

Itsy Bitsy Christmas

LESSON 3

I Give Jesus My TRUST



THEME:

I give Jesus the gift of my TRUST.



BIG IDEA FROM BOOK:

“We are going to find the King!”



KEY VERSE:

Luke 2:15

The shepherds said to each other, “Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened. We will see this thing the Lord told us about.”



KEY VERSE FOR PRESCHOOL:

Luke 2:16

The shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph.

LESSON OUTLINE:

WELCOME: Coloring Sheet 5 minutes

STORY: Read *Itsy Bitsy Christmas*, or the story text for twos and threes. . . . 10 minutes

SONGS: “I’m Gonna Wrap Up Myself for Christmas”
and “Little Drummer Boy” 5 minutes

LESSON: The shepherds trusted what the angels told them,
even though it didn’t make sense. Sometimes we need to obey,
even when we don’t understand. That’s trust! 10 minutes

CRAFT: Chain of TRUST 5 minutes

GAME: Trust Walk. 10 minutes

ACTIVITY: Five Big Shepherds 5 minutes

Materials Needed:

WELCOME: Coloring sheet (1 per child) and crayons

STORY: Copy of *Itsy Bitsy Christmas* and doll wrapped up in a blanket

SONGS: Songs downloaded to a media player with portable speakers

SNACK: Pretzel sticks

LESSON: Bible

CRAFT: Chain of TRUST craft sheet (1 to 2 per child), and glue, stapler, or tape

GAME: Items to use as obstacles, and (optional) blindfold or sleeping mask

ACTIVITY: No materials needed



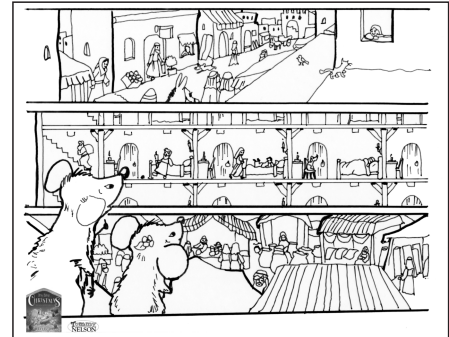
WELCOME

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 ways to trust God.



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 trusting God while you are searching. Say, **Before we can hear our story, we are going on a journey to find the King. He promised us he is here, so let's go find him!** 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. **Well, he's not here, but we trust the King, so let's keep looking!** Lead the children to another location and search for the King. **Oh no! He's not here either! Do we still trust the promise the King made to us that he is here? Let's look over there!** Lead the children to today's story location. Take out the doll and the book. Have the children sit. **Did the King keep his promise? Yes! Who is this King?** Baby Jesus. **Was anybody worried when we couldn't find the King at first? No. Really! Why weren't you worried? The King promised us he was here, and we trusted his word, right?** In our story, *Itsy and Bitsy* have trouble trusting they will find the King—in fact, they almost give up! Let's see if they learn to trust.

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 daaaaaay innnnndeeeeeeeeed."
3. Remind children of Week 1's Big Idea from the book. Have the children stand and say, using hand motions, "This King comes for everyone, big and small." Then remind them of last week's Big Idea 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!"
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!" Stop here and emphasize this week's Big Idea. Itsy and Bitsy are trusting that the King is here. They trust so much that even though their friends are discouraging them, they believe his word and they ARE going to find the King! Have them repeat the Big Idea a few times.
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!”**
Remind the children of last week’s Big Idea. Have children cup their hands around their mouths and say it to the person next to them.
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 baahed. “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.” Point out

that Itsy and Bitsy are trusting the King and have them repeat this week's Big Idea a few times, "WE 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 Week 1'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

Stop after the first chorus and say, When we give ourselves to Jesus like this song says, another word for that is trust—we are trusting ourselves to him. “Primp and fuss” means to work hard on fixing up our hair or our clothes, but the next part of our song says, “He’s looking for a heart that trusts!” Trust is what the King wants from us! Repeat the chorus and sing the rest of the song.

