

Itsy Bitsy Christmas

LESSON 2

I Give Jesus My JOY



THEME:

I give Jesus the gift of my JOY



BIG IDEA FROM BOOK:

“We need to tell our friends!”



KEY VERSE:

Luke 2:10-11

I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Savior was born.



KEY VERSE FOR PRESCHOOL:

Luke 2:10

I am bringing you some good news.

LESSON OUTLINE:

- WELCOME: Coloring Sheet 5 minutes
- STORY: Read *Itsy Bitsy Christmas*, or the story script for twos-threes 10 minutes
- SONGS: *I'm Gonna Wrap Up Myself for Christmas*, *Go Tell It On the Mountain*. 5 minutes
- LESSON: The angels had great news about our Savior who came so we could know about God's love. Like them, we need to tell our friends and share our joy. 10 minutes
- CRAFT: Megaphone of JOY 5 minutes
- GAME: Go Tell It On the Mountain 10 minutes
- ACTIVITY: Jesus Christ is Born! 5 minutes

Materials Needed:

- WELCOME: Coloring sheet (1 per child), crayons
- STORY: Copy of *Itsy Bitsy Christmas*, doll wrapped up in a blanket
- SONGS: Songs downloaded to a media player with portable speakers
- SNACK: Animal crackers
- LESSON: Bible
- CRAFT: Megaphone of JOY Craft Sheet (1 per child), crayons, stickers, tape
- GAME: Megaphones from craft activity, doll wrapped up in a blanket, box with no top, media player with portable speakers, (optional) 2-3 small sturdy step stools
- ACTIVITY: No materials needed



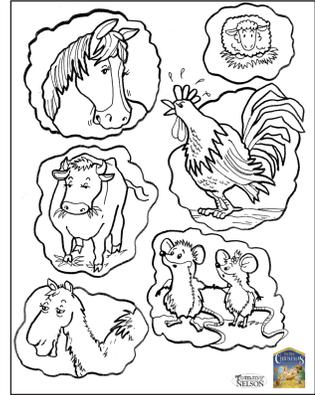
WELCOME

5 MINUTES

Materials Needed:

- Coloring sheet (1 per child)
- Crayons

As children enter the classroom, offer them an Itsy Bitsy Christmas coloring sheet and crayons while they wait for other friends to arrive. Greet each child and start talking about telling others about Jesus.



STORY

10 MINUTES

Materials Needed:

- Doll representing Jesus, wrapped in a blanket
- Itsy Bitsy Christmas book

Preparation:

- Hide the doll and the story book in the area where the story time will take place (try to hide it in a different place each week – perhaps just facing a different direction if a different location is not an option)

Gather the children for the story by first taking them on a hunt for the King, replicating the hunt Itsy and Bitsy go on to find the King in our story. This week, emphasize the joy of finding the King, and your own joy in sharing the good news that the King is here. Say, **Before we can hear our story, I have exciting news! The King is here somewhere, and we get to find him! Let's go find him! Is he over here?** Lead the children to a place in the classroom or on the way to your large group gathering and look for the King. Look in different locations than last week, or in a different sequence. **Come with me! Let's look over here!** Lead the children to another location and search for the King. **I want everyone to find the King – let's look there!** Lead the children to one more place and search for the King. **I know! We're going to find the King here!** Lead the children to today's story location. Take out the doll and the book. Have the children sit. **Is this the King we are looking for? Yes! Who is this King? Baby Jesus. How did**

it feel when you knew the King was here somewhere, and you were going to find him? Excited. Happy. I was so excited that the King was here, I wanted to tell all of you about it. Were you glad when I told you we were going to find the King? In our story, Itsy and Bitsy find out that the King is coming, and they are so joyful they have to tell their friends.

Read *Itsy Bitsy Christmas*.

Read Itsy Bitsy Christmas, in its entirety, every week, showing the pictures in the book as you read. Following are two lists. The first list contains one participation idea for every page of the book to use when appropriate to engage the children in the telling of the story. The second list is an abbreviated script that can be used to tell the story to twos and threes.

