



Preschool Post

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Preschool Theme: Happy Birthday

Bible Theme: Children will expand on last weeks Nativity lesson to learn what Christmas is really about.

Morning Circle: Review the [letter "N"](#) with the children. Ask them if they remember a word beginning with "N" that means "Christmas." Remind them that the word was "Noel." Sing, "The First Noel" with the children: Have the room decorated for a birthday party. Ask the children what they think of the decorations. Isn't this supposed to be Christmas, after all? Ask the children whose birthday they think it might be. They'll probably get the answer right! Remind the children that the reason we celebrate Christmas is to honor Jesus' birthday. Sing the rhyme, "Happy Birthday Jesus:" (Tune: "Jesus Loves Me")

"Happy Birthday Jesus!
I'm so glad it's Christmas!
All the tinsel and the lights
-all the presents are so nice.
But, the real gift is You,
Thank you, God, we know it's true!



Happy Birthday Jesus!

Jesus, we love you!"

(Original author unknown.)

Ask the children what kinds of things they like to do on their birthdays. Most will say, "get presents!"

Read: [We Three Kings](#), by Gennady Spirin. Discuss why these rich men would have travelled so far to bring gifts to this poor little boy born in a barn. Tie this in to how we give presents to each other at Christmas. Discuss what kinds of gifts we could give to Jesus. Explain that He doesn't want toys or things, but that He loves gifts that come from our hearts. Ask the children for examples. If they have trouble getting started, suggest that some "presents" we could offer Him are prayer, praise, helping others, loving our neighbors, obeying our parents, being kind to our siblings, singing Him songs, etc.

Music & Movement: Pass out bells, tambourines, and triangles. Play "We Three Kings of Orient Are," and instruct the children to play their instruments softly at an appropriate rhythm to the song. See how softly they can play. Try giving different children different times to play their "parts." Experiment and enjoy the soft chiming sounds these instruments make.

Snack: Birthday cake! Since this is Jesus' birthday, have birthday cake and birthday treats. If you're wondering how many candles to put on the cake, try three (for the trinity.)



Centers:

1. Pin the tail on the donkey. Use this birthday party classic to tie into both the Nativity and Birthday Party themes. Consider using a wall mural of the Nativity (if it has a donkey pictured) for this activity. The focus should be to encourage the children to help each other and work as a team. Pair the children up and let each one help the other with their blindfolds and leading each other to the right spot on the wall.

2. Nativity dramatic play. If you have small nativity sets, let the children play with these. Otherwise, small toy animals, a barn made from a shoe box, a little hay, and some plastic people will work as well.

3. Stargazing. Provide a variety of flashlights. Prepare black cardstock that has been cut to the shape of the flashlight ends. Punch holes of varying sizes into the cardstock to represent constellations. Tape the black cardstock onto the flashlights so that the children can point the beams into the "sky" and see lovely stars like the shepherds might have seen the night baby Jesus was born. Make sure you have a dark corner of the room for this center. For more fun, have a few glow-in-the-dark stars taped around this area as well.

Art Activity: Make birthday presents for Jesus.

Provide a variety of [small printables](#) for the children to color in. You might have a picture of a heart, a musical note or treble clef, praying hands, a picture of a child doing a chore, a friend helping another friend, and a picture of a Bible. See if the children can name how each picture shows a gift we can give Jesus. After the children have colored their little "gifts," let them paste them onto





colorful construction paper. Provide bows and ribbons, and show the children how to paste these onto their "presents" to look like a gift-wrapped box.

Bible Storytime: Remind the children that the letter "N" begins "Noel" and "Nativity." Review what the term "nativity" means.

Read : [The Nativity](#), by Julie Vivas. This charming picture book uses the traditional Luke account of the birth of Jesus. A wonderful way to tell the authentic Christmas story!

Bible Verse Bracelets: "A Savior has been born to you." [Luke 2:11](#)

Song: "Away in a Manger." ([Full Lyrics Here](#))

"Away in a manger,
No crib for a bed.
The little Lord Jesus
Lay down His sweet head.

The stars in the sky
Looked down where He lay.
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay.

Additional Activity: Take the children caroling at a nursing home or retirement village, to emphasize loving others and offering praise to God.



Optional Resources:

[N is for Nativity Handwriting Worksheet](#)

[N is for Noah Bible Handwriting Worksheet](#)

[Birthday Candles Cut and Paste Activity](#)

[Happy Birthday Jesus Tracer Page](#)

Helpful Links:

[Happy Birthday Jesus Crafts on Christian preschool Printables](#)

[Happy Birthday Lesson on Groovy Storytimes](#)

[Christmas Activities on Totally Tots](#)

Notes:
