



ITSY BITSY CHRISTMAS

Children's Curriculum *Ages 2-8*

How to Use This Curriculum

AGE RANGE

This curriculum is designed for use with children in preschool (ages 2-4), kindergarten, and early elementary (grades 1-3). Some adjustments are recommended for specific age groups where appropriate.

USING THE *ITSY BITSY CHRISTMAS* BOOK

Every lesson includes a complete reading of *Itsy Bitsy Christmas*, and weekly themes are drawn from the book. It takes 7-8 minutes to read the entire book. Participation ideas are provided for every page of the book to engage the children in the telling of the story, and the weekly themes are indicated which can be emphasized during the reading. When reading *Itsy Bitsy Christmas* to a group of preschool children only, choose one line per page to read. Recommended lines or adaptations of the line are provided for every page. Optional pages are indicated, which can be skipped to shorten the story further.

USING THE BIBLE

All Scripture text in this curriculum is quoted from the International Children’s Bible, and the discussion questions are based on the wording of the ICB. If possible, read the Bible story to the class from a copy of the International Children’s Bible. If you do not have a copy of the ICB, you may read from the text in the lesson plan. If you read from another version of the Bible, you will need to adjust some of the discussion questions to fit the wording of the Bible version you chose.

TIMING

The time notations indicate the *suggested* times for each activity and the following discussion. For example:

STORY	10 MINUTES
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Adhering to the suggested times will enable you to complete each session in 50 minutes. Some activities may take longer than the allotted time, others less, so adjust as you go. If you have a longer meeting, you may wish to allow more time for discussion and activities.

LIST OF MATERIALS

It is important to prepare and assemble the materials for each session ahead of time. The following materials list is a summary of items needed.

Materials Needed for Lessons 1–4

- *Itsy Bitsy Christmas* book
- Bible
- Coloring sheets (1 per child) and crayons
- Craft sheets (1 per child)
- Doll wrapped up in a blanket, box with no lid
- Songs downloaded to a media player with portable speakers

Materials Needed for Snack

- Lesson 1: Raisins, celery
- Lesson 2: Animal crackers
- Lesson 3: Pretzel sticks
- Lesson 4: Triangular crackers or tortilla chips

Materials Needed for Craft

- Lesson 1: Blue felt, white glue, crayons
- Lesson 2: Crayons, stickers, tape
- Lesson 3: Glue or stapler or tape
- Lesson 4: 6" length of yarn (1 per child), hole punch, stickers, sequins, glue, black marker

Materials Needed for Game

- Lesson 1: **PRESCHOOL VARIATION:** Doll wrapped up in a blanket, open box (one box per 6-8 children), hay or representation of animals' food

ELEMENTARY VARIATION: Open box (2 boxes per 6-8 children), packing popcorn (enough to fill half of the boxes), paper cups (1 per child)
- Lesson 2: 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
- Lesson 3: Items to use as obstacles, *(optional)* blindfold or sleeping mask
- Lesson 4: Toilet paper (1 roll per team), doll wrapped up in a blanket, *(optional)* media player with speakers

Because of Bethlehem Study Guide

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