Page-by-Page Participation Ideas

1. Have children call out, "BITSY, WATCH OUT!"
2. Have children say very slowly, "Biiiiig daaaaay innnndeeeee.".
3. Remind children of last week's Big Idea from the book. Have the children stand and say, using hand motions, "**This King comes for everyone, big and small.**" This week's Big Idea is on the facing page. Have children turn to the person next to them, cup their hands around their mouths, and say, "We need to tell our friends!" Repeat a few times.
4. Have children use hand motions to act out the mice dashing between feet (hands slapping legs like running feet), rolling wagon wheels (rolling hands), scurrying under the gate (crouch down and run fingers on the ground), climbing up the post (climbing hands), and onto the rafter ("ahhhh!" they take a breath).
5. Have children call out "COCK-A-DOODLE-DOOOO!"
6. Have children make animal sounds to react to the news (snort, baa, neigh, moo).
7. Have children call out "WE ARE GOING TO FIND THE KING!"
8. At the end of the page, ask "Is the King at the city gate?" Have children call out, "NO!"

9. At the end of the page, ask “Is the King at the camel corral?” Have children call out, “NO!”
10. After reading each paragraph, ask, “Is the King on the main street?” “NO!” “Is the King at the hotel?” “NO!” “Is the King in the city market?” “NO!”
11. Have children rub their eyes as if they are crying.
12. Have children pantomime coming up empty-handed (shrug shoulders, open palms).
13. Have children hold finger to their mouth and quietly say “shhhh!”
14. Pick up the doll and rock it as you read.
15. Have children stand and say “HE CAME EVEN FOR A LITTLE ONE LIKE ME!”

Option: Read Itsy Bitsy Christmas to twos and threes.

When reading Itsy Bitsy Christmas to a group of preschool children only, choose one line per page to read. The following list is the recommended line or adaptation of the line to read from each page. Optional pages are indicated, which can be skipped to shorten the story further. Engage the children in this version of the story using some of the same ideas from the full-length version.



Page-by-Page Story Text for Twos and Threes

1. **OPTIONAL:** “Be careful, Bitsy. You don’t want to get run over.”
2. “This is a big day for Bethlehem,” said the donkey.
3. “The King is coming to Bethlehem.” **“We need to tell our friends!”** This is today’s Big Idea. Have children cup their hands around their mouths and turn to the person next to them and repeat this line a few times.
4. **OPTIONAL:** The mice dashed to the stable to tell their friends Ruthie the horse, Rowdy the rooster, Charlie the cow, and Grumpy the goat.
5. Itsy and Bitsy squeaked, “We have big news!” but no one listened. So Rowdy helped them by saying “Cock-a-doodle-dooooo!”

6. "Itsy and I have big news! A King is coming to Bethlehem. To us!" All the animals laughed.
7. **OPTIONAL:** The sheep baaaahed. "This isn't an important place." Grumpy snorted. "Mice aren't important people." Ruthie neighed. "No king would care about us." "Well...Bitsy and I are going to find the King."
8. Mr. Owl said, "You won't find a King here."
9. Mr. Camel said, "Kings don't come to little places like Bethlehem."
10. **OPTIONAL:** Did they find the king on the busy street? Did they find the king at the sleepy hotel? Did they find the king at the city market?
11. "Let's go home, Bitsy. No King is coming for us."
12. When they got to the stable, they told the donkey, "We have looked all over town for the King. We couldn't find Him."
13. "Well," said the donkey, "you just did."
14. "His name is Jesus. God sent Him to love us, help us, and save us."
15. "Who would have thought? This King comes for everyone, big and small!"
Have children stand and repeat last week's Big Idea using hand motions.



SONGS**5 MINUTES****Materials Needed:**

- Media player with speakers

Preparation:

- Download songs to the media player. Set up media player and speakers.

I'M GONNA WRAP MYSELF UP FOR CHRISTMAS

Psalty's Family Singalong Christmas

<http://www.psalty.com/track/689089/i-m-gonna-wrap-myself-up-for-christmas>

After singing the song through once, talk with the children about the idea of the song. Help them understand that Christmas is Jesus' birthday, and the best birthday gift we can give him is our selves. Sing the chorus again.