—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—

Words and Music by Debby Kerner Rettino

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“LITTLE DRUMMER BOY”

Say, This song is about a little boy who doesn't have a gift to give the King, but wants to give himself. So he does something for the baby King that makes the baby happy. When we trust Jesus enough to try to serve him, even if it's hard work or we don't feel sure of ourselves, it makes him happy.

OPTION: Sing only the 2nd verse.

Come they told me, pa rum pum pum pum
A new born King to see, pa rum pum pum pum
Our finest gifts we bring, pa rum pum pum pum
To lay before the King, pa rum pum pum pum,
rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum,

So to honor Him, pa rum pum pum pum,
When we come.

OPTION: START HERE

Little Baby, pa rum pum pum pum
I am a poor boy too, pa rum pum pum pum
I have no gift to bring, pa rum pum pum pum
That's fit to give the King, pa rum pum pum pum,
rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum,

Shall I play for you, pa rum pum pum pum,
On my drum?

Mary nodded, pa rum pum pum pum
The ox and lamb kept time, pa rum pum pum pum
I played my drum for Him, pa rum pum pum pum
I played my best for Him, pa rum pum pum pum,
rum pum pum pum, rum pum pum pum,

Then He smiled at me, pa rum pum pum pum
Me and my drum.

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:

- Pretzel sticks
- Bible



Start by reviewing the story *Itsy Bitsy Christmas*.

When Itsy and Bitsy's friends said a King wouldn't come to them, what did Itsy and Bitsy say? We are going to find the King!

Did Itsy and Bitsy trust the King? Yes. **How do you know?** They went to find him.

Did their animal friends trust the King? No. **How do you know?** They said they didn't think a King would come to them.

Pray and thank God for the snack, then distribute the pretzel sticks. While children are eating, continue teaching the lesson.

The Bible tells us the true story of some shepherds who trusted the King. Our snack is like the shepherds' sticks they used to guide the sheep. Last week we learned that angels told them the good news that the Savior was born, and they would find him lying in a feeding box. Today we are going to see how the shepherds did the same thing Itsy and Bitsy did—they trusted enough to go and find the King.

Read Luke 2:15–18 from a Bible.

Then the angels left the shepherds and went back to heaven. The shepherds said to each other, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened. We will see this thing the Lord told us about."

So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph. And the shepherds saw the baby lying in a feeding box. Then they told what the angels had said about this child. Everyone was amazed when they heard what the shepherds said to them.

LUKE 2:15–18

Did the shepherds trust what the angels told them? Yes.

How do you know? They did what the angels said and went to look for the baby.

When the shepherds obeyed and did what the angels told them to, they showed that they trusted. The shepherds could have NOT trusted the angels' message. After all, they were told to look for a baby in a feeding box. They could have said, "Babies aren't put in feeding boxes! We're not going to go—we will never find any such thing!" But even though it didn't make sense, they obeyed and they went to Bethlehem. They trusted.

Do you remember in our story that Itsy and Bitsy trusted at first, but then they got discouraged? Why did they start to lose their trust? They couldn't find the King. After looking in a lot of places, they started to trust a different message, the message their friends were telling them—"No King is coming for us. We aren't important enough." It's hard to trust when things don't make sense.

Have you ever been told, "Don't stick your finger in the electrical outlet," or "Don't play with the dials on the oven," or "Don't cross the street alone." If you disobeyed, what would happen? You would get hurt. How do you know you'd get hurt? Because Mommy said so. So, even though you never tried it, you believed what your mommy said, and you obeyed her. That means you trust her!

Let's bow our heads and talk to God. Dear God, thank you that we can trust you, and trust what you tell us, even when it doesn't make sense. Help us now to practice trusting you and obeying you. In Jesus' name, amen.

CRAFT: CHAIN OF TRUST

5 MINUTES

Materials Needed:

- Chain of TRUST craft sheet (1 to 2 per child, or **option of 1 for every 4 preschool children**)
- White glue, tape, or stapler

Preparation:

- Photocopy Chain of TRUST craft sheet onto green and red paper, then cut into strips. Each chain will use half green strips and half red strips.

