savior, because He would save people from all the wrong things they would do. That gives us all a reason to celebrate!

Wk 4 - K-3 - Bingo Pieces

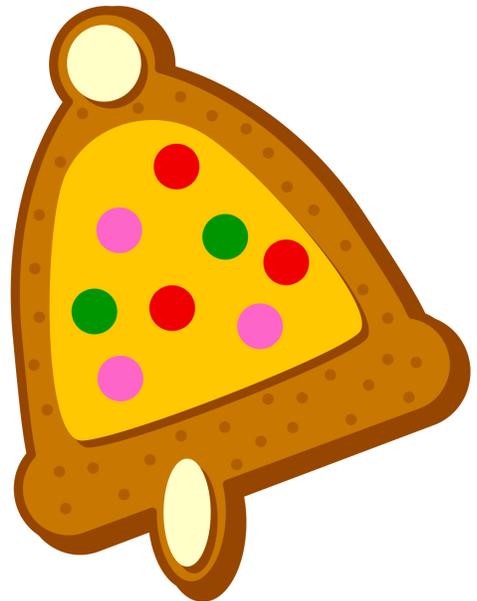
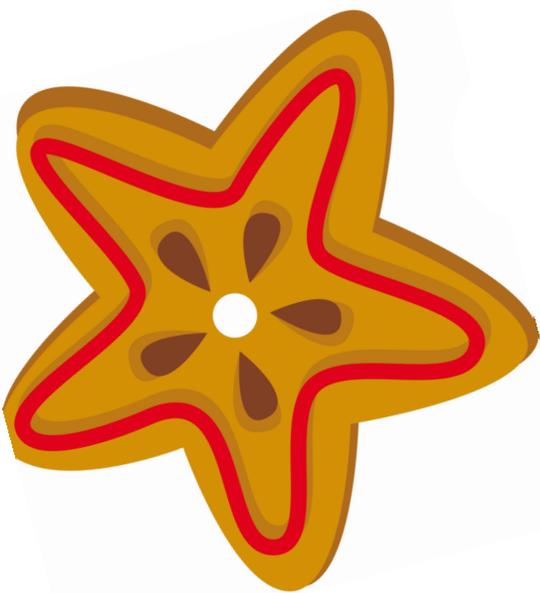
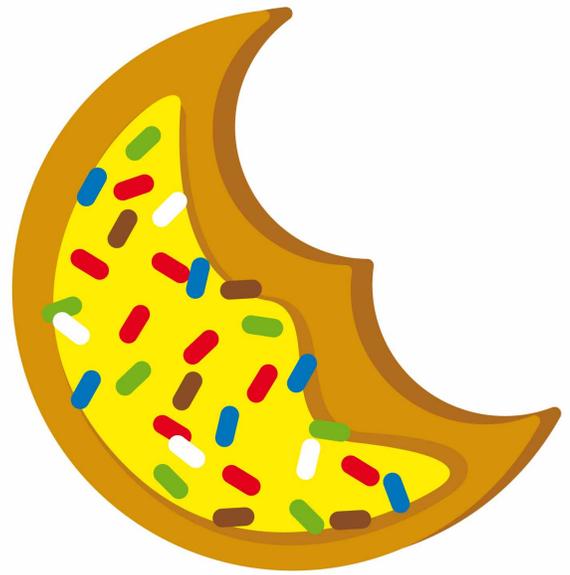
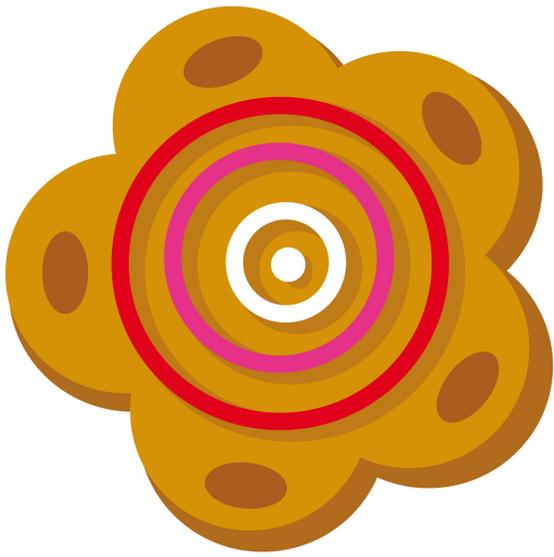
Would you rather make gingerbread cookies or a gingerbread house? (ALLOW responses)

Wk 4 - K-3 - Bingo Pieces

How many wise men came to see Jesus? (Three)

Do you remember what they brought to give to Jesus? (Gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh)

Wk 4 - K-3 - Bingo Pieces



What is one thing you would like to have given to you in a stocking this Christmas? (ALLOW responses)

Wk 4 - K-3 - Bingo Pieces

At Christmas, we celebrate that Jesus was born!

What kind of cake would you like to have to celebrate your birthday? (ALLOW responses)

Wk 4 - K-3 - Bingo Pieces

Why do we celebrate Jesus at Christmas? (To celebrate His birth, because He came to forgive us of our sins)

Yes! At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus! He came to Earth to be our Savior and forgive us of all the wrong things we do. Jesus is a gift too wonderful for words!

Wk 4 - K-3 - Bingo Pieces

Let's say what we need to know today while pretending we have a mouth full of cookie:

I Can (point to self)
Celebrate (fist pump, both hands)
Jesus (point up)

Wk 4 - K-3 - Bingo Pieces

What is one way your family celebrates Christmas? (ALLOW responses)

Wk 4 - K-3 - Bingo Pieces

Do you like to cook or bake? (ALLOW responses) What is something you've made before? (ALLOW responses)

Wk 4 - K-3 - Bingo Pieces