—Chorus—

I'm gonna wrap myself up for Christmas,
And tie me with a big red bow;
That's what I'm giving to Jesus,
It's a present He'll like, I know!

—Verse—

My mama keeps trying to tell me,
"It won't do any good to primp and fuss,
'Cause Jesus doesn't look at the wrapping,
He's looking for a heart that trusts!"

—Bridge—

I tried to think of all kinds of presents
That would be good to give to a King;
I thought real hard and then I decided
That the present He'd like best is me!

—Chorus—

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GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Teach the children this song during worship time, so you can return to it during the game, at which time you will sing it with actions, using the megaphones from the craft activity. Say, This song tells us that when we get good news we should tell it to others, just like the shepherds and angels did.

OPTION: Sing only the 3rd verse and the chorus

While shepherds kept their watching
 O'er silent flocks by night,
 Behold throughout the heavens,
 There shone a holy light.

—Chorus—

Go, tell it on the mountain,
 Over the hills and everywhere;
 Go, tell it on the mountain,
 That Jesus Christ is born.

The shepherds feared and trembled
 When lo! above the earth
 Rang out the angel chorus
 That hailed our Savior's birth.

—Chorus—

Down in a lowly manger
 Our humble Christ was born
 And God sent us salvation,
 That blessed Christmas morn.

—Chorus—

SNACK/LESSON**10 MINUTES**

The purpose of the lesson is to connect the story of Itsy and Bitsy with God's story. If you serve snacks in your classroom, the snack can be used as an object lesson to help children understand the lesson theme.

Materials Needed:

- Animal crackers
- Bible



Start by reviewing the story, *Itsy Bitsy Christmas*.

What did Itsy and Bitsy want to tell their friends? The King is coming to Bethlehem.

How did Itsy and Bitsy feel about the King coming to Bethlehem? They were excited.

Can you think of a time when you were excited about someone coming to see you?

Were you excited enough that you told other people about their visit?

Pray and thank God for our snack, and distribute animal crackers. While children are eating, continue teaching the lesson.

When Itsy and Bitsy got excited about their news, they told their friends.

When their animal friends heard a King was coming what sounds did they make? Have children make animal sounds related to their animal crackers. (For this lesson we will ignore the fact that the animals were not exactly enthusiastic about this news J.)

Jesus likes it when we get excited about him. When we are joyful about him, it makes him joyful too. The Bible tells us the true story of what happened when the angels got excited about the Savior coming and they told the shepherds the good news.

Read Luke 2:8-14 from a Bible. **Following is an abridged version of the passage you may choose to read instead, if your group is primarily twos and threes.**

That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep. An angel of the Lord stood before them... The angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Savior was born. This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding box.”

Then a very large group of angels from heaven joined the first angel. All the angels were praising God.

EXCERPTS FROM LUKE 2:8-14

What was the angel’s good news? Today your Savior was born.

Who was the Savior? Jesus.

Do you know why the angel called baby Jesus a “Savior”? Because a Savior is a person who saves someone, who rescues them. Jesus is our Savior because he rescues us from having to live our life without knowing about God’s love for us. Imagine if we never knew how much God loved us! That would be a sad and lonely way to live.

Do you remember what the angel said about his good news? He said, It will be _____ to all the people.” Did he say it would be SAD to all the people? No. Did he say it would be BORING to all the people? No. Did he say it would be IRRITATING to all the people? No! He said it will be A JOY to all the people. Can you say that with me? It will be A JOY to all the people.

When you know some good news, and you know it will make other people joyful, do you HIDE your news? No. Do you FORGET your news? No. What do you do? Tell your news! Do you remember in our story, that’s exactly what Itsy and Bitsy did? When they heard the good news that the King was coming, they said, “We need to tell our friends!”