I TRUST God
I TRUST God
I TRUST God
I TRUST God
I TRUST God
I TRUST God
I TRUST God
I TRUST God

Distribute red and green Chain of TRUST strips. Help children loop the strips and secure them with glue or tape or staples, and form a chain, alternating red and green strips.

OPTION for twos and threes: Tape one strip around each of the child's wrists as bracelets, or tape two strips together and fit them to the child's head for a headband.

Talk to the children about how our trust in God makes us strong. If children are making chains, talk about how our trust in God and links us together with other people who trust God.

Read part of the Bible story again:

The shepherds said to each other, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened." . . .

And the shepherds saw the baby lying in a feeding box. Then they told what the angels had said about this child. Everyone was amazed when they heard what the shepherds said to them.

The shepherds helped each other trust God by going together to find the baby. Then they told other people what the angels said, so they helped everyone they told to be able to trust God too!

GAME: TRUST WALK

10 MINUTES

Materials Needed:

- Obstacles that will need to be stepped over, crouched under, walked around, or stepped on (could turn chairs upside down, move tables out of place, drape sheet between two chairs).
- **OPTIONAL:** Blindfold or sleeping mask. You may wish to just have children close their eyes. As this may frighten many preschool age children, do not make this a requirement.

Preparation:

- Create a simple obstacle course, either in the classroom or outside on a playground.

Separate your class into teams of 2 students, and tell them just like the shepherds helped each other go on a journey to find Jesus, they are going to help each other go on a difficult journey. To demonstrate, pair yourself up with a child and tell him that you trust him to help you get through the obstacle course safely. Put on the blindfold and allow your child partner to direct you safely through the obstacle course. **OPTION:** Older children may like the challenge of giving verbal instructions, while younger children can walk behind the blindfolded person with their hands on their shoulders. When you reach the end, ask your partner, “Do you trust me to walk you through the obstacle course safely?” If the child answers yes, it is your turn to be the leader. The rest of the class will follow these same directions. Each student will complete the course twice: once as the trustee, once as the truster.

At the end of the game, ask the children,

- How did it feel not to know where you were going?
- Did trusting your friend make it easier?
- In real life, do you always know why you should do what your parents tell you to do?
- Even when you don’t understand, what should you do? TRUST them and obey!

ACTIVITY: FIVE BIG SHEPHERDS

5 MINUTES

LEADER: Five big shepherds in the night

(Hold up fingers of right hand.)

CHILDREN: Five big shepherds in the night

(Copy actions of leader.)

LEADER: Watched the sheep within their sight.

(Shade eyes to look around.)

CHILDREN: Watched the sheep within their sight.

(Copy actions of leader.)

LEADER: Angels came from heaven on high;

(Arch left hand up and over right hand.)

CHILDREN: Angels came from heaven on high;

(Copy actions of leader.)

LEADER: The shepherds quivered and shook with fright.

(Wrap arms around self; shake as afraid.)

CHILDREN: The shepherds quivered and shook with fright.

(Copy actions of leader.)

LEADER: The angels sang a song of joy

(Clap hands.)

CHILDREN: The angels sang a song of joy

(Copy actions of leader.)

LEADER: To tell the birth of a special Boy.

(Hold hand to measure short height.)

CHILDREN: To tell the birth of a special Boy.

(Copy actions of leader.)

LEADER: The angels left and the shepherds too.

(Arch left hand up and away.)

CHILDREN: The angels left and the shepherds too.

(Copy actions of leader.)

LEADER: They went to find the Baby new.

(Step feet—left, right, left, right.)

CHILDREN: They went to find the Baby new.

(Copy actions of leader.)

LEADER: The shepherds trusted what God said.

(Place both hands over heart.)

CHILDREN: The shepherds trusted what God said.

(Copy actions of leader.)

LEADER: They found the baby in his bed.

(Clasp arms and rock baby.)

CHILDREN: They found the baby in his bed.

(Copy actions of leader.)

LEADER: Hallelujah, praise His name.

(Raise hands and wiggle fingers.)

CHILDREN: Hallelujah, praise His name.

(Copy actions of leader.)

LEADER: Now let's go trust and obey.