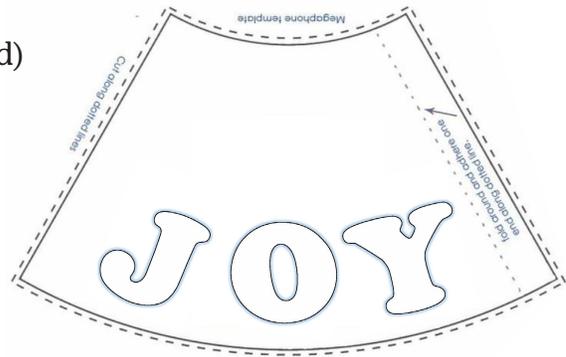
Let’s bow our heads and talk to God. Dear God, we are so joyful that you came so we could know about God’s love. Help us now to practice telling our friends this good news. In Jesus’ name, amen.

CRAFT: MEGAPHONE OF JOY

5 MINUTES

Materials Needed:

- Megaphone of JOY craft sheet (1 per child)
- Crayons and stickers
- Tape



Preparation:

- Cut out the megaphone templates.

Distribute the Megaphone of JOY craft sheet. Have children color the word JOY, and apply stickers. After the megaphone is decorated, curl the megaphone, lining up the edge to the dotted line, and tape together. Talk to the children about how we spread JOY when we tell others about our joy. Remind the children what we are joyful about — Jesus came so we could know about God’s love.

GAME: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN 10 MINUTES

Materials Needed:

- Completed megaphones from the craft activity
- Doll representing Jesus, wrapped in a blanket, in an open box
- Media player with speakers
- **OPTIONAL:** 2-3 small sturdy step stools

Preparation:

Place box with doll in it in the middle of the room. Clear space in the room for children to form a circle. **OPTIONAL:** Set the step stools in place where the children will stand in the circle, spread apart from each other. If it has not already been done, download the song to the media player, and set up media player and speakers.

We are going to practice spreading our JOY! Let’s sing *Go Tell It On the Mountain* again, but this time, we are going to use our megaphones and shout like the angels did.

Have children form a circle around the Baby Jesus doll in the box, holding their megaphones. *No one is to stand on the step stools during the verses.* You may wish to repeat the chorus a few times at the end if time allows.

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Whisper, tiptoe around in the circle, avoiding the step stools

While shepherds kept their watching

Hand over eyes, look back and forth

O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens,

Sweep arm wide and look up

There shone a holy light.

Shade eyes

—Chorus—

*Turn the other direction and march. Sing loudly with megaphone held to mouth.
Step up onto the step stools back down onto the floor as you march around.*

Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain,

Stop, turn and face the middle of the circle, and shout...

THAT JESUS CHRIST IS BORN!

Stand in place

The shepherds feared and trembled

Crouch and shiver

When lo! above the earth

Point and look upwards

Rang out the angel chorus

Hold megaphone to mouth

That hailed our Savior's birth.
—Chorus—

Whisper, tiptoe slowly inward, towards the center of the circle

Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born

Kneel down and lean over to look at the baby in the box

And God sent us salvation,
That blessed Christmas morn.

Return to circle

—Chorus—

ACTIVITY: JESUS CHRIST IS BORN

5 MINUTES

Jesus Christ is Born

From www.prekfun.com

Sing to the tune of "Farmer in the Dell"

Jesus Christ is born, Jesus Christ is born

Fold arms as if rocking a baby

A star shines in Bethlehem

Make a diamond shape over head with fingers, jump up and down

Jesus Christ is born.

Fold arms as if rocking a baby

The angels bring good news, the angels bring good news

Move arms like angel's wings

A star shines in Bethlehem

Make a diamond shape over head with fingers, jump up and down

The angels bring good news.

Move arms like angel's wings

Our Savior, he has come; our Savior, he has come

Point up and then point down

A star shines in Bethlehem

Make a diamond shape over head with fingers, jump up and down

Our Savior, he has come.

Point up and then point down

DISMISSAL: You did a great job listening today and learning how to share our JOY to help other people have joy, and to make Jesus happy. Tell your family why you are joyful — because JESUS CHRIST IS BORN!