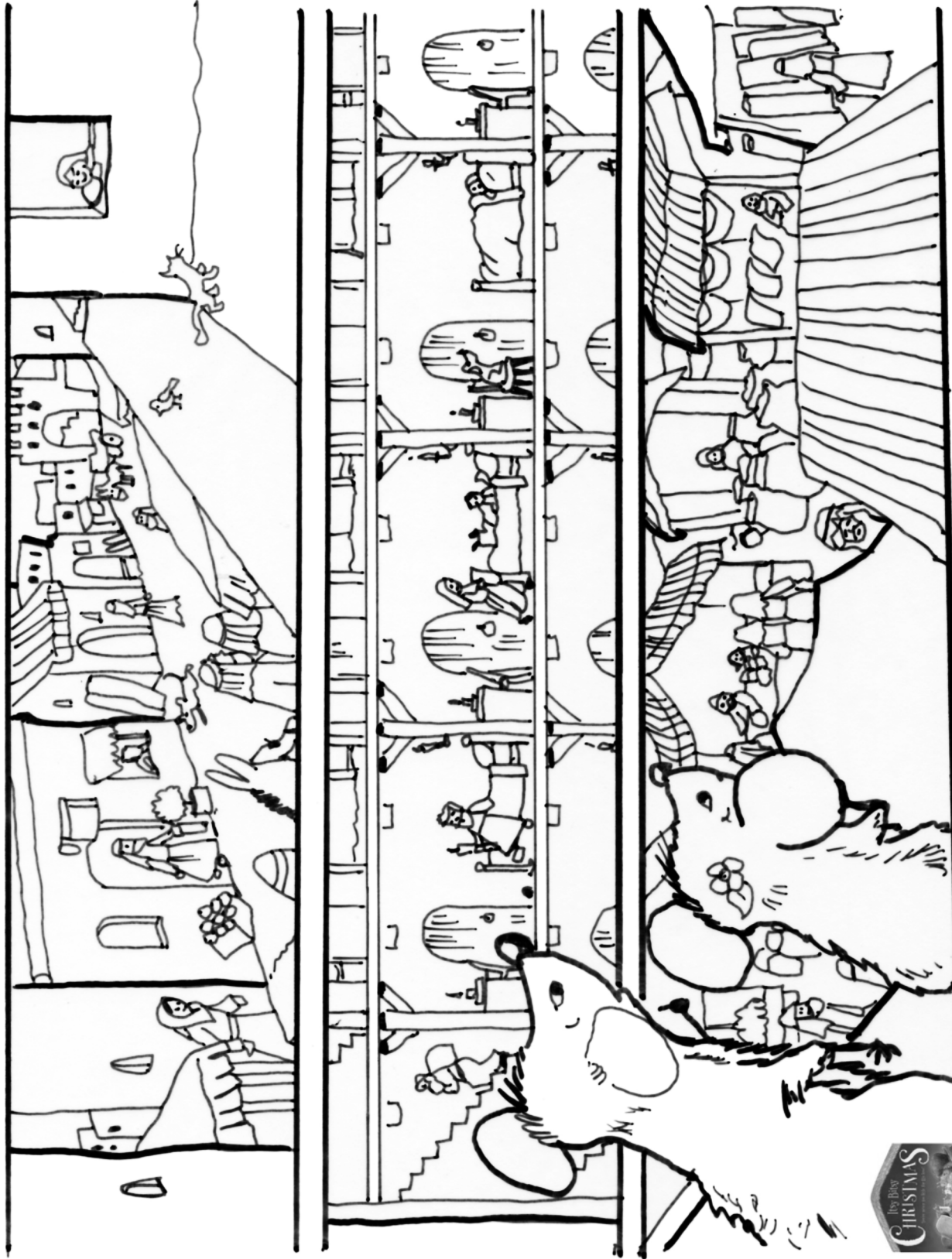
(Salute.)

CHILDREN: Now let's go trust and obey.

(Copy actions of leader.)



DISMISSAL: You did a great job listening today and learning how to TRUST and obey, even when it doesn't make sense. Tell your family about how you trust God and want to follow him, no matter what.



Tommy NELSON



I TRUST God